



CHAPTER THREE: SPORTSMANSHIP AND MISCONDUCT

SECTION 17 SCOPE

All Member Organizations are directed to distribute this rule to every youth player, every coach, team manager, administrator, and referee. It is intended that the player and/or coach will make known the contents of this rule to his/her parents and spectators.

All members and participants in soccer within the jurisdiction of the ISA have requested to participate in our programs. Therefore, these participants have agreed to abide by the Bylaws and Rules of ISA, their local playing organization as well as those of the Federation and its youth and amateur councils. The ISA Constitution and Bylaws provide that it has jurisdiction over all Member Organizations, players, coaches, team managers, administrators, and team representatives who choose to affiliate. Any member or participant within the jurisdiction of ISA found in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules, as well as those of the Federation and its youth and amateur councils may be subject to publication in the quarterly magazine of ISA of their name, the type of violation, and the disciplinary action.

All Member Organizations are directed to monitor, investigate and act as may be appropriate to insure any and all problems regarding unsportsmanlike conduct and ethical breeches are not permitted. Any and all such activity may in some cases preclude action by a league or ISA but will not in all cases eliminate such action by a league or ISA.

SECTION 18 COACH'S CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer. (The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to Director of Coaching, Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.)

Responsibilities to Players

1. Coaches must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior for players regardless of the situation.
5. Coaches should be a positive role model and set the standard for sportsmanship.
6. Demands on a players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics. Coaches should keep sport in proper perspective with player's academic education.
7. Coaches must never encourage players to violate ISA recruitment, eligibility, or guest player rules and policies.

8. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and at no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport in order to be able to educate the players in technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.

10. It is recommended that coaches become certified in basic first aid and be prepared to handle medical emergencies at all practices and games.

11. Coaches must complete and submit an ISA Disclosure Statement to their ISA affiliated association.

Responsibility to ISA and Member Organizations

1. Adherence to all ISA and ISA approved Member Association rules and policies are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.

2. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the appropriate ISA Official, Member Association or League Director.

Responsibility for “The Laws of the Game”

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.

2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game.

3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.

4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance, which is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, coach is derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Organizations, ISA and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

Responsibility to Officials

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game.

2. Officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game. Officials should be addressed as “Referee” and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player.

3. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

Responsibility Regarding Recruiting

1. It is unethical to recruit player(s) while they are registered on another team.

2. Coach and team representatives shall strictly adhere to ISA and league rules pertaining to recruitment.

3. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent, or team representative.

4. Coaches have an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations when discussing the advantages of their organization.

5. It is unethical for a coach or team representative to provide compensation or inducement to a player. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete, which cannot be fulfilled.

6. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than hearsay and innuendo. Documentation of recruiting violations must be submitted in writing to the league and ISA.

Responsibility for Public Relations

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, or the media should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly while representing their team, league, and ISA in public.
3. Comments blaming officials, organizers, players, etc. for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.

Game Day and Other Responsibilities

1. Coaches' behavior must bring credit to their organization, and the sport of soccer.
2. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players, officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches. Verbal abuse or physical assault is unethical and shall be punishable by fines and/or suspension from the program.
3. Coaches should use their influence to control the behavior of his players, parents and spectators.

All Member Associations are directed to form their own Conduct & Ethics Committee and to hold hearings – WITH THE PARTIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT – on alleged violations of the ISA Code of Conduct when properly submitted in writing.

SECTION 19 UNSPORTINGLIKE BEHAVIOR

- A. Any unsportinglike conduct by a referee, player, administrator, parent, spectator, or other member of ISA is strictly forbidden at any game or other ISA sanctioned or sponsored function.
- B. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of team supporters and are expected to assist the referee in his/her efforts to control the game. The referee has the right to eject any coach or player or to terminate the game for reasons of unsportinglike conduct.
- C. Any serious act of unsportinglike conduct by any person on or near the field of play shall be reported by the referee to the ISA which will take appropriate corrective action.
- D. Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players and spectators and should act promptly to insure that a standard of conduct and ethical framework are clearly espoused.

