



**A code of conduct for coaches
and parents on
Sportsmanship**



A code of conduct for coaches and parents

Sportsmanship

To coach in the Bloomfield Soccer Club, you must abide by these simple rules of conduct and decency.

As a coach you will:

1. **Provide a safe, supportive, friendly soccer environment.**
2. You will do your best to provide the children and their parents a leader who will act with dignity, compassion, and the highest regard for sportsmanship.
3. Meet with your parents to review the coach's code of conduct.

The position of coach or leader of any youth group is an important and serious responsibility. All the children and parents look up to the coach and respect his/her position. **BE A ROLE MODEL.**



FACT:

*According to
United States Youth Soccer
one of the primary reasons a
player will tell their parents
they want to STOP playing is:*

**Coach/Adult
Poor Behavior**



Section 1: Conduct towards referees

Basic rule 1: Treat referees with respect.

The coach's actions during a game will dictate the actions of players and parents. If a coach is respectful towards the referees, parents and players will be respectful.

Poor, "ugly," behavior of the coach is easily mimicked by the players and parents.

A coach who questions every referee call, will lead to players and parents questioning every referee call. This will bring a component of **Unsportsmanlike conduct** to the game that is not welcomed or warranted.

Coaches who promote this type of poor behavior will be subject to suspension and their parents required to attend an in season sportsmanship class.

BOTTOM LINE: *The Bloomfield Soccer Club cannot and will not tolerate abusive behavior towards referees.*

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Coaches, parents, players that continuously exhibit poor behavior and judgement, despite written warnings from the club will at the discretion of the Bloomfield Soccer Club, be suspended for indefinite periods. If this is deemed to be a "team wide" problem, the team may be dissolved either at the end of the current season's play or in fact immediately and all remaining games will be forfeited to the opponents.

Tips to help your players and parents understand a referee's call.

Referees spend a great deal of time learning new rules of the game. They are recertified every year. Our soccer club has hosted NJYS referee certification classes at the Grade 9 entry level. We would encourage coaches to attend these classes so they can be educated and aware of how the referees see the game. Coaches are further encouraged to share with the parents the rules of the game so they do not question, "correct," calls.

Coach: The other team won because of the ref!

VP of travel: Really? How many goals did the ref score?



Basic rule 2: Sit down and let the referee ref and you coach. Avoiding the "heat of the moment."

Many times a coach will describe "the heat of the moment," to justify inappropriate behavior.

- Your players need you to help them compete in the game, they do not need a coach who is so overwhelmingly obsessed with a "bad" call that the coach becomes responsible for a poor performance.

When you are in the "heat of the moment" you must return to the bench and sit down and get your composure. **If you are a co-coach, it is your responsibility as well to diffuse the situation by getting your co-coach to sit down.**

At an appropriate time at the end of the game, the referees are many times eager to talk to coaches in a respectable manner about a call. Understanding the referees' decision will help you understand the call.

DO NOT INFLAME A SITUATION BY BLAMING THE REF FOR A LOSS

In typical behavior, a coach will explain to the players and parents that it was the ref's fault they lost and the coach will do this on the field as the next game is getting ready to kick off, thus causing a problem with the next game.

The Bloomfield Soccer Club cannot and will not tolerate this behavior.

The rule of behavior is to get off the field and give positive comments to the players for a game well played. Do not encourage parents to accuse the referees of "cheating," or "bias."

The Bloomfield Soccer Club cannot and will not tolerate this behavior.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Coaches who continuously accelerate any type of hostility towards the referees, despite written warnings from the club, can be suspended by our club even in absence of receiving a RED CARD from an official.



Section 3: The parent's side behavior

- **Parents do not communicate with referees. Yelling at refs is not tolerated. Any concerns or complaints should be handled with coaches.**

The coach and the "unruly parent on the other side."

THE COACH is responsible for the behavior of his/her parents.

THE COACH must report a parent or player who continuously acts inappropriately towards referees. Our club will issue written warnings to the parent/parents of the player that may culminate in the removal of the player or parents from the team.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Parents who continuously accelerate any type of hostility towards other parents or players will be subject to immediate suspension and the possibility of their child being removed from the team.

HOW TO DIFFUSE NEGATIVE PARENT BEHAVIOR ON YOUR TEAM

- **PROBLEM: Parents coaching from the parent's side creating distraction and confusion.**

PLEASE sit down with those parents at the next practice and help them understand your decisions and listen to their concerns.

- **PROBLEM: Parents making fun of or criticizing other players on your team or the other team.**

This is wholly unacceptable behavior. *The Bloomfield Soccer Club cannot and will not tolerate this behavior.*

PLEASE NOTE: Parents who continuously accelerate any type of hostility towards other parents or players will be subject to immediate suspension and the possibility of their child being removed from the team.



Section 4: What is expected of our parents

ALL PARENTS must help maintain a positive sports climate of safety and enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees, other coaches and other spectators.

DO NOT use profanity or vulgar language.

DO NOT or consume alcoholic beverages prior to or during any youth sports function.

BE A ROLE MODEL!

When the parent is angry at his/her own coach

A parent will get angry at a coach for typically the following reasons:

- Their child did not get enough playing time
- Their child made a “bad play,” in front of everyone and it is the coach’s fault for “playing their child out of position.”

AFTER THE GAME: A parent may approach the coach to express their feelings.

DO NOT BE CONFRONTATIONAL

- Remember Every parent is their child’s best advocate.
- Every parent is their child’s hero.

It is the coach’s responsibility to get that parent off the field with the understanding that:

You will work together on helping their child succeed and you will have further discussions as the season progresses.

You will work hard together not to discourage the player or challenge that child’s confidence on the field.



When a parent is angry at the opponent's parents

Parents being confrontational on the sideline almost always occurs when the coaches are confrontational with each other or the referee. When you as the coach control your sideline, controlling the parent's sideline will be that much easier.

In a game a referee will usually alert the coaches on both sides of problems on the parent's side.

A referee may suggest to the coach that, he/she (the ref) will suspend the game if the parents do not act appropriately.

It is the COACH's RESPONSIBILITY to restore order to the parent's side. You can do this by:

- Appealing to the parents to behave
- Asking other parents on your team to help keep things cool.
- Asking your parents to move down the sideline and away from the other parents.
- Asking your parents to watch the game from the parking lot.
- **Reminding them that our club does not tolerate this behavior and they face suspension.**

Coaches, you must report this type of behavior to our disciplinary committee so appropriate education on avoiding future occurrence can occur.



Section 5: After the game and things are tense: Shake hands and walk away

In an effort to avoid any confrontation on the field between coaches, between coaches and parents, between any one and a referee, and between anyone and the players. You as the coach are responsible for diffusing any aggressive situation on the field or in the parking lot by:

a. TAKING CARE OF CHILDREN FIRST

Get children and their parents away from mounting tensions. This simple act of caring for the children can in many cases immediately stop an escalating situation.

Instruct your parents to stop engaging other parents and get their children off the field.

b. STOP TALKING

If you stop talking you cannot:

- 1. Threaten harm with words and escalate the situation**
- 2. Insult with words and escalate the situation**
- 3. Incite with foul language and escalate the situation**

If you stop talking others may take your lead and stop talking too.

c. WALK AWAY

Once the children are safely away, simply walk away. When you start walking away the situation starts to decelerate.

PLEASE NOTE: Any coach or parent or player who accelerates any type of hostility towards other parents or players will be subject to immediate suspension and the possibility of their child being removed from the team for indefinite periods

Questions? Email conduct@bloomfieldsoccer.us