



URBAN SPORTS CLUB SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

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1. RECENT REVISIONS & UPDATES

Last Updated December 16, 2010

No Updates or Revisions have been made.

2. OVERVIEW

The USC promotes sportsmanship above all else. The goal is for players to have fun, regardless of whether they win or lose. All players who choose to play with USC are required to bring their good sporting behaviour to the games and to promote and abide by USC sportsmanship policies and values.

Good sporting behaviour means:

- Having control over your emotions and actions, recognizing and abiding by the fun-first values of USC.
- Treating all opponents, USC field staff including GCs and facility staff with fairness, courtesy and respect.
- Verbal or physical abuse is not tolerated in USC leagues.
- Not retaliating or reacting in a negative way to any situation or player regardless of the circumstance. Any players who are retaliatory or display revengeful types of behaviours will be subject to the same consequences as an instigator.
- Being open to receiving feedback from the GC and/or your opponent. Feedback should be given in a constructive way and received with an open mind. Each player is responsible for addressing any concerns with their captain during the game so that the problem can be addressed immediately.
- Treating all facilities with respect - this includes: wearing appropriate footwear, not consuming alcohol on facility property, not littering, not using unauthorized equipment, not urinating in undesignated areas, not entering a facility before the permit time begins and leaving the facility by the end of the permit time.

USC will not tolerate players who do not follow the sportsmanship guidelines. Violation of this policy could result in suspension or ejection from the league.

3. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

In order to promote a safe and sportsmanlike environment for its players, all coordinators and players must understand the expectations for playing in USC leagues. USC staff including Games Coordinators reserve the right to remove players from a facility or league if they are involved with any of the following acts towards a Coordinator, facility staff, a player or a spectator:

- Pushing, shoving or making intentional or dangerous physical contact.
- Instigating an altercation.
- Displaying disrespectful or threatening behaviour.
- Exhibiting an unsportsmanlike attitude.

If a player or a team displays any of the above behaviours, they will be ejected from the facility by the Coordinator. If a player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike play, they must leave the gym

immediately. USC will follow-up with one of the decisions listed in Section 6 – Sportsmanship Complaints (Warning, Suspension or Ejection).

For further explanations of the items listed above, please refer to Section 14 of the individual rule books. In addition to applying to players, the zero tolerance policy is in effect for all spectators and Coordinators.

4. THE GAMES COORDINATOR'S ROLE IN SPORTSMANSHIP

Games Coordinators (GCs) are hired to monitor the games with the objective of making them safe and fun. They are not trained referees - they are sports enthusiasts who are familiar with the USC Rulebooks, as such – do not call them 'ref', call them by their name. All players are responsible for calling their own infractions, although there may be times when the GC steps in to make a call. Players must treat each other and the GC with respect. In order to ensure the safety of the GC and the players, USC has trained the GCs to address and/or remove players if any behaviour is considered to interfere with the fun and safe environment. Please refer to the 'Zero Tolerance Policy' for guidelines that GCs are expected to follow.

If a Team Captain from either team sees any unsporting behaviour from a player, the captain of this player should ask him/her to sit off for 5 minutes (their team is not short-handed) or this player may be ejected from the game by the GC. If that player continues exhibiting unsporting behaviours in subsequent games, they will be ejected from the league. If a players have concerns during a game, they need to speak immediately with their Captain who will discuss the issue with the Game Coordinator. Between the Captains and the Game Coordinators, ideally all issues should be handled and settled at the time of the game.

After each game, team captains are required to submit a sportsmanship rating for their opponent to the Games Coordinator. For more information about how ratings affect standings, see section 5 – Sportsmanship Ratings. To submit feedback about any of the USC GCs, please fill out the following form: <http://www.urbansports.ca/register/gcfeedback.php>. Forms that are not completed as per the requirements listed will not be reviewed by the USC.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP RATINGS

The sportsmanship rating system was implemented by USC to ensure that all players maintain a fun and sportsmanlike attitude. The sections below explain the terms associated with sportsmanship ratings as well as breakdowns of how many ratings are associated with each sport. At present Sportsmanship Ratings are only used for Soccer.

RATING EXPLANATION

The table below outlines the criteria that ratings will be based on, whether the rating is from an opponent or a GC:

Rating Explanation

- (+1)** The team was a lot of fun and made a genuine attempt to call their fouls.
- (0)** This team was OK. There are two scenarios: (1) they were average in both Fun and Accountability; (2) They were strong in one area but weak in the other area.
- (-1)** This team was not fun (too intense or aggressive) and generally did not follow the rules and call their own violations/penalties.

"Accountability" Rating

This rating is based solely on how the opposing team took responsibility for calling their own fouls. A team that does well on Accountability either: committed few or no fouls so it was not an issue, or committed several fouls and made a genuine attempt to call most of them.

"Spirit of the Game" Rating

This part of the rating is based solely on how Fun the opposing team was. A high rating would be for a team that: appeared to put winning second and fun first and/or encouraged themselves or their opponent in a positive way.

SPORTSMANSHIP IN THE STANDINGS

What follows is information that relates to how sportsmanship ratings are factored into the overall standings (this does not apply to sports where no sportsmanship rating is reported).

REC Divisions:

The following is an explanation of how teams are ranked in the Rec divisions.

