



Coaching Code of Conduct

As with any other sports organization, the North River Soccer Association (NRSA) volunteer coach plays an incredibly important role in a player's sports experience. For players of all ages, a coach is in a position of authority and influence over young minds.

We recognize and appreciate that NRSA's coaches are parent volunteers who, like every other parent, want their child's (and their) experience with NRSA to be positive.

To that end, the influence of coaches on a player must be positive and healthy, and the coach should always model and promote good sportsmanship, safety, teamwork and player development.

Because we believe these things so strongly, NRSA asks that every coach affirm they will ascribe to this Coaching Code of Conduct, in order to provide all players with the same opportunity to meet the two prime goals NRSA has for all players:

- 1) To learn the game of soccer at a level appropriate to their age, physical development and skill level.
- 2) To have FUN!

Each Coach (or Assistant Coach) must remember that they set the tone for the team and its players. As such they must seek to be the very BEST example to his/her players at all times by:

1. Refraining from use of profanity, derogatory, aggressive, or inappropriate language towards players, officials, and other coaches and players;
2. Seek to know, understand, and obey the **Laws of the Game**;
3. Be accepting of the referee's decisions, no matter what the cost;
4. ALWAYS allow players to have fun, offering positive feedback continuously;
5. Educate ALL players to the technical, tactical, physical, and psychological demands of the game for their level;
6. Strive to help each player reach his/her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development;
7. Train the team to work for the improvement of the whole team, not just the better players;
8. Use instances of a weaker opponent or lopsided game as a training opportunity;
9. Teach proper field tactics and player spacing so the maximum number of players touch the ball to move it down the field;
10. Be gracious in a win and graceful in a loss; (even if the other team is not) seeking to model the best of good sportsmanship for your players;
11. Be fair no matter what the cost;
12. Never tolerate unfair gamesmanship from your players;

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13. Encourage and promote attendance (including the coach) at NRSA academy practices offered for your age division players;
14. Give good guidelines to parents, be firm with them, communicate often, and educate them on the Beautiful Game;
15. Act as the intermediary when parents of your players act inappropriately
16. Always be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home and away;
17. Attend coaching classes or clinics offered or suggested by NRSA to learn effective ways to conduct practices;
18. Abstaining from using or **being under the influence of** alcohol or illicit drugs in the presence of his/her players;
19. Abstain from using tobacco products in the presence of his/her players;
20. Have fun, by seeing young players improve and grow together, that's what coaching is about, after all.

In the event that a Coach or Assistant Coach is reported to have engaged in behaviors that are not in keeping with the NRSA Code of Conduct, NRSA will evaluate the information at that time and make a determination if that person will remain as coach for that or other seasons, based on whatever factors NRSA deems pertinent. The decisions regarding who represents NRSA as a team Coach for any game shall be solely at the discretion of NRSA.

NOTE REGARDING PARENT/SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

Coaches should understand and educate their parents (and instruct them to pass on to their guests attending games) that:

1. spectators are to take the side of the field opposite the teams;
2. spectators will remain at least 3 feet behind the touchline;
3. if, during the match, the spectators behavior is out of line then the referee will ask the Coaches to speak to the spectators;
4. if the disruptive spectator behavior continues, it is within the discretion of the referee to ask the offending spectator(s) to leave the venue;
5. and the referee shall abandon the match if, in the referee's sole opinion, the spectators become unruly and out of control.

Coaches must be supportive of the referee in these situations, remembering that most recreational soccer referees, depending on the age division, are minors. They have been instructed and trained not to put the players or themselves in a situation that may become dangerous due to adults who are out of control.

IF THERE IS ONE THING TO ALWAYS REMEMBER WHEN COACHING, IT IS THAT CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WATCHING YOU. MAKE IT GOOD.

