



ATTENTION: ALL DISTRICT CHAIRS, CLUB PRESIDENTS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

September 18, 2013

The 4District Soccer League would like to remind its members of the following:

- To read the *Code of Ethics*, *FIFA Laws of the Game* and the *BCSA Fair play Code*.
- **Sport involves respect** for the opposition and game officials; team officials must develop this by their words and actions.
- **Dissent** from team officials, players or spectators is unacceptable.
- **Harassment** is a form of discrimination that will not be tolerated by BCSA nor the 4District Soccer League. It is defined as a verbally uttered – conduct or gesture directed towards an individual or group of individuals, which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, malicious, threatening, degrading or offensive. Sanctions vary from an apology to expulsion from membership.
- Coaches are the most important influence on players. Coaches who positively guide, mentor and help players to enjoy the game will give a lifelong enjoyment of the game.
- Team officials are responsible and accountable for the behavior of parents and supporters. Ensure that your fans are supportive, and when a referee requests you to control a fan, you must do so immediately. (In fact the referee should not have to ask you – this should have been done by you before the referee has to bring it to your attention.)
- Soccer is a game; it is for fun. Let the kids play. Parents, spectators and team officials should stay in the background.

Commenting about the color of an individual's skin or about his or her nationality, religion or personally insulting descriptions of that person is not only hurtful it is absolutely unacceptable.

Please note that when telling your player to mark an opposing player, simply refer to the player's jersey number. There is no need to use that player's race in the instructions to your player.

We are instructing team officials to photo copy this letter and hand it out at a team meeting to be held with your players and their parents. The responsibility to get this message out is up to the clubs, team officials and parents. Then the onus is on all who are in attendance at the games, if they hear their player(s) making negative remarks, to immediately holler out at that player telling them to **“STOP IT!”**

It may be best to remove your player from the field. We strongly urge you to speak with the opposing team official either at the half or directly after the game to determine if something was said between the two players. Regardless if it was only your player or one from each team (or more) it will require an apology from all participants.

Be informed that if the committee receives a report from the referee and your player is found to be at fault he can be suspended for up to six games.

There can be no innocent bystanders when there is a commitment by teams; their team officials, players and spectators to be respectful to all.

Everyone deserves to go home having had a good experience and some have not been so fortunate this season!

Regards, Jackie Larson on behalf of the 4District Discipline Committee
Harrison, Larson, Lebrechthausen, Ross