



BYSA Coach Expectations

Boxford Youth Soccer coaches are the heartbeat of the town soccer program. Although we rely on parent volunteers to serve as coaches, it is essential that they act in a manner that fosters a vibrant program and engages all kids. In addition to the BAA's Coaches Standards of Conduct and [MYSA Coaches Code of Conduct](#), Boxford Youth Soccer has specific expectations of its Age Group Directors and coaches, and their coaching approach should be in-line with the Mission, Vision, and Values of Boxford Youth Soccer.

We recognize that approaches to coaching are subjective and drawn from various levels of experience and knowledge of the game. These should be tailored to be appropriate for the age group, for how individual players learn and develop, for varying levels of skill, and for varying levels of interest in soccer.

Fundamentally, Boxford Youth Soccer coaches must recognize they are in a position of trust, and therefore, they must first and foremost build players' self-confidence and self-worth on the field. If those are in place, the development and enjoyment of the game will follow. A coach's goal each year should be to see everyone of his or her players return the next season.

Below are expectations for coaches:

- During the season
 - Build player self-esteem and confidence through positive encouragement, empowerment, and individual achievement.
 - Make efforts to develop as a grassroots coach; grassroots is the most foundational level of soccer and sets players on their path forward, or ends it before they have reached their potential.
 - Denounce behavior that is divisive to the team whether related to players, parents, or coaches.
 - Communicate schedules, schedule changes, and roster information in a timely manner to all team participants.
 - Represent Boxford Youth Soccer and the Town of Boxford with professionalism and integrity.

- With Players
 - Recognize that each child develops as a player at a different pace; it is important to avoid comparison thinking and rather, focus on the progress each individual player makes.
 - Put best interests of the players first, and encourage autonomous decision making on the field.
 - Recognize that children participate in sports for their own enjoyment and satisfaction, and soccer should be as fun as possible at all times.
 - Teach players to resolve conflicts appropriately.

- In the game
 - Strive to play all children a fair amount of time in each game, defined by MYSA as at least 50% of the game.
 - Rotate starting lineups regardless of ability.
 - Rotate players to multiple positions, and encourage players set on one position to challenge themselves to play other positions.
 - Manage behavior of players, coaches, and spectators.
 - Manage the score if teams do not appear competitive.
 - Treat all officials and coaches with respect and accept controversial calls.
 - Know the rules of the game that apply to each age group.
 - Be vigilant and take action to ensure player safety at all times.
 - Place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of the desire to win.
 - Emphasize that effort is a more important metric than winning.
 - Value that team and individual development is a more important goal than winning.

Coaches should seek to adhere to these expectations. These are intended to create the right coaching environment to facilitate enjoyment of soccer and development for all town players. Similarly, these are how coaches are gauged by the Boxford Youth Soccer board.

I understand that:

- Boxford Youth Soccer is committed to creating a safe, positive, and inclusive playing environment for all participants.
- Coaches are expected to set examples of appropriate behavior and ethics for players.
- Boxford Youth Soccer reserves the right to suspend or permanently dismiss from participation any player, coach, or spectator involved in aggressive, disruptive, divisive, or disrespectful behavior.