



## Coaches' Code of Conduct

The coach's role is one of teaching soccer skills and sportsmanship to the players. The coach is responsible for communicating practice and game times to the players and parents. The coach is also responsible for monitoring the behavior of the players and parents during practice and games. All coaches within the soccer program will promote good sportsmanship among players, foster team camaraderie, and help participants have fun while teaching players the technical skills of soccer. Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches will not be tolerated by the program. Such unsportsmanlike conduct includes berating or making unkind comments to a player, referee, spectator, or opposing coach which would reasonably be expected to cause substantial embarrassment to the player, referee, spectator, or coach.

In addition, each Coach will ensure that his/her conduct sets a good example for team members and spectators. To meet these responsibilities, the Coach is expected to:

- Know the official rules of soccer, and the rules of our league, and abide by them.
- Instruct player and parents in the rules and motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- Respect the game officials at all times. Refrain from questioning their decisions or challenging their authority, especially during the game. Questions about a game official's decisions can be addressed to the official discreetly and respectfully to the game official after the game, if the official is willing to discuss them. Complaints about the performance of a game official can be addressed to the Referee Coordinator after the game.
- Ensure that league rules and regulations are followed by all players and spectators.
- Ensure that fans of his or her team exhibit sportsmanship and maturity at all times. Coaches must assist league and game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team before, during, and after the game.
- Take appropriate steps to minimize scoring in runaway games. (Avoid margins of more than 3 goals.)
- Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
- Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.