



TRAVEL COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES

I. COACHES CONDUCT

1. GENERAL

A. Each coach is given the freedom to coach using a style and approach that is most comfortable and effective for him/her, but only with respect to the boundaries presented in these coaching guidelines. In the interest of providing all players with the best possible environment for developing their soccer skills, OUSC expects all of its coaches to strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct and Guidelines contained in this document. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

2. COMMITMENT

- A.** A coach's commitment is to improve the performance of the players and the team physically and mentally.
- B.** A coach needs to provide a high quality soccer program for players within a positive environment/ atmosphere.
- C.** A coach must be thoroughly acquainted with FIFA Laws Of The Game and must keep attuned to the sound principles of coaching.
- D.** Coaches must respect all individuals as fellow human beings. Opponents, officials, and players must be treated with respect.
- E.** Players must be coached to win within the Laws Of The Game.(LOTG)
- F.** A coach must maintain high standards of personal conduct and fair play. A coach should never be involved in any circumstance that is offensive or suggests inappropriate connotations.

- G. Coaches will ensure that the training activities take place in a safe environment and are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of the players.
- H. Coaches must attend or have a representative, preferably their assistant coach or another carded coach, present at all coaches' meetings, coaches' clinics, and Practice/ Training Sessions.

3. SIDELINE CONDUCT

- A. Players respect their coaches and, as a result, will often imitate their behavior. Coaches therefore, are expected to maintain complete composure and self-control during all games. Because a player's performance will suffer when he or she is distracted, coaches are also expected to teach and demonstrate to the players to accept all referees calls regardless of their impact. Players must learn that they control their results, not the referees.
- B. Each player responds differently to a coach's criticism during games. A good rule of thumb to follow is: *Correct don't criticize.*
- C. Correcting means pointing out to the player the problem and suggesting ways to correct it, and then working at fixing the problem during the next training session.
- D. *Coaches should not use anger as a tool for getting the attention or demanding the respect of the players. Angry coaches tend to develop angry players. Angry players are easily distracted and eventually direct their anger back at the coach and sometime the game itself.*

4. COACHING BEHAVIOR

- A. Coaches should arrive at the field (for games and practices) on time and wearing appropriate attire.
- B. Coaches must refrain from smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages anywhere near the field or in the presence of any players at any time.
- C. Coaches must refrain from using profane language at all times.
- D. Coaches should not continuously yell direction at their players during a game. A good coach will remove a player from the field that is not performing correctly and speak to them on the bench in private and not yell direction continuously on the field of play.
- E. Coaches receiving a Red card during a game are subject to suspension by the league and a \$50 fine, and will be responsible to retrieve their own card at the appropriate time. The Travel Directors will investigate the coach's actions and determine if further suspension is warranted. If said coach receives another Red card in that same season, immediate revocation of coach's privileges will occur, until Conduct and Arbitration meets to decide what additional disciplinary actions may be taken by the club. Should these Red cards occur toward the end of the season, any suspensions will carry over to the following season.

- F. Coaches should at no time address the referee during a game for any other reason than to ask for a substitution. If you are unhappy with a call, please keep your comments to yourself and coach your game. When entering the score please make sure you fill out the referee comment section.

5. COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

- A. The best time to plan communication with the parents is during the preseason meeting. This is when you can describe what is expected of the parents, as well as the teams' long and short-term goals and objectives.
- B. Coaches should keep parents active in the team, particularly those parents who are most vocal. Parents who feel that they are part of the team are less inclined to complain.
- C. It is recommended the Head Coach nominate one parent to be the "Team Manager" to help with team administration. (See TEAM GUIDELINES-TEAM MANAGEMENT)

