

Pleasanton Girls Soccer Association
Policy Interpretation Memoranda

**PIM 013 – Pleasanton RAGE Code of Conduct
All Club Membership and Guests**

Youth sports provide an opportunity for players to develop technical, physical, tactical, and social skills. Pleasanton RAGE supports the tenants of the Positive Coaching Alliance program to help ensure that soccer can be enjoyed in a safe and positive environment.

RAGE members take full responsibility for their words and behavior, and understand that disciplinary action that may be taken as a possible consequence of misconduct.

RAGE Code of Conduct Requirements

- Engage courteously and respectfully with all coaches, referees, and other parents, including those of the opposing team
- Do not verbally address a player on an opposing team except to compliment their play
- Never use offensive, insulting, or abusive language when engaging with any soccer related person, on or off the field
- Always show respect for all of the match officials and honor their decisions
- Spectators must remain outside the field of play within the spectator area unless called onto the field by the referee
- Spectators must not provide specific instruction to players from the sidelines
- Consumption of alcohol at or in the immediate vicinity of a RAGE match is forbidden

Positive Coaching Alliance Guidance for Parents / Guardians

- Acknowledge and applaud genuine effort and good play as well as success
- Affirm players not just for athletic performance or victory, but whenever good character, healthy sportsmanship, and unselfish behavior are displayed
- Avoid criticizing a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- Encourage your player to honor the opponent and to show respect for the referees – without people in these roles, there is no game
- Teach your player the importance of keeping winning and losing in perspective – game outcomes are part of but should never wholly define the overall experience
- Avoid analyzing your player's performance following each game – instead let them know you enjoyed watching them play
- Encourage your player to work directly with the coach to resolve issues, thereby helping her develop a strong sense of self-advocacy
- Remember that youth players participate primarily for the fun of the experience

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Disciplinary Steps

Failure of a RAGE club member to meet the RAGE Code of Conduct Requirements described above may result in one or more of the following steps:

Disciplinary Step	Potential Action
1. Verbal Warning by a club official or team PCA representative	A RAGE club member may be required to leave a match venue
2. Written Warning from a club official	A RAGE club member may be suspended and/or required to meet with club officials and/or board members
3. Disciplinary Hearing with a Disciplinary Committee comprised of at least three members of the RAGE Board of Directors as selected by the RAGE club President	A RAGE club member may be suspended or required to leave the club permanently along with any dependents

Under extreme circumstances, the Director of Coaching or any Executive Committee member may at her/his discretion temporarily suspend any club member (and their dependent(s) if deemed necessary) from the attendance of RAGE practices and/or games without prior warning. In this case a Disciplinary Hearing will take place within one week of the suspension.

Disciplinary Action Appeal

Any disciplinary actions listed above may be appealed. Suspensions will remain in place during the appeal process.

The initial appeal will be made at an in-person meeting with a Disciplinary Committee of at least five members of the RAGE Board of Directors who were not involved in the Disciplinary Action.

If further appeal is desired after the Disciplinary Committee comes to a decision, the matter can be brought before the full Board of Directors who will determine the final, binding outcome of the appeal.

Procedural specifics of each of these appeal levels will be provided as necessary and are available to any RAGE member upon request.