

**TOWN OF PLEASANT GARDEN**  
**SOCCER PROGRAM POLICY**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a uniform manner for the soccer program provided by the Town of Pleasant Garden.

**OBJECTIVE:**

To promote, develop and govern soccer in the Town of Pleasant Garden.

**CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Every athlete, coach, volunteer, or other party involved with the Pleasant Garden soccer program must sign and return the attached Code of Conduct form within the first week of practice to be eligible to participate. Failure to sign the Code of Conduct Form may result in expulsion for that season. Likewise violations of same will result in discipline up to and including expulsion. The process for same is as described further herein.

**BACKGROUND CHECK AND DISQUALIFICATION:**

All coaches, assistant coaches and game officials (hereinafter referred to as “officials”) must submit to a national criminal background check in the method agreed upon by the Town of Pleasant Garden each season before participating in any practices and/or games.

**General Statement:**

Youth athletics are a fundamental part of growing up and learning to work as a team. All coaches and officials are role models for players.

- All coaches, assistant coaches and game officials (referees/line judges) must undergo a national criminal background check in a method chosen by the Town, before participating in any practices and/or games.
- Failure to submit required information for a national criminal background check will disqualify officials from participating in the soccer program.
- Criminal convictions for sex offenses or crimes against children shall disqualify officials from participating in the soccer program.
- Felony, narcotics and/or alcohol related convictions within the preceding seven (7) years shall disqualify an official from participating in the soccer program.
- Convictions for violent crimes such as assaults and domestic violence within seven (7) years shall disqualify an official from participating in the soccer program.
- Regardless of the foregoing, any other criminal conviction may disqualify an official from participating in the soccer program, at the discretion of the Town Council.

- Any official with a criminal conviction may be requested to submit a written explanation regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident. Failure to comply with this request shall disqualify an official from participating in the soccer program.
- All criminal background checks, the results thereof, and all follow-up communications with an official shall be kept confidential. This information shall only be released in accordance with law, or if requested by the applicant/official.

#### **MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM:**

- The business of the Program shall be conducted by the Soccer Committee under the oversight of the Recreation Board. Except for minor decisions concerning routine day-to-day operations of the program, all recommendations and decisions require prior approval of the Recreation Board. Significant decisions (*for example, changing the amount of the registration or sponsor fees, using non-town owned facilities, making capital expenditures, etc.*) require final action by the Town Council.
- The Recreation Board Chair or his/her designee shall make reports to council as necessary.
- All Program meetings will be held in compliance with the Open Meetings Laws.
- All purchases and contracts shall be executed in compliance with the adopted Financial Policy.
- All practices and games shall be conducted on town-owned property. Any agreements for use of other facilities shall be negotiated by the Mayor and approved by Town Council.
- All registration funds shall be paid to the Town of Pleasant Garden. If at all possible, said funds should be paid during the Town's registration process. However, in the event a representative of the Recreation Board/Soccer Committee shall receive such funds, the funds and accompanying completed forms shall be given to the Town Administrator or Assistant Clerk the next business day, or as soon as practicable, but in all cases, by the registration deadline.
- All equipment utilized by the soccer program shall be secured after each practice, games, and at the end of each day; in the equipment shed or as best as possible.
- Youth between the ages of 4 and 17 are eligible to participate in the soccer program. Player eligibility is determined by the age of the child on the final day of a season. A child must be 4-years-old no later than the final day of the season to be registered and eligible to play.
- Any sponsorships of the Program or individual teams should be family-friendly and appropriate for children. The town reserves the right to decline sponsorships from businesses or other establishments that promote products or services inappropriate for children.”