



Arizona Champions League CODE OF CONDUCT

The goal of the **Arizona Champions League (AZCL)** is to provide a fun recreational soccer environment for adults. We seek to develop soccer players not only in terms of soccer skills but also in terms of self-esteem and self-confidence. Players should learn to be competitive and try hard and also to win and lose with good sportsmanship.

Spectators are invited to attend games in order to help promote the goals of the League and the development of players. In order to ensure that the League's goals are met, we have established certain required rules relating to spectator conduct. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators and are advised to assign an assistant coach to monitor the activity of their spectators during the game.

Location of Spectators: At all games spectators are to stand back at least 3 feet from the sideline. This allows the players to play the sidelines and everyone to see. No one (spectators or coaches) may stand behind either goal line or along the sideline next to the penalty area. Spectators should be on the same side as the coaches and players (except when there is only one side available).

Spectators May Not Coach: Spectators may not provide direction or instructions to any player (this is the job of the coach or assistant coach). Positive cheering and encouragement is fine.

Spectators Must Not Criticize: Spectators may not criticize any players or coaches (either on their team or the other team) or referees. Only positive comments are permitted. If an adult has an issue with the coach, the issue should be raised in a setting away from the field and game day in a private manner. Similarly if they have an issue with a referee, they can provide feedback to the coach after the game, as coaches have methods to provide feedback to the league about referees and the league can then work with the referee.

How Spectators Can Help: Spectators can help by promoting the beautiful game of soccer in such ways; Wearing your team's colors, always show respect to your opponents, collaborate in the voting of certain merited players, and, of course, let others know about AZCL and its competitive and family friendly environment.

Redefine A Winner: Redefine what it means to be a Winner in your conversations with players and other fans. Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes stop them. Learning from mistakes is part of the game. Also, remember



that all adults are born with different abilities and develop at different rates. The true measure of how a player is doing is not in comparison to others but rather in comparison to his/her prior best. If you only judge the success of a game by whether the team wins, you should expect to be unhappy half of the time (our goal is to make sure that each team experiences good sportsmanship in both winning and losing).

Referees: SPECTATORS MAY NOT DISAGREE WITH, QUESTION OR CRITICIZE THE REFEREE. THIS RULE APPLIES EVEN IF THE REFEREE MAKES A MISTAKE. Referees do make mistakes and your coach has a method for providing feedback to the League after the game if the referee needs constructive criticism. If you have an issue with your referee, speak to your coach after the game, he/she can provide feedback to the league. The coach or spectators may not object to a referees call or judgment on the field either during or after the game. The coach or spectators may not question a referee at any time. The referee is not required to give your team a warning; he may merely report the misconduct after the game. Due to the shortage of referees, sometimes you may not have 3 referees for your game. The AZCL is always searching for more referees. Please contact us if you are interested in helping by becoming a licensed referee.

No Alcoholic Beverages: AZCL rules and the laws of the State of Arizona land and its municipalities stipulate that no alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed at any field or events.

Freedom From Discrimination, Harassment, ad Retaliation

The AZCL is committed to providing an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. The AZCL provides equal opportunity to all members without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or any other basis protected by law. The association expects that all persons having business with the AZCL will be treated with dignity and will have their rights respected. As such, the AZCL maintains a zero tolerance policy in regards to all matters of discrimination and harassment and demands responsible behavior on the part of all members of the AZCL. Whether conduct constitutes harassment may depend on whether it is viewed as offensive by the individual who is the subject of the conducts. Examples of conduct that may constitute harassment include unwelcome physical conduct; threats or intimidation; displaying offensive items or pictures; and making jokes or inappropriate comments about a person's age, race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status or disability. One act or a series of acts may constitute harassment. Retaliation against a person(s) who in good faith reports or participates in the investigation of a discrimination or harassment allegation is strictly prohibited.

