

## **400. COACHES' REGISTRATION & REGULATIONS**

### **Coaches are required to:**

- Respect the Rules of the Game and the League
- Respect their Opponents
- Respect the Officials
- Respect their Fellow Coaches
- Respect Themselves
- Honor the Game

### **401. General Coaching Rules & Regulations**

All Directors of Coaching, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Trainers must register online with the NISL and have an NISL-approved pass to participate in NISL competition. Coaches must be able to produce the pass upon request by the NISL or a match official (no exceptions).

### **402. Certifications, Licensing, and Good Standing**

Coaching certifications do not guarantee you to be a good coach. However, a good coach wants coaching certifications to make him/her a better coach.

All coaches must be properly registered, meet the requirements for participation, not under suspension and be in good standing with US Soccer.

### **403. Regulations**

Coaches and trainers must present a professional appearance at all times. Coaches are also required to know the "Rules of the Game."

#### **403a. Coaching During a Game**

No coaching other than the conveying of tactical instruction is permitted during the game. Individuals designated as coaches are authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area. The head coach is responsible for the actions of all persons associated with the team. The head coach shall ensure that no such person violates the coaching restriction. Violations by any person including spectators associated with the team will be deemed the action of the head coach.

A maximum of three persons associated in an official capacity with the team is permitted in the Technical Area.

#### **403b. Goal Safety**

Coaches are responsible to ensure that all goals prior to any practice, tryout, or game are secured properly and will not tip over with minimum force. Failure to do so could result in being suspended from coaching.

#### **403c. NISL Meetings**

Coaches are required to attend all NISL coaching meetings.

#### **403d. Dismissal/Discipline**

##### **403d.1 False Information**

Coaches found playing players without being properly registered with the league will be suspended. Coaches found providing false information to the league will be suspended. Coaches found signing or producing falsified document or ID will be suspended from coaching in the NISL.

##### **403d.2 Gross Misbehavior**

The NISL may suspend, for a definite period, and/or impose a fine on any coach guilty of gross misbehavior in public including intoxication, drug use, fighting, quarreling, indecency, or other scandalous conduct whether on or off the playing field when such conduct is in the NISL

opinion, prejudicial to the best interest of soccer or the league.

#### **403d.3 Removal of Teams Before Game End**

Coaches removing their team from the field during a game so as to end or delay the game without permission of the referee (not the agreement of the opposing coach) shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and shall incur a red card whether or not issued by the referee. The penalty shall be the same as other red cards issued to coaches, plus an additional suspension and fine from the NISL.

#### **403d.4 Dismissal**

Coaches dismissed from a NISL game must sit out the next league game (minimum suspension, no exceptions).

Coaches being dismissed more than once during the playing year will be suspended for the balance of the season. Additional dismissals in subsequent years will result in suspension from coaching in the NISL.

#### **403d.5 Prohibitions**

Smoking, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the Technical Area.

Coaches are not permitted to allow players from another team or organization to practice, tryout, play a game or play in a tournament without the written consent of his/her coach or organization.

Coaches are prohibited from recruiting registered players from another club.

Permission to try out must be obtained before a player is allowed on the field.

### **404. Coaches' Passes & Licensing**

Coaches' passes must have an affixed current picture of himself/herself. Passes are assigned to a specific club or team. If he/she leaves a team or club, it is required to apply for a new Coach's Pass and must agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the NISL and the legitimate decisions that may be made.

All coaches must have a USSF Coaching License or equivalent. Please refer to the minimum coaching standards on the NISL website.

### **405. Coaches' Rules of Ethics**

#### **405a. Preamble**

Soccer belongs to the players. It provides many physical values, emotional satisfaction and even a spiritual uplifting to those that play. Coaches who choose soccer as their profession and those who coach youth soccer in the League must understand this and put the welfare of the game and its players above their own personal gain.

Any profession, regardless of how noble it is deemed, is only as good as its members and the conduct they exhibit. Soccer coaches must be asked to maintain the trust and confidence placed in them by their players and by the public. Coaches that are unwilling to comply with the principles of their organization's Rules of Ethics, have no place in the profession.

