



Mercer Island FC Coaches Code of Conduct

In keeping with Mercer Island FC's mission statement, this Coaches Code of Conduct is designed to clarify and define the expectations of our coaches. We are committed to promoting the development of self-esteem, fitness, and technical and tactical soccer skills in an age appropriate, positive, healthy, safe, educational, and enjoyable environment. The goal to win is secondary to that of teaching kids "life lessons" and positive character traits that will help them be successful throughout their lives. Each MIFC-sponsored team depends on the support and cooperation of its coaches to help fulfill this mission. To that end, we ask each coach to read, sign, and return to the registrar this Coaches Code of Conduct.

Responsibility to Players

1. The coach shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play by the Laws of the Game and in the spirit of the game at all times. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching or condoning unsportsmanlike behavior and should not tolerate any inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
3. Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals or progress.
4. Coaches should direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.

Responsibility to MIFC

1. Coaches must adhere to and enforce all MIFC rules, policies, and guidelines, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, and recruiting. It is the responsibility of each coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Any coach who knowingly uses a player not registered with his/her team shall be suspended for the balance of the season and for one year thereafter.
3. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with MIFC's Mission Statement and administer all practices, programs, and games in compliance with same.
4. Coaches must abide by field assignments and pledge to work together on field issues. Fields do NOT belong to the coach but are rented to MIFC. Abuse or lack of field sharing/cooperation may result in loss of field privileges.

Responsibility to the Laws of the Game

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Laws of the Game.
2. Coaches are responsible to ensure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the Laws.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to act with intent to cause injury to opposing players.

Responsibility to Officials

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or spectators. Professional respect before, during, and after each game should be mutual.
2. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.
3. Your behavior as coach must be such as to bring credit to yourself, our organization, and the sport of soccer. You must use your influence on your spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, player(s), or opposing team members.

I, _____, have read, understand, and agree to abide by the above guidelines.
I agree to accept actions taken for failure to abide by these guidelines. Please sign and return to the Registrar.

Coach's signature: _____

Date: _____