



River Forest Youth Soccer

Coach's Code of Conduct

The Board of River Forest Youth Soccer is concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

1. Be an example of patience and positive spirit.
2. During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible, or overly aggressive, remove the player from the game until he/she calms down.
3. During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. *It is imperative to outline acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.*
4. During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game. *If you have a major complaint, or if you thought the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, please contact the league's referee administrator.*
5. You, as coach, may enter the field of play ONLY with the consent of the referee.
6. At the end of the game, you will instruct your players to line up and shake hands with (or "high five") the players from the opposing team. (Please remind your players of the need for good sportsmanship during this time as well.)

We stress two points:

1. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall long-term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will take notice. Anything contrary to this behavior will also be noticed, and not tolerated.
2. Referees – especially young and inexperienced ones – are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. Help them improve by letting them concentrate on the game! You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and by offering constructive post-game comments. Teach your players to respect the referee's ultimate authority. (Two of the most misunderstood laws are **handling the ball**, and **offsides**. Please refrain from helping the referee by hollering out **HANDS!** Or **OFF SIDES!**)

Think about what you are doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, soccer will grow and flourish in River Forest, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.