



The Game
We Play

Douglas Axmen Soccer

Coaches Code of Conduct / Ethics Guidelines

The Douglas Axmen Soccer Club holds in high regard the Coaches Code of Conduct. Conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels, from in-town teams to travel teams is critical and has no gray area. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators. To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we expect all coaches to conform to this Code of Conduct and follow the ethics guidelines:

Game Behavior:

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit. Keep your comments positive, do not abuse your players verbally and never comment on the other team.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- Always remain within the designated technical area.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- If an assistant, manager, parent or spectator becomes abusive in any way, and you cannot quiet them, ask them to leave before the referee must. They are your responsibility from the time you come on to the field until you leave. Explain to parents that the referee is trained in the laws of the game and is almost always better positioned than a spectator to see what actually happened. Point out that much of refereeing is judgment and that the referee is neutral, parents are not. Let them know that all referees miss calls in every game; three people watching 22 in constant motion over 2 acres cannot see everything.
- Encourage spectators to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team.

Interaction with Referee's:

- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

We stress two points:

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.



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Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive & well and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be subject to discipline or removal.