



TEWKSBURY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Coach's Code of Conduct

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and their affiliated leagues are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive, and an enjoyable experience 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 jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct below.

- Coaches are required to read, sign, and abide by The Coach's Zero Tolerance Policy.
- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- 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 and spectators of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage parents to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not talk to the referee, with the following exceptions:

During the game

- Responding to ref initiating communication
- Making substitutions
- Pointing out emergency situations



At half time or at end of game

- Requesting clarification
- Ask official to explain a rule or call in a polite & constructive way
- No sarcasm, harassment or intimidation will be tolerated

If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the TYSL Referee Director. 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 three 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. Do not discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them, and accepting your own players overly aggressive behavior.
- Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play and concentrate on your players enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development as well as supporting the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage or allow your players to play outside the rules, are 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 a 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 Tewksbury and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.