



BAY - LAKES SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR YOUTH - KIDS HAVING FUN

BAY-LAKES SAY

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COACHES CODE OF ETHICS AND BEHAVIOR

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The following code of ethics applies to coaches in Area Leagues and serves as a guide for the District Leagues. It is offered here to exemplify the ideal SAY coach. A good youth soccer coach should:

1. Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players. Read the rulebook and attempt to attend a clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.
2. Abide by the laws of the game and the SAY rules.
3. Treat the referee with respect, no matter what the call.
4. Exhibit exemplary conduct at both practices and games. Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 100%.
5. Coach clean, skillful, honest, and sportsmanlike soccer by stressing playing hard to win over winning it-self.
6. Stress good sportsmanship. The coach is responsible for conduct of the players when they are together as a team.
7. Help maintain a climate of enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees, and other spectators.
8. Work at team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics, be a "Fun Leader."
9. In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticisms. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.
10. Refrain from profanity or vulgar language. Remember that you are helping to mold the character of your players.
11. Coach talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. Allow players more than their required minimum playing time.
12. Minimize coaching from the sidelines during games. Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing.
13. Pre-plan all practice sessions in detail to be interesting, fast-paced and involve all team members as much as possible (minimize standing around).
14. Welcome feedback from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.
15. Refrain from tobacco and alcohol use at all practices and games; require player's parent's to refrain as well.

The following table reflects penalties for ethics violations:

| VIOLATION | PENALTY |
|--|---|
| 1. Entering the field of play without the referee's permission. | Caution |
| 2. Threatening actions or words towards officials, players, coaches, or spectators. | Ejection Terminate game if no other person present is qualified to coach the team. The coach shall receive a minimum 1 game suspension. |
| 3. Offensive Language. Incidental language not directed to anyone. | Caution |
| 4. Aggressive physical contact with the referee or player: i.e., grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping. | Ejection, Terminate game if no other person present is qualified to coach the team. The coach shall receive a minimum 1 game suspension. |
| 5. *Striking an official OR player. | Terminate game, suspend the person from further participation in SAY activities, and report to legal authorities (police) |
| 6. Harassment that is constant or excessive toward a referee or player. | Caution |
| 7. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsporting manner. | Caution |
| 8. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsporting manner with the intent to cause harm. | Ejection, terminate game if no other person present is qualified to coach the team. The coach shall receive a minimum 1 game suspension. |
| 9. Coaches not remaining within their technical areas. <i>(Between midfield and Penalty Area on the side of the field your bench is on)</i> | Warning/caution |
| 10. Playing an illegal player (1) as the result of admin error OR *(2) knowingly playing an ineligible player | (1) Game forfeiture as determined by Area Review Board (2) Suspension from participation in SAY activities. Game forfeiture as determined by Area Review Board |
| 11. *Drugs & Alcohol – Either under the influence of or observed using during a game. | Terminate game if there is any suspicion of the activity, Suspend the person from further participation in SAY activities. |

* Failure to adhere to these items shall be treated as serious violations of the Bay – Lakes Code of Ethics for coaches. Coaches charged with *serious violations shall not participate in any SAY activities until the complaint has been resolved

NOTE: (1) All coaches/assistants participating in their first year will be considered on probation. While on probation a violation will be considered as a “second offense” by the Area Review Board.

(2) All game terminations shall be reported to the Area Commissioner.

TERMS: **WARNING** – is considered a verbal statement from the referee.

CAUTION – Yellow card.

EJECTION – Red card to the coach will result in game termination if there is no other qualified adult present and the coach will be suspended from coaching the team’s next game (if no assistant coach is listed on the roster or present at the next game other arrangements must be made for a coaching at that game.

SUSPENSION – Temporary removal from participation in SAY activities until review by the Area Protest Committee. (Suspensions may carry over one season to the next.)

EXPULSION – Permanent removal from Soccer Association for Youth participation.

A coach who is found to repeatedly commit minor infractions of the code will be put on **PROBATION** and may be placed on **SUSPENSION** for any further infractions. In general, the penalty for a coach on probation will be twice that applied under non-probation status (i.e. a caution will carry a 1 game suspension, an ejection will carry a two game suspension) as described above.

A coach who commits a major infraction (as described in bold in the table of violations) or continues to violate the code after being put on probation will be put under **SUSPENSION** and may not attend or participate in any way, in any SAY activity during the suspension period. The coach may not even be in the vicinity of the field when their team is playing or practicing.

If a coach commits serious infractions of the code and/or is found to be a liability to the program after a hearing as described in the due process procedure the Bay-Lakes Ethics committee may put that coach under **EXPULSION** and the individual is then totally out of the Soccer Association for Youth program. Reinstatement may be made only after a favorable review by the Area Ethics Review Board. An expelled coach may not act in any coaching, managerial, or supervisory capacity of the team or participate in any SAY activities.

Violation of the **EXPULSION** policy may result in the district being put on probation.

At all times **DUE PROCESS** will be accorded to all those that fall under the Code of Ethics and Behavior.