

Emmorton Rec Council Indoor Soccer

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Emmorton Rec Council Indoor Soccer is concerned about the conduct of all coaches, assistant coaches and referees during games at all levels. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and an enjoyable experience for all children and adults involved. All games should be friendly and unifying ó a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.

As a volunteer coach for Emmorton Rec Council Indoor Soccer, your primary responsibility is to provide the children of our community an organized, safe and fun activity. Your performance is not measured in wins and losses, but rather in what you teach the players in terms of sportsmanship, integrity and fair play.

All Emmorton Rec Council Indoor Soccer coaches are expected to have a basic knowledge of the game of soccer. You are also expected to recognize and understand that the game is for the children. In that light, every player must be provided equal playing time. This means that no individual player (goalies excluded) shall be allowed to play a full half or a full game of course unless your team has no subs. If any player is allowed to play a full half that player shall not return to the field of play for the beginning of the following half.

To clarify expectations of all coaches conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this Code of Conduct. Any coach found to be in violation of this Code of Conduct can be removed from coaching in the Emmorton Rec Council and could further be banned from coaching in Harford County. This Code of Conduct will be distributed to the parents of all players.

The coach will:

- I. Use positive reinforcement as the foundation of our coaching technique. The coach, as a leader, must exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the field and should instruct players and spectators alike to follow the rules of fair play and proper match behavior.
- II. Be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit before, during and after the game.
- III. Introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- IV. Be responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If players are disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- V. Not abuse or instruct the abuse of a player mentally, verbally, or physically.
- VI. Encourage teammates to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage players who yell or show disrespect at players and referees.
- VII. Be respectful of the referee's authority. The coach will not verbally abuse or harass the referee or enter the field of play without the referee's permission. The coach should admonish any player or spectator that abuses the referee.
- VIII. Report opinions to the coordinator and/or the league chairman if there is a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent.
- IX. Not use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco during practices and match play.
- X. Not engage in any behavior or conduct that reflects badly upon or discredits Emmorton Rec Council Indoor Soccer League.
- XI. Not trade players or add players to their team before or during the season without the Chairman's prior written approval.
- XII. Not recruit players for their team. This is a Rec Council league and recruiting players is not permitted.
- XIII. Not run up the score. Follow rules for being up by multiple goals. If you continue to score, require that your players make passes and not continue to shoot. This will be a terrific coaching opportunity for you and will allow your players to learn to work together and not just score goals.

We stress a few points:

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referees, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all. Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.