

Swampscott Youth Soccer Coaches Code of Conduct

Congratulations! You have been selected to be a coach of a SYSA team for the following season. Coaching can be a great experience. It is one filled with many challenges and one that will require many decisions on your part. To that end the following Coaches Code of Conduct has been provided to help you. In order to participate as a coach in this program, you will be expected to adhere to the SYSA Coaches Code of Conduct. Please ask any questions you may have, as SYSA wants to make sure every coach is clear on what is expected of a SYSA coach before they begin.

Coaching is a big job. As the coach of a SYSA team you are invested with the primary responsibility for our players (children) well being. SYSA wants to insure that every child has a positive experience by participating in SYSA soccer. You have a great opportunity to be a positive impact on each player. The children you coach today will remember many of things you do and say when they are adults. SYSA believes that youth athletic activities should be fun and educational. SYSA believes that those who coach children are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their actions and words promote important life skills and the development of good character. It is through programs such as SYSA soccer that the players will learn many important lessons. Remember you are not in this alone. ALWAYS ask for help whenever you are in doubt or have questions. Your Age Group Director is there to help you and always feel free to turn to your program director or any of the SYSA Board members.

We believe, further, that the highest potential of sports is achieved when coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M.) proper values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor.

Finally, we believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our program and the well being of our players. This Code of Conduct applies to all SYSA coaches. Conduct yourself in a manner that *demonstrates trustworthiness, integrity, honesty, reliability, loyalty, respect and sportsmanship*. By accepting or agreeing to coach any SYSA team you agree to conduct yourself by:

Respecting Officials – treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

Respecting Parents – treat the parents of players with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communication.

Being Positive – use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for sport and soccer. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that are demeaning to players or others.

Encouraging Effort and Teamwork – encourage players to pursue victory with honor, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline. Discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the contest, than upon effort, improvement, teamwork, and winning with character. Be a good sport, teach and model proper behavior. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage players to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

Maintaining Professional Relationships – with players and respect proper boundaries. SYSA has no tolerance and little flexibility in handling violations of the following rules.

- Sexual or romantic contact with players is forbidden.
- Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed to or in view of players is

- forbidden.
- Verbal attacks on players, referees, parents, other coaches or any other person is forbidden.
- Physical Contact with a player must at all times be appropriate.. Striking, slapping, shaking, hitting, tripping, of any player is inappropriate.

Advocating Education – advocate the importance of education. Schoolwork comes before soccer. Teach players to get their work done in time to allow themselves to participate and to never prioritize soccer over schoolwork.

Advocating Honor/Good Character – prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship. Never allow or participate in any type of taunting or boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

Striving for Competence – strive to improve your coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles and current strategies, character-building techniques, and first-aid and safety. SYSA Travel Coaches are to be F Licensed and IM coaches G Licensed by the end of the your first season. Do your best to maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and assure that my players know and understand the rules.

Working within the SYSA System – conduct your activities within the rules and guidelines set forth by SYSA. Remember there is no ownership of a team by a coach.

Maintaining Safety and Health – as a Top Priority by:

1. Coming to every practice and game prepared with:
 - a. Another Adult. Make every effort to always have a second adult present at all times, if necessary ask a parent to stay during practice. Never leave the team without informing them of your departure and communicating who is now in charge.
 - b. Emergency contact information, Cell Phone & First Aid Kit
 - c. Incident Reporting form, pen and SYSA Emergency Guidelines
2. Being informed about the physical capacities & limitations of age group coached. This is particularly important if the coach participates in scrimmages and drills, remember you are bigger and stronger.
3. Adhering to and enforce all SYSA safety guides including but not limited to:
 - a. No Jewelry is allowed to be worn outside of MYSA guidelines (medical bracelets only covered by tape). NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - b. Children (all age groups) are to be removed immediately from the field when thunder is heard or lightening seen.
4. Communicating the SYSA Weather policy regarding lightning and thunder to parents and adhere to it.
5. Communicating with parents and players on the designated pick up spots. Be aware of darkness and keeping track of players. A coach must stay until last player is picked up.
6. Putting safety and health considerations above the desire to win; never permit player to intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.
7. Encouraging players to follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured student-athlete is ready to play.
8. Reading and following the SYSA Emergency Guidelines and Procedures. (Attached)

Player's conduct – Teach players that participation in the SYSA program is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent SYSA, their team and teammates with honor. Require players to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.

Maintaining Self-Control – control your ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration. Do not let anyone get the best of you. If you encounter a player who does not respond to team rules or is a behavioral challenge, make sure you communicate this with your AGD immediately and ask for guidance and help. Do not go it alone.

Maintaining a Caring Environment – consistently demonstrate concern for players as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team.

Promoting Proper Gamesmanship – promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through devious strategies or techniques that violate the rules or disrespect the highest traditions of the sport.

Protecting the Program – Remember that the actions of any one coach reflect on all involved. If you witness an action that in your opinion goes against the spirit or letter of this code it is your responsibility to appropriately report it to your AGD as soon as practical. Do not “look the other way.” Coaches do not, “cover,” for each other, they maintain the integrity of the program and the reputation of all involved.

Process for Alleged Violations of SYSA Coaches Code of Conduct

A report of actions that go against the spirit or letter of this Code will result in a prompt review process. The review process will include appropriate SYSA leadership, coaches involved, as well as parents involved if appropriate. Every effort will be made to hear all sides of the situation, to maintain privacy issues and to render timely response by SYSA. If SYSA finds the coach to be in violation of the code, appropriate steps will be taken by the SYSA Board which may result in dismissal from program as a coach and may preclude a coach from becoming involved in future SYSA programs.

I have read and understand the spirit of SYSA Coaches Code of Conduct and agree to act in accordance with this code. I understand that SYSA officials as well as EYCSA and MYSA officials will and should expect that I will follow this code. By signing below I acknowledge that I have read the SYSA Coaches Code of Conduct and understand the Code.

Coach Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Coaches Name (Printed) _____

AGD Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____ **Email:** _____

Instructions: Read and understand the above Code of Conduct. If you have any questions or concerns contact your AGD or the SYSA Safety Director prior to signing. Sign and Date above and forward to your AGD as shown above. Failure to do so will preclude your involvement as SYSA Coach.