

# **Point Pleasant Soccer Club Coach's Code of Conduct**

The Point Pleasant Soccer Club (PPSC) Coach's Code of Conduct enumerates basic requirements, organized under four principals. They are: setting a good example; keeping players safe; ensuring that all participants in PPSC have a positive experience; and relating to game officials in an exemplary manner and encouraging players to do the same. The coach must behave in such a manner that the principals, integrity, and dignity of the club are not compromised.

## **Setting a good example**

The coach's example is powerful. If a coach insists on fair play, concentrates on player's enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and support the referee, players and parents will notice. If a coach discourages (or allows) players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, and/or criticize the referee or opposing coach, players and parents will also notice. Above all, children deserve a coach they can respect.

- Coaches, in contact with any players, parents, officials, and coaches (including PPSC), should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit on and off the field.
- Before games, opposing coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Coaches should ensure that their players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment, and improvement in skill (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at, ridiculed for making mistakes, or losing a game. Coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches should avoid any conduct that could be construed as physically or verbally abusive.
- Coaches should completely refrain from loud or negative comments (written or verbal) towards players, referees, other coaches, or spectators.
- Failure to show respect for people can result in my expulsion from the field, team, and/or club.

## **Keeping Players Safe**

Coaches should have the safety of the players in their charge as their first priority at all times. Coaches should be familiar with the facility(ies) and fields on which their teams practice and play, and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players. Coaches should also be familiar with the Laws of the Game, current with principles of age-appropriate coaching, aware of applicable existing rules and regulations, and informed of the affairs of PPSC and their league.

- Coaches should check players' equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.
- Coaches should follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again. During a game, and in an absence of medical advice, coaches should err on the side of caution in permitting an injured player to return to play.

# Point Pleasant Soccer Club

## Coach's Code of Conduct

### Creating a Positive Experience

PPSC wishes to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying – spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

- Coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players. If a player is carded or is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the coach should remove the player from the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down. Coaches should explain acceptable behavior to players and parents throughout the season. Encourage parents to make positive comments about good play by either team. Prohibit them from yelling at players and the referee.

### Relating to Officials

Coaches should demonstrate respect for the official and his/her role. Coaches can help referees improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post-game comments.

- Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the referee. During the game, they should never address the referee except to request a substitution. After the game, they should thank the referee and ask players to do the same.
- A small disagreement should be discussed with the referee calmly after the game. For major complaints, or if the referee appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to the Director of Referees. Fill out and mail in the referee evaluation card after every game.

### Code Compliance

The PPSC Executive Board will hold Coach's accountable for their actions and behavior. Violation of this Code of Conduct will be expediently addressed by the PPSC Executive Board thru a hearing process.

### Acknowledgement

I recognize that within the parameters of competition, sportsmanship and fair play are paramount. I pledge that I will commit to promoting an atmosphere of healthy competition to ensure fun for all participants.

Coach's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

PPSC Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_