

## Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches are key to establishing and upholding the ethics in soccer. Their concept of ethics and their attitude directly affects the behavior of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a win at-all-costs attitude.

Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent.

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport, regardless of gender place of origin, color, sexual orientation, political belief or economic status.
2. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations. Coaches must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of the players.
3. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
4. Coaches must direct comments or criticism at performance rather than the athlete.
5. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
6. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance.
7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they institute are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the players.
8. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
9. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behavior contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques. Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.

10. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance. Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
11. Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
12. Coaches must regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and continuing coaching education.
13. Coaches must respect the coaches and players of the opposing team before, during, and after the game. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
14. Coaches must respect the game officials at all times. Refrain from questioning their decisions or challenging their authority.
15. Coaches must ensure that fans of his or her team exhibit sportsmanship and maturity at all times and assist league and game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.

#### **Procedures for Dealing With Violations of the Baystars FC Coaches Code of Conduct**

Any reports from referees, opposing coaches, players or parents regarding violations of the Coaching Code of Conduct officially filed will be handled as follows:

Repeated demonstrations of behavior that is in direct violation of the club Code of Conduct will be dealt with by the Baystars FC. Violence or conduct in violation of the rules of the game including the combination of caution offenses by individual league rules that cause a coach to sit out a game will be handled by Baystars FC in conjunction with the disciplinary standards set forth by the VSLI and VYSA.

1. Baystars FC, at its discretion, may recommend that a coach be suspended from participation in league activities while investigating and contemplating any action.
2. Baystars FC will verify details of the complaint, including interviewing the person or persons who have made the complaint, as well as any witnesses who may have observed the incident.
3. Baystars FC will contact the coach involved, asking for his/her version of the incident. The coach will have 2 days to respond.
4. Baystars FC will meet within 5 days to determine if disciplinary action should be taken.

5. If the allegation is determined to be correct, the coach can be subject to immediate suspension from the league for a period of time to be decided on. The coach will be notified verbally and in writing of Baystars FC decision. Based on the nature and severity of the offense, and depending on whether this represents a repeat offense, disciplinary actions may range from:

- a. Official warning / clarification of expected conduct
- b. Partial season suspension (1-3 games)
- c. Suspension for the remainder of the Fall and/or Spring Season
- d. One year suspension
- e. Permanent ban from Baystars FC

The penalties will be issued based upon the judgment of Baystars FC in the overall best interests of the athlete, the sport, and the club.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support the Baystars FC Coaches Code of Conduct.

Coach's Name (print)\_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Signature\_\_\_\_\_