

MapleBrook Soccer Association Coaching Staff Code of Conduct

The term Coach shall include, but is not limited to: Board Member, Coaching Director, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Trainer and/or any Team Representative.

The term Club shall refer to the MapleBrook Soccer Association (MBSA).

Overall Responsibility

The overriding responsibility of a MBSA coach is to teach players the game of soccer in a safe, enjoyable environment.

- Coaches shall, at all times, act in the best interest of the players, parents and the club.
- Coaches shall adhere to the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) Coaches Code of Ethics as set forth below:
 1. Soccer is a player's game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.
 2. Coaches bear responsibility for teaching players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the laws of the game and the highest levels of sportsmanship.
 3. Coaches shall treat officials with respect and dignity, and shall teach their players to do the same.
 4. Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to do likewise.
 5. In both victory and defeat, the behavior of the coach shall model grace, dignity and composure.
 6. Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the institutions they represent: clubs, schools, sponsoring organizations and sports governing bodies.
 7. Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of the game.
 8. Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in the education about, and prevention and treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse; both in their lives and in the lives of their players.
 9. Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of the game.
 10. Coaches shall respect the declared affiliation of all players.
 11. Coaches shall seek to honor those who uphold the highest standards and principles of soccer and shall use appropriate protocol to oppose and eliminate all behavior that brings disrepute to the sport – violence, abuse, dishonesty and violations of the laws of the game and rules governing competition.
- Coaches shall be responsible for understanding and competing within the letter and spirit of the laws of the game of soccer.

Responsibility to the Club

- Coaches shall at all times represent MBSA in a positive and respectful manner.
- Coaches shall instill in their players and spectators that they represent MBSA in a positive and respectful manner.

Responsibility to Players

- Coaches must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
- Coaches shall instruct players to play within the laws and spirit of the game at all times.
- Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
- Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
- Coaches shall be a positive role model and set the standard for sportsmanship.
- Demands on player's 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.
- 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.
- Coaches should continue their own education in the sport in order to improve the education of players in technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
- It is recommended that coaches become certified in basic first aid and be prepared to handle medical emergencies at all practices and games
- Coaches shall adhere to MBSA playing time guidelines as set forth below:

MapleBrook Soccer Association (MBSA) strongly advocates player development through active participation in soccer. We believe the primary purpose of youth soccer is to teach fundamental soccer skills in a non-threatening environment. Our children should have the opportunity to learn new skills, improve previously learned skills and have fun doing it. We believe that player development, continued enjoyment and participation in soccer can be best achieved at all levels of competition by establishing age-specific guidelines for playing times. The following guidelines have been approved by the MapleBrook Soccer Association Board or Directors, and provide our players, parents and coaches with a set of expectations with regard to playing time.

U9 through U12

Equal playing time is expected for all players during all games and practices, as these age brackets are considered "developmental". Since winning is secondary to player development, coaches should ensure playing time during each game is as relatively equal as possible. Additionally, MapleBrook Soccer Association does not advocate specialization of position at these age groups. We leave it to the discretion of the coach to reduce playing time for disciplinary reasons; however, should playing time be reduced, it is the coach's responsibility to communicate these issues to the player and parents in a timely fashion.

U13 and Older

MBSA Guidelines specify that each C1/C2/C3 player receive a minimum of 33% playing time during games (league, tournament, district and state). Player's earn their playing time through full and positive participation in all practices, scrimmages, training sessions, etc. Coaches are encouraged to achieve the minimum during each game; however, competition may demand slight deviations from these recommendations so that the minimum might be achieved over a period of several games. We leave it to the discretion of the coach to reduce playing time for disciplinary reasons; however, should playing time be reduced, it is the coach's responsibility to communicate these issues to the player and parents in a timely fashion.

Responsibility in Game Knowledge and Education

- Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer.
- Coaches are responsible to ensure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws of the game.
- 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.
- Coaches shall not permit, encourage or condone performance, which is not within the letter or spirit of the laws of the game.
- Coaches are encouraged to continue their coaching education through MBSA and NSCAA sponsored courses, training, etc.

Responsibility Regarding Recruiting and Team Formation

- Coaches shall not recruit player(s) while they are registered on another team.
- Coaches shall be aware of and adhere to all MYSA rules on recruitment.
- Coaches must never encourage players to violate MYSA recruitment, eligibility or guest player rules and policies.
- Coaches shall act in the best interest of all players and families during team formation (not just their team's players and families).
- Coaches shall support MBSA's open tryout process and provide fair evaluation of all players including players new to MBSA.
- Coaches shall not attempt to manipulate any rules, policies and/or processes in the formation of teams that could be deemed counter to the open tryout process.

Responsibility to Referees

- Coaches shall treat referees with respect.
- Coaches shall instill respect for referees in their players and spectators.
- Coaches are responsible for their players' and spectators' actions at the field before, during and after a game.

- Coaches shall understand and respect that referees have the final say in administering the laws of the game.
- Comments or criticisms about a referee shall be made in writing to the appropriate assigning organization.