



# Conduct and Discipline

Soccer is a beautiful game, and we strive to keep the game fun for all. For these reasons, we ask all those associated with Kingston United Soccer Club (KUSC) to abide by the following Codes of Conduct:

- [Fair Play Code for Team Officials](#)
- [Fair Play Code for Players](#)
- [Fair Play Code for Parents and Spectators](#)

## Authority

In those rare cases where people choose not to respect the Codes of Conduct, KUSC follows the [Ontario Soccer Association \(OSA\) Policy Section 12.0: Discipline](#).

The administration of discipline can be slightly confusing or intimidating; the information on this page is provided to shed some light on the issue. The information presented here is meant to help detail the application of the OSA Discipline Policies at KUSC. If there is discrepancy between the information presented here and that provided by the OSA Discipline Policies, the latter should be taken as authoritative.

The term *discipline* refers to the application of the discipline policies in dealing with a case of misconduct by a KUSC registrant; a registrant being a player, team official, administrator, or game official. There are a wide variety of misconduct types (as noted in OSA Policy Section 12.0), which range from a player receiving a caution (yellow card) or dismissal (red card) to more serious offences such as assaults. All such cases of misconduct are reported to KUSC, who will determine how they are to be handled using the OSA Discipline Policies.

## Jurisdiction

KUSC can deal with misconduct types that involve KUSC registrants involved in House League and Interlocking League activities. Competitive leagues such as Eastern Regional Soccer League (ERSL) or the leagues run by our district association – the Southeast Ontario Soccer Association (SOSA) – have their own discipline procedures.

## Referees

Only the OSA and its districts have jurisdiction over referees for discipline; clubs like KUSC have no jurisdiction to discipline referees. Matters involving discipline must be referred to the Southeastern Ontario Soccer Association (SOSA).

## Application

There are two general mechanisms that KUSC can use to handle alleged misconduct: Discipline by Review System or Discipline by Hearing System.



Discipline by Review (DBR) System is used to handle minor misconducts where a specific sanction is quoted in OSA Policy Section 12.0.

- Such cases are reviewed by a panel who review the facts and award the specified suspension if appropriate
- The person accused of the misconduct does not make representation to the review panel
- A player who is dismissed from a game (after receiving a red card) has the right to request to be disciplined by the DBH system
  - They must submit that request in writing or by email to the KUSC Administration Manager within three days of receiving dismissal, and before the next scheduled discipline review meeting
  - Registrants asking for a hearing under the DBH system must pay the Request for Hearing Fee prior to the hearing as per the KUSC [Schedule of Fees and Fines](#)
  - The Disciplinary Hearing Fee will be reimbursed if the registrant is found not guilty of the charge
- Discipline decision made under the DBR cannot be appealed

Discipline by Hearing (DBH) System is used for more serious misconducts, or for those for which OSA Policy Section 12.0 quote a range of sanctions.

- Such cases are heard before a panel, which shall hold a hearing
- The accused individual must attend the hearing
- Any accused under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an advisor, who can be anyone over 18 years of age who provides advice to any party required to attend a Discipline Hearing, including the panel, and may not act as a witness nor provide any testimony at the Discipline Hearing
- Each party required to attend a Discipline Hearing is entitled to have a maximum of two observers in attendance at the Discipline Hearing in order to ensure that a specific party receives a fair hearing. The selected observers may not act as a witness nor provide any testimony but may speak at the discretion of the Discipline Hearing Panel
- Each party required to attend a Discipline Hearing is entitled to bring witness. Witnesses must appear in person; written reports by witnesses are not acceptable. There is no limit to the number of witnesses allowed, but they must add new testimony and the Discipline Hearing Panel can restrict the testimony of witnesses if the testimony given becomes repetitious
- Discipline decisions made under the DBH System can be appealed to SOSA

A player who is subject to a DBR may request to be disciplined by a DBH (except when disciplined for cautions). That request for a hearing must be made within 72 hours of the



player receiving a dismissal (red card). The request for a hearing must be made in writing by contacting the KUSC Administration Manager.

### **Communication of Penalty**

In all cases where a penalty has been awarded by DBR or the DBH System, the penalty shall be communicated to the accused and their coach (if the accused is a player) within four days of the hearing by email or by phone.

### **Schedules**

KUSC will generally hold its Discipline Hearings under the DBH system on the second Thursday of each month, as applicable. If Discipline Hearings are scheduled at other times, a minimum of 15 days notice will be given.

- Any party required to attend a hearing may request one (1) postponement of a hearing. The party must submit a written request which must be received by the KUSC later than four days prior to the date of the hearing, stating the reason for requesting the postponement. All such requests must be accompanied by the correct fee as identified in the KUSC Schedule of Fees and Fines. Should the request be denied, the fee shall be refunded

Reviews of offenses under the DBR System will be scheduled as required, but will never be sooner than four days after the game in which a dismissal/incident has taken place.

### **Contact**

Address any questions or comments you may have regarding discipline to the KUSC Administration Manager, who will forward them to the Director of Discipline.