



USA Coaches Canon

Revised 30 May 2017



As coaches in the United Soccer Athletes (USA) Club we are all joined by common intentions, skills, and responsibilities. As part of the USA coaching and management staff we are each a critical part of the lives of young people through the game of soccer. With this in mind, we must embrace and uphold a number of tenets that are both generally understood and unique to our Club. They are as follows:

- Keep players safe at all times
- Lead by example while actively guiding your players, parents, and team staff to embrace the tenets of positive behavior, high character, universal respect, sportsmanship, and Club loyalty
- Embrace the game of soccer and your role as an influential mentor
- Work together with other coaches and Club management to provide all players the best experience possible
- Work to develop your coaching skills by all means available
- Understand and uphold Club guidance and policies, including the Code of Conduct and player development guidelines
- Understand and uphold league guidance, policies, and rules
- Support all Club activities personally or, at a minimum, promote functions to your players and families
- Participate as a team in all Club-offered player training opportunities and/or provide the players with similar opportunities (and communicate those activities with the Club management)
- Work in collaboration with all other coaches to maximize opportunities/optimize player experience across your age group
- Do not recruit candidate players from other clubs or teams (including USA teams) during active competition windows.
- Do not use Club assets, communications, contacts, or resources for purposes that do not benefit or are outside of the Club
- Consider participation in tournaments, winter leagues, and camps
- As a head coach for a team:
 - Act on all Club communication in a timely and complete manner
 - Participate actively (or be excused from) all tryout and team formation activities (pre-tryout meetings, both tryout events, team selection evening, registration)
 - Attend (or be excused from) all mandatory Club meetings
 - Attend at least 2/3 of the offered coaches trainings per competition year
 - Obtain and maintain the required Risk Management documentation (to be reimbursed by the Club)
 - Obtain the required coaching licensing/certification within 1 year of coaching (to be reimbursed by the Club)
 - Actively engage with coaching staff across your age group to create a unified age level
 - Serve as a head coach for a team of players within an age group where the team dynamics may change for many reasons (e.g., roster size adjustment, player promotion, player additions, Club intervention, etc.). As such, view your role on the team as a mentor supporting the tenets of this canon rather than the “owner” of a team (suppress the drive to maintain a team indefinitely (work with Club management to understand why)).
- To be the head coach for the highest level team in an age group:
 - Prioritize your active participation in all Club functions including, tryout and team formation activities (pre-tryout meetings, both tryout events, team selection evening, team formation activities, registration)
 - Prioritize your active participation with the other teams within your age group, Age Group Coordinators, and Club management to ensure completion of team formation activities and other functions that will strengthen and be in the best interest of the overall Club.
 - Attend all mandatory Club meetings