

Discipline & Conduct Enforcement Policy

This discipline policy explains the consequences when our standards are not met.

Discipline will be applied **fairly, consistently, and in alignment with NCYSA Laws**

Falcons United reserves the right to increase penalties for repeated or severe violations.

A suspension may be reduced by completing a Falcons United Sportsmanship Task such as:

- Writing a reflection on respect in sport
- Writing an apology letter to those impacted
- Community Service
- Attending an educational workshop on sportsmanship

This reinforces your **“We Soar Together” culture** instead of just penalties.

Falcons United is committed to maintaining a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all players, parents, coaches, referees, and volunteers.

This Discipline Matrix applies to **all Falcons United participants**, including:

- Players
- Parents/Guardians
- Coaches
- Volunteers
- Spectators associated with Falcons United

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define consequences when Falcons United values or Codes of Conduct are violated.

Disciplinary actions may be increased depending on the **severity of the behavior, repeated offenses, or safety concerns**.

Falcons United Discipline Matrix

Offense	Game Suspension	Practice Suspension
Unsportsmanlike behavior (complaining, arguing, poor attitude, being disruptive, spreading negativity, creating drama)	Warning / Possible benching / removal from game(s)	Warning / Possible removal from current practice(s)
Disrespect toward coaches, teammates, referees, or opponents	1 game	1 practice
Taunting, trash talking, or bullying behavior	1 game	1 practices
Use of inappropriate or offensive language	1 game	1 practice
Repeated dissent or arguing with others	1 games	1 practice
Throwing equipment, kicking objects in anger	1 game	1 practice
Refusal to follow coach or club instructions	1 game	1–2 practices
Damage to club, park, or facility property	2 games	2 practices
Fighting, punching, or striking another person	Minimum 2 games	Minimum 2 practices

Spitting at another player, referee, or spectator	Minimum 2 games	Minimum 2 practices
Threatening language or aggressive intimidation	Minimum 2 games	Minimum 2 practices
Severe abuse toward others	Minimum 4 games / Board Review	Minimum 4 practices / Board Review
Physical aggression toward others	Minimum 4 games / Board Review	Minimum 4 practices / Board Review
Repeated or severe violations of Falcons United values (Three Strike Rule)	Board / Club review	Board / Club review

Note:

Falcons United reserves the right to **increase disciplinary actions depending on severity, intent, or safety concerns.**

Three-Strike Policy

Falcons United operates under a **Three-Strike Accountability Rule** for repeated violations of club values.

Strike One

- Formal warning
- Behavior discussion with coach or club leadership

Strike Two

- Suspension from **at least one game and one practice**
- Meeting with club leadership (and parent/guardian if applicable)

Strike Three

- Suspension or **removal from Falcons United programs** pending club review

The Falcons United leadership team reserves the right to **skip / add additional strikes and / or apply immediate suspension or removal** for severe misconduct.

Parent Removal Impact Rule

If a parent or spectator is removed from the sideline for misconduct, **their player may also be removed from the match if necessary to restore a safe and respectful environment.**

This rule exists to protect referees, players, and the integrity of the game.

Sideline Behavior Matrix

Behavior	Immediate Action	Additional Consequences
Coaching from sidelines / excessive instructions	Verbal warning	Continued behavior may result in sideline removal / 1 game suspension
Negative comments or causing drama toward players, coaches, referees or other parents	Verbal warning	Possible removal from sideline / 1 game suspension
Complaining about referee calls	Verbal warning	Continued behavior may result in removal / 1 game suspension
Arguing with referees	Immediate sideline removal	Minimum 2 game suspension
Abusive language toward referees, players, coaches and other parents	Immediate removal	Minimum 2 game suspension

Taunting opposing players, fans, or coaches	Immediate removal	Minimum 2 game suspension
Entering field of play without permission	Immediate removal	Minimum 2 game suspension
Confronting referees after the match	Immediate removal	Minimum 4 game suspension / club review
Threatening language or aggressive behavior	Immediate removal	Minimum 4 game suspension / club review
Physical intimidation or harassment	Immediate removal	Minimum 4 game suspension / club review

Sideline Enforcement Procedure

Step 1 — Warning

A referee, coach, or club representative may issue a **verbal warning**.

Step 2 — Removal

If the behavior continues or is severe, the individual must **leave the field area immediately**.

The match will be paused until the individual leaves. If the individual does not leave, the game is concluded

Step 3 — Suspension

Additional disciplinary action may include **suspension from future games or events**.

Referee Respect Standard

Referees are essential to the game and deserve respect.

Falcons United maintains **zero tolerance for referee abuse**.

Any aggressive confrontation toward a referee may result in **immediate removal and suspension**.

Falcons United No Sideline Coaching Policy:

Falcons United believes players learn best when they are free to **make decisions, solve problems, and communicate with their teammates on the field**.

For this reason, **all tactical instruction must come from the coach only**.

Parents and spectators should **support players with encouragement, not direction**.

Sideline Communication Rules:

From the spectator sideline, parents and spectators may only say:

- Positive encouragement
- Applause
- General support such as “Great effort” or “Keep working”

Parents and spectators **may NOT give soccer instructions**.

Examples of prohibited sideline coaching include:

- “Pass the ball!”
- “Shoot!”
- “Clear it!”
- “Spread out!”
- “Mark your player!”
- “Kick it out!”
- “Run faster!”
- “You should have passed!”

Even when well-intended, these instructions **confuse players, override coaching instruction, and interfere with player development**.

Why This Rule Exists

When multiple adults give instructions from the sideline:

- Players receive **conflicting information**
- Decision-making development slows
- Confidence decreases
- The game becomes stressful instead of fun

Falcons United prioritizes **long-term player development over sideline control.**

Players must learn to **think for themselves on the field.**

Enforcement

If sideline coaching occurs:

First Instance

- Verbal reminder from coach or club representative

Second Instance

- Sideline warning

Continued Behavior

- Removal from the sideline

Repeated violations may result in **suspension from attending matches.**

Authority to Enforce Discipline

Disciplinary actions under this policy may be enforced by:

- Falcons United coaches
- Club leadership
- Board members
- Field Marshals
- Match referees

The Falcons United Board or designated club leadership has **final authority on all disciplinary decisions.**

Scope of Policy

This Discipline & Conduct Enforcement Policy applies to all Falcons United activities including:

- Practices
- Games
- Tournaments
- Travel events
- Club meetings
- Team communication platforms (Band, group chats, social media platforms like facebook)
- Any event where an individual is representing Falcons United

Behavior that damages the reputation, safety, or culture of Falcons United may be addressed under this policy even if it occurs **outside the field environment**.

Appeals Process

If a participant believes disciplinary action was issued in error, they may request a review.

Appeal requests must be submitted in writing to club leadership within 48 hours of the disciplinary action.

The Falcons United Board or designated leadership group will review the situation and issue a final decision.

All review decisions are final.

Falcons United Culture Statement

Falcons United exists to create an environment where players can grow, compete, and fall in love with the game of soccer.

Our fields are a place where players should feel safe, supported, and encouraged to take risks, learn from mistakes, and develop confidence.

The behavior of adults on the sidelines plays a powerful role in shaping that environment.

At Falcons United we believe:

- Players should be allowed to play freely and learn through the game
- Coaches should be allowed to coach without sideline interference
- Referees should be treated with respect and professionalism
- Families should model the sportsmanship we want our players to learn

Our sideline culture is simple:

Cheer for effort.
Respect the game.
Support every player.

When we do this together, we create the environment where players can truly grow.

We Soar Together.
