

## HMMS CODE OF CONDUCT

The goal of the HMMS Youth Soccer Association ("HMMS") is to maximize the opportunity for each registered player to enjoy the game of soccer, learn and display sportsmanship, and develop individual and team skills. In pursuit of that goal, the principles set forth below reflect our Code of Conduct and shall apply to coaches, players, referees, parents, guardians, volunteers, trainers, and any other participants in HMMS activities.

- All participants in HMMS shall abide by this Code of Conduct.
- Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct may result in, among other sanctions, suspension or expulsion from participation in or attendance at any HMMS activities.
- All participants are prohibited from using profanity when participating in or attending any HMMS activities.
- Referee abuse or intimidation of any kind, verbal or physical, will not be tolerated.
- No participant shall engage in the use of abusive language, physical contact with the intent to harm or injure, physical abuse, harassment, or intimidation of any kind against any other participant, including players, referees, coaches, assistant coaches, and any other spectator or team supporter.<sup>1</sup>
- Head coaches shall be responsible for the behavior of their assistant coaches, players, trainers, parents, guardians, and team supporters.
- All coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and other official representatives of HMMS must maintain reasonable composure at all times and demonstrate and teach good sportsmanship at all times.
- All coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and other official representatives of HMMS shall abide by and implement practices and policies as approved and communicated by the HMMS Board.
- If any referee, player, coach, parent, guardian, or other participant in an HMMS activity perceives that this Code of Conduct has been violated, they have the right to, and should, report the perceived violation to any member or representative of the HMMS Board for investigation.
- The HMMS Code of Conduct is not limited to the principles enumerated above; any conduct that undermines the goal and purpose of HMMS may be deemed a violation of this Code of Conduct.

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<sup>1</sup> In PA, the Criminal Code at 18 Pa.C.S.2701 defines a simple assault as "attempting to cause, or intentionally or knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to another" or an "attempt by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury." 18 Pa.C.S. 2712 provides for "Assault on a Sports Official." Sports officials are defined as "a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach." The penalty for violating this law is a 1st degree misdemeanor, which carries a maximum jail term of 5 years or a maximum fine of \$10,000 or both.