SECTION 20 MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND OTHER TEAM OFFICIALS

- A. Ejections - Action taken due to ejections of players and coaches before, during and after matches is governed by the matches sponsoring authority.
- B. Other Misconduct - Any misconduct justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the Member Organization with which the player, coach or team official is affiliated. The Member Organization shall promptly (within 10 days after the receipt of the report) rule on the report and notify the State Association of the action. The Association will determine the extent of action to take, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Organization.
- C. Verbal and Physical Abuse - Verbal and physical abuse by a coach or player upon a referee is governed by Federation Bylaws. In matters of verbal and physical abuse by a coach, player or other team official upon all others the Member Organization is expected to act promptly (within 5 days of the incident) and in a manner appropriate for the violation. A full report of the incident and the Member Organization's subsequent action is to be delivered to the State Association immediately after action is determined. The Association will determine the extent of action to take, if any, in addition to that taken by the Member Organization.

SECTION 21 MISCONDUCT OF SPECTATORS

Spectator misconduct must be acted upon by the club with whom the spectator is associated.

SECTION 22 ADVERTISING

The ISA supports the Member Organizations advertising for seasonal sign up and tryouts. But the Association requires that since message is different for general sign up and tryouts, and since tryouts are not permitted in the U10 age divisions and below, the advertising must be distinctly different and identifiable.

A. Seasonal Sign Up Advertising - Advertising for seasonal sign up should contain only the following information:

1. Member Organization name
2. Age groups offered
3. Geographical area limitations if decided
4. Dates and times of sign up
5. Location of on-site sign up
6. Name, address and/or telephone number of contact person

B. Tryout Advertising - Advertising for tryouts should contain the following information:

1. Member Organization name
2. Age groups
3. Team names if appropriate
4. Geographical if appropriate
5. Dates and times of tryouts
6. Location of tryouts
7. Coaches name and telephone number
8. What to bring to the tryout such as shin guards, ball, etc.

Note: Advertising is defined as but not limited to any notification on television, radio, periodicals, newspapers ads, newspaper articles, notices posted in public places, flyers, circulars, internet or direct mailings. The distribution of any team fact sheet, club information, brochures, or the like shall not constitute advertising.

SECTION 23 SANCTIONING OF COMPETITIVE LEAGUES

All competitive leagues within the ISA must be approved by the State Association prior to the commencement of competitions. The Association will review all requests from Member Organizations and submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the ISA Board of Directors for its disposition. In order to be an approved competitive league with ISA, the following conditions must be met:

- A. A sufficient number of select teams exist within the geographical area to be served to warrant a competitive league.
- B. The sponsoring Member Organization exhibits adequate financial and administrative strength to conduct competitions.
- C. The sponsoring Member Organization has access to adequate fields and qualified referees to begin competitive play without compromising recreational play.
- D. The sponsoring Member Organization submits league bylaws and rules acceptable for the administration of the league.

E. The sponsoring Member Organization is in good standing with the ISA.

SECTION 24 SANCTIONING TOURNAMENTS

The Association has the sole right to sanction Member Organization tournaments, and will only sanction those tournaments with Member Organizations as Hosting Organizations. The Member Organization must request to have a sponsored tournament sanctioned by submitting:

- A. a completed Request to Host a Tournament or Game application
- B. a Host Agreement
- C. a copy of the tournament rules and regulations
- D. the appropriate fee

The State Association will sanction tournaments with U08 and U10 divisions ONLY if those matches are played for recreational purposes. The U08 division must be played 4v4; the U10 division must be played 6v6; and the U12 division must be played 8v8. U06 age divisions playing 3v3 will be sanctioned if this age division is played in a jamboree format (participation awards and no formal score keeping).

SECTION 25 COACHING ETHICS/CONDUCT

All Member Organizations are required, at the very least, to adopt the ISA Codes of Conduct for coaches and parents. Organization Members may adopt their own codes if they wish to enhance the ISA codes or make the items more restrictive. In that case the codes must be submitted to the ISA for review.

SECTION 26 DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

All Member Organizations must have a written Discipline and Appeals Procedures section in their constitution, bylaws, rules or other appropriate document.

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