

SIDELINE INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN



A professional process for addressing coach and parent behavior, reinforcing standards, and moving your club forward utilizing [Return to Good Standing](#).

Don't handle incidents case by case. Respond with a consistent standard. Protect people and culture.

THE 4-STEP RESPONSE PLAN

1. RECOGNIZE

Identify when behavior requires formal action.

Step in when behavior:

- Disrupts the sideline or game environment
- Undermines a coach or referee
- Impacts players or other families
- Is repeated or escalating

If it's affecting others, it needs a response - not just a conversation.

3. REQUIRE RETURN TO GOOD STANDING

- Assign Return to Good Standing
<https://thesidelineproject.com/rtgscourse/>
- Require they pay for, complete the course, and turn in their certificate (The Sideline Project can validate completion if necessary)
- Give the adult a clear deadline
- If warranted, include one or multiple match suspension(s)
- Ensure the individual understands expectations for course completion – Check for Understanding

This is where most clubs fall short, this structure of requirement creates change.

2. RESPOND & ADDRESS

Acknowledge the issue and set expectations clearly.

- Address the behavior directly (not emotionally) with an email
- Consider a face to face conversation or phone call if warranted
- Communicate your club's sideline behavior standards clearly
- Let the individual know the next steps.

This is not about debate - it's about clarity and consistency.

4. RESET & REINTEGRATE

Bring the adult back, aligned with your standards.

- Confirm the next step has been completed
- Create space for reflection and reset by setting a follow up conversation after course completion
- Reinforce expectations moving forward
- Welcome them back into the environment

The goal is not removal - it's a stronger, more aligned community.

WHAT TO AVOID →

✗ Ignoring the issue and hoping it stops

✗ Making it personal or emotional

✗ Handling each situation differently

✗ Leaving coaches to manage it alone