

# COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

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Coaches have the most important role in youth soccer. Coaches are role models for not only their team members but for all participants involved in soccer. As a DC Soccer Club Coach, I agree to abide by the following:

- ✓ I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- ✓ I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of differences in emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- ✓ I will insure that my players' experience in practices and games is one of fun and enjoyment and improvement in skill. I understand that the three top reasons kids play sports are: a) to have fun, b) to make new friends, and c) to learn new skills.
- ✓ I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players. This includes being aware of players' equipment, the condition of the playing facility, and making sure injured players follow appropriate return to play protocols, including requiring written permission from a medical professional when a serious injury requiring medical treatment occurs.
- ✓ I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language, and I will refrain from their use at all DC Soccer Club practices, games, and events.
- ✓ For Recreational Program players, I will guarantee all field players will play roughly equal amounts as all other field players in every scheduled game. The guarantee may be abridged for disciplinary reasons that have been reviewed and approved in advance with the DC Soccer Club Recreational Program Director.
- ✓ For Travel Program players, I will guarantee all field players will play appropriate amounts of time in every scheduled game assuming the players have met the standards put in place by the coach.
- ✓ I will be knowledgeable of the Laws of the Game, DC Soccer Club rules and regulations, and/or external league rules and regulations, and I will teach these rules to all players on my team.
- ✓ I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for the children and not the adults.

- ✓ I will encourage my team members to play by the rules and respect the rights of other players, coaches, fans and officials.
- ✓ I will meet and greet officials and opponent coaches to set the proper tone of the game.
- ✓ I will \*not\* abuse referees. Referee abuse includes but is not limited to shouting dissent over a call from the sidelines, criticizing the referee's performance in front of players, debate over a call or the referee's performance after the game has finished, or other acts of disrespect toward the referee or game officials.
- ✓ I understand that as coach, I am responsible for not only my own behavior but also the behavior of my team members, their parents, and fans at DC Soccer Club games. I will manage the sidelines in order to provide a quality soccer experience for my players.
- ✓ I understand that (upon review) DC Soccer Club can, and will if necessary, suspend my coaching privilege should I behave in a manner that is contrary to this Code of Conduct.