

ARROWHEAD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT



Arrowhead Youth Soccer wants to thank you for volunteering to coach a youth soccer team. All coaches who volunteer to coach an AYSA-affiliated team are expected to follow the Coaches Code of Conduct. By following the guidelines listed below, you will enrich the season for yourself, your team, and the families involved. These guidelines help ensure that games are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying – an enjoyable social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- 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, please remain in the coaches' area, the area that extends 10 yards on either side of the halfway line. Coaches should not cross the halfway line and should stay 2 yards back from the touchline.
- 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 them to calm down. If their conduct does not improve, do not allow them back on the field.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players and other spectators supporting your team. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. If you experience a game where fan behavior is not acceptable, your team should have a parent meeting to review acceptable behavior.
- Encourage fans to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Do not allow parents or other fans to yell at players of either team or the referee.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a rule-related question, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently at halftime or after the game. This should not be seen as an opportunity to question the referee's judgment but can be an opportunity to educate yourself on the rules.
- If you have a complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report your opinion to the AYSA Executive Director. If you feel a game is unsafe for your players due to the actions of the referee or the opposing team, you may pull your team off the field, effectively ending the game. Report this action and reasons why to the AYSA Executive Director at (218) 624-1713.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

Important things to remember...

- **Referees are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop.** Over 95% of our referees are under the age of 18. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them and by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes.
- **Your example is powerful, for better or worse.** If you insist on fair play, concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall long-term development, and support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you allow your players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about results, or criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.
- **This is not the World Cup.** These are kids playing a game; coaches are volunteers and referees are human. Please be respectful and positive throughout the season on and off the field.

Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed. If a coach is out of control, a referee may request the coach to leave before a game continues. If a coach is asked to leave a game, they will serve an automatic minimum mandatory one-game suspension, following a review by the AYSA Executive Director.