



Coaches Code of Conduct



Purpose:

This code of conduct has been developed by SSA Marquette Travel Soccer (SSA MQT) with a purpose to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of soccer within SSA MQT. The SSA MQT has adopted this code to apply to all coaches employed or volunteering with the association.

Coaches exert a profound impact on our youth; therefore, society sets high expectations of them. As such, whether coaches are compensated or work solely as volunteers, they are responsible for executing coaching as a professional. The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence on the players and shall instill the highest ideal of character upon them.

Policy:

Coaching is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably during SSA MQT events. It carries with it an obligation for each individual coach to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives. Any conduct considered unethical or a conflict of interest shall be subject to discipline by the club.

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 SSA MQT eligibility or team 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.
8. Coaches shall promote nutrition, hydration, and healthy eating habits.
9. Coaches shall discourage the use of any performance enhancing substances or dietary supplements and prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal drug. Coaches shall not irresponsibly consume or use tobacco when in contact with any player.

Article II – Responsibility to Club/League

1. Adherence to all club/league and SSA MQT 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 appropriate club/league officer or committee.

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, including any tournament rules.
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 on and off the field.

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 dialogue or gestures between official, coach, or player.
3. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the game.

Article V – 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, club/league and SSA MQT.
3. Coaches must not attempt to influence their club/league, SSA MQT or other clubs/leagues in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.

Article VI – Other Responsibilities

1. The behavior of coaches must be such as to bring credit to themselves, their team, SSA MQT, and the sport of soccer.
2. While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary 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.

By signing this document I certify that I understand that should I breach this code of ethics, either SSA MQT or the league may impose penalties which may include suspension or removal.

Name of Coach (Print): _____

Signature of Coach: _____

Date: _____ Risk Management Number: _____