



# GVSA and GVSOA “RESPECT” Campaign

**RESPECT** – *A Game We All Must Play*



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GVSA Integration Team

- J. Wolf
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# OBJECTIVE

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Improve soccer behavior by having a complete “Respect” Campaign available to introduce at the GVSA - AGM in early March 2013 and to Implement for the Fall 2013 season. This should include the following modules:

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1. **A code of conduct** document to be prepared for: the league spectators/parents, players, coaches and referees to be agreed to at the start of each season. These must be implement into GVSA and GVSOA bylaws and game day procedures.



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2. **A detailed launch plan** for GVSA to distribute and implement the “RESPECT” Campaign to all clubs, teams and affiliates.



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2. **A detailed launch plan** for GVSA to distribute and implement the “RESPECT” Campaign to all clubs, teams and affiliates.
3. **A good selection of promotion materials** for launch to include logo with theme, banners available for display by all clubs and field locations, and posters for display at clubs and league facilities and on GVSA, GVSOA and club websites.



# 1. Code Of Conduct

To guide behavior at all game sites, practices and other GVSA soccer events. A specific **Respect Code of Conduct** is being published for the **League, Clubs, Spectators/Parents, Players, Coaches and Referees** and this will be strictly enforced by GVSA and GVSOA. These materials will be part of GVSA and GVSOA's bylaws and game day procedures. They will be supplied to each team with packets at the beginning of the spring 2013 (referees) and fall 2013 (all others) season.

**Code of Conduct Forms – Designed to guide behavior and inform all of expectations.**

GRAND VALLEY SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
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LEAGUE – MANAGEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS – CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in the Beautiful Game. As we go forward trying to tackle unacceptable behavior in and around the game of soccer, we as members of the Grand Valley Soccer Association Governing Board must show leadership and character that provides an unbiased fiduciary responsibility to the players, coaches, teams, clubs and the league.

We therefore ask our board members to play their part and observe GVSA's Respect Code of Conduct in everything they do by asking them to take the following pledge:

**I will:**

- Strive at all times to serve the best interests of GVSA as a whole regardless of personal interests.
- Use sound judgment to make the best possible decisions for GVSA, taking into consideration all available information, circumstances and resources.
- Act within the boundaries of authority as defined by the by-laws and the governing documents of GVSA.
- Perform duties without bias for or against any club or group of clubs.
- Disclose personal or professional relationships with any club, company or individual who has or is seeking to have a business relationship with GVSA.
- Conduct open, fair and well-publicized elections.
- Always speak with one voice, supporting all duly-adopted board decisions even if I was in the minority regarding actions that may not have obtained unanimous consent.
- Not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Adhere to the Laws of the Game.
- At all times display and promote high standards of behavior.
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, players, coaches, managers, club officials and spectators.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials or club members.
- Take a proactive position and deal in a timely way with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behavior, foul play and other misconduct at any GVSA game or event as outlined in the GVSA Bylaws.
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behavior and showing respect to everyone involved in any soccer game that I attend.

## 2. Code Of Conduct – League Board Members

**RESPECT**



**GVSA League Board Members Code of Conduct - whose members guide our league and the respect campaign.**

### Details:

**Implement:** Spring 2013  
**Introduce:** AGM 2013  
**Responsible:** GVSA Board

### Notes:

- Add to GVSA Bylaws
- Add to Respect Campaign GVSA website tab.

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- Act within the boundaries of authority as defined by the by-laws and the governing documents of GVSA.
- Perform duties without bias for or against any club or group of clubs.
- Disclose personal or professional relationships with any club, company or individual who has or is seeking to have a business relationship with GVSA.
- Conduct open, fair and well-publicized elections.
- Always speak with one voice, supporting all duly-adopted board decisions even if I was in the minority regarding actions that may not have obtained unanimous consent.
- Not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
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- At all times display and promote high standards of behavior.
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, players, coaches, managers, club officials and spectators.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials or club members.
- Take a proactive position and deal in a timely way with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behavior, foul play and other misconduct at any GVSA game or event as outlined in the GVSA Bylaws.
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behavior and showing respect to everyone involved in any soccer game that I attend.

