

## **Plum Area Youth Soccer Coaches Code of Conduct**

This Coaches Code of Conduct has been developed to clarify and define the standards of professional, ethical, and moral behavior from coaches affiliated with Plum Area Youth Soccer (PAYS). The term "coach" shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainers and Team Representative/Parent.

The coach's role is one of teaching soccer skills and sportsmanship to the players. The coach is responsible for monitoring the behavior of the players and parents during practice and games. All coaches within PAYS will promote good sportsmanship among players, foster team camaraderie, and help participants have fun while teaching players the technical skills of soccer. Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches will not be tolerated by PAYS. Such unsportsmanlike conduct may include, but is not limited to, berating or making unkind comments to a player or referee that would reasonably be expected to cause substantial embarrassment to the player or referee. Other examples include the intentional abuse or attempt to abuse the player selection system or willful failure to follow PAWest and PAYS rules. In addition, each Coach will ensure that his/her conduct sets a good example for team members and spectators.

The following standards are established by PAYS and govern the behavior of all PAYS Coaches before, during and after PAYS games and events:

### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS:**

- Coaches shall not place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players
- Coaches shall instruct players to play within the Laws of the Game and within the spirit of the game at all times
- Coaches shall teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
- Coaches shall not encourage, condone, or tolerate inappropriate behavior from players in any situation
- Coaches shall not encourage, condone, or permit any player to violate any bylaw, rule, or policy of PAWest or PAYS
- Coaches are to provide a safe playing environment for players and do their best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players. Coaches should be sensitive to each child's developmental needs, strive to have each player reach his/her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.
- Coaches shall direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow instructions received from health care professionals regarding treatment and rehabilitation. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or being forced to play while injured
- Coaches shall teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat
- Coaches will provide a soccer environment for their players that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all practices and games

### **RESPONSIBILITY TO OPPONENTS:**

- Coaches shall respect the coaches and players of the opposing team before, during, and after the game
- Coaches shall promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies
- Coaches shall not encourage, condone, or permit any player to engage in conduct with the intent of causing injury to an opponent
- Coaches shall not engage in any physical or verbal confrontation with any opposing player, coach, or supporter
- Coaches are to take the appropriate steps, in a timely fashion, to minimize running up the score in games in which their team is clearly dominating

### **RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE GAME:**

- Coaches shall be aware of the Laws of the Game and the rules, policies and procedures of PAWest and PAYS, and shall adhere to the letter and spirit of them
- Coaches shall maintain control of their emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating
- Coaches shall accept the responsibilities of team leadership and shall be accountable for the conduct of the players, team officials, and spectators affiliated with their teams. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting to ensure that they exhibit maturity and sportsmanship at all times.
- Coaches shall strive to keep abreast of current learning techniques and knowledge of the game to be able to educate players in technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level

### **RESPONSIBILITY TO REFEREES:**

- Coaches shall extend respect and courtesy to referees at all times and refrain from questioning a referee's decision or challenging their authority. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators.
- Coaches shall not incite players, other coaches, or spectators into conduct towards referees that is contrary to the Laws of the Game and PAYS Coaches Code of Conduct
- Coaches shall not make demeaning or derogatory comments or gestures directed towards any referee
- Coaches shall use their influence and authority to deter inappropriate conduct by supporters towards referees and opponents
- Coaches shall employ only methods authorized by the Laws of the Game, the rules of the competition, or the policies of PAWest and PAYS to pursue review of decisions by referees
- Coaches shall not address a referee at all during the game. Coaches may discuss small issues with a referee calmly and patiently at halftime or after the game
- Coaches shall thank the referee(s) after the game and ask their players to do the same

### **RESPONSIBILITY TO PAYS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Coaches shall be responsible for familiarizing themselves and comply with the rules, policies and procedures of PAWest and PAYS
- Coaches shall refer disputes, appeals, and disciplinary reports to proper authorities as designated by PAWest and PAYS
- Coaches shall not encourage, condone, or permit any player, team official, or surrogate to violate any bylaw, rule, or policy of PAWest and PAYS
- Coaches shall remember that they are a representative of PAYS and the community
- Any behavior inconsistent with PAYS Coaches Code of Conduct including, but not limited to, poor behavior during practices, games, or tournaments may result in disciplinary action