



The following is guidelines for all our coach's working with XL Soccer World program. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators. To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to the following:

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.

During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.

- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them and you may need to be forceful and direct from yelling at players and the referee as well as "coaching" from the sidelines.
- **During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.**
- Never run the score up on an opposing team. Change player positioning, implement volley's, headers and pass rules if need be.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
  - Help each player build a foundation for future success both in sport and in life.
  - Create, nurture and protect each child's feelings of self-worth.
  - Create and inspire a passion and respect for the game.
  - Be sensitive to each player's developmental needs.
  - Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game.
  - Conduct practices in a spirit of enjoyment and learning.

- Strive to help each player reach their full potential.
- Be a positive role model.
- Set high standards of discipline and sportsmanship.
- Closely collaborate with the Team Manager, to ensure that any schedule changes (training, match, tournament, etc.) are communicated in a timely fashion.
- Notify his/her team of the Coach's preferred communication process. This process should include the mechanism by which the Coach can be reached (i.e. email, phone, in-person) as well as the preferred and non-preferred times (i.e. not immediately prior to or after a match).
- Be accessible and responsive to the concerns and questions raised by team members and the parents/guardians of team members. Note that to "be responsive" does not mean the Coach must agree with the concerned party. To "be responsive" simply means the Coach must promptly, calmly, professionally and thoroughly discuss the concerns which have been raised. If at any time a discussion becomes argumentative or hostile, the Coach shall immediately refer the matter to the core Director of Coaching.
- Secure the services of a substitute coach in the event the Coach is unable to attend a team training session, match or tournament. The substitute coach must be a Club employee coach or Club independent contractor coach and the substitution must be approved by the core DOC or Director of Soccer prior to the event.
- Secure the approval of the Director of Soccer prior to registering the team for a tournament.
- Ensure all team members are adequately supervised during club functions.
- Act in accordance with the NCYSA Code of Conduct and Guidelines and in accordance with the Club policies and procedures.
- Conduct him or herself in a professional and respectful manner at all times.
- Not solicit or accept compensation directly from his/her team except as specified in the Club's Travel Reimbursement Policy. Not engage in any coaching, training, or administrative activities with a competing club unless approved in writing by the Director of Soccer.
- Treat players, parents/guardians, referees, coaches, and Club officials with respect and dignity at all times.

We stress this point:

**Referees** - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice. Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in North Carolina and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

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

XLSW \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

