



Coaches' Code of Conduct

Purpose - Coaches are role models. They play a leading role in helping our children learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. Elk Grove Soccer and its Affiliated Clubs must work together to ensure that every player has a positive experience when participating in Elk Grove soccer. Elk Grove Soccer believes that coaches have a responsibility to inspire our children through the fundamental principles of teamwork and fair play, while focusing on the fun of soccer. Elk Grove Soccer believes that coaches are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their actions and words promote important life skills and the development of good character in our Children.

In line with this purpose statement, the Elk Grove Soccer requires all coaches and assistant coaches to sign this Code of Conduct prior to their participation as coaches with Elk Grove Soccer.

The Coaches' Code of Conduct shall state the following:

I understand the importance of providing a positive experience and environment for the players - As a coach, I understand that Elk Grove Soccer has given me the privilege and primary responsibility for developing players – not only with regard to their soccer skills but their life skills as well. I will always put their well-being first. I will strive to ensure that the players have a positive soccer experience. I will teach my players basic skills, techniques and strategies, and I will give all my players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem at practice and in games. I will arrive on time to practices and games wearing proper soccer attire at all times.

I will never ridicule or shout at players when they make a mistake or when the team loses a game.

I have a responsibility and duty to let players “play the game” and for this, I set the tone. I will limit my coaching during games by refraining from continual commentary and instructions to my players. I understand that running “play-by-play” commentary during games drags the team down in the long run and suggests that I have not adequately prepared my team for the match.

In addition, I'm responsible for the conduct of my players and spectators on our side of the field, specifically, as it relates to the referees, other coaches, and opposing players. I will monitor my sidelines to ensure there is no coaching by parents. “Go”, “Shoot”, “Send it” and other similar comments are interpreted as instructions and as such are not acceptable. No matter how good the intentions are, I will insist that parents not shout instructions to players. Also, I will demand spectators not yell or complain to referees or officials during or after games. I will continue to

stress that spectators should offer unlimited vocal support and positive encouragement for all players after good plays.

1. I am committed to improving my knowledge of the game - through coaching education and various training programs, and I will prepare for each game by creating a strategy suitable for the competition.

2. I understand that soccer is more than the scoreboard - I understand that the score of a game comes second to the safety and welfare of all my players. I agree to put winning in its proper perspective. I understand that the children I coach today will remember many of the things I do and say when they are adults. I will show unwavering respect for all players, parents, the officials, and the opponents.

3. I understand my role as a coach when it comes to opposing teams - I understand that I represent Elk Grove Soccer and the community at large. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. I will not coach, nor allow my players to play, with intent to cause injury to opposing players. I will strive to ensure that neither I nor my players and spectators display hostile behavior towards opposing coaches, opposing players, and opposing parents or family members. I will actively discuss with my players the importance of character, ethics, and sportsmanship. I will never allow or participate in any type of boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport. I will be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. At the end of each game, my players and I will give our opponents a handshake, and I will instill respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

4. I understand the importance of allowing referees to judge the game - I will let referees judge the game. I will endeavor to instill in my players and my sideline spectators a respect for referees. I understand that my attitude can influence my players and spectators. I will display a controlled, restrained, and sportsmanlike attitude toward referees at all times.

5. I will abide by the laws of the game - I understand that I am responsible for understanding and competing within the letter and the spirit of the Laws of the Game. I will teach my players to understand and play within the letter and spirit of the Laws as well. I will never, knowingly or intentionally, violate any provision of my Club or League playing time guidelines or other rules and guidelines established by Elk Grove Soccer.

6. I understand that I represent Elk Grove Soccer and the Elk Grove Community in general - I agree to conduct myself with dignity and to maintain the highest standards of conduct as a coach with Elk Grove Soccer. I will always display good sportsmanship and fair play, and I will encourage the same from my players, colleagues, parents, and spectators.

7. Discipline - If I fail to comply with this Elk Grove Soccer Coaches' Code of Conduct Agreement, or any other rules or regulations enacted by Elk Grove Soccer, I agree and understand that I am subject to disciplinary actions or sanctions, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from coaching in Elk Grove Soccer.

By agreeing to coach, I acknowledge that I have read this Coaches' Code of Conduct and agree to it.