

Somerset West Soccer Club

Judicial Procedures

SWSC Procedure No. 001

I. Purpose

1. It is the purpose of these judicial procedures to allow the club to apply disciplinary actions to Club participants as described below. The document is also to be used to communicate non-acceptable behavior to all club participants.

II. Background

1. It is the role of the Somerset West Soccer Club (SWSC) to operate a recreational youth soccer club, as a member of the Tualatin Hills Junior Soccer League (THJSL). Its emphasis on both “youth” and “recreational” means that the SWSC intends to maintain high levels of sportsmanship. Sportsmanship means that participants seek to gain only the advantage obtained by superior skill, within the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Participants will behave in a courteous manner towards opponents, officials and each other. “Participants” includes not only players, but also coaches and spectators. The SWSC has established these procedures for those instances where sportsmanship does not occur.

III. Definitions

1. SWSC refers to the Somerset West Soccer Club.
2. THJSL refers to the Tualatin Hills Junior Soccer League.
3. “Participants” refers to all people covered under these procedures and includes players, coaches, SWSC Board Members, spectators, referees, and parents.

IV. Policy

1. **Applicability** – These procedures cover the actions of all SWSC participants during SWSC sponsored events, except during a THJSL sponsored game, or any other instance that would be regulated under the THJSL Judicial Procedures. SWSC sponsored events include those listed below. All references to a practice or game designated field include the parking lot or areas adjacent to the field where participants may be present.

- a. Any time during a team practice including prior to a team practice as participants assemble at the designated practice field, during the actual practice, and after the practice is completed as the participants are leaving up to the time all participants have left the area.
 - b. Prior to a THJSL sponsored game as participants assemble at the designated field.
 - c. After the completion of a THJSL sponsored game as the participants are leaving up to the time all participants have left the area.
 - d. Any time during a SWSC sponsored jamboree including prior to the start of an event as participants assemble at the designated field, during the actual jamboree, and after the jamboree is completed as the participants are leaving up to the time all participants have left the area.
 - e. Any time a SWSC sponsored team assembles to play in a tournament including prior to a tournament as participants assemble at the designated field, during the actual tournament, and after the tournament is completed as the participants are leaving up to the time all participants have left the area.
 - f. Any OYSA sanctioned game not covered by THJSL rules such as the Rose City Exchange.
 - g. SWSC will review the actions taken by the THJSL in response to incidents that occur under the jurisdiction of their judicial procedures. SWSC may also review the incident under these procedures and impose stricter penalties as may be deemed reasonable by the Club.
2. "Incidents" at SWSC sponsored events may be classified as:
- a. **Inappropriate behavior.** This includes over aggressive play or the encouragement of such play, refusal to participate in post game handshakes, allowing pets to run loose on the field, etc. This specifically does not include any behavior falling into one of the categories below.
 - b. **Unsporting behavior.** This includes any behavior that would normally receive a caution (yellow card) for unsporting conduct, but which, for some reason, did not. This covers incidental foul language, loud arguments with opposing parents or coaches, refusal to cooperate with game officials, etc. This classification also includes violations of SWSC policy that each player receives adequate playing time as stated in Article IX, Section C of the Somerset West Soccer Club Bylaws.

- c. **Misconduct.** This includes any cautions or send offs (red cards) received during the game by players or coaches. In rare, special cases (as outlined below), it would include cautions or send offs given after the departure of participants from the game site.
 - d. **Repeated misconduct.** This includes a pattern of misconduct by a coach or player, as described below.
 - e. **Administrative problems.** This includes players registered with their club with the wrong age and/or gender, use of unregistered players, etc.
3. SWSC and THJSL do not keep standings in any age group. Accordingly, NO protest of game results will be considered.
4. Incidents may be reported to the THJSL and SWSC by
 - a. Referee game reports. Regardless of their age, referees are objective, third parties, who serve as the League's representative at the game. Accordingly, referee game reports are considered to be factual and do not require further verification.
 - b. Letters and phone calls concerning behavior at SWSC games.
 - c. Clerical action (e.g. records of cards received by players or coaches).
5. SWSC considers parents and other spectators to be part of the game. Accordingly, the team head coach (or another adult acting in their place) will be held responsible for the conduct of all of the supporters of that team. Any misconduct penalties may be imposed on the team head coach or the team as a whole, as appropriate. The club may also restrict the participation of any adult, parent, or other spectators from any or all games as the result of inappropriate behavior.
6. Reports of inappropriate behavior (as defined above) will be reviewed by the SWSC head coach (or President, if there is no head coach). All investigation and correction of such behavior is the responsibility of SWSC. A pattern of inappropriate behavior by the same team, as determined by the SWSC President or Vice President, will be treated as unsporting behavior.
7. Reports of unsporting or inappropriate behavior (as defined above) will be reviewed by the SWSC Vice President (or President, if the Vice President is unavailable). The Vice President has the authority to further investigate these reports as necessary. If the Vice President concludes that there may be substance to the report, the Vice President may send the responsible person(s) a letter of reprimand on behalf of the SWSC. If the Vice President concludes that the reported behavior is of a more serious nature, the situation will be referred to the SWSC Judiciary Committee for determination of appropriate action. (See below)

