

TEAM STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

A team staff position is an important and serious responsibility. A staff member's behavior is constantly under observation by the players as a model for behavior both on and off the field. Staff members' conduct during the game sets the tone for the players, parents and spectators. All Southern Nevada Soccer Association team staff members are subject to conduct guidelines.



Abuse Policy

Abuse of any kind is not permitted within Southern Nevada Soccer Association.

Physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents or spectators shall not be tolerated. These include, but are not limited to, such forms of abuse as: insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.

SNSA has members of all races, ethnicities and religious affiliations, and we will not tolerate hateful conduct. Violation of these policies, if definitively proven, may result in a member's suspension, disqualification or other form disciplinary action.

Team Staff Conduct Guidelines

The following **CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR** is offered to exemplify the ideal SNSA team staff member.

- 1) Learn the laws of the game and teach them to your players.** Read the rulebook and attend a coaching and/or a referee clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.
- 2) Abide by the laws of the game and league policies.** Set the example for your players that no one is exempt from the rules.
- 3) Educate your parents about your coaching philosophy.** Explain to parents and players that you will emphasize the development of the players' skills and creativity instead of the outcome of the game. Long-term player development goals will not be sacrificed for the short-term goal of winning a soccer game.
- 4) Pre-plan all practice sessions in detail.** Make them interesting, fast-paced and involve all team members as much as possible (no lines, laps or lectures!).
- 5) Show up on time.** Respect your players and parents by arriving on time for practices and games. If you are going to be late or if it is necessary to cancel a practice, be sure to notify your parents in a timely manner.
- 6) Coach clean, skillful, honest and sportsmanlike soccer.** Stress "playing hard to win" over winning itself. Teach fair play and the "Golden Rule" (do unto others as you would have them do unto you) and apply it to all games and practices.
- 7) Coach talented and less-skilled players with equal vigor.** When possible, allow players more than their required minimum playing time.
- 8) Maximize praise and minimize criticisms.** Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual. Start with a positive and end with a positive. Sandwich the correction in the middle.

- 9) **Maintain a positive environment.** Discourage negative remarks and/or harassment of teammates, opposing players, referees and other spectators among your players and parents.
- 10) **Exhibit consistent, exemplary conduct at practices and games.** Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 100%. Apply team rules equally to all players and make clear your expectations for player conduct at games and practices. Insist that your players and parents exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. The coach is responsible for conduct of the players and parents when they are together as a team.
- 11) **Don't Run Up the Score.** Coaches are expected to show empathy in the event of a lopsided game, and to employ tactics such as setting a minimum number of consecutive passes before scoring; setting a maximum number of touches per player; moving players to different positions; designating a less-skilled player as the only one that can score; keeping players behind the halfway line on the opposing team's goal kick; and any other tactics that serve to limit the score differential and allow players to work on their skills without disrespecting the opponent or the game.
- 12) **Minimize coaching from the sidelines during games.** Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing. Instead, call the player to you and give instruction or wait until the next substitution time and sub him/her out for instructions and then put him/her back into the game.
- 13) **Treat the referee with respect, no matter what the call.** Referees attend an eight-hour certification course and a 3-hour field-training course before they can become an SNSA referee. Many of them are young, all of them are human, and they will make mistakes, just as you do. Refrain from verbal abuse of the referee and persistent questioning of his judgment.
- 14) **React to adversity with composure and grace.** There will be bad calls and bad bounces. Set an example for your players and parents by showing good sportsmanship at all times, especially when things don't go your team's way.
- 15) **Welcome feedback.** No one is perfect! Don't be afraid to change. Establish open lines of communication with your players and parents. Accept new ideas from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.
- 16) **Refrain from inappropriate communications.** Limit communications with players and parents to team-related topics. Exercise good judgment and restraint when texting or posting on social media.
- 17) **Refrain from profanity or vulgar language.** Remember that you are helping to mold the character of your players.
- 18) **Refrain from using drugs, alcohol and tobacco products at all youth soccer events.** Require your parents to refrain as well. Do not permit players to participate if they refuse to comply.
- 19) **Report violations of the Code of Conduct to SNSA.** If you observe a team staff member, player or spectator from another team in violation of the SNSA conduct guidelines, immediately send an email to notify the league of the violation.