

1. **How will the coach employ captains to help minimize the receipt of penalty cards? How can team members be empowered to enact any plan put forward? Can previous members of the team who have graduated be involved in a positive way?**
  - Coach will Conduct at preseason Meeting with all players of the soccer program both JV and Varsity with the **Athletic Director, Class Act Officers and an Official** to discuss a plan with the team together to lower the amount of Cards moving forward. We can also have Alumni come in to speak with the kids to help move forward in a positive way.
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2. **Will the coach employ any tactics prior to the start of the season? Meet with parents? Have officials attend and present at a meeting? Present the plan to everyone including parents?**
  - At our **Parent meeting** we will share the plan that is made by the coaches, players, Class Act officers and Alumni with the parent and discuss the previous year issues. At this meeting we will ask for Parent input. We will have an official attend the meeting with the Athletes see 1 when we will collaboratively come up with a plan. **The Athletic Director and a Class Act Officer will also attend this meeting.**
3. **Will the coach establish a plan to immediately deal with athletes who receive a penalty card? Will there be consequences for the next contest at whatever level the offending athlete plays? Will there be a meeting with the coach and parents of the offending player after a penalty card is received to go over any coaching sanctions?**
  - **The plan will be as follows**
    - If a player receives a card for dissent he will come out of the game immediately and r will not return. If a player gets a Dissent card with less than 5 minutes in a game he will miss the next game.
    - Any player who receives a Yellow card or a Card for dissent must attend a mandatory meeting with the **Coach, Athletic Director and the Class Act Council Officers.**
    - Parents of the Athlete will be notified by email by the **Athletic Director**, the athletic director will remind them of the preseason meeting when this was discussed and the seriousness of their student athletes actions
    - **The Principal** will Also be Notified on all cards
4. **How will the athletic director be involved in the plan? The principal?**
  - The **Athletic Director** will be involved in all aspects of the plan(Please see 1,2 and 3)
  - The **Athletic Director and the Coach** will sit down with the Principal and share the plan with him
  - The **Athletic Director** will inform the **Principal** of all Cards that are reported in Soccer no matter what the level is
5. **Anything else?**
  - **We take this very seriously. We have what we believe is a good plan and our Class Act Officers are also committed to work with the players to ensure that this stops.**

## **East Haven Boys Soccer Action Plan To Minimize Penalty Cards In Soccer**

- 1. How will the coach employ captains to help minimize the receipt of penalty cards? How can team members be empowered to enact any plan put forward? Can previous members of the team who have graduated be involved in a positive way?**

The Coach will be employing captains to help minimize the receipt of penalty cards in the following ways:

- 1. Lead by Example:**

- Captains should be role models for the rest of the team. Demonstrating good sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for opponents and officials can set a positive tone.

- 2. Communication:**

- Captains should maintain open lines of communication with the referees. Respectful and clear communication can help in understanding the referee's decisions and potentially influence future calls.

- 3. Referee Relations:**

- Captains can develop a positive relationship with referees before, during, and after games. A captain who communicates effectively with officials may be able to address concerns or questions on behalf of the team.

- 4. Team Discipline:**

- Captains play a crucial role in maintaining discipline within the team. They can encourage teammates to stay focused, avoid unnecessary aggression, and adhere to the rules of the game.

- 5. Preventive Measures:**

- Captains can intervene during potentially heated situations to prevent conflicts from escalating. Calming down teammates, encouraging them to stay focused, and avoiding retaliation can help minimize the chances of receiving penalty cards.

- 6. Rule Knowledge:**

- Captains should have a deep understanding of the rules of the game. This knowledge can be crucial in preventing unintentional fouls and ensuring that the team plays within the boundaries of the sport.

- 7. Motivation and Encouragement:**

- Captains can motivate teammates positively, emphasizing fair play and the importance of avoiding penalties. Encouraging good sportsmanship and reminding teammates of the potential consequences of reckless play can be effective.