## 2. Code Of Conduct – GVSA Clubs

**RESPECT**



**GVSA Club Code of Conduct - whose responsibility it is to implement with teams and all of their members and participants.**

### Details:

<b>Implement:</b>	Fall 2013
<b>Introduce:</b>	AGM 2013
<b>Responsible:</b>	Individual Clubs
<b>Notes:</b>	

- Add to Club Bylaws
- Add to Respect Campaign GVSA website tab.
- Appoint Compliance Official
- Add to Club Website

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### **CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.**

While GVSA will deal with reported misconduct, clubs also have a role to play in educating its membership as to what is – and what isn't – acceptable behavior and take action when this code is broken.

We suggest that each club appoint a compliance officer, which could be a current board member that will oversee the "Respect Code of Conducts" (RCOC) of the club and their implementation consistent with the new Respect Campaign from GVSA.

Each RCOC explains what action can and will be taken if the Code of Conduct is broken.

Each GVSA club has three main responsibilities relating to the GVSA Respect Campaign:

1. To ensure everyone within the club (club members), whatever their role, has read, agreed and signed up to their relevant Code – and understands the actions which could be taken if Codes are broken. The inclusion of Codes into the registration process of club members ensures that all playing members can be made aware of their responsibilities at the point of joining the club.
2. To collect and retain the Codes so that they can be referred back to, if an individual's behavior becomes unacceptable.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks this RCOC agreement.

If your club hasn't used Codes of Conduct before – or has Codes without consequences – this needs discussion, so your members understand how the RCOC work and what their responsibilities are.

### **Clubs which already have Codes of Conduct:**

If you already have your own club Codes of Conduct, it is advised that you adopt the new Respect Codes of Conduct (RCOC) or revise your existing codes to include any elements you may have missed.

Potential measures that a club can take against its members include but not limited to:

- Apologize to teammates, the other team, referee, team manager or coach.
- Receive a warning from the coach.
- Receive a verbal/written warning from the club board.

# 2. Code Of Conduct – Coach



**GVSA Coach Code of Conduct - whose responsibility it is to manage and assist with behavior of self, players and parents.**

**Details:**

**Implement:** Fall 2013  
**Introduce:** AGM 2013  
**Responsible:** Individual Clubs

**Notes:**

- Add to GVSA Bylaws
- Add to Respect Campaign GVSA website tab.
- Add to Club Website

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**COACH CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in the game. One of the biggest issues within GVSA is the behavior in and around the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behavior of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sideline.

We ask our coaches to play their part and observe GVSA's Respect Code of Conduct in everything they do. Therefore we ask you to take the following pledge:

**On and off the field, I will:**

1. Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.
2. Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game.
3. Promote Fair Play and high standards of behavior.
4. Always respect the match official's decision.
5. Consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance.
6. Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
7. Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
8. Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior.
9. Always seek ways of increasing professional development and continuing coaching education.

**When working with players, I will:**

1. Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning.
2. Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me.
3. Ensure all parents/guardians of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations.
4. Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying.

## 2. Code Of Conduct – Player

**RESPECT**



**GVSA Player Code of Conduct - All players and captains need to be aware of the expectations of them both on and off the field.**

### Details:

**Implement:** Fall 2013

**Introduce:** AGM 2013

**Responsible:** Individual Clubs

### Notes:

- Add to GVSA Bylaws
- Add to Respect Campaign GVSA website tab.
- Add to Club Website

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**PLAYER AND FAMILY CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.**

### Player Code Of Conduct

The Grand Valley Soccer Association is committed to long term development of the youth soccer player as a well rounded athlete, and productive, respected member of society. Excellent gamesmanship in the form of healthy competition coincides with an overall attitude of community awareness and the desire to be a good citizen. Therefore, each player will be expected to follow the Grand Valley Soccer Association Code of Conduct principles and each parent is expected to help enforce these principles.

1. GVSA Players understand that soccer is a team sport and absences from practice or games may hurt the team. Players unable to attend training or games should let their coach know as soon as the information is available.
2. GVSA Players will not use alcohol or illegal substances at any time.
3. GVSA Players will not use profanity at any time, especially at practices and games.
4. GVSA team captains will make themselves known to the referee and assist in the managing of the match as required by the referee. Team captains are encouraged to respectfully ask for clarification of referee decisions during the match if teammates have questions. Team captains will assist the Referee by helping to manage teammates who exhibit poor behavior during a match. Team captains are the on-field Representative of the Club and the League!
5. GVSA Players will show respect to the referees. Players will not show dissent to a referee. Players will accept responsibility for all fouls issued. Players will positively acknowledge the referee's effort after a game regardless of the outcome.
6. GVSA Players will show respect to the other team's players. Players will not be allowed to taunt an opposing player. Players will shake hands with their opponents after each game.
7. GVSA Players accept victory and defeat with dignity.
8. GVSA Players will show respect to their coaches.
9. GVSA Players will show respect to their parents.
10. GVSA Players will work to promote a model of a top soccer athlete: good skills, sound fundamentals, clean and fair play.

