



## **Soccer4Life – Coaches Code of Conduct**

Soccer4Life is committed to fostering a positive, safe, and supportive environment for all participants, including players, coaches, parents, and officials. This Coaches Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for all volunteer and licensed coaches to ensure the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, leadership, and sportsmanship.

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### **1. Purpose and Responsibility**

Coaches serve as leaders, mentors, and role models within Soccer4Life. Coaches are expected to uphold the values of integrity, respect, discipline, accountability, and professionalism while prioritizing the holistic development and wellbeing of every player.

### **2. General Conduct**

#### **2.1 Respect and Integrity**

- Treat all players, parents, officials, fellow coaches, and staff with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- Demonstrate integrity in all interactions and decisions.
- Avoid favoritism, discrimination, or behavior that undermines trust or team unity.

#### **2.2 Professional Behavior and Appearance**

- Maintain a professional demeanor at all times during practices, games, meetings, and Soccer4Life-related activities.
- Coaches are required to wear official Soccer4Life (S4L) gear while coaching or conducting practices and games to ensure visibility, professionalism, and program identity.
- Adhere to all Soccer4Life policies, procedures, and codes, as well as those of affiliated leagues and governing bodies.
- Use appropriate language and behavior at all times; profanity, abusive conduct, or public confrontations are strictly prohibited.

#### **2.3 Role Model Expectations**

- Serve as a positive role model by demonstrating sportsmanship, leadership, discipline, and commitment.
- Uphold Soccer4Life values both on and off the field.
- Encourage players' growth athletically, emotionally, and personally.

### **3. Coaching Philosophy**

#### **3.1 Player Development First**

- Prioritize long-term player development over short-term results or winning.
- Focus on technical skill development, tactical understanding, teamwork, and love for the game.

#### **3.2 Inclusive Participation**

- Provide all players with fair and meaningful opportunities to learn, develop, and contribute.
- Foster an inclusive environment where every player feels respected, supported, and valued.

#### **3.3 Positive Reinforcement**

- Use constructive instruction and positive reinforcement to build confidence and character.
- Avoid negative criticism, excessive yelling, humiliation, or punitive coaching methods.
- Correct mistakes in a teaching-focused and respectful manner.

### **4. Safety, Health, and Welfare**

#### **4.1 Player Safety**

- Ensure a safe training and game environment at all times.
- Conduct equipment and field safety checks before sessions.
- Immediately address unsafe conditions or behaviors.

#### **4.2 Health and Wellbeing**

- Promote both physical and mental wellbeing of players.
- Be attentive to signs of injury, fatigue, emotional distress, or burnout.
- Encourage healthy habits including hydration, nutrition, rest, and recovery.

#### **4.3 Emergency Preparedness and Reporting**

- Be familiar with emergency procedures, first aid protocols, and emergency contact information.
- Respond promptly and appropriately to injuries or emergencies.
- Report all misconduct, safety incidents, or violations occurring during practices or games to the designated Code of Conduct Officer or Soccer4Life Director in a timely manner.

### **5. Professional Development**

#### **5.1 Continuous Improvement**

- Commit to ongoing learning and professional growth as a coach.
- Stay current with coaching methods, rules, and best practices.
- Participate in training, workshops, and development opportunities provided or approved by Soccer4Life.

## **5.2 Licensing and Certification**

- Maintain all required coaching licenses, certifications, background checks, and safety training.
- Ensure all credentials remain current and in compliance with Soccer4Life and league requirements.

## **6. Communication and Collaboration**

### **6.1 Professional Communication Expectations**

- Maintain clear, respectful, and timely communication with players, parents, and club leadership.
- Coaches are required to respond to all communications from senior staff members, whether the matter is minor or significant.
- Set appropriate communication boundaries and follow Soccer4Life guidelines for team messaging platforms.
- Address concerns privately and professionally—never in front of players or in public forums.

### **6.2 Conflict Resolution**

- Address conflicts or concerns promptly, calmly, and constructively.
- Utilize Soccer4Life's established channels for resolving disputes.
- Avoid emotionally charged or confrontational interactions.

### **6.3 Team Collaboration**

- Work collaboratively with fellow coaches, technical staff, and administrators.
- Share knowledge, resources, and support to strengthen the overall program.
- Support organizational leadership decisions and program direction.

## **7. Compliance and Accountability**

### **7.1 Adherence to Rules**

- Comply with all Soccer4Life policies, codes of conduct, and ethical standards.
- Adhere to all applicable local, state, and federal laws, including those of Mobile, Alabama.

### **7.2 Reporting Obligations**

- Report any violations of this Code of Conduct, inappropriate behavior, or safety concerns.
- Cooperate fully with investigations, reviews, or disciplinary processes.

### **7.3 Disciplinary Action**

- Any violation of this Code of Conduct by a coach or staff member may result in suspension or removal from the coaching staff.
- Severe violations may result in immediate suspension, regardless of whether prior warnings have been issued.
- Soccer4Life reserves the right to determine disciplinary measures based on the severity and nature of the incident.

## **8. Acceptance of Code of Conduct**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Soccer4Life Coaches Code of Conduct. I commit to representing Soccer4Life with integrity, professionalism, and respect at all times.

## **9. Acknowledgment**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Soccer4Life Parent Code of Conduct. I recognize the importance of my role in supporting my child and contributing to a positive and respectful sporting environment.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For any questions or clarifications regarding this Parent Code of Conduct, please contact Soccer4Life at (251) 458-2664.