- 1st criteria: Total is derived from 2 points for a win and 1 for a tie. PLS can negatively affect your total (see below for definition). Actual spirit points are then added to your points earned from wins and ties to result in your total points.
- 2nd criteria: Differential of goals/points scored vs. goals/points allowed.

Points Lost due to Sportsmanship ratings (PLS)

- Indoor sports with GC's - each time a team receives two -1's in a game, they lose 1 point off their Total points earned from wins and ties.
- Outdoor sports with no GC's - each time a team receives a -1 from two opponents over the season, they lose 1 point off their Total points.

HOW TO SUBMIT SPIRIT RATINGS AND SCORES

GC Sports - Indoor

- Sports that have a GC present include: Indoor Soccer.
- The opposing team will give one rating to their opponent that will take "Accountability" and "Spirit of the Game" into consideration. The team captain is required to report the spirit rating to the GC at the end of the game. Note that Sportsmanship Ratings only apply to Soccer.
- The GC will give two ratings at the end of the game, these will include one rating for "Accountability" and one rating for "Spirit of the Game".
- The GC will submit the scores and sportsmanship rating to the USC office.

Team Captain (TC) Sports – Outdoor

- Outdoor sports that have no USC coordinators present include: Ultimate Frisbee.
- There are no spirit ratings awarded for these sports.

Coordinator Sports – Outdoor

- Outdoor sports that have a Coordinator (other than a GC) include: Beach Volleyball, Soccer.
- Sportsmanship Ratings apply to Soccer. There are no spirit ratings awarded for Beach Volleyball.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP COMPLAINTS

Reporting Sportsmanship Concerns:

All efforts should be made to address issues with the Game Coordinator during the game.

If at the end of the game, a team has an unresolved concern with respect to the other team's sportsmanship they are required to inform the GC at the game and/or contact the USC office.

If a team rates their opponent with a -1, they are required to submit a formal complaint online by 5:00pm the day after their game. Teams can submit this online complaint by going to the USC website and going to the "Rules & Policies" index page. Once at the page, click on the 'Sportsmanship Issues Complaint Form' tab, the form will automatically load. If a team chooses not to submit a report or if the online report is not submitted by 5:00pm after game day, the rating will be changed to a '0'. The online complaint form can be found on the USC website.

The following is an outline of how USC handles complaints:

The captain of the team (and players that the issue related to) who the complaint was filed against will receive feedback from the USC based on comments from the GC and/or the opponent. This will be kept on file to and the issue will be reviewed if any future complaints against the same team or player are received. At the USC's sole discretion, the player or team may receive either a:

- **A probationary warning** – The player or team will be on probation and monitored in future games. If more issues arise, the player or team will face further consequence.
- **A suspension from future games** – The player or team will be suspended for one or more games. The player or team will not be allowed to enter any facility where USC leagues are taking place.
- **An ejection from the league** – The player or team will be ejected from all USC participation for one or more seasons. The player or team will not be allowed to enter any facility where USC leagues are taking place.

At any time during a season, the USC may penalize or suspend a team or player for unsporting actions regardless of the ratings given by your opponents or the GC. No refunds are issued to players or teams that have been ejected from the league due to unsportsmanlike play.

Teams who have been issued a complaint are welcome to provide their own feedback on the game in relation to the GC or their opponent.

7. END OF SEASON SPORTSMANSHIP REVIEW

After each season, the USC conducts a sportsmanship review for teams that have been involved in GC'ed sports. Teams that fell below the minimum rating standard will be followed-up with and may face consequences pertaining to future seasons. These may include: probationary warnings, suspensions for one season or permanent ejection from the USC.

Below is the table that the USC office uses to determine what course of action will be taken for each team. USC reviews all sportsmanship on a case-by-case basis. Although the playoff spirit points are not taken into account in the table below, they will be used to make final decisions in regards to teams with poor sportsmanship. The table below reflects spirit points accumulated during regular season, the maximum spirit points that can be earned totals 21.

Sportsmanship Points	Action to be taken by USC!
15 or higher	No action to be taken - teams in good standing with USC!
12 to 14	A warning letter - these teams will be on probation during the next season of play. Teams are expected to communicate with the USC regarding their rating and commit to working on improving their standing. If these teams have a second season in a row with similar points, they will automatically be under review for the following season. USC reserves the right to implement a suspension at anytime during the season if it is determined that the team is still causing conflict within its leagues.
10 to 11	An USC review - these teams will have to submit a request to play in the following season with the Club. They must outline how they are going to improve their rating, as well as addressing what the issues were from the past season. This request will be reviewed by USC management. There may be follow-up questions to be answered by the team before a decision is made. USC will decide on whether the team is able to play again as a team on probation, or if they will be suspended for a season. USC reserves the right to implement a suspension at anytime during the second season if it is determined that the team is still causing conflict within its leagues.
9 or Lower	An Automatic 1 Season Suspension - These teams will not be able to register for the following season. Players from these suspended teams must submit a request to join the leagues as a part of other teams or as singles. USC reserves the right to deny registrations of players who were part of a team that has been suspended from play. Any players who are allowed to continue to participate are subject to the same stringent rules as teams on probation - if they are found to be a cause of problems in subsequent seasons they can be suspended from play at any time. After a team and/or its players have completed their suspension, they may register again. However, if a team that has had a suspension falls under review by USC again, they may be excluded from participating in USC leagues and tournaments permanently.

