

Lubbock Soccer Association

General Rules

9. Chapter 9: Codes of Ethics / Conduct

9.1. CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer.

9.1.1. ARTICLE I: Responsibilities to Players

9.1.1.1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.

9.1.1.2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.

9.1.1.3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.

9.1.1.4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.

9.1.1.5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.

9.1.1.6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.

9.1.1.7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

9.1.2. ARTICLE II: Responsibility to Association

9.1.2.1. Adherence to all Association and North Texas Soccer rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players is mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.

9.1.2.2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.

9.1.2.3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate Commissioner or committee immediately.

9.1.3. ARTICLE III: Responsibility to the LAWS of the GAME

9.1.3.1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.

9.1.3.2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.

9.1.3.3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.

9.1.3.4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, the Association, North Texas Soccer and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

9.1.4. ARTICLE IV: Responsibility to Officials

9.1.4.1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.

9.1.4.2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This section shall not be taken as an encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.

9.1.4.3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as 'Referee' or 'Mr. /Ms. Referee' and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.

9.1.4.4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

9.1.5. ARTICLE V: Responsibilities Regarding Scouting and Recruiting

9.1.5.1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.

9.1.5.2. The use of video tape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent's regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.

9.1.5.3. All Association and North Texas Soccer rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager, or any team representative.

9.1.5.4. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team.

9.1.5.5. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent or team representative.

9.1.5.6. When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.

9.1.5.7. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.

9.1.5.8. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hear-say and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of video tape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

9.1.6. ARTICLE VI: Responsibility of Public Relations

9.1.6.1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.

9.1.6.2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp, coach, or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.

9.1.6.3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Lubbock Soccer Association, and North Texas Soccer.

9.1.6.4. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.

9.1.6.5. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts, or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.

9.1.6.6. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni, parents, booster club, or managers to pressure organizations, Lubbock Soccer Association, or North Texas Soccer to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.

9.1.6.7. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

9.1.7. ARTICLE VII: Game Day and Other Responsibilities

9.1.7.1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.

9.1.7.2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.

9.1.7.3. During play, coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine himself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.

9.1.7.4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical.

9.1.7.5. The coach's foremost post game responsibility is his team.

9.1.7.6. Coaches should use their influence on unfriendly spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.

9.2. USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)

9.2.1. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.

9.2.2. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.

9.2.3. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.

9.2.4. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.

9.2.5. I will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials.

9.2.6. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.

9.2.7. I will be in good physical condition.

9.2.8. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.

9.2.9. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.

9.2.10. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.

9.2.11. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

9.2.12. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

9.3. USSF CODE OF ETHICS FOR ASSIGNORS (as established per USSF Policy 531-11)

9.3.1. I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.

9.3.2. I will make the assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.

9.3.3. As a member of the United States Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon the organization.

9.3.4. I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.

9.3.5. I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.

9.3.6. I will respect the rights and dignity of all the referees and I will not criticize them unless it is in private, constructive, and for their benefit.

9.3.7. I will offer equal opportunity to all qualified referees and I will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

9.3.8. I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint.

9.3.9. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.

9.4. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BOARD MEMBERS & ADMINISTRATORS

9.4.1. None of us arrives at any administrative level, volunteer or not, without spending some 'grass roots' time somewhere. We are appointed or elected to our positions because enough people had confidence in us, appreciation for what we had done in the past and assurance that we could lead them in a positive, productive future. This responsibility of accepting such a challenge, especially in a volunteer capacity, must have some guidelines.

9.4.2. It is important to remember that as board members or administrators we are very high profile. It is equally important that we remember that we are primarily a service organization and that we treat fellow volunteers as partners with a common goal: the organization, development and promotion of soccer. We should maintain high standards and serve by example.

9.4.3. Have respect for the game, players, officials, parents, coaches, association volunteers and fellow board members and deal with them in a patient, courteous and consistent manner.

9.4.4. Criticism channeled through the proper quarter should be educational, constructive, balanced and positive. Under no circumstances should it be demeaning or detrimental to the self-respect of the individuals involved.

9.4.5. Administrators should be informed and available. As facilitators they should know the right questions, have the ability to elicit the right answers and foster creativity with accountability within their committee or area.

9.4.6. Regarding committee members and other volunteers: they should be praised for time spent and jobs well done; their suggestions welcomed, evaluated and conclusions communicated to them. Abilities should be recognized and encouraged.

9.4.7. Above all - courtesy and self-control and loyalty. We are role models for the youngest players to the newest association. Our responsibility is to serve them well as we work toward our common goal.

9.5. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

9.5.1. Children have more need for example than for criticism.

9.5.2. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.

9.5.3. Be kind to your child's coach and officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.

9.5.4. The opponents are necessary friends. Without them your child could not participate.

9.5.5. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.

9.5.6. Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.

9.5.7. Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.

9.5.8. Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!

9.5.9. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.

9.5.10. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

9.6. ENFORCEMENT

9.6.1. Any Lubbock Soccer Association committee empowered to hold disciplinary hearings may investigate alleged violations and enforce the Codes of Ethics / Conduct.

9.6.2. No alleged violation of these Codes of Ethics / Conduct may be investigated unless the allegation is made, in writing, to the proper disciplinary committee OR unless the allegation is brought out in testimony before one of the Association's disciplinary committees.

9.6.3. Persons wishing to report alleged violations of these Codes should write a letter outlining the date, time, and circumstances of the alleged violation addressed to:

9.6.3.1. Coaches' Representative for violations by coaches, managers, or team representatives

9.6.3.2. Referees' Representative for violations by referees or linesmen.

9.6.3.3. President for violations by board members, administrators, or committee members.

9.6.3.4. Letters should be mailed to the above officers at the Lubbock Soccer Association office.