



## **Vancouver FC Player Code of Conduct**

This document has been developed to distinguish acceptable behaviour for Vancouver FC team members. If you do not understand any element of this code please speak with your coach and ask for clarification. It is expected that players in agreeing to be part of a Vancouver FC team will respect this Code of Conduct and the Club philosophy. Please ensure that you keep a copy of this Code of Conduct for your reference and read other club policy documents referred to in this Code of Conduct.

### **Code of Conduct**

- It is a privilege to play for a Vancouver FC team. Players are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which is in keeping with representing their Team, Club, District and League in a professional manner.
- Players are expected to know and respect the rules of soccer, their Club, District and League and abide by them at all times.
- Players are expected to show good sportsmanship at all times and conduct themselves with honor and dignity while working for the good of their team and giving their best effort at all times.

### **Demonstrate Commitment and Performance**

- Commitment is to your Vancouver FC Team. This takes priority over other sports and activities for the duration of the soccer season and related Cup play. The only exceptions are important soccer related activities as approved by your Team Coach and the Vancouver FC Technical Director.
- Players are expected to be on time for all training sessions, games and events.
- Report to your Team Coach all injuries, special medical conditions (such as asthma), or extenuating circumstances (such as lack of sleep or family crisis), that may affect the player. Injured players still need to report to training unless excused by your Team Coach.
- If you cannot attend a session, game or event you must email your Team Manager or Coach at least one day prior with the reason for your absence before receiving approval. Players that miss sessions without notification will have a review of their participation based on the circumstances and communication.

## **Communication**

Vancouver FC will strive to communicate professionally and openly with players and parents. The Club will mainly communicate via the club website (<http://vancouver-fc.com>), email or other application software.

- It is the responsibility of the player and parents to have a current email address that is checked regularly.
- It is the responsibility of the player and parents to check and review the website to understand the Club, its programs and policies.
- It is the responsibility of the player and parents to know all team staff and club contacts.
- It is the responsibility of the player and parents to regularly check the website for updates.

## **Dress Code**

Players are required to wear assigned Vancouver FC equipment for all official events.

- Vancouver FC training gear must be worn to all training sessions.
- Vancouver FC gear must be worn to all games and if required by the Team Coach while traveling to and from games and at all official meetings.

## **Playing Time and Selection**

- Playing time and selection will be based on performance and attitude. As instructed by Vancouver FC playing time policy, players can expect to play a minimum of 30% available playing time for league games - assuming they are at full fitness, participate in training sessions and have demonstrated a positive attitude towards the team and other players. There is no minimum playing time in Cup play. Player selection is at the discretion and final decision of the Team Coach.

## **Follow the Lines of Communication**

- The main contact for information is your Team Manager who will be in place within the first few weeks of training. Your Team Manager may direct queries to the Team Coach, Technical Director, or VP Boys/VP Girls as appropriate.
- Speak to your Team Coach at the proper time. Do not discuss issues with coaches on game days. If you have concerns you can ask for the best time to talk, or use the telephone or email. If it is about a game it is best to wait 24 hours before discussing with your coach.

## **Sportsmanship and Respect for the Opposition and Officials**

- Realize that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on sportsmanship.
- Be gracious in victory, and turn defeat into victory by working toward improvement.
- Refrain from commenting on the decisions of officials during the game. The team captain may address the officials during the game, but only within the provisions of the rules, and in a courteous, respectful manner. Do not openly question the judgment or honesty of any game officials.
- Any negative comments by a player, parent or team official regarding officiating will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action.
- The use of abusive language, profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper, will not be tolerated.
- The use of racist or sexist language will not be tolerated.

### **Respect for Opposition and Facilities**

- In representing Vancouver FC you are expected to respect not only opposition players, but also all opposition facilities. This includes cleaning up after yourself at the end of all games and keeping any guest opposition facilities in the state they were found. Any violation of this will not be tolerated.
- When travelling with the club, players should respect hotel facilities and other hotel guests and adhere to all club rules regarding their conduct and behaviour as communicated to them by the club, their coach or another team official.

### **Social Media**

- Vancouver FC will not tolerate disrespectful, offensive or inappropriate comments, texts, photos or videos or other form of online posting directed towards any player, parent, team official or game official or directed towards any opposition team, coach or player.
- Players should be familiar with the club "*Social Media Policy and Guidelines*".

### **Player Discipline**

Being selected to represent the District of Vancouver on a Metro-Selects team is a privilege and an honour. This privilege comes with expectations and responsibilities which are greater than for players on teams playing at lower competition levels. Accordingly players are expected to fully meet their commitments to their team and club as specified in the Player Code of Conduct.

1. Players failing to meet their commitment to the Code of Conduct can be subject to a verbal or written warning, to suspension from practices or games and in certain circumstances to removal from the club.
2. When representing Vancouver FC, the use of a substance (drugs, alcohol or tobacco), or possession of a substance, or both use and possession, is cause for immediate dismissal.
3. Persistent irresponsible and disrespectful behavior is cause for dismissal.
4. Destruction of property or violation of provincial, state or other law is cause for dismissal.
5. Players failing to attend practices and games on a regular basis or who show persistent negative attitudes during practices and/or games or who are persistently disrespectful to Team Officials or team mates may be subject to discipline including removal from the club. Players should be familiar with the club policy with respect to "*Player Release from Vancouver FC Teams*".
6. The Vancouver FC Board retains its right to impose additional penalties for any violation of the Player Code of Conduct. Please note that if dismissal or suspension occurs while away, the player may be sent home immediately at the parent's expense by whatever means is most convenient for the team official. No reimbursement of any fees will be made to the dismissed or suspended player or the player's family.