



# BYSA Policy: No Dogs or Animals on the Field

Updated January 2026

## Policy Statement

For the safety of all participants, spectators and officials, all dogs and other pets or animals are not permitted anywhere on the soccer field at any time during games or league events.

**Exception:** Service animals are the only exception, as required by law, and must remain under the handler's control and off the playing surface at all times.

## Why This Rule Matters

Even well-behaved animals can:

- Accidentally cause injuries to children or other spectators.
- Distract young players and officials.
- Interfere with the flow of the game.
- Cause unsanitary conditions.
- Be injured or overwhelmed by fast play, whistles, and crowds.

## What Parents and Spectators Can Do

- Please leave pets at home or ensure they remain secured outside the field and playing areas.
- Help remind family members and guests of this policy before game days.
- Follow requests from coaches, referees, or league staff promptly and respectfully.

## Non-Compliance

Our goal is always education and cooperation first.

If an animal is brought onto the field:

- The owner will be politely asked to remove the animal from the field area.
- Pause in Play. If the animal is not immediately removed, play may be paused until the field is clear.
- Repeated violations may lead to additional actions by the league, such as written warnings or restrictions from attending future events.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us create a safe, welcoming environment for all players to learn, grow, and enjoy the game.