I have read and understand the GVSA CODE OF CONDUCT, and I agree to abide by these principles at all time. I understand these principles also apply to out-of-state tournaments, both on and off the field. I also agree to accept actions taken for failure to abide by these principles.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Player Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Player signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## 2. Code Of Conduct – Parents / Spectators

**RESPECT**



**GVSA Parent Code of Conduct - There is a serious need to make parents and spectators aware of requirements for their behavior.**

### Details:

**Implement:** Fall 2013  
**Introduce:** AGM 2013  
**Responsible:** Individual Clubs

### Notes:

- Add to GVSA Bylaws
- Add to Respect Campaign GVSA website tab.
- Add to Club Website

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2. GVSA Players will not use alcohol or illegal substances at any time.
3. GVSA Players will not use profanity at any time, especially at practices and games.
4. GVSA team captains will make themselves known to the referee and assist in the managing of the match as required by the referee. Team captains are encouraged to respectfully ask for clarification of referee decisions during the match if teammates have questions. Team captains will assist the Referee by helping to manage teammates who exhibit poor behavior during a match. Team captains are the on-field Representative of the Club and the League!
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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Player Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Player signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## 2. Code Of Conduct – Referees / Match Officials

**RESPECT**



**GVSA Referee Code of Conduct - This spells out and repeats established requirements for their behavior which is needed with many new or unaware officials.**

### Details:

**Implement:** Spring 2013

**Introduce:** AGM 2013

**Responsible:** GVSOA

### Notes:

- Add to GVSA Bylaws
- Add to GVSOA Bylaws
- Add to Respect Campaign GVSA website tab.
- Add to GVSOA Website

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### REFEREE CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.

Match officials all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in every game whether they are officiating a match or not. The behavior of match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game both on the field and on the sidelines.

Officials are expected to play their part and observe GVSA's below Respect Code of Conduct at all times.

#### Officials will always strive to:

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times.
- Be timely and professional in appearance, dress and manner at all times.
- Apply the "Laws of the Game" and competition rules fairly and consistently and make sure to have read and understood the published game day procedures for the game that they are officiating.
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner.
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behavior, foul play and other misconduct.
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior from players, spectators, coaches, team and other match officials.
- Support other match official colleagues at all times.
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behavior and showing respect to everyone involved in the game.
- Communicate with the players and encourage Fair Play. A special effort will be made to work and communicate with team captain(s) to maintain match control and game flow.
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for information or clarification by the team captains.
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match that you commit to officiate.
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which you officiate.

I understand that if I do not follow this Respect Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, league, MSYSA or the MRC:

#### I may be required:

- To attend a USSF or MSYSA sponsored education course or view training video's.
- To meet with a USSF Referee Official, Instructor, Assessor or GVSOA Administrator to review my performance and/or plan to take corrective action.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### 3. GVSA Promotion and Launch Materials

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The following is a selection of logo, banner and poster ideas that can be used to promote the “Respect” program on our websites, at field locations and with clubs and various team events.

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**GWSA**

West Michigan Soccer

**RESPECT**

*A Game We All Must Play*

**RESPECT**

*A Game We All Must Play*

Logo Subhead  
And  
ID Patch



**RESPECT**

*A Game We All Must Play*

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*A Game We All Must Play*

## Captains Arm Band and Patch for Kit Bag and/or Uniform



Banner and Bumper Sticker Concept Idea



**RESPECT – IN YOUTH  
SOCCER**

*A Game We All Must Play*



Poster Concept Idea For Use In Club House, Game Sites  
And On Team Websites.

**RESPECT  
IN YOUTH SOCCER**



A Game We All Must Play. Protect our game  
and include **respect** at every game.





**RESPECT** – *Suck It Up Suckers*

