



Avon United Coaches and Team Managers Code of Conduct

Avon United places great value on its coaches and managers and their conduct at all levels, from recreational to premier grades. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A game of football should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and sporting event for players, coaches, referees and spectators.

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

The Game

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is abusive, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behaviour in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good play by either team. Discourage them, and you may need to be forceful and direct, from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of your team's spectators.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a minor issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the club. Your complaints will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

We stress two points:

- Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to 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. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralise the referees by criticising their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behaviour.
- 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 notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticise the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice. Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game!

In General

- Refrain from using any obscene language.
- Ensure that any physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.

- Seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education and other personal and professional development opportunities. The club will support you to further your coaching skills.
- Refrain from criticism of other coaches.
- Maintain a good knowledge of current game and competition rules and assist the players to know and understand the rules
- Provide all players with the equal attention and opportunities they deserve.
- Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle – refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol and engaging in poor lifestyle choices around players.
- Be responsible for the overall welfare and well being of team members and others when travelling with a team. For games outside the regular season where the club is being represented you must inform the club and have clearance by the committee for the trip.
- Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience and ability of the players
- If you use the club's logos on team-wear, newsletters, a website or for other purposes which 'represent' the club we expect that use to be passed by the committee first.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players and encourage them to seek medical advice when you believe it is required.
- Protect players from any form of personal abuse

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

With thanks to NZ Football and Mass Youth Soccer