

Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club • Coaches' Code of Conduct

The Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club welcomes you as a coach. Your participation is what enables our club to serve our youth. By agreeing to participate you also agree to abide by this code of conduct, and you acknowledge that your participation in the Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club youth soccer program is a privilege and not a right. The role of the coach and other team officials is to help participants have fun, to teach players the skills of soccer, to foster team camaraderie and to promote good sporting behavior and respect for other people. The coach and other team officials are also responsible for monitoring their own behavior and the behavior of their players and parents during practices and games. Be a positive role model whenever you are around any players. A coach's negative behavior on the sideline often spills onto the playing field. Unsporting conduct at any time will not be tolerated.

To meet these responsibilities, the coach and other team officials agree to:

--- Safety

- Adhere to the "Times Two" policy which states that at least two adults will be present at every team function: practices, games, picnics, etc, no exceptions. While the focus of this policy is the child, it also protects volunteers in the event of a misunderstanding. Details here: <http://www.saysoccer.org/risk.aspx>
- Check equipment and facilities that you use. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of your players. Bring all safety issues to the attention of the appropriate authority and ABSC Club Manager.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

--- Player Development

- Enthusiastically support and practice "everyone plays" and positive coaching philosophies. Every player must play at least 50% of each game, every player should be encouraged to participate to the best of their abilities.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the players' time, energy, enthusiasm, and their performance on the soccer field.
- Ensure that your players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it).
Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for any reason.
- Keep informed about "sound principles of coaching" and "growth and development" principles relating to children.
- Abide by the official USSF Laws of the Game of soccer (<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Laws-of-the-Game.aspx>) and the rules of any soccer associations, leagues and tournaments in which your team participates. Instruct players and parents in the rules and motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- Teach and practice good sporting behavior and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
- Teach each player to be humble and generous in victory, proud and courteous in defeat and to avoid conducting themselves in a manner which could be interpreted as insulting, degrading, or humiliating.

--- Sideline Behavior

- Abide by the ABSC Sideline Behavior Policy (in documents section on ABSC homepage www.abscsoccer.com).
- Ensure that spectators exhibit good sporting behavior and maturity at all times, and assist league and game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.

--- Respect

- Respect the game officials at all times. NEVER question their decisions or challenge their authority.
- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team before, during, and after the game.
- Take appropriate steps to minimize scoring in runaway games. Recreational teams must adhere to ACCYSL 4-Goal Rule (in documents section on ABSC homepage www.abscsoccer.com).
- Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.

If you feel a situation is getting out of control, find a field marshal or other official to observe or assess the game/situation. Do not "take it into your own hands." Defuse, rather than inflate, problems. It is vital that all coaches and other team officials understand that they are the focal point for their team, and their actions, positive and negative, greatly influence the behavior and enjoyment of the youth players and parents.