## 8. Leadership Training:

- Coaches can provide leadership training for captains, helping them develop the skills necessary to guide and influence the team positively. This includes conflict resolution, effective communication, and motivational techniques.

## 9. Post-Match Discussions:

- Captains can lead post-match discussions to analyze the team's performance, including any penalty-related incidents. Learning from mistakes and discussing ways to improve can contribute to better discipline in future games.

By leveraging the leadership qualities of team captains, coaches aim to create a positive team culture that values fair play and respects the rules, ultimately minimizing the receipt of penalty cards. We will not be encouraging graduates to participate in building a new culture. We have interviewed all seniors and have taken their feedback into consideration.

- 2. Will the coach employ any tactics prior to the start of the season? Meet with the parents? Have officials attend and present at a meeting? Present the plan to everyone including parents?**

### In Season Plan

- Captains are assigned underclassmen for mentoring.
- Players who receive a yellow card must meet the Coach and Athletic Director and will meet for a restorative meeting. If they receive a second yellow card at any point in the season, they must miss the next game and will need to complete a reflection paper.
- Any player who receives a red card will have to meet with the coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and the player's parents for a restorative meeting and complete a reflection paper. They will also receive an additional game suspension, including soft red cards.
- If a player receives a second red card at any point during the season, they will have to meet with the Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and the player's parents and be considered for removal from the team.
- Any card for dissent will sit for the remainder of the game and first of half of the next game. Players will also be required to meet with the Coach and Athletic Director for a restorative meeting and complete a reflection paper.

### Preseason Tactics

- Post the plan on our google classroom and in the locker room
- Hold a mandatory parent meeting with players and Athletic Director to review our new team expectations and season plan. Parents will review and sign our team rules and expectations.
- Assign a group of players to each captain. I will hold a mentoring orientation meeting for the captains so they know their roles on the team and have biweekly meetings to complete pre assigned tasks within our google team classroom.

- Joe Miller will be invited to a preseason practice to discuss all rules, regulations and expectations from the officials and league.

### **Postseason Tactics**

- Post season we will debrief with Parents, Athletes, Coaching staff and Athletic Director to review our progress and re-evaluate our processes and strategies. We hope to improve our initiative yearly and create a product which will be the gold standard for our league and other East Haven Varsity teams.

- 3. Will the coach establish a plan to immediately deal with athletes who receive a penalty card? Will there be consequences for the next contest at whatever level the offending athlete plays? Will there be a meeting with the coach and parents of the offending player after a penalty card is received to go over any coaching sanctions?**

See above in the Pre-season, In-season, and Postseason plan

### **4. How will the Athletic Director and Principal be involved in the Plan?**

Promoting better sportsmanship in soccer involves collaboration between the athletic director, principal, coaches, players, and parents. Here are ways in which the athletic director and principal can support and encourage sportsmanship in soccer:

#### **1. Establish Clear Expectations:**

- The athletic director and principal can work together to establish clear expectations for sportsmanship within the soccer program. These expectations should emphasize fair play, respect for opponents, and adherence to the rules.

#### **2. Educational Programs:**

- Implement educational programs that focus on sportsmanship. This can include workshops, seminars, or guest speakers who emphasize the importance of fair play, integrity, and respect both on and off the field.

#### **3. Code of Conduct:**

- Develop and enforce a code of conduct for athletes, coaches, and spectators. Clearly outline the expected behaviors and consequences for violations. Distribute and discuss the code of conduct at the beginning of each season.

#### **4. Leadership Training for Coaches:**

- Provide coaches with training on leadership and positive coaching techniques. Coaches play a pivotal role in shaping the behavior of their players, and training can help them emphasize sportsmanship in their coaching style.

5. Promote Positive Role Models:

- Highlight and celebrate positive role models within the soccer program. Recognize athletes who consistently demonstrate good sportsmanship, fair play, and leadership. Positive reinforcement can inspire others to follow suit.