6. SCHEDULE CONFLICTS WITH OTHER SPORTS

- A. Soccer needs to be flexible during our off-season and recognize that other sports may be in their competitive or play-off season. No player shall be penalized during the off season for missing any off-season event. Alternately however, soccer coaches should not accept players missing league or cup games because of practices of other non-scholastic sports. To avoid these conflicts, coaches should ask the parents at the pre-season meeting that if they suspect the possibility of a potential conflict, the parents should discuss this directly with all coaches and alert them of any potential conflicting dates WELL IN ADVANCE.
- B. Players who choose to not attend games because of other sports are making a statement that is disconcerting to the other members of the team. If you are having a commitment issue, please contact the parents and have a meeting at the field with at least 1 other coach present. Explain to the parents what the problems are and move on. If the problems persist, please contact the Travel Directors and they will contact the parents. Please always keep good attendance records for your team.
- C. If coaches, players, and parents communicate and work together avoiding conflicts will be made easier.

II. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

1. COACHING PRIORITY

- A. The coach's primary responsibility is to develop the skills of all the players on the team, in order to ensure the players' enjoyment of the sport.
- B. Other considerations such as league standings and cup wins are sometimes used as measurements of success, but should not be regarded as primary coaching priorities or objectives.

2. PLAYING TIME (Applies to all league, cup and tournament competition)

- A. Coaches should always strive to provide enough playing time for all players. This is to provide the best possible environment for player development. Limiting a player's playing time can easily damage a player's self-esteem and therefore his or her potential to develop. Mandatory playing time for U9-U12 players is 50% of each game. At U13 it is a minimum of 40% of each game. Older players (U14 and up) must compete for time.
- B. Playing time at U13 and younger, should only be restricted as a result of disciplinary issues. Players who miss training sessions or games (without valid excuse), or are disruptive during practice or games can be given less game time as fairness to the other hardworking and dedicated players. **This should be explained to both players and parents at the beginning of the season.**
- C. Players are expected to attend all practices unless they have a valid reason for being absent. Missing practices is disruptive to the rest of the team.
- D. **Valid** reasons for missing practices include:
 - (1) Family Vacation
 - (2) Sickness
 - (3) Injury
 - (4) Scholastic Commitments
 - (5) Religious Commitments

3. PLAYER DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

- A. How you deal with discipline problems, particularly early in the season, will determine the degree to which the players are committed and focused and will effect their potential for development. Players who are allowed to disrupt training sessions will also impair the development of the other players who are more serious about improving their skills. A disruptive player should be asked to leave the field and rejoin the group only when they are prepared to operate within the team rules. If they continue to be a problem the coach should speak with the parents to inform the parents that the player may be asked to sit out

games or asked to leave the team if the problem continues. The purpose of this discussion is for the coach to attempt to determine the source of the behavior problem, and to inform the parents of possible consequences if the situation cannot be resolved.

- B.** Players who argue with referees, coaches or other players are engaging in activity that will impede their own development as well as that of their teammates. The best way for coaches to avoid this problem is to set the example. Often when players argue with referees, it because they've learned the behavior from the coach.
- C.** Try as much as possible to handle player's discipline within the team, depending on the seriousness. If it cannot be dealt with within the team, the matter should be discussed with the child's parents, and if there is still no improvement, referred to the Directors of Travel.
- D.** The Directors of Travel are to be informed in writing with the name of the player and description of the incident as well as the results after your parent meeting.
- E.** If a player or coach receives a Red card during a game, the coach is obligated to report it to the Directors of Travel. Notification must be made to the Travel Directors **by the end of that day**. Additionally, any serious injuries or unusual events that occur during a game must also be reported.
- F.** The coach is responsible for the behavior of all of the personnel on his or her sideline including the trainer. The coach is also responsible for the behavior of HIS OR HER TEAM'S PARENTS OR SPECTATORS on the opposite side of the field. Any disruptive behavior by parents or spectators may result in that coach being carded. Any parent that causes a coach to receive a Red Card will be immediately suspended from all OUSC events for 2 weeks. The only non-players that can be carded are the coach or the trainer.

