

FYSA
Code of Ethics for Soccer Coaches

Preamble

The following code of ethics, modified with permission from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America outline a philosophy that is paramount to the game of soccer and must be emphasized in combination with skill development and style of play. Soccer is a sport that belongs to the players, offering physical challenges, emotional satisfaction and lifelong values and experiences for those who play.

Within the context, coaches must prioritize the self-esteem and emotional welfare of their players and dedicate themselves to uphold the highest standards of conduct and competence. Sportsmanship and ethical values highlighting respect, fairness, civility, honesty, integrity and accountability are a foundation for the sport. Professional and volunteer coaches must advocate these standards and supplement this code of ethics with their own moral conduct and behavior. The coaches' primary responsibility to players, parents, officials and associates is the continuance of moral values and ethical conduct that advance the spirit of the game.

Responsibilities to Players

The importance of winning must never supersede the safety, self-esteem, and emotional welfare of the players. Winning is the result of training and discipline, with considerable emphasis on the highest societal ideas and character traits. These values will not be sacrificed for prestige or personal gain.

Coaches must provide equal opportunity for all players and never knowingly jeopardize the participation of their players. The skills and personal development of the players must never be criticized in a demeaning or belittling manner.

Rules of the Game

Coaches must acquaint themselves with the rules of soccer. They are responsible for making sure their players understand the intent and application of the rules.

Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the game's rules and not circumvent the rules to seek an unfair advantage by deliberately teaching unsportsmanlike behavior. Fair play must be encouraged and emphasized within the training sessions and competitions.

Officials

Impartial, competent officials are essential for the success of any competition. Any complaint against officials must be made in writing to FYSA or members responsible for officiating assignments.

Coaches must:

- treat officials with respect;
- not address the referee before, during or after the game in a demeaning way or criticize calls made during the play of the game; and
- not incite players, parents, or spectators against referees.

Other Responsibilities

Coaches must not make derogatory or misleading comments about officials, opposing team's coaches, spectators, parents or other organizations.

Coaches must convey ethical behavior to their players, parents, and spectators. Members of the media, sports information community, parents and spectators must be treated with respect, courtesy and honesty.

Coaches must avoid any conduct that is construed as physically or verbally abusive and must avoid verbal dissent during the game with opposing coaches.

Coaches must monitor and supervise the actions of their players on the field. The use of foul language, taunting, or cursing other players or officials will not be tolerated.

Acknowledgment

Coaches must convey this code of ethics to players, parents, and spectators so that their behavior and values bring credit to FYSA and the sport of soccer. The Board of Directors of FYSA reserves the right to remove a coach or assistant at any time for infractions to this Code of Ethics.

I _____ have read and agree to uphold this Code of Ethics whenever associated with the Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association.

(Signature)

(Date)