8. All reports of misconduct (as defined above) will be reviewed by the SWSC Vice President and Head Coach. All reported misconduct will be reviewed by the SWSC Vice President and Head Coach with the team's coach. The Vice President will maintain records of misconduct.
 - a. Any player or coach sent off will automatically be suspended for the next game.
 - b. Any player or coach who refuses to leave the field when sent off shall be automatically suspended for a period of one year from the date of the incident.
 - c. Any player or coach who refuses to give their name when asked by the referee, or who gives the referee a false name, shall be automatically suspended for a period of four games. This penalty shall be in addition to any other suspension.
 - d. Any player or coach sent off for violent conduct and the referee reports that the violent conduct was fighting shall be automatically suspended for four games. This penalty includes the one game suspension for being sent off. Fighting includes any participation in a fight, regardless of which party initiated the fight.
 - e. Any of the above suspensions will carry over to a succeeding season, if necessary.
 - f. The Vice President will notify the offending parties of the above penalties by phone and a confirming letter. Notice of a player suspension will be given to both the player's coach and parent.
 - g. If the SWSC considers the misconduct to be particularly serious, the matter may be referred to the SWSC Judiciary Committee. The Committee may impose such additional penalties as they see fit, up to and including a suspension for life. These penalties will only be imposed as the result of a Judiciary Committee hearing, as outlined below.
 - h. By United States Soccer Federation rules, original jurisdiction over any case of referee assault in a THJSL game (including referee abuse or assault of their equipment) rests with the Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA). The SWSC will report any such cases to the THJSL Vice President, who is then responsible for reporting such cases to the Oregon Youth Soccer Association for action. The SWSC will cooperate the THJSL and OYSA in such cases. Participants should be aware that referees are encouraged to also pursue criminal charges in cases of assault.

9. Sometimes youth referees are intimidated by adult coaches. If a youth referee (under the age of 19) determines after the game that (s)he should have given a red or yellow card to a coach, they may report it on their game report. Such game report shall state a cause for the card, as found in The Laws of the Game, and the related conduct. If this has occurred during a non-THJSL event, the SWSC Vice President shall inform the coach by phone upon receipt of the game report. For all judicial purposes, the card will be considered to have been given on the field.
10. Records of repeated misconduct (see definition) will be kept by the SWSC Vice President. The following “penalty point” system will be used by the SWSC.

Yellow Card	1 point
Red Card	2 points

A player or coach receiving a red card for a second yellow will accumulate a total of 2 points. Points will accumulate over the season, but will not carry over to the next season.

11. Players or coaches will automatically receive the indicated penalty when they accumulate the indicated number of points:

2 points	letter of reprimand
4 points	probation for the remainder of the season
6 points	suspension for the next SWSC game. This suspension will be in addition to any suspension imposed under #8 above.
8 points	suspension for the remainder of the season. Reinstatement for future seasons will be permitted only if the player or coach has completed and passed the United States Soccer Federation entry level referee training class.

These penalties are in addition to any other penalties imposed by the SWSC for the individual acts of misconduct that caused the player or coach to be carded.

The SWSC Vice President will notify offending parties of the above penalties by phone and a confirming letter. Notice of a player penalty will be given to both the player’s coach and parent(s).

12. Administrative problems (as defined in 2.e above) will be investigated by the President or Vice President, with the cooperation of the relevant team members, coaches, and parents. If the President or Vice President concludes that the report may be correct, they will refer the matter to the SWSC board, acting as a hearing body. If the matter involves actions by a board member, that member may not participate in or vote on a decision in the matter. The Board may impose such penalties as it sees fit, up to and including a life suspension of responsible individuals from involvement in the SWSC in any form.
13. "Suspension" shall mean that the suspended person may not play in, coach or attend any SWSC game. By OYSA rule, any SWSC suspension also means that the suspended person may not play in, coach or attend any OYSA game. A similar rule exists at the national level. Playing in or attending a THJSL game while suspended as a player shall double the player suspension otherwise provided. The player's coach shall also receive a one year suspension. Attending a THJSL game while suspended as a coach shall result in a five year suspension for the coach and a one game suspension for the team (i.e., they forfeit their next game.)
14. Referees have been trained that all taunting of an opponent or official of a religious, racial, ethnic, gender or gender preference nature shall be considered "offensive language" and the offender shall be sent off on the first offense. Repeated instances in the same contest shall result in termination of the game by the referee. All such incidents not covered by THJSL procedures shall be referred by the SWSC Vice President to a SWSC Judiciary Committee for possible further action.
15. Participants penalized under sections 8, 11, 13 and/or 14 may appeal their penalty to a SWSC Judiciary Committee. Appeal of the penalty will not suspend enforcement of the penalty during the appeal process. To be timely, any appeal must be received by the SWSC President or Vice President within 7 days after the mailing of the SWSC's notice of the penalty.
16. A SWSC Judiciary Committee shall be formed whenever A) an automatic penalty is appealed under section 15 (an "appeal"), or B) an incident is referred to a Judiciary Committee under section 7, 8 or 14 (a "disciplinary hearing"). A Committee shall be composed of three members. The SWSC Vice President shall be one member (except in the case of evident conflict of interest, in which case the SWSC President shall be a member) and shall serve as the chair. The other two members shall be the SWSC Head Coach and one other volunteer elected board member.