4. PLAYERS PLAYING IN AN OLDER AGE GROUP

- A.** Players normally play at his/her age classification according to his/her birth year as outlined in the ENYYSA guidelines.
- B.** Players who wish to play up will be considered to do so for some of the following reasons but not limited to.
 - (1)** Not enough players can be recruited and it is in the best interest of the club to combine two age groups to form a team. Example: U12 boys and U13 boys combined would play U13.
 - (2)** Not enough players can be recruited and it is in the best interest of the club to move a player to an older team in order to help field that team, as long as that player's skill level affords such a move.
 - (3)** Remaining in his/her age group will hurt the development of such player.

- C. Requests to play up shall be made by the team's head coach in person or via email to the Directors of Travel. The final decision concerning the request will be made by the Travel Directors, and will be final.

5. OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS

- A. Coaches must not engage in **poaching** players from out of town teams.

III. TEAM GUIDELINES

1. TEAM MANAGEMENT

- A. Individuals who wish to coach a new travel team must apply in writing to the Directors of Travel for this position, and should apply during the spring for the fall season.
- B. Each coach once selected must appoint an assistant coach or coaches, subject to the approval of the Travel Directors. In the interest of better preparing new coaches, the Travel Directors may assign an assistant coach or trainer to work with a specific team or coach.
- C. It is suggested that all coaches select a Team Manager from the player's parents. The Team Manager should be responsible for the team administration. Assigning a Team Manager will allow the coaches to focus more time and attention on the players. A good Team Manager is organized and gets along well with the other parents.
- D. Along with the Team Manager the coach must organize the parents, and be available to help with all team functions i.e.; tournaments, fundraisers, etc.

2. UNIFORMS

- A. The travel team colors shall be **Orange** with **Navy Blue or White** trim as per the OUSC By-Laws. The primary jersey is predominantly Orange and the alternate jersey is Navy Blue. Shorts Navy and socks Navy. Orange should be worn whenever possible but it's not required as a rule.
- B. Coaches should update the players' uniforms once the team can no longer present themselves in a proper manner. Some examples are 3 different types of uniforms on the field at the same time, players wearing uniforms that are clearly too small etc...
- C. Teams are asked to wear the jerseys as follows:
 - 1. League or Cup games: Primary jersey Orange (unless color conflict)
 - 2. Tournaments: Primary jersey Orange, unless color conflict or primary jerseys need cleaning.
 - 3. Exhibition games or friendly: no restrictions.

IV. DISCIPLINE

1. GENERAL

- A. OUSC expects all of its coaches to strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct and Guidelines outlined in this document. Failure to do so will result in your appearance before the OUSC Conduct and Arbitration Committee by direction of the Board. The Board may take disciplinary actions based on the committee's recommendations. Should the coach fail to make him or herself available to appear in a timely manner, the Board can immediately suspend the coach until such time as he/she satisfies the Boards' direction. This suspension could include the immediate revocation of all coaching privileges within the club.

***IMPORTANT NOTE**

Verbal or physical abuse/harassment of any players, parents or officials will not be tolerated. Any coach who verbally or physically abuses another person will be immediately suspended by the OUSC Board of Directors pending review by the Conduct and Arbitration Committee and may be disqualified from OUSC participation in the future. This type of behavior will be dealt with in a serious manner and you will be subject to OUSC disciplinary actions under the LIJSL, ENYYSA and USYSA guidelines.



Addendum to OUSC Travel Coaches

Code of Conduct and Guidelines

I acknowledge that I have read the Travel Coaches Code of Conduct and Guidelines.

I also understand that should I fail to adhere to this Code of Conduct and Guidelines that OUSC might apply any sanctions, penalties or suspensions necessary. In the event of a serious breach, I could face removal as a coach from OUSC.

For the Seasonal Year: 2019-2020

Coaches Name (Print) _____

Coaches Signature _____

Date: _____