

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

The Position of coach or leader of any youth group is an important and serious responsibility. All the children look up to the coach and respect his/her position. His/her behavior is constantly under observation by them and they will strive to imitate his/her actions. The coach's opinion and behavior during the game will carry more weight than anyone else, even parents.

The following **CODE OF ETHICS AND BEHAVIOR** is offered here to exemplify the ideal SAY coach.

A good youth soccer coach should:

1. Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players. Read the rulebook and attempt to attend a clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.
2. Abide by the laws of the game and the SAY rules.
3. Treat the referee with respect, no matter what the call.
4. Exhibit exemplary conduct at both practices and games. Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 100%.
5. Coach clean, skillful, honest, and sportsmanlike soccer by stressing playing hard to win over winning itself.
6. Stress good sportsmanship. The coach is responsible for conduct of the players when they are together as a team.
7. Help maintain a climate of enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees, and other spectators.
8. Work at team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics, be a "Fun Leader".
9. In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticisms. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.
10. Refrain from profanity or vulgar language. Remember that you are helping to mold the character of your players.
11. Coach talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. Allow players more than their required minimum playing time.
12. Minimize coaching from the sidelines during games. Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing.
13. Pre-plan all practice sessions in detail to be interesting, fast-paced, and involve all team members as much as possible (minimize standing around).
14. Welcome feedback from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.
15. Refrain from tobacco and alcohol use at all practices and games; encourage player's parents to refrain as well.