

GSC Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches Code of Conduct

- Always keep the **best interest and well being of the children** as the highest priority.
- In both victory and defeat, the behavior of the coach shall model **grace, dignity and composure**.
- Treat referees with respect.
- Stress **fair play and good sportsmanship** whether winning or losing. 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 the players and the referee.
- **Don't run up the score**. Getting defeated by a large margin can really demoralize young soccer players, so please use your best judgment when teams are mismatched. There are ways to keep the score reasonable (e.g. move stronger players to goalie, defense or sidelines, team rule that no shots can be taken until there have been 5 consecutive passes).

Recommended Coaching Best Practices

- Soccer is the players' game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.
- Always remember, it's not about winning but developing mature and well-adjusted children.
- Make it fun — if it's not fun, re-evaluate how you are teaching.
- Don't over coach — the children learn through playing.

- Provide positive reinforcement and build esteem — every practice, every game.
- Remember, attitude is learned, both positive and negative.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

References:

1. Mass Youth Soccer (MYSA) Coaches Code of Conduct
2. National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Code of Ethics
3. Western Onondaga Youth Soccer Association
4. Cambridge Youth Soccer

Procedures for Dealing With Violations of the GSC Coaches Code of Conduct

Any reports from referees, opposing coaches, players or parents regarding violations of the GSC Coaching Code of Conduct officially filed with the Board will be handled as follows:

1. The GSC Coaches Council, at its discretion, may recommend that a coach be suspended from participation in league activities while the Council investigates and contemplates any action.
2. The Council will verify details of the complaint, including interviewing the person or persons who have made the complaint, as well as any witnesses who may have observed the incident.
3. The Council will send a letter to the coach involved, asking for his/her version of the incident. The coach will have 7 days to respond in writing to the Council.
4. The Council will meet within 14 days to determine if disciplinary action should be taken.
5. If the allegation is determined to be correct, the Council may recommend that the coach be subject to immediate suspension from the league for a period of time to be decided on. The Council will submit its recommendation to the GSC Board for approval. If the suspension is approved by the Board, the coach will be notified verbally and in writing of the Council's decision. Based on the nature and severity of the offense, and depending on whether this represents a repeat offense, disciplinary actions may range from:
 - Official warning / clarification of expected conduct
 - Partial season suspension (1-3 games)

- Suspension for the remainder of the Fall and/or Spring Season
- One year suspension
- Permanent ban from coaching at GSC

Appendix — Zero Tolerance Policy

All individuals responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators. Consequently, GSC has adopted and modified the following rule:

1. No parent is to speak to the referee during or after the game. Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game, no remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play. NO YELLING at the referee, EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game.
2. Coaches are not allowed to yell at the referee. There will be no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or negative feedback of any kind during or after the game.
3. Violators at GSC games may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the GSC board. GSC will investigate and respond to incidents at games.
4. If coaches or spectators have questions regarding particular calls, rules, or a referee, or wish to give feedback regarding a referee, please contact the town soccer club [referee's coordinator](#) for the game in question, or contact the GSC Board.

GSC Coach Signature _____ Date _____