



TRI-COUNTY SOCCER COACH'S CODE OF ETHICS & CONDUCT



Adopted by vote of the Tri-County Soccer (AYSO Region 417)
Board of Directors on August 17, 2009

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self control at all times.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sports event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

DO's

1. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
2. I will treat each player as an individual and with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex or ability, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
3. I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
4. I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles according to Safe Haven needed to treat injuries of my players.
5. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
6. I will be knowledgeable in the "Laws of the Game" for soccer and I will teach these rules to my players.
7. I will try to better develop my knowledge for teaching the positive life skills through a soccer experience.
8. I will attend ALL coach meetings and trainings to ensure I am best prepared to deliver quality practices.
9. I will abide by all league, organization and state rules and bylaws. Any monetary penalties incurred by my lack of action or behavior is my responsibility, unless prior notification and direction by league officials.
10. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
11. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children – not adults.

DON'T's

12. I will neither engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
13. I will neither engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
14. I will neither use, nor encourage any other person to use, drugs or alcohol while at a youth sports event and I will not, nor will I encourage any other person to, attend, coach, officiate or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
15. I will neither engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, the use of profanity while at a youth sports event.
16. I will neither engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
17. I will not, nor will I encourage any other person to, initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.

I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sports event I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination:

1. Verbal warning issued by an organization official.
2. Written warning issued by an organization official.
3. Suspension or immediate ejection from any or all youth sports events issued by an organization official.
4. Arrest.

I understand there will be ZERO TOLERANCE for failure to abide by the above Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Coach's Signature

Date

Principles of Coaching Conduct to be Strongly Encouraged

Safety

1. My first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
2. It is recommended that coaches become certified in the basic first aid and are aware of their club, league or state requirements in this area.
3. Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games directed by AYSO Safe Haven, both home and away:
 - Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ice
 - 911 emergency procedures/telephone location
 - location of nearest emergency medical facilities
 - always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards
 - follow up all injuries with parents/guardians
4. Know and understand the Laws of the Game
5. Inspect players equipment and field conditions for safety reason
6. Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play
7. Implement appropriate training programs to make sure players are fit for practice and competition.
8. Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury situations.

Player Development

1. Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
2. Keep winning and losing in proper perspective
3. Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
4. Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
5. Implement rules and equipment modification according to the players age group.
6. Allow players to experience all positions.
7. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
8. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
9. Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
10. Strive to help each player reach his or her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.

Ethics

1. Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
2. Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state, and national associations.
3. Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
4. Be a positive role model
5. Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, referees, administrators and spectators.
6. Keep sports in proper perspective with education.
7. Encourage moral and social responsibility
8. Just say no to drugs and alcohol.
9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport.
10. Use a mentor or ask for assistance, many volunteers are willing to assist, if just asked.