

## **Our Commitment**

At **Harvard Soccer Club**, we believe youth sports should be a positive, supportive, and inspiring experience for every player, coach, referee, and family.

We are committed to creating an environment where:

- Players feel safe and encouraged
- Coaches can lead without hostility or abuse
- Referees are respected
- Parents and spectators model appropriate behavior

Participation in our club requires all adults to uphold these standards at games, training sessions, tournaments, and club events.

## **Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct**

As part of registration, all parents, guardians, and spectators agree to the following expectations:

Adults associated with our club will:

- Support players in a positive and respectful manner
- Treat coaches, referees, players, and spectators appropriately
- Refrain from hostile, abusive, threatening, or intimidating behavior
- Avoid public criticism, yelling, or personal attacks
- Respect referee decisions and game officials
- Model emotional control and sportsmanship
- Help create a positive game-day environment for all participants

## **Prohibited Behavior Includes:**

- Verbal abuse toward referees, coaches, players, or spectators
- Aggressive confrontation
- Threatening language or gestures
- Harassment in person or online
- Repeated hostile sideline behavior
- Behavior that disrupts the match environment
- Conduct determined by club leadership to be outside the standards of the club

Failure to uphold these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including the requirement to complete the Return to Good Standing course before returning to the sidelines.

## **Our Return to Good Standing Policy**

### **Purpose:**

Return to Good Standing is a 60 minute on-line course. The purpose of Return to Good Standing is not punishment. Rather, it is a structured process designed to:

- Reinforce club expectations
- Support a healthy sideline environment
- Preserve relationships within our club community
- Help adults reset and move forward constructively

We believe people can learn, improve, and positively contribute to the culture of youth sports.

### **When the Course May Be Required**

Club leadership may require an adult to complete the Return to Good Standing course following:

- A referee report
- A coach report
- A tournament or league complaint
- A reported sideline incident
- Ongoing hostile or disruptive behavior
- Conduct determined to be outside the standards of the club

Club leadership reserves the right to determine when the course requirement is appropriate.

### **Required Process**

If an adult is assigned Return to Good Standing:

#### **1. Notification**

The adult will receive written notification from club leadership outlining:

- The reported concern or incident
- The requirement to complete the course
- The timeline for completion

#### **2. Course Completion**

The adult must:

- Register and pay for the course at <https://thesidelineproject.com/rtgscourse/>
- Complete the full course before attending the team's next game
- Submit their completion certificate to club leadership

### **3. Return to the Sideline**

Once the course is completed and the certificate is received by club staff, the adult may return to participation in accordance with club expectations.

Failure to complete the course within the required timeline may result in suspension from attending games or other club activities until the requirement is met.

#### **Why We Use Return to Good Standing**

Youth sports are emotional. Competitive environments can create stress for players, coaches, referees, and parents alike.

At **Harvard Soccer Club**, we believe accountability matters — but so does education.

Return to Good Standing provides a constructive way to address issues while reinforcing the type of culture we want for our players and families.

#### **Questions**

If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact:

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