

Brooklyn Youth Soccer

Coach/Volunteer Code of Conduct and Commitment (Page 1 of 2)

The following standards of conduct outline a philosophy that is paramount to the game of soccer. Soccer is a sport, which belongs to the players. While coaches are vital to the game they must uphold the highest standards of professional conduct and competence. While Brooklyn Youth Soccer Board of Directors understands that BYS is a wholly volunteer organization, volunteering to teach children carries with it great responsibilities. Uncontrolled or abusive coaching conduct will not be accepted at Brooklyn Youth Soccer.

1. The importance of winning must never supersede the player's safety and welfare.
2. Coaches must train their players to exhibit sportsmanship and ethical values reflecting fairness, integrity, respect and accountability.
3. Soccer refers to its rules as the "Laws of the Game." Coaches are responsible for becoming familiar with the Laws of the Game, and for assuring that their players understand the Laws and how they are applied. The Laws of the Game are available at: <http://www.cjsa.org> under the "Coaching" heading.
4. Coaches/Volunteers must avoid "abusive" conduct, as defined below, towards any referee, player, opposing coach or spectator;

"Physical abuse" means any intentional act of violence intended to cause physical harm, or any intentional act intended to result in the damage or destruction of personal property, and includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, head butting, kicking or throwing an object that could inflict injury, grabbing or bodily running into, or damaging, destroying or defacing personal property.

"Verbal abuse" means any verbal statement, or physical act not resulting in bodily contact, but which implies or threatens physical harm, or damage, destruction or defacing of personal property, and includes, but is not limited to profane language, using language that implies or threatens physical harm, spewing any beverage or liquid on personal property, or spitting at (but not on).

A NOTE ON PROFANITY: Remember, you are surrounded by children, and are expected to set the highest example at all times. Your job is to teach and encourage children in a POSITIVE atmosphere, and the language you choose in all circumstances should reflect that attitude. Obviously, the language and motivational tools coaches use tend to get stronger as children get older, BUT the use of profanity towards a child in your role as a coach is not appropriate under any circumstances. Also, the fact that you may be coaching your own child does NOT make the use of even "mildly" profane language appropriate while acting in your role as a coach, even if directed "only" at your own child!!!

5. Coaches are responsible for controlling the conduct of their players, as well as parents and spectators supporting their team. Although players and parents sign their own Code of Conduct, it is important that the coach re-emphasize acceptable and unacceptable conduct with all parents and players at the beginning of the season.
6. It is the coach's responsibility to remove a player from a game when the player's conduct is deemed inappropriate (i.e., taunting, profanity, unsportsmanlike play, ect.).
7. It is the coach's responsibility to insure an ethical and fair game by instituting the guidelines for the "Mercy Rule" applicable to their level of competition when applicable. Failure to do so can result in fines from the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association, and repeat offences will lead to the coach's dismissal from the league.

Example of the "Mercy Rule" from the CJSA Rules: It is mandatory that play adjustments be made if the score differential is 4 or higher, and for Competition teams, if the differential is 7 or higher. The type of adjustment(s) made is at the coaches' discretion. Some suggested adjustments are; play a player down at 3-0, play 2 down at 5-0, 5 passes before going forward, all players have to touch ball before going

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forward, put high scorer in goal, change forwards to defense and defense to forwards, limit attackers to 2 or 3 over mid-field as situation dictates. Goalie cannot play ball with hands except for saves, or can only hand feed the balls into own half, etc. Take extended measures to keep from running up the score on an outmatched opponent.

8. A coach, or assistant coach, is required to be at all training sessions and games, remaining until the last player has been picked up by their parent. If a coach is not available for any reason, then it is his or her responsibility to make sure an assistant coach is present.

9. In the event that a game has to be cancelled for any reason: *(i)* the coach *shall* be responsible for notifying the league official in charge of scheduling referees so that the league can assure they are properly notified of the cancellation; and *(ii)* the coach should make every effort to reschedule with the opposing coach. The coach should also notify the appropriate league official when the contest is rescheduled so that referees can be obtained.

10. Coaches shall not allow players to participate in practice or games who do not have appropriate equipment – shin guards made of rubber or plastic without any metal parts, no jewelry, ect.

11. Coaches shall bring their medical release forms to all practices and games.

12. OTHER PROHIBITED CONDUCT: In addition to the items listed above, the Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion, also consider any involvement with the criminal justice system by any coach/volunteer for any assaultive, threatening, abusive, stalking or sexually inappropriate conduct, or any other similar conduct which the Board deems to pose a safety risk to players, coaches or spectators, as a violation of this Code. Further, no coach/volunteer shall use, or be under the influence of, illicit drugs or alcohol while acting in his or her capacity as coach/volunteer at any BYS event.

13. REGISTRATION OF ALL TEAM VOLUNTEERS – CJSA rules require that all persons who regularly have contact with players complete a mandatory background check. In order to allow the Board to properly monitor this condition, *it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that any assistant coach, "team parent" or other volunteer who regularly has contact with the children complete and submit a Coach/Volunteer Registration Form (Page 3) to the Coach, which the Coach shall immediately submit to the BYS Registrar.*

NOTE: By submitting the Coach-Volunteer Registration form, you indicate that you have reviewed and agree to these terms and conditions as part of your participation in the BYS Program. You are also indicating that you understand that any violation will subject you to such penalties as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and appropriate for the best interest, safety and security of BYS, its members, players, coaches, and spectators, up to and including dismissal.