

## **Penn Manor Soccer Club Coaches' Code of Conduct**

As a coach in the Penn Manor Soccer Club, it is important for you to remember that the philosophy/purpose of the Club is to teach good soccer skills and have all the kids enjoy the time they spend in practice and at games. The focus of the coach and players should not be solely on winning or losing, but should be on proper development of the participant as a person and a player, learning and enjoying the game of soccer, and developing team spirit.

The attitude and behavior shown by coaches at games, practices, and in other settings toward players, parents referees, and the opposing team influences the players' values and behaviors in sports in general. Coaches must refrain from using tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and inappropriate language at all team activities. Criticism and disrespect undermines the purpose of sports. Positive coaches contribute to the purpose of sports. To this end, all coaches should remember that:

*Children have more need for example than criticism.*

Respect should be shown to players. Children in the Club are at a very formidable stage of their development as a person and a player. It is your responsibility as a coach to be a positive influence in this development. You should encourage and applaud good play and enforce rules in a way that is not demeaning. If you have a problem with a player, speak with the player and consult with her parents. If you are unsuccessful in resolving the problem, contact the chair of your program.

Respect should be shown to parents. Communication with parents is important and will help you gain the support and respect of the parents. You should deal with parents in a positive and constructive manner, never demeaning or yelling. If you have a problem with a parent, you should address this problem with the parent, speak with the parent. If you are unsuccessful in resolving the problem, contact the chair of your program.

Respect should be shown to your fellow coaches. Head coaches should communicate with their assistant coaches and make them an integral part of the coaching team. Assistant coaches should support their head coaches and provide the assistance necessary to make the team function in accordance with Club philosophy. If any problems arise between coaches, the coaches should attempt to resolve the matter between themselves. If you are unsuccessful in resolving the problem, contact the chair of your program.

Respect should be shown to opponents. Opponents are necessary friends. Without them there would not be a game. Teach players to be gracious in victory and how to turn defeat into victory by working toward improvement. Good play should be applauded.

Respect should be shown to officials. Between the exuberance of the winner and the disappointment of the loser, there is a person called the referee. All such persons follow the same creed, to call the game to the best of his/her ability. Do not aggressively question or criticize the referee's judgment, and never his/her honesty. The referee is a symbol of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

I accept the coaching position offered and agree to abide by the bylaws and guidelines of the Penn Manor Soccer Club and the Coaches Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to abide by the bylaws and guidelines will result in disciplinary action which may include dismissal from coaching.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please print name \_\_\_\_\_

Team name \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group \_\_\_\_\_