



MASS YOUTH SOCCER COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Directors of Mass Youth Soccer and the leaders of the affiliated leagues expect all coaches, adult volunteers, club administrators, and referees to conduct themselves in a responsible and principled manner at all times, and to always keep the best interest and well-being of the children they are responsible for as the highest priority.

We want to ensure that games are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences for all the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying – a spirited athletic and social occasion for the players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

We jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct:

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them (and you may need to be forceful and direct) from yelling at the players and the referee.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all.** If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game. If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report your opinion to your league. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.