

# CODE OF ETHICS & BEHAVIOR 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 position. His behavior is constantly under observation by them and they will strive to imitate his 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.

## **I WILL:**

**Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players.** Read the rulebook and attend a coaching and/or a referee clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.

**Abide by the laws of the game and the SAY rules.** Set the example for your players that no one is exempt from the laws of the game.

**Ensure that each practice and game is safe, fair and fun.** Your players should always come first!

**Treat the referee with respect, no matter what the call.** Referees attend an eight-hour course and pass a 100-question test before they can become a SAY referee. Allow for the fact that they are human and will make mistakes, just as you do.

**Exhibit exemplary conduct at both practices and games.** Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 100%.

**Coach clean, skillful, honest and sportsmanlike soccer.** Stress playing hard to win over winning itself. Teach fair play and the "Golden Rule" (do unto other as you would have them do unto you) and apply it to all games and practices.

**Set an example of good sportsmanship.** Require all players and parents to behave in the same manner. The coach is responsible for conduct of the players and parents when they are together as a team.

**Maintain a climate of enjoyment.** Discourage negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees and other spectators among players and spectators.

**Work at team morale.** Morale is as important as soccer skills and tactics, be a "fun leader."

**Maximize praise and minimize criticisms.** Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual. Start with a positive and end with a positive. Sandwich the correction in the middle.

**Refrain from profanity or vulgar language.** Remember that you are helping to mold the character of your players.

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

**Minimize coaching from the sidelines during games.** Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing. Instead, call the player to you and give instruction or wait until the next substitution time and sub him out for instructions and then put him back into the game.

**Pre-plan all practice sessions in detail.** Make them interesting, fast-paced and involve all team members as much as possible (minimize standing in lines).

**Welcome feedback.** No one is perfect! Don't be afraid to change. Accept new ideas from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.

**Refrain from using drug, alcohol and tobacco products at all youth soccer events.** Encourage the player's parents to refrain as well. Do not permit players to participate if they refuse to refrain.

**I hereby pledge to follow this Coach's Code of Ethics.**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

# MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING COACHES' OR PARENTS' CODE OF ETHICS

The following are examples of violations of the Coaches' and Parents' Code of Ethics. These unsporting behaviors will result in specific penalties to be issued by the SAYArea Review Board, District Representative and/or the SAYArea Board.

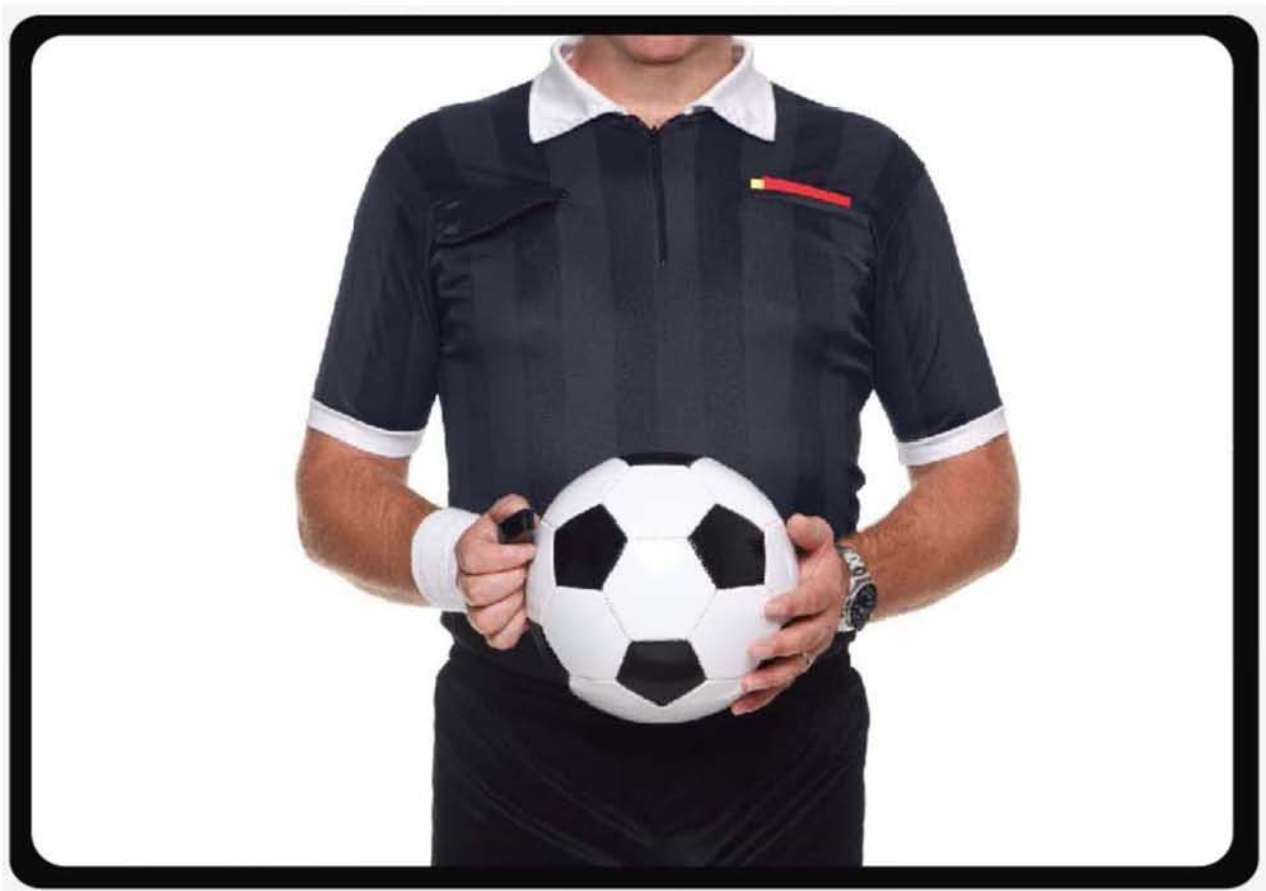
Every coach is hereby instructed to make all parents' aware and knowledgeable of the following penalties for breeches of the Parents' Code of Ethics. Please make copies of this page and review them with your parents.

