



ESSA Coaches Code of Conduct

ESSA Soccer focus is on the best interest of its youth participants in an atmosphere of wholesome community participation with an emphasis dedicated to helping children enrich their lives and on becoming good and decent citizens in the community. ESSA strives to inspire youthful participants with the fundamental principles of teamwork, good sportsmanship and fair play while having fun.

As a coach for ESSA, I agree to the following:

1. I am representing ESSA, my community and my team and agree to act accordingly at all times.
2. I will learn and know the rules of the game and the policies of ESSA as defined in the ESSA 17 Laws of the Game and shall support and uphold them always.
3. I understand that coaching is a position of trust. Therefore, I will be a positive role model for my players and will maintain my personal integrity and dignity at all times.
4. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco and will refrain from their use at all games, exhibitions, practices and events. I will never coach a game or conduct a practice under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
5. I will never swear, use profanity or make obscene gestures, or engage in any inappropriate behavior or conduct, at any time.
6. I will always remember that my players are involved in ESSA for fun and enjoyment, and I will do everything possible to keep the game fun and enjoyable. I am a youth coach and understand that the game is for the children, not the adults.
7. I will always have a positive attitude and will always praise my players for trying hard, playing fair and doing their best, regardless of the outcome of the game.
8. I will never criticize or yell at any player for making a mistake. I will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse in youth sports.
9. I understand that winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. I will place the well being of every player above my personal desire to win. I will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat and stress the same from the players.
10. I understand that being a coach means being, first and foremost, a teacher. I will teach my players basic skills, techniques and strategies, and will give all my players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem at practice and in games. I will allow players to experience all positions they feel comfortable with.
11. I will always display good sportsmanship and fair play, and will encourage the same from my players, colleagues, opponents, parents and spectators.
12. I will treat my players in a fair and equal manner. I will stress that teamwork and being a team player are more important than individual goals.
13. I will maintain an open line of communication with my players and parents. I will explain goals and objectives for the team, as well as the rules of the game and the policies of ESSA, whenever requested or necessary, to the best of my ability.
14. I will inspect all equipment and fields on a regular basis to ensure the safety of my players.



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15. I will respect the referees and game officials and their authority during every game. I will never dispute, challenge or excessively argue any decisions made by them, or confront any referee or league official at the field before, during or after the game. Whenever necessary, I will take the time to calmly and rationally discuss any situation or call made during a game with a referee or league official. Referee abuse will not be tolerated.
16. I will inform all parents and volunteers of the requirements of the Code of Conduct and ensure they comply with the requirements.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

I acknowledge that this Code of Conduct has been adopted by ESSA and agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action by ESSA that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Warning
- Probation
- Game suspension
- Season suspension
- Removal from program

In the event a situation rises which calls for interpretation, ESSA will take into account the best interest of each athlete, the entire team, the ESSA Soccer Club, and the integrity of the soccer game. ESSA board decisions will be final.

Coach's Name (Please print clearly)

Coach's Signature

Date