



## Cinnaminson Soccer Club Code of Conduct for Coaches

Coaches are the keystone to the establishment of ethics in all sports. A coach's concept and attitude towards ethics directly affects the behavioral growth of players under their supervision. The situation is more pronounced with younger players; with today's busy schedules a Coach may have as much "influence time" with a player as do parents or guardians. Coaches are therefore expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches must be aware that their decisions, choices, and actions have ethical implications. It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for Coaches and this code is not intended to conflict with the desire to win. However, the Code calls for Coaches to disassociate themselves from a win-at-all-costs attitude. Before deciding to coach the individual should answer this question: Do you care what level your team plays at because of your self image or external reputation? If the answer is yes, you probably should reconsider taking a coaching position.

### Communication

Regular and consistent communication from Coaches to players and parents are required so that all team members are advised as to practice and game schedules; parental involvement such as flag duty or club support; mutual understanding of this Code; and any special needs of the Coach, players, or parents. Miscommunication and/or lack of communications lead to a frustrated team; it is the Coach's job to establish the method of regular communication and to ensure all team members can participate in the communication method (email for example).

- Coaches must clarify with players and parents exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- Coaches must once each season review this entire Code with players and parents/guardians.
- Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player (and where necessary with parents/guardians) based on mutual trust and respect.
- Coaches must be consistent with communication methods.

### Health & Safety

The health and safety of players is our top priority and must supersede all other considerations including the desire to win, the desire to practice, or the desire to placate parents or other coaches. Coaches must make decisions with this in mind.

- Coaches must place the wellbeing and safety of each player above all other considerations including the development of performance.
- Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity experience and ability of players.
- Coaches must cooperate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, doctors and trainers) in the best interests of the player.
- Coaches must attend all club sponsored/required training programs.
- Coaches must be prepared for possible injuries at practices and games including an appropriate supply of ice or cold packs, first aid kits, emergency contacts, and suggested training by the club.
- Coaches must understand that players need down time to recuperate from strenuous activities, and that many players are active in other athletics. Too frequent training, and practices/training too close to game time are detrimental to recuperation of young bodies.
- Coaches must ensure that all players are accounted for especially at the end of practices and games; younger players must never be left unaccompanied at parks or fields.



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### Development

The development of players as soccer players is obviously the goal of all coaches. However, this code prioritizes the development of players as moral members of the community first. This is most important in younger players so that they begin their experience with the right ethical footing and learn from there. Developing a player with the right foundation of fair play, respect, honesty, and accountability are the primary objectives.

- Coaches must promote fairness through actions; favoring one child (including the Coaches child) sends the wrong message.
- Coaches must not promote excuses to justify results; for example blaming an official's call for a loss.
- Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance.
- Coaches must promote respect through actions by demonstrating respect for officials, other coaches, and parents; even (and especially) when others do not behave in the same way.
- Coaches must detect and discourage disrespectful or dishonest behavior. Players who demonstrate such behavior must be made to understand that such behavior negatively impacts the club, the team, and their own reputation. Those players who continue to demonstrate such behavior must be guided by disciplinary action such as less playing time. Other players who see the negative results of such behavior will also learn.

### Winning

Vince Lombardi said "winning isn't everything, but making the effort win is". It is expected that every coach and player will make the effort to win. A Coach should be proud if the effort on the field demonstrates that the player did everything possible within the laws of the game and within their own skill level; regardless of the outcome on the scoreboard. The effort to win must not be confused with the desire to win-at-all-costs. Winning by risking health, safety, fairness, and integrity will not be tolerated by the CSC. This applies to how the team is managed and supported, not just to playing games.

- Coaches must provide playing time commensurate with age-group, team competitive level, and player capability.
- Coaches must not attempt to treat any player in such a fashion that the player feels uncomfortable on the team, especially with the goal of removing less capable players.
- Coaches must balance team preparation against safety / health risks such as practicing in inclement weather, or playing/practicing when injured without the direct consent of a health professional.



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### Ethics

Beyond health & safety, the ethical development of our young people should be a primary goal for all adults at all times; not just within the aspect of the club. This Code will ensure that our Coaches understand and abide by this commonsense approach to teaching young people.

- Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by the governing bodies, including the CSC, the NJYS, and any affiliated leagues such as SJSL or SJGSL.
- Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Coaches must promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behavior contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game.
- Coaches must not condone the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- Coaches must consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance.
- Coaches must not use or tolerate inappropriate language.
- Coaches must always demonstrate respect towards and avoid conflict with officials, coaches, and parents; especially in the presence of players.

By signing below I agree that if I fail to abide by this Code of Conduct that I am subject to disciplinary actions that may include termination of membership in the Cinnaminson Soccer Club.

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Coaches Signature

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Print Name of Signed

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Date of Signature