

Vestal Youth Soccer Association

CODE OF ETHICS FOR Adults and Players
Oct 1st 2010



Purpose

The purpose of this code is to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of soccer within the Vestal Youth Soccer Association hereinafter referred to as VYSA.

Policy

Coaching and participation in Travel Soccer is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably during NYSWYSA and VYSA sanctioned and affiliated associations' activities. The term Coach is used within this document to refer to anyone acting in an official capacity within the VYSA team or organization including but not limited to Assistant Coaches, Trainers, Managers and other appointed representatives. The term Parent or Player refers to any participating athlete as well as their legal Guardian or Parent. It carries with it an obligation for each individual Coach, Player or Parent to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives. Any conduct considered unethical or a conflict of interest shall be subject to discipline by VYSA leadership.

Article I – Responsibilities to Players

1. The coach shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches shall not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
5. Demands placed on players' time shall never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals or progress.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate club/league or NYSWYSA eligibility or player rules or policies.
7. Coaches shall direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.

Article II – Responsibility to Club/League

1. Adherence to all club/league and NYSWYSA rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility and team formation and member association rules and policies that are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of each coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the Training Committee (or other group so designated by the Board or VYSA Bylaws) and could subsequently be elevated to the Board of Directors for final action.

Article III – Responsibilities to the Laws of the Game

1. Coaches shall be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Laws of the Game.
2. Coaches are responsible to assure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the Laws.
3. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Laws of the Game.
4. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with intent of causing injury to opposing players.
5. The coach must constantly strive to teach good sporting behavior.

Article IV – Responsibility to Officials

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or spectators.

2. Professional respect, before, during and after the game must be mutual. There must be no demeaning dialog or gestures between official, coach or player.
3. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the game.
4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

Article V – Responsibilities Regarding Scouting and Recruiting

1. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, player parent or team representative.
2. When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams and organizations.
3. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
4. Coaches shall not scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.

Article VI – Responsibility of Public Relations

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents or media must be positive and constructive.
2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public, when representing their team, VYSA, league and the NYSWYSA.
3. Coaches must not attempt to influence their club/league, the NYSWYSA or other clubs/leagues in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.

Article VII – Other Responsibilities

1. The behavior of coaches must be such as to bring credit to themselves, VYSA, NYSWYSA and the sport of soccer.
2. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. The attitude and conduct of the coach towards officials, players, spectators and coaches must be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It is unacceptable for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an official, opposing coach or bench before, during or after the game.
5. Coaches must use their influence on spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, player(s) and opposing team members.

Article VIII – Responsibilities of Parents

1. It is unacceptable for a parent or their guest to confront, abuse, insult or otherwise negatively engages another spectator, player or Official. The Coach as well as VYSA may execute a restriction upon any parent, family member or guest that prevents them from staying at the field for the duration of the game. In addition, and subject to final Executive Board approval, a Coach or VYSA BOD member may request that such individual be banned from all or some future games as well as a result of inappropriate action that occurs at a game or practice. Any physical altercation where such a person is the initiator of such action should be considered as immediate grounds for such a sanction.
2. The Parent or their guest are bound and subject to the same expectations of Sportsmanship and positive behavior as dictated within this document. They also agree to abide by all stated and established rules, generally known expectations and policies of VYSA and NYSW.

3. The Parent shall support the health and welfare of the player during the times that they are participating in VYSA activities. This includes adequate provision of liquids and supplies for the benefit of the Player during and before their activity.
4. The Parent shall also support the Coach and team staff in their stated objectives and goals. In the event that the Parent disagrees with a Coach, they shall discuss this matter initially in a respectable and private conversation with the coach or his/her representative. If a parent has unresolved concerns about the safety and welfare of a Player or the team, they may choose to contact their Age Group Coordinator, The Club President or any other member of the Training Committee.

Article IX – Responsibilities of Players

1. It is unacceptable for a player to confront, abuse, insult or otherwise negatively engage another spectator, player or Official.
2. The player is responsible for coming to VYSA activities, including but not limited to games and practices, fully prepared with the necessary elements to participate in said activity safely.
3. The Player is expected to show the highest levels of respect and conduct at all times towards the coaches, opponents, officials and spectators. They are expected to abide by all NYSW and VYSA policies and procedures.
1. The players play at the request of the coaches who may exercise ultimate authority in regard to playing time, and playing position with the exception of Goal Keeper. The Coach cannot force a player to assume that role but may position the player into any other position on the field as deemed appropriate to the benefit of that player or the team.

By signing this document I certify that I understand that should I breach this code of ethics, either VYSA or league may impose sanctioning consistent with their documented procedures.

Name of Coach/Parent/Adult (Print): _____

Signature of Coach/Parent/Adult: _____

Signature of Player (Parent must also sign above) :

Date:

Date Received by Club/League: _____

(All signed Coaches, Managers and Assistant Coaches forms must be returned to VYSA. Team Managers are responsible for keeping signed forms for all participating families.)