

SOUTH FAYETTE SOCCER ASSOCIATION COACH GUIDELINES

These guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather to provide guidance to both experienced and new coaches. Many of the points will seem obvious to veterans, but SFSA'S experiences suggest that they need to be included.

POINTS APPLICABLE TO BOTH IN HOUSE & TRAVEL:

- 1) All parents should be contacted in writing (e-mail is sufficient) at least two weeks prior to the first scheduled practice. The following should be included: coach contact information; practice schedule; game schedule; specific team rules; and a copy of or reference to the South Fayette Soccer Association Model Code of Behavior (see website, www.southfayettesoccer.org, home page).
- 2) The In House or Travel Coordinator must be contacted before practice or game days / times are changed.
- 3) The Head Coach or an Assistant Coach must remain at the field until all players are picked up by their parents or other designated adults. Do not wait alone at the field with a player that is not your child. Ask another adult to stay with you.
- 4) It is the coach's responsibility to pick up uniforms and equipment.
- 5) The Head Coach must provide his / her Criminal Background and Child Abuse forms or appropriate Waiver and is responsible for obtaining those of all his / her Assistant Coaches.
- 6) All equipment should be returned at the end of each spring season or at the end of the coach's last season.
- 7) Inappropriate language and berating of players are prohibited.
- 8) Use of tobacco products is prohibited.
- 9) Changing players from one team to another is prohibited without permission from the In House or Travel Coordinator. Such changes will be allowed only upon a showing of exigent circumstances.
- 10) All Head and Assistant Coaches will be required to obtain at least a "Y" License and are encouraged to obtain higher coaching licenses. SFSA provides the "Y" course free of charge and may be able to provide assistance for other licenses.
- 11) Coaches are responsible for spectators' behavior.
- 12) Abuse of officials is prohibited.
- 13) Abuse of players is prohibited.
- 14) Above all else, SFSA soccer should be fun for all.

POINTS SPECIFIC TO IN HOUSE:

- 1) Each Head Coach is responsible for getting four (4) volunteers for the concession stand each spring and fall season.
- 2) Cricket Coaches are encouraged to have the players engage in 4 v 4 games for at least half of each session.

- 3) All In House players must play at least half of every game he / she attends.
- 4) Each Head Coach should provide the In House Coordinator with the names and contact information for each of his / her Assistant Coaches.

POINTS SPECIFIC TO TRAVEL:

- 1) Be familiar with the Red Card Rules and procedures for re-obtaining red-carded players' cards. The rules can be found in the "Green Book" or on the PA West website (www.pawest-soccer.org). The division Director is the only person who can release player cards.
- 2) Return First Aid Kits at the end of the spring season.
- 3) Obtain team rosters and player cards from the Registrar at the beginning of each season and return them at the end of each season.
- 4) The first Travel Coach at any home field is responsible for getting out the corner flags / cones and game balls and the last Travel Coach at that field is responsible for returning them to the proper gang box or shed.

NINE LEGAL DUTIES OF COACHES:*

- 1) Properly Plan The Activity
- 2) Provide Proper Supervision
- 3) Warn Players of Inherent Risks
- 4) Provide A Safe Place To Play And Practice
- 5) Provide Adequate And Proper Equipment
- 6) Match Your Players Appropriately
- 7) Evaluate Players for Injury Or Incapacity
- 8) Supervise All Activity Closely
- 9) Provide Appropriate Emergency Assistance

* From PA West Presentation of the same title.