As a coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model and play an important part in the development of our players on and off the field. I am an impactful person in shaping a youth’s success and confidence. How I approach games, practices, and the overall experience will greatly influence our youth’s understanding and enjoyment of the game of soccer, their desire to continue to play and their ultimate success in the sport. I acknowledge that my job is not only to teach the game of soccer but also to teach life lessons through the game of soccer, including integrity, fairness, respect, hard work, sportsmanship, leadership and overcoming challenges. I also acknowledge that when at practice, at games and when dealing with parents regarding Club matters, I represent SYSA and will do so with the highest level of respect for the game, referees, opposing teams, players, and parents.

As part of this acknowledgement, I pledge to:

1. Learn the rules of the game and teach the rules of the game to my players. I realize that referees are people, they make mistakes and I will teach my players to honor the game and not blame the referee for the outcome. I will not interact with a referee in a degrading manner.
2. Protect the health and safety of my players by insisting activities are conducted for their physical and psychological well-being.
3. Prepare for practices with a well thought out practice plan. I will arrive early to set up and greet my players with an engaging activity to welcome them to practice. I will complete practice on time in order to respect the lives and commitments of my player’s family.
4. Set a good example for players and fans to follow by refraining from arguments in front of players and fans and always holding myself to the highest standards of morale and ethical conduct.
5. Shake the hands of the opposing coaches and officials prior the game and lead my players to be good sportsmen after the game by shaking the other team’s hands, wishing them the best and by thanking the official for officiating the game.
6. Win modestly like ladies and gentlemen and lose like a champion by walking with confidence to overcome our obstacles.
7. Hold a parent meeting at the beginning of the season to review the parent meeting checklist found on our website.
8. Provide regular feedback to parents in a positive and constructive manner so that there are no surprises at the end of the year regarding placement and progress.
9. Address parents in a respectful manner and try to encourage them to be positive and supportive versus critical of their son or daughter.
10. Adhere to a ratio of 5 positives for every 1 constructive criticism. I recognize boosting confidence and morale is an important part of an athlete’s psyche, their desire to play and their ability to confidently express themselves and expand their horizons.
11. Use encouragement and positive reinforcement as your primary method of motivating.*
12. Learn to give “kid friendly criticism,” such as criticizing in private, asking permission, using the Criticism Sandwich and avoiding criticism in non-teachable moments.*
13. Place development ahead of my personal desire to win. I will focus on rotating players to various positions and I will provide at least 50% playtime to those who attend practice and exhibit good behavior. I will reward effort to try to win, not necessarily the win itself.
14. Focus on Effort, Learning and a recognition that Mistakes are ok. I will work with the player to overcome obstacles in a constructive and positive manner through support. I will have effort goals for my players.*
15. Complete the necessary educational and coach licensing requirements set forth by SYSA for me to be a coach within the organization.
16. Ensure that I comply with all state and league legal requirements to coach for SYSA-PFC.
17. Adhere to the mission of SYSA-PFC and will act in the players and SYSA’s best interest. I will not use equipment or Club property for personal use or for the gain of others outside the organization.

SYSA expects you to be a Double-Goal Coach, who strives to win (one goal), while pursuing the more important goal of teaching life lessons through sports.*

I know and understand the behavior expectations of me by the Club and hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of an SYSA coach as described herein.

Acknowledged:

________________________________
Coach Signature and Date

________________________________
Coach Name and Date

Team and Year: ___________________

SYSA endorses many of the concepts adopted by Positive Coaching Alliance. Coaching and parent tips can be found at positivecoach.org.

*Concept taken from Positive Coaching Alliance