6. Community Engagement:

- Involve the community in promoting sportsmanship. Engage local charities, community leaders, and parents in initiatives that support positive behavior on and off the field. Community support can enhance the overall sports culture.

7. Spectator Education:

- Educate spectators about the importance of sportsmanship. The athletic director and principal can communicate expectations to parents and fans, encouraging them to support their teams in a positive manner and avoid disruptive behavior.

8. Regular Sportsmanship Reviews:

- Conduct regular reviews of sportsmanship within the soccer program. This could involve gathering feedback from coaches, players, and officials to identify areas for improvement. Use this information to make necessary adjustments and reinforce positive behavior.

9. Public Recognition:

- Acknowledge and celebrate instances of exemplary sportsmanship. Recognize athletes, coaches, and teams that go above and beyond in displaying fair play and respect. This positive reinforcement reinforces the value of sportsmanship.

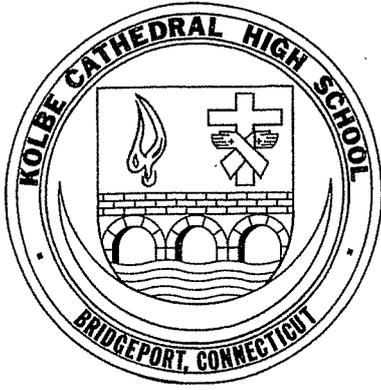
10. Collaboration with Referees:

- Work collaboratively with referees to ensure a fair and respectful game environment. Foster communication between referees and the soccer program to address concerns and build a positive relationship.

11. Parental Involvement:

- Encourage parents to actively support sportsmanship. Host meetings or informational sessions where parents can learn about the importance of positive behavior and their role in fostering a respectful sports environment.

By working together, the athletic director and principal can create a culture that values sportsmanship in soccer, benefiting the athletes, coaches, and the entire school community.



January 23, 2024

Kolbe Cathedral High School regrets and is embarrassed by the actions of its fall, 2023 soccer program. As the school leader, I take responsibility for the place we find ourselves in at this time. This behavior and outcome is everything that is not tolerated both in the mission of our high school, as well as in our daily expectations of students. We are grateful for the opportunity to create an action plan as we make the necessary remedies to make our soccer program, an experience our athletes can learn from be proud to participate in and finally have a positive experience as members of the school community.

That said, we have already begun the hard work necessary for improvement. We plan to identify and hire a new head coach in a month's time who will lead our young men. We will look closely at the candidate's experience coaching high school athletes, one familiar with CIAC regulations and one that is a positive role model on and off the field as we interview. At this time we anticipate keeping our assistant coach, a young man that graduated from Kolbe Cathedral and played soccer here.

I believe part of our difficulty was that there was not adequate preparation leading up to our school season. To that end, we have a weekly conditioning schedule set to begin in February where our athletes will get their bodies into the shape needed for competitive play. The athletes will need to commit to the preparation and demonstrate their willingness to meet a new standard. Team building and bonding will be a goal for this work as well. The team will learn the benefits of teamwork and the importance of the concept of a team.

We met with the parents of the players at the end of our season. We worked together to discuss what was wrong with our season and discussed the mandated protocols of the SWC league as well as CIAC regulations. Parents were encouraged to work together to do things to support the team as well as be aware of things not acceptable as spectators. There will be a formal parent meeting prior to the fall, 2024 season where parents will receive written regulations for acceptable play as well as field behavior for spectators. Our parents have great passion for their sons as well as passion for the game. We will work with them to channel their spirit in a better manner.

Our plan will also include a team meeting after each game to be sure that athletes are clear about anything that occurred in the game that was questionable, both in behavior and play. The athletic director and / or a school administrator will be at every home contest and as many away competitions as possible. A strong adult presence from the school will be helpful and give us first hand knowledge of what happened at the game.

We welcome any additional guidance from the CIAC and please know that we look for a more successful soccer season for fall, 2024.

Camille Figluizzi  
Principal