

Mason SAY Soccer Coaches Code of Ethics

The following Coaches Code of Ethics are offered here to exemplify the behavior of an ideal coach, and each Mason S.A.Y. coach (Head Coach or Assistant Coaches) is required and expected to understand, agree with, and abide by this code of ethics before participating in any Mason S.A.Y. sanctioned activities.

1. Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players. Read the rulebook and attend available clinics to enhance your knowledge of the game. Become certified to coach at the appropriate level for the age of the kids you coach.
2. Abide by the laws of the game.
3. Treat the game officials 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 play by stressing playing hard to win over winning itself.
6. Stress good sportsmanship. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the players and their parents 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, officials, coaches, and other spectators.
8. Work at team morale as hard as ball skills and tactics, be a "fun leader". Stress individual skill development more than tactics, especially at the younger ages. Minimize lectures, maximize demonstrations. Stress having fun and participation.
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 and vulgar language. Remember 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 minimum playing time whenever possible.
12. Minimize coaching from the sidelines during games. Screaming during the game does not accomplish much.
13. Pre-Plan all practice sessions in detail to be interesting, fast paced and involve all team members as much as possible.
14. Welcome feedback from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.
15. Abide by the SAY Times 2 program: At least two adults that have submitted a volunteer forms MUST be present at all practices and games, - no exceptions!
16. Publicly support the Club as a whole and work to improve the areas that you disagree with if necessary. Be protective of Mason S.A.Y. equipment and facilities and return your team's equipment promptly and in good repair at the end of the season.

Penalties for coaches violating Coaches Code of Conduct

The following are examples of violations of the Coaches Code of Ethics. These or similar Un-sportsman-like behaviors will result in specific penalties to be issued by the Mason S.A.Y. Board of Directors.

1. Entering the field of play without permission of the referee. Warning/Caution/Ejection/1 game suspension (depending on the circumstances).



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2. Threatening action or words to an official; Ejection for the first offense, Ejection with 2 game suspension for the second offense. Expulsion from the Club for any subsequent offense.
3. Abusive language to an official; Ejection for the first offense, Ejection with 2 game suspension for the second offense. Expulsion from the Club for any subsequent offense.
4. Aggressive physical conduct with any official, player, coach, or spectator (i.e. grabbing the arm, turning individual around abruptly, poking, bumping, pushing, spitting, etc.). Ejection with 2 game suspension for the first offense. Expulsion from the Club for any subsequent offense.
5. Striking an official, player, coach, or spectator. Expulsion from the Club.
6. Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection. 1 game suspension and forfeiture of game, regardless of length of game played.
7. Constant and excessive verbal harassment of officials, coaches or players; Caution/Ejection/1 game suspension for each subsequent offense.
8. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or un-sportsman-like manner; Ejection with 2 game suspension for the first offense. Expulsion from the Club for any subsequent offense.
9. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or un-sportsman-like manner with deliberate intent to harm; Expulsion from the Club.
10. Playing an illegal player; Game forfeiture. If it can be proven that the coach deliberately and with full knowledge played an illegal player; Expulsion from the Club.

Definitions:

- A coach may be called in to attend a regular or special session of the Board of Directors to be confronted with a reported Coaches Code of Ethics violation. The coach's side of the story will be heard and the Board hearing the coach will assess any appropriate penalties. At that time, for any violation, the coach will be placed on a one-year probationary status.
- A coach **on 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 their team plays during their suspension (there is no such thing as "attending as a parent" unless the coach surrenders their desire to return to coaching at the Club)
- A coach **under expulsion** is out of the program indefinitely. The Board may make reinstatement only after a favorable review. An expelled coach may not act in a coaching, managerial, or supervisory capacity of any team, or be elected for or remain as a Board member (officer or appointed position)
- 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.

I have read and understand the above Coaches Code of Ethics and agree to abide by both the letter and spirit of this document in my activities as a Mason S.A.Y. Coach.

Print Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____



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