#### **405b. Purpose**

The Rules of Ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish ethical and approved behavior from those practices that are detrimental. The Rules secondary purpose is to promote soccer by stressing the proper functions expected of coaches in their dealings with players and the public.

There can be no success of the Rules of Ethics without the consent and support of those for whom it was established - the soccer coaches.

#### **405c. Responsibilities to Players**

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

The Laws of Soccer were written to insure a continuous flow of action. These laws have the safety of the players as their primary goal. Coaches must always play within these rules and never seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsman-like behavior to their players. Coaches have a responsibility not to tolerate these types of behavior from their players regardless of the situation. Winning without boasting and losing without bitterness are lessons players can and should learn from the coach.

Medical problems should not be the responsibility of the coaches. The appropriate person should handle the diagnosis and treatment of injuries with coaches directing their players to seek competent medical attention and to follow physician's orders thoroughly and promptly.

Under no circumstances should a coach authorize the use of drugs. Medications, stimulants or drugs should be used only when authorized and supervised by a physician.

Circumvention of eligibility rules must be avoided.

Demands on players should pertain only to achieving success on the field and never be so extensive as to interfere with their academic progress.

#### **405d. Responsibilities to the League**

The function of the coach is to contribute to the education of the student through participation in soccer. This must never be disregarded.

The coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity and dignity of the League are not compromised.

Coaches must not ask for special consideration for their players.

Coaches must not seek special consideration for themselves.

Coaches should discuss problems with their director and/or representative in a friendly manner and then accept and support their decision.

Coaches must support administrative decisions in all policies, rules and regulations regarding soccer.

#### **405e. Rules of the Game**

Coaches must be acquainted thoroughly with the rules of soccer. They are responsible for seeing that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the rules of the game.

Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the rules.

Coaches who circumvent the rules to gain an advantage have no place in soccer.

Coaches are responsible for their players' action on the field. Roughhouse tactics, illegal substitutions and deliberate faking of injuries are prohibited.

Coaches must not permit their players to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.

If coaches permit, encourage or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they become derelict in their responsibilities to their players, and the sport. They must constantly strive to teach good sportsmanship; nothing less is acceptable.

Coaches are responsible for the parents behavior and can be RED CARDED for inappropriate behavior of spectators

#### **405f. Officials**

Soccer becomes chaos without impartial, competent officials. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and institutions. Public or private criticism of officials by coaches demeans the game. Coaches must also refrain from criticizing officials to the players.

Coaches should strive to attend officials' rules meetings. Coaches should also invite officials to discuss rule interpretations with their teams. It is very beneficial for coach and referee if the latter is invited to officiate scrimmages.

On game day, officials should be treated with respect. Coaches must not address the referee before, during or after a game in a demeaning fashion. They should demand the same from all members of their team. A coach must not incite players or spectators against the referees or the flow of the game. This violation is considered unworthy of any member of the League.

The use of slow motion or video replay equipment to check a controversial decision made by an official is discouraged. On the spot decisions required by officials are considerably more difficult than criticism by use of replay equipment.

#### **405g. Public Relations**

The soccer coach has a unique responsibility with public relations. In many cases soccer needs to be explained and public relations becomes a job for all coaches. The coach must be careful not to make derogatory or misleading statements towards the officials, opposing coach and team, and spectators. If good judgement indicates, an honest answer would be prejudicial or inflammatory and not in the best interest of soccer, ethical procedure demands that it not be answered. In such instances, "No Comment" is justified.

#### **405h. Recruiting**

It is unethical to recruit a player enrolled in another team.

#### **405i. Game Day and Other Responsibilities**

Coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, the League and soccer.

Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly greetings.

Soccer coaches have a responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible during a game. Coaches are encouraged to exhibit a friendly and kindly attitude towards their players.

It shall be considered unethical for a coach to have any verbal dissent during the game with an opposing coach or bench. Physically contacting an opposing player must be considered behavior detrimental to the game and highly unethical.

Coaches need to use their influence on crowds that demonstrate intimidating behavior that might lead to a player injury or confrontational between officials and spectators