



**INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY**

To: All Coaches

From: FieldHouse Sports Management

Re: Coaches Code of Ethics and behavior

Dear Coaches:

Please find attached a NHSA Coaches' Code of Ethics. We are supplying this just as a reminder to you of your role and responsibilities as a coach. Please take a minute to read it and reflect on its message.

Please make note of the section where it explains that officials must have the support of coaches and players. This is especially true with our younger and less experienced referees. These individuals are learning the challenging art of officiating, which can be overwhelming at times. This is very true in the coed U8 games, where the field is small, and coaches, teams and parents are very close to the play. It is very easy for the referees to hear comments from the bench area and crowd. Please be sure that any comments that you might have are positive comments. Please be patient with these referees. If there is a problem during the game, do not criticize the official while on the field. After the game, approach the adult on-duty manager at FieldHouse with any complaints. We work with all of our referees with suggestions as to how they can improve their skills. Your primary job as a youth coach is to be a proper role model for the children who participate on your team.

There have been many referees who have decided not to return because of a bad experience on the field with a coach (or spectators), where they have been yelled at for making a mistake. You must remember that, as with any other skill, it will take time for them to learn this skill. Everyone is human, and we all make mistakes. Have patience and understanding. You, as coaches, can help the referee, by not allowing play to get too physical and by coaching your teams to stay in control. Your actions will have an affect long after the game is over. Your primary job as a youth coach is to be a proper role model for the children participating on your team. We welcome your input and appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Don Preston, Assistant Manager

Mark Stewart, General Manager

# NHSA Coach's Code of Ethics

## Code of Ethics

- A. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of his/her players.
- B. A coach must hold him/herself to the highest standards of behavior. He/she must remember that they serve as one of the most influential role models for their players. Any violation of the players' trust, either in word or in action, or off the field, cannot be tolerated.
- C. The laws of soccer were written to ensure the continuous flow of action. These laws have the safety of the players as their primary goal. Coaches must always play within these rules and never seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate, unsportsmanlike behavior to their players.
- D. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the rules.
- E. Coaches who circumvent the rules to gain an advantage have no place in soccer.
- F. Circumvention of eligibility rules must be avoided. Coaches who use ineligible players will be dealt with quickly and severely.
- G. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field. Rough house tactics, illegal substitutions and deliberate faking of injuries are prohibited.
- H. The coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity and dignity of the sport are not compromised.
- I. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and organizations. Public or private criticism of officials demeans the game. Coaches must also refrain from criticizing officials to their players. Criticism of officials and dissent towards officials during the course of the Coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to him/herself, his/her organization, and soccer in general.
- J. Coaches have the responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible during the game.
- K. It shall be considered unethical for a coach to have any verbal dissent during the game with the opposing coach, bench or players. Physically contacting an opposing coach or players in an aggressive manner must be considered highly unethical.
- L. Coaches will not belittle their players by yelling at them in a negative manner during the course of the game. Such action detracts from the game and negatively impacts the performance of the players and the team.
- M. Coaches must remember that they are involved in coaching for the players. They should always have the players' best interest in mind. They should seek to provide an environment where players not only develop as players of the game, but as people. They should never place their own concerns of advancement above those of their players.

## Violations

Alleged violation of the Code of Ethics may be brought to the attention of the president of any member of the executive boards of the NHSA. Alleged violations may also be brought to the state director of coaching or the state referee administrator. All alleged violations will be forwarded to the NHSA Disciplinary Board for review and further action, if any.