17. In the event of an appeal, the SWSC Vice President will investigate the technical validity of the appeal. Technical validity means determining that the appeal is of a penalty imposed by SWSC, the appeal has been filed by the person penalized or, in the case of a penalized player, their custodial parent, the appeal has been filed in a timely manner, etc. If the SWSC Vice President concludes that the appeal is not technically valid, (s)he will report that to the Committee members by phone. If the other Committee members agree that the appeal is not technically valid, the SWSC Vice President will notify the appellant of their decision. If the SWSC Vice President or the other Committee members conclude that the appeal is technically valid, the SWSC Vice President will set a date, time and place for a hearing. The SWSC Vice President will also determine whether the hearing will be “open” or “closed.” An open hearing allows oral testimony by the affected parties. A closed hearing allows only written testimony.
18. In the event a disciplinary hearing is required, the SWSC Vice President shall conduct such investigation as (s)he deems necessary. (S)he will also set a date, time and place for the hearing. The SWSC Vice President will also determine whether the hearing will be “open” or “closed.” An open hearing allows oral testimony by the affected parties. A closed hearing allows only written testimony.
19. An appeal hearing must be held no sooner than 7 days and no later than 14 days after the receipt of notice of appeal. A disciplinary hearing must be held no sooner than 7 days and no later than 14 days after the receipt of initial information about the incident. The “14 day” requirement may be exceeded in the case of force majeure. If it is exceeded for any other reason, the hearing will still be held, but enforcement of any penalties will be suspended until the hearing is held.
20. The Judiciary Committee chair shall notify relevant parties of the date, time and place of the hearing. This notice must be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested. In addition, notice may also be given by phone, e-mail and/or fax. The notice shall go to the offending party, their coach (if the offending party is a player), the referee and the members of the judiciary committee. The notice shall be given in a reasonably simultaneous time frame. The notice must include a statement of why the hearing is being held, the date, time and place for the hearing, whether this will be an open or closed hearing, what limits or restrictions on testimony will be imposed and whether testimony must be in written form, and, if so, the date by which it must be received. The notice will also include the date by which the Committee will render a decision and notify all parties of the results. All written testimony and other documents must be submitted in advance by a date specified in the hearing notice. Documents submitted at the hearing itself will not be admitted into evidence.

21. An open hearing of an appeal will give the appellant the opportunity to present the reasons for their appeal, subject to any reasonable limits or restrictions imposed by the Judiciary Committee. The appellant may also call witnesses, subject to any reasonable limits or restrictions imposed by the Judiciary Committee.
22. An open disciplinary hearing will begin with the chair presenting the information received by the SWSC concerning the misconduct. The responding person(s) will then be allowed to present testimony, witnesses and evidence in support of their position, all subject to such reasonable limits or restrictions as may be imposed by the Judiciary Committee.
23. The Judiciary Committee may continue the hearing to a latter date, if necessary. During a closed hearing or at the conclusion of any open hearing, the Judiciary Committee will deliberate in private towards a decision. Any decision requires a majority vote of the Judiciary Committee. The committee does not have the authority, in the case of an appeal, to take action concerning anyone other than the appellant. The decision of the Committee will be mailed to the parties notified of the hearing within 7 days of the conclusion of the hearing. The SWSC Vice President will report the outcome of any Judiciary Committee hearing to the SWSC Board at its next meeting. Any suspensions of four games or longer will also be reported to the THJSL and to the Oregon Youth Soccer Association.
24. The appellant (in case of an appeal) or the responding party (in the case of a disciplinary hearing) may appeal any decision of the Judiciary Committee. (This appeal will be referred to as a “level 2 appeal.”) In order for a level 2 appeal to be timely, it must be received in writing by the SWSC President within 7 days of mailing of the Judiciary Committee’s written decision. All level 2 appeals will be heard by the SWSC Board. The SWSC President will serve as non-voting chair, with the same responsibilities as the SWSC Vice President in the initial hearing. The hearing process will be the same as outlined in 21 above in the case of an open hearing. Decisions will be reached as outlined in 23 above.
25. Appeals from level 2 appeal decisions are handled by the Oregon Youth Soccer Association, under their procedures.
26. The chair of the Judiciary Committee is responsible for maintaining a file of all documents relating to any hearing, and retaining the file for a period of not less than one year after the hearing, or one year after the penalty has expired, whichever is longer.