1. Entering the field of play without permission of the referees  
**WARNING/CAUTION/EJECTION, 1 GAME SUSPENSION**
2. Threatening actions or words towards officials, players or spectators –  
**EJECTION/TWO GAME SUSPENSION**
3. Abusive language to an official – **EJECTION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE 2 GAME SUSPENSION**
4. Aggressive physical contact with the referee or a player, i.e. grabbing the arm, turning individual around, poking, bumping or pushing – **EJECTION WITH TWO GAME SUSPENSION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE EJECTION/EXPULSION** (Expulsion must be approved by the National Board of Directors)
5. Striking an official, player or spectator – **EJECTION/EXPULSION** (Must be approved by the National Board of Directors)
6. Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection – **ONE GAME SUSPENSION AND FORFEITURE OF GAME, REGARDLESS OF LENGTH OF GAME PLAYED**
7. Constant and excessive verbal harassment of the referee or players –  
**CAUTION/EJECTION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE 1 GAME SUSPENSION**
8. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsporting manner –  
**CAUTION/EJECTION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE 5 GAME SUSPENSION**
9. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsporting manner with deliberate intent to harm – **EJECTION WITH 2 GAME SUSPENSION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE, EJECTION/EXPULSION** (Expulsion must be approved by the National Board of Directors)

10. Playing an illegal player – **GAME FORFEITURE** If it can be proved that the coach deliberately and with full knowledge used an illegal player – **SEASON SUSPENSION** (Must be approved by National Board of Directors)

Spectators can often be guilty of one or more of the actions described in items 1 through 9 above, but a team may not be punished for the actions of those people who are not formally a part of either team. For all actions calling for a caution as a penalty, the spectator is to be given a verbal warning. Repetition of this action will lead to ejection from the area of the field (out of sight and hearing distance).

Actions calling for a coach or parent suspension or expulsion will result in ejection from the field, with a written report to the SAYArea Board, who will decide on punishment or legal action against that person.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO COACHES

All coaches in our soccer program are required to explain the following to everyone attending their games the following:

**It shall be against the rules of SAY Soccer for a spectator, coach or players to threaten, harass or intimidate soccer officials in any way. This includes before, during or after all games sanctioned by SAY Soccer. Failure to comply with the above rules could mean immediate expulsion from the game and field area, i.e. in sight of or in earshot of the official. Any physical contact with a soccer official could mean legal action by the soccer association.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS

1. All ejections will be reported to the SAYArea Review Board.
2. Penalties that are assessed that are longer than the remaining season will be carried over to the next season.
3. Penalties that are assessed after a game is completed will be carried over to the next game.

Disciplinary actions may be taken by the District Representative or the SAYArea Review Board.

## DEFINITIONS

A coach **UNDER PROBATION** will be placed on suspension for any of the above infractions. In general, the penalties for a coach on probation will be twice that applied under non-probation status as described above.

A coach **UNDER SUSPENSION** may not attend or participate in any way in any game his/her team plays during suspension.

A coach **UNDER EXPULSION** is out of the program indefinitely. Reinstatement may be made only after favorable review by the SAYArea Review Board. An expelled coach may not act in a coaching, managerial or supervisory capacity of any team.

The violation of an expulsion will result in possible game forfeiture and/or elimination of the team from league play and/or necessary legal action against the violator.

All penalties may be appealed by the coach to the SAYArea Review Board. All decisions reached by the SAYArea Review Board, using the published Code of Ethics, **will be final.**