



General Coaching Guidelines for NRSA

1. All NRSA coaches must adhere to league terms regarding Zero Tolerance, and must commit to the principles of the coaching guidelines from NRSA, and the coaches pledge from MYSA and NVYSL – which state in summary the following:

Coaches must:
 - a. Agree to read, know, and abide by the Laws of the Game of Soccer.
 - b. Agree to read, know, and abide by the rules, philosophy and spirit of the Mass Youth Soccer, Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League, and the NRSA Player Development Guidelines.
 - c. Understand that the intent of these rules is to create balance of play, equal opportunity between players, reasonable safety/protections, fun, development, and an atmosphere of sporting behavior and fair play.
 - d. Agree not to attempt to take unfair advantage of or to manipulate these rules and the Laws of the Game to our advantage.
 - e. Agree to respect and support referees. Further, recognize the Zero Tolerance Policy - no conduct which will incite assistant coaches, players, or spectators against referees will be tolerated.
 - f. Agree to use my tremendous influence as a coach to enhance sporting behavior by our coaches, assistant coaches, players, and spectators.
 - g. Understand that if a coach is found to be in violation of the Zero Tolerance rules, the NVYSL Code of Conduct, the MYSA Coach's Code of Conduct, or NRSA player development guidelines, that the club, league, or state may take appropriate measures to prevent such reoccurrence including game suspension or dismissal.
 - h. Accept responsibility for the actions of the players, assistant coaches, and/or others representing your team.

2. Coaches within the NRSA program must dedicate their efforts first to development of the player – this principle must be placed above the outcome of any game result.

3. NRSA Players may not be designated as a Captain permanently for a season - coaches should strive to allow all players the opportunity to serve as a captain randomly throughout a season, and coaches should ensure that such designation plays no role in a player's perception that they are responsible for the management of the game or other players. The captain's role must be

limited to selection of the ball and pitch side during games – hence used as a token designation that is offered to all players throughout the year.

4. Coaches should strive to provide playing time amounting to at least half a game, to the extent that all players participate, extend appropriate effort / hustle, and attend practices and games consistently when compared to their peers. Selection to a team is a commitment between the club and the player and game time is critical to player development. That being said, playing time beyond half a game is a coaches discretion and players extending significant efforts in practices and games should be rewarded accordingly.
5. Coaches must follow the development guidelines established by NRSA for specific age groups, documented in the NRSA Player Development Philosophy statement.
6. Coaches of NRSA must adhere to generally accepted standards for player priorities established by the league, state and/or NRSA regarding game and practice conflicts.
7. Coaches should not attempt to encroach upon the time of players outside of training sessions and games for additional practice or physical training exercises without board approval – this includes tournaments, extra training sessions, etc. All such decisions should be coordinated through the NRSA Development Director to ensure consistency with NRSA development philosophies. Note, occasional, brief (e.g. 30 miNRSAtes) “extra” time requested by a player(s) shall not require prior approval. Nor should similar occasional short sessions for individual players requested by a coach require special approval (e.g., such as keeper training sessions).
8. Coaching licensures are mandatory based on the following guidelines:
 - a. A head coach must have a “D” or higher license, or be actively working towards their “D” license within a year of becoming a head coach – this means that to be identified as a head coach, you must have your “E” license at a minimum. There is no player experience that will be counted towards this requirement. Coach training may be counted towards this to the extent it seeks to achieve a comparable license through a separate organization.
 - b. An assistant coach must have a “E” or higher license, or be actively working towards their “E” license within a year of becoming a head coach – meaning you must have your “F” to be considered an assistant. Coach training may be counted towards this to the extent it seeks to achieve a comparable license. Player experience does not suffice to meet this requirement.
9. Coaches are encouraged to recruit team managers to help ensure appropriate communications for their team(s).
10. Coaches are encouraged to recruit and/or support the coaching development efforts of the affiliated town coaches, as well as prior players of NRSA or former NRSD HS players who are now pursuing coaching as either an interest or career.

11. It is recommended that all head coaches have an assistant coach to support their training programs, as well as to develop assistant coaches towards a head coaching role.
12. Under no circumstance may an NRSA coach pursue or collaborate with an external soccer program other than BYSA, LYSA, or SSC for the purpose of player recruitment.
13. Under no circumstance may a coach make decisions relative to training programs that involve external trainers affiliated with a “premier” club without the consent of the governing board.

In the event a coach violates these guidelines, a disciplinary review will occur that includes the President, Vice President, and Development Director (Disciplinary Review Board). Decisions from this review may result in suspension, termination, or probation or other actions. All such actions will be presented to the governing board for informational purposes only.