

Coaches,

First and foremost, thank you for volunteering to coach this season! I hope someday you realize the impact your volunteerism makes today!

1. **Practice Guidelines:** Want to remind everyone that the expectation is that you'll hold at least one practice per week (except U6s who don't practice during the week). Please ensure you're using the provided training activities contained in this [Coaching Helpers](#) document. **You can use the age group specific training guides to host an organized and productive practice for your players. Everything you need is contained in the training guides.**
2. **Encouragement and Positivity at all times:** Please remember that this is Recreational Soccer, which means that most kids are doing it for fun. Your language and tone during practice and games goes a long way towards providing the players with an enjoyable experience...so keep it low key and in perspective PLEASE!
3. **In-Game Behavior:** Under no circumstances is a coach to engage in debates and/or combative exchanges with opposing players, coaches, or spectators. In the event a combative event presents itself, you are to immediately call a CCSA Board Member to your game field for intervention. As coaches **"we expect you to take the high road and set an example"** for your players!
4. **Playing Time Guarantee:** Per U.S. Youth Soccer Rec Soccer Guidelines, every player (regardless of skill or practice attendance) is to receive at least 50% playing time each game.
5. **Play Them At All Positions:** Except for Goalkeeper, the expectation is that every player will be exposed to all field positions throughout the season. This will help them become a more rounded player, which will benefit them as they progress in age groups.
6. **Deemphasize Scoring and Emphasize Development and Teamwork:** As a rec club, we do not keep track of score, standings, or player stats. Do your very best to deemphasize them during regular season play
7. **Be The Guide On The Side vs. The Sage On The Stage:** This is a core subject of U.S. Youth Soccer's Guided Discovery Coaching Methodology. What does this mean in practical terms...
 - a. **Don't spend the entire game yelling directions at your players...**let them play and the game will teach
 - b. **Ask them at halftime** what they see and what they think you could do differently...don't tell them what to do. Let them tell you and they'll own the solution
 - c. **Give encouragement and praise during the game...**don't chastise them for mistakes or choices that differ from yours
8. **5 Goal Differential Rule:** The expectation is that if you have a 5-goal advantage, you will find ways for your team to slow down their scoring. Ideas to do so could be:
 - a. 5-7 passes before you can shoot
 - b. Can only score with your weak foot
 - c. Can only score on a Header...U15 and U19s only
 - d. Place your most skilled scorers on defense
 - e. **WHATEVER YOU DO, please know that we do not subscribe to the "It's the opponents job to stop your team from scoring".**
9. **Referee Abuse Policy:** Remember there's no tolerance for verbal or physical abuse of a referee. If you have an issue with a referee, contact me with your feedback vs. confronting the referee...PLEASE!
 - a. **NOTE:** This policy also applies to your players and spectators!