

COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS

AND EXPECTED BEHAVIORS



I WILL PLACE THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF ALL PLAYERS AHEAD OF MY PERSONAL DESIRE TO WIN GAMES.

Expected Behavior:

- Using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with players, league officials, game officials, parents and spectators.
- Treating all players, league officials, game officials, parents, and spectators with dignity and respect.
- Maximizing playing time for all players according to the equal participation rules established by the league, and abiding by the spirit of those rules.

I WILL TREAT EACH PLAYER AS AN INDIVIDUAL, REMEMBERING THE LARGE RANGE OF EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE AGE GROUP.

Expected Behavior:

- Recognizing the differences of each child and treating each player as an individual person, while demonstrating concern for their individual needs and wellbeing.
- Encouraging all players, regardless of skill level, to be included as a member of the team and to remain involved in sports.
- Recognizing that some physical tasks, activities, and demands are not appropriate for all players.
- Recognizing that youth often vary greatly in physical, social, and emotional maturation; and considering these factors when organizing competitions, and when interacting with them as a group.

I WILL DO MY BEST TO PROVIDE A SAFE PLAYING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PLAYERS.

Expected Behavior:

- Maintaining a high level of awareness of potentially unsafe conditions, including but limited to dangerous weather, inadequate field maintenance, and faulty equipment.
- Protecting players from sexual molestation, assault, physical or emotional abuse, and understanding the urgent necessity to immediately report such instances to the League Sport Coordinator when suspected.
- Seeing that all players are provided with adequate adult supervision while under my care.

I PLEDGE TO REVIEW AND PRACTICE THE BASIC FIRST AID PRINCIPLES NEEDED TO TREAT INJURIES OF MY PLAYERS.

Expected Behavior:

- Keeping basic first aid supplies available at all practice and games.
- Recognizing and administering proper basic first aid to an injured player, and not returning players to activity if I suspect that they are potentially compromised by injury.
- Demonstrating concern for an injured player, notifying parents, and cooperating with medical authorities for severely-injured athletes.
- Completing the CDC's free "HEADS UP to Youth Sports" Online Concussion Training Course.

I WILL STRIVE TO LEAD PRACTICES THAT ARE FUN AND CHALLENGING FOR ALL OF MY PLAYERS.

Expected Behavior:

- Using Auburn Soccer Association's official curriculum and lesson plans.
- Devoting appropriate time to the individual improvement of each player over the course of the season.
- Conducting practices of reasonable length and intensity appropriate for the age and conditioning of the players.

I WILL LEAD BY EXAMPLE IN DEMONSTRATING FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP TO ALL MY PLAYERS.

Expected Behavior: • Exhibiting gracious acceptance of defeat or victory. • Abiding by and supporting the *Laws of the Game*, as well as the spirit of the league rules. • Using the influential position of youth coach as an opportunity to demonstrate, promote, teach, and expect sportsmanship and fair play.

I WILL NOT CHEAT OR ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR THAT VIOLATES LEAGUE RULES

Expected Behavior: • Never encouraging or utilizing improper methods for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage. • Displaying respect for the game of soccer by being honest in all dealings with players, parents, officials, and league administrators. • Respecting and abiding by the rules of the league and never engaging in or promoting any form of unethical behavior in an attempt to circumvent established policies. • Instilling in players the mindset that skills are learned and developed through the course of continual practice and hard work, and that the use of performance-enhancing drugs is a form of cheating that has no place in youth sports.

I WILL PROVIDE A SPORTS ENVIRONMENT FOR MY TEAM THAT IS FREE OF DRUGS, TOBACCO, AND ALCOHOL, AND I WILL REFRAIN FROM THEIR USE AT ALL YOUTH SOCCER RELATED EVENTS.

Expected Behavior: • Refraining from providing any type of alcohol, drug, or tobacco products to any of my players. • Refraining from using any type of such products at all team activities or in the presence of my players. • Encouraging parents to refrain from the use of tobacco or alcohol products at team activities.

I WILL BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE *LAWS OF THE GAME*, AND I WILL TEACH THEM TO MY PLAYERS.

Expected Behavior: • Becoming knowledgeable, understanding, and supportive of all applicable *Laws of the Game*, league rules, regulations, and policies. • Teaching and requiring compliance to these rules among players and parents.

I WILL USE COACHING TECHNIQUES THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR EACH OF THE SKILLS THAT I TEACH

Expected Behavior: • Teaching only appropriate skills, techniques, and strategies of soccer. • Discouraging intentional dangerous play, and administering swift and equitable discipline to players involved in such activity. • Striving to improve my coaching knowledge through ongoing reading, research, and education.

I WILL REMEMBER THAT I AM A YOUTH SPORTS COACH, AND THAT THE LEAGUE IS FOR CHILDREN AND NOT ADULTS.

Expected Behavior: • Maintaining a positive, helpful, supportive attitude. • Exercising my influence as a coach to manage the behavior of the fans and spectators. • Placing the emphasis on fun, participation, love of soccer, and long-term athletic development, while encouraging players to strive to do their best in all things. • Encouraging players to try new skills, make mistakes, improve, and learn.