

## PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Players should:

- Play the game for the game's sake.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be graceful when you lose.
- Be fair always no matter what the cost.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Work for the good of your team.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
- Conduct yourself with dignity and grace.
- Do not engage in physical or verbal confrontations with spectators, officials, coaches or other players.
- Make sure teammates adhere to the above rules.

## SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Spectators should remember:

- Children have more need of example than criticism.
- Make athletic participation a positive experience for the participants as well as others.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Be generous when your team wins.
- Be graceful when your team loses.
- Conduct yourself with honour and dignity.
- Do not engage in physical or verbal confrontations with spectators, officials, coaches, or players.
- Never encourage or accept the intentional injury of a player.
- Support the coach and coaching staff.
- Never confront a coach. If you have a question of a coach, you should contact him/her at a later time.
- Alcohol should never be brought to a game.

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# SMSA Code of Conduct



## For Coaches, Players, Parents

# Code of Conduct

This code of ethics was established to develop, clarify, and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behaviour. Unprofessional, unethical, and immoral behaviour is detrimental to the development of children and the sport of soccer. The primary goal of this code of conduct is to help ensure that soccer is a fun, positive and enjoyable experience.

## RESPONSIBILITY TO PLAYERS

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches will instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches will not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behaviour to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behaviour from players, regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Under no circumstances should a coach authorize or encourage the use of medical or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury to prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
7. To insure player safety, make sure equipment and playing surface are in accordance with the laws of the game. Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury. This includes preventing horse play before and after games and practices.

## RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SMSA AND GOVERNING SOCCER BODIES

1. Adherence to all SMSA and governing soccer bodies' rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting and guest players are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance, which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, governing soccer bodies, the SMSA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behaviour.

## RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr./Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or a player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
3. Comments regarding an official should be put in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

## 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 the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, the SMSA, and governing bodies.

## GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A coach's behaviour must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization, and the sport of soccer. This is never more evident than on the day of the contest.
2. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exchange friendly or professional greetings. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take the precedence over exemplary professional conduct.
3. During play, coaches have the responsibility to be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude toward players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach toward officials, spectators, opposing players, and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
4. It shall be unethical for a coach to have a verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench during the game. Hostile physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical and most likely subject to criminal prosecution.
5. The coach's foremost post game responsibility is his/her team.
6. Coaches should use their influence and unfriendly spectators who demonstrate intimidating behaviour toward officials and opposing teams.