

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

(Special Thanks to Jim Witherell & Bill Staten of the SAY North Area Soccer club of Ohio * for permission to reprint)

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. The behavior of the coach is constantly under observation by them and they will strive to imitate the coach's actions. The coach's opinion and behavior during the game will carry more weight than anyone else's, even parents. A responsible coach will conduct himself/herself using the following guidelines. A good youth soccer coach will:

1. Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players. Read the rulebook and attend a clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.

2. Abide by the Laws of the Game and the Soccer Association for Youth Rules.

3. Treat referees with respect, no matter what the call.

4. Exhibit excellent conduct at both practices and games. Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 100%. The coach is responsible for the

conduct of the players when they are together as a team and the conduct of the spectators at practice and games.

5. Coach clean, skillful and honest soccer by stressing playing hard over winning.

6. Stress good sporting conduct.

7. Help maintain a climate of safety and enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees,

other coaches and other spectators. Remember that coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Keep all comments positive.

8. Work at team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics. Be a "fun leader". Stress individual skill development more than tactics. Minimize

lectures, maximize demonstrations. Stress having fun.

9. In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticism. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.

10. DO NOT use profanity or vulgar language. Remember you are helping to mold the character of your players.

11. Coach talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. Allow all players more than their required playing time.

12. Minimize coaching from the sideline during the game. Know where your position on the sideline is during a game. Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing.

13. Pre-plan 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. Promote fair play at all levels. Discourage Passers from being in an offside position during games even though offsides may not be enforced at the Passers level.

* S. A. Y. North Area (Soccer Association for Youth) is an area north of Cincinnati made up of six communities. In Fall 2001 they had 7243 kids playing on 632 Teams..