



Coaches Code of Conduct

This code of ethics was established to develop, clarify, and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior. Unprofessional, unethical, and immoral behavior is detrimental to the development of children and the sport of soccer.

Responsibility To Players

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches will instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches will not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players, regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches should never encourage players to violate VCYSA, CIYSL or IYSA Recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should a coach authorize or encourage the use of medical or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put in at risk by returning from injury to prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
8. To insure player safety, make sure equipment and playing surface are in accordance with the laws of the game. Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury. This includes preventing horseplay before and after games and practices.

Responsibility to Vigo County Youth Soccer Association and its' member associations

1. Adherence to all Vigo County Youth Soccer Association and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate VCYSA Commissioner or VCYSA board member immediately.

Responsibility to the Laws of the Game

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible for ensuring that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance, which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, the VCYSA Association and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

Responsibility to Officials

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of conjunction with the officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This will not be taken as encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or a player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Comments regarding an official should be put in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

Game day and other responsibilities

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take the precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have the responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude toward players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach toward officials, spectators, opposing players, and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical and most likely subject to criminal prosecution.
5. The coach's foremost post game responsibility is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators who demonstrate intimidating behavior toward officials and opposing teams.