

WEST UNITED SOCCER

Coaches Code of Conduct

West United Soccer Association is concerned about the conduct of coaches during games at all levels. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying-a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators. To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- 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.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to West United Soccer League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

We stress two points:

Referees-especially young and inexperienced ones- are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. By choosing to discourage and demoralize the referees, criticizing their decisions, verbally abusing them and even accepting your own players overly aggressive behavior, you inadvertently hinder the progression of our youth in this program.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice. Think about what you're doing during the game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in West United Soccer.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal/ written warning by a coordinator and/or head of league organization.
- One Game suspension
- Removed from coaching with written documentation to be kept on file with UYSA.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the letter and spirit of this West United Soccer Coaches Code of Conduct.

Coach (Print)

Date

Coach Signature