

WYSA Coach's Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my team participating in the Windham Youth Soccer Association by following this Coach's Code of Conduct pledge:

RESPONSIBILITY TO PLAYERS

1. I will not place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning will be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. I will do my best to organize practices that are insightful and challenging for all my players.
3. I will instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
4. I will not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
5. I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players, regardless of the situation.
6. I will not put demands on players' time that should be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence in a balanced lifestyle should include academics as well as athletics.
7. I will not encourage players to violate WYSA Recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.
8. I will accept mistakes as an important part of learning.
9. I will remember that the league is for the youth and-----not for the coaches.
10. I will place the emotional, psychological, and physical well being of my team, and any other children in the league ahead of any personal desires I may have.
11. Under no circumstances will I authorize or encourage the use of medical or performance enhancing drugs. Players will be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time will a player intentionally be put in at risk by returning from injury too prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
12. To insure player safety, I will make sure equipment and playing surface are in accordance with the laws of the game. I will do my best to supervise and control my players so as to avoid injury. This includes preventing horseplay before and after games and practices.

RESPONSIBILITY TO WINDHAM YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. I agree to adhere to all Windham Youth Soccer Association and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. I realize it is my responsibility to know and understand these rules.
2. I understand that player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, I will behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. I understand that any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches will be referred to the Travel Director, and in turn possibly the Board of Directors.
4. I understand that when discussing the advantages of playing on my travel team, I have an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.
5. I understand that is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
6. I understand that I must comply with any and all WYSA policies including those regarding Equal Employment Opportunity and Harassment.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

1. I understand that coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. I also understand that I am responsible for ensuring that my players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. I will read the SoccerMaine fall travel handbook appropriate for my team's age level and agree to abide by those rules, any additional rules set forth by WYSA in it's travel handbook, and this Code of Conduct. Violations of these rules could result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent dismissal from WYSA.
3. I will adhere to the letter and spirit of the Laws of the game. I understand that coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
4. I understand that I am responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.

5. I will not permit, encourage, or condone performance, which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, which would make me derelict in my responsibility to players, Member Associations, WYSA And the sport worldwide. I will strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS

1. I understand that officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. I will strive to develop a line of conjunction with the officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This will not be taken as encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
3. On game day, I will treat officials with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or a player. I will not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Comments regarding an official should be put in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. As coach, I understand that I have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach, or organization, I understand that it is in the best interest of all concerned if I recommend that the individual or group get at least three (3) referrals to ensure a professional unbiased source of information.
3. I understand that I have the responsibility to assist my players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team and WYSA.
4. I understand that publicly predicting a win is a folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
5. I understand that comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
6. I understand that it is unethical and inappropriate for me, as a coach, to solicit parents, boosters, sponsors, other managers, or Board members to pressure other organizations, SoccerMaine, or WYSA to alter established rules. As a coach, I must not attempt to influence these organizations outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws. The objective is for issues to be addressed openly and positively, in appropriate forums and format. I realize that many established rules are for the benefit of the entire organization (broader good) and that sometimes these rules may not fit every individual situation perfectly.
7. I understand that the media should be allowed access to the players for comment, but under supervision. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.
8. I will always direct all of my comments and criticisms of parents, participants, officials, board members away from the children participating in the league, and conduct myself in a calm, civilized manner when doing so.

GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. I realize that a coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. I understand that striving to win is more important than winning itself.
3. I will try and meet with rival coaches prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take the precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
4. During play, I understand that I have the responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude toward players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach toward officials, spectators, opposing players, and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
5. I understand it to be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical and most likely subject to criminal prosecution.
6. I understand that my foremost post game responsibility is my team.
7. I understand that I should use my positive influence on unfriendly spectators who demonstrate intimidating behavior toward officials and opposing teams.
8. I will refrain from all vulgar, lewd, or obscene language or gestures while participating in or watching any league sponsored event whether at home or away.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Players should:

Play the game for the game's sake.

Be generous when you win.

Be graceful when you lose.

Be fair always no matter what the cost.

Obey the laws of the game.

Work for the good of your team.

Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.

Believe in the honesty of your opponents.

Conduct yourself with dignity and grace.

Do not engage in physical or verbal confrontations with spectators, officials, coaches, or other players.

Make sure teammates adhere to the above rules.

SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Spectators should remember:

Children have more need of example than criticism.

Make athletic participation a positive experience for the participants as well as others.

Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.

Be generous when your team wins.

Be graceful when your team loses.

Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.

Do not engage in physical or verbal confrontations with spectators, officials, coaches, or players.

Never encourage or accept the intentional injury of a player.

Support the coach and coaching staff.

Never confront a coach. If you have a question of a coach you should contact him or her at a later time.

Alcohol should never be brought to a game.

Unprofessional, unethical, and inappropriate behavior is detrimental the development of children and the sport of soccer.

I have read all three pages and understand my pledge to WYSA Coach's Code of Conduct.

Coach Signature: _____

Name Printed: _____

Date: _____

Note: In order to participate in the Windham Youth Soccer Association program, this form must be signed and dated. Failure of the coach to read and sign the WYSA Coach's Code of Conduct will automatically render the Coach ineligible to participate in League activities home or away. In addition, by signing this Code of Conduct pledge, coaches agree to abide by the guidelines set forth above, and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Failure to abide by this Code of Conduct, or violation of any of the guidelines set forth above, will automatically render the coach unable to participate or attend any league-sponsored event either home or away. Windham Youth Soccer Association have the sole right to enforce violations.