



Cincinnati SAY East
Soccer Association
www.sayeast.org

SAY East Behavior Policy **Revised Sept. 2015**

Administrators, Coaches, Parents, Spectators and Players

S.A.Y. (Soccer Association for Youth) offers a sports program, which emphasizes teaching the game of soccer, enjoying participation in a team sport, and practicing good sportsmanship. Winning is an important element of any sport but is secondary to these goals. S.A.Y. rules follow this philosophy.

Cincinnati SAY East takes great pride in our reputation for fair play, sportsmanship and the positive atmosphere created by coaches, parents and players at practices and games. We have high expectations and enforce behavioral guidelines and rules. Derogatory comments and foul play are just not tolerated –ever!

The SAY Rulebook provides the referees with the tools to keep the game safe, fair and enjoyable. As a guideline for player, coach or spectator behavior, the following are examples of unsportsmanlike behavior, which will result in specific penalties issued by the Cincinnati SAY East Ethics Committee if necessary:

1. Entering the field of play without referee permission (Up to one year probation).
2. A coach or assistant coach instructing the players of his or her team not to play when a referee instructs the team to do so (Up to one year probation).
3. Constant and/or excessive heckling, harassment, or **intimidation** of the referee, players or coaches (One weekend suspension up to one season suspension and a year probation).
4. Foul and/or abusive language to a referee (One weekend suspension up to one season suspension and a year probation).
5. Threatening actions or words to a referee, player or fan (One weekend suspension up to one season suspension and a year probation).
6. Refusal to leave the field of play after an ejection or request by the referee the offending party leave the area (Two game suspension and/or up to two year probation).
7. Aggressive physical contact with the referee or a player, i.e., grabbing the arm, turning the person around, poking, bumping, pushing, etc. (Five game suspension and one year probation).
8. Instructing the players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner (Five game suspension and one year probation).

9. Striking a referee (Permanent expulsion).
10. Any player, coach or spectator observed using or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol before or during a game will not be permitted to play or watch that game (Five game suspension).
11. Playing an illegal player (Game forfeiture). If it can be proved that the coach deliberately used an illegal player (Up to ten game or season suspension).

Infraction penalties will be handed down by the SAY East President, after discussion with SAY East Ethics Committees, as deemed necessary. All penalties are as minimums unless extenuating circumstances are present.

Additional SAY East Policies:

1. Teams must adhere to SAY East game '**Blowout Rule**' keeping **scores within 5 point margins**.
2. **Referees calls stand** – even if they are incorrect or differ from previous ref calls. Disputes can be taken up with SAY East using 'Match Day Feedback' form. Do NOT argue with referee!
3. Players may NOT wear earrings during games – even if covered by tape, etc. No exceptions. Jewelry is also not to be worn (e.g. necklaces, hard hair beads, etc).
4. Sports glasses are required over normal eye glasses.
5. Players may not play in game if they are wearing any form of a hard cast or hard plastic splints – even if it is covered or wrapped.
6. Coaches – are expected to remain on their one half side of field and not go across midfield line in to other team's area. This applies for entire game regardless which goal a team is defending. No coaching from behind goal or goal line.
7. A team may have a maximum of three (3) total coaches on a sideline. All coaches staying on their respective half of field.
8. Parents – may not sit behind goal lines – they need to be on sideline opposite teams.

Ignorance of rules is not an excuse to violate same. Past tolerance violations is not an excuse to continue violations. Agreement by all to violate a rule is not an excuse to violate a rule. District Representatives and coaches are responsible to be informed about SAY East rules and policies. Most importantly, SAY East coaches must model good sportsmanship and good citizenship at all times during the field of play. If in doubt – contact your District Representative or SAY East Board.

Note: Above disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on a player, coach or spectator even though a CAUTION (yellow card) or EJECTION (red card) penalty is not given by a referee. An EJECTION (red card) given to a player, coach or spectator after a game is over will result in a minimum penalty of suspension for the next game.

Any referee who violates any of these behavior guidelines will be subject to the rules, procedures and penalties outlined above.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: In addition to the sanctions mentioned above, the Ethics Committee may order the offender to complete educational courses including but not limited

to Level 1 and/or Level 2 coaching certificates, referee training, and ACEP training.

DEFINITIONS: A player, coach or spectator on probation will be subject automatically to twice the above penalties. Additionally, a player, coach or spectator, on probation, who commits a second violation, may be subject to up to a 10 game suspension.

A player, coach or spectator under suspension may not attend or be in the vicinity of his/her teams or child's game for the stipulated number of games. A violation of suspension results in expulsion for the remainder of the S.A.Y. season, all post season tournaments and probation for the next season.

A player, coach or spectator under expulsion is banned from all presence at all future Cincinnati SAY East games and may never participate in the Cincinnati SAY East program. A violation of this expulsion will result in possible game forfeiture and/or elimination of the team on which his/her child plays from league play and/or appropriate legal action against the violator.

It will be assumed that all the participants (players, coaches or spectators) have been made aware of all the above.

Remember S.A.Y. soccer is a program for the kids!

**Thank you,
Cincinnati East SAY Soccer**