



Lindale Soccer Association

Coaches Code of Conduct

Purpose

Here are 10 simple rules for all LSA coaches to follow throughout the season. These standards are intended to provide clear expectations for conduct, sportsmanship, and the responsibilities that come with coaching our players.

These rules do not replace the requirements of LSA or any applicable governing body, including the NTSSA Code of Ethics (NTSSA Bylaw 8.1). Instead, they supplement those requirements by providing additional guidance specific to LSA coaches and shall be followed in conjunction with the *LSA Volunteer and Risk Management Policy* and all other applicable LSA policies.

LSA Code of Conduct

1. Player Safety and Welfare

The safety, welfare, and development of players must always take priority over winning or competitive success. Coaches shall provide a safe, positive, and age-appropriate environment during practices, games, and other team activities.

2. Compliance with the Laws and Rules of the Game

Coaches shall follow the Laws of the Game and all applicable rules, policies, and requirements established by LSA, North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA), and other applicable governing bodies.

3. Knowledge and Responsibilities of the Coach

Coaches are responsible for developing and maintaining an appropriate working knowledge of the game and the rules applicable to their division.

A coach who is unfamiliar with a rule, coaching responsibility, or aspect of the game is expected to seek additional information through available coaching resources, training, independent research, or guidance from the appropriate LSA Coaching Coordinator.

4. Sportsmanship and Player Conduct

Coaches shall promote good sportsmanship and shall never instruct, encourage, or condone deliberate unsporting behavior or attempts to gain an unfair advantage.

Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal abuse or taunting of an opponent.
- Excessive or disrespectful celebrations.
- Simulating or exaggerating contact in an attempt to deceive a referee.
- Feigning an injury.
- Encouraging retaliation, intimidation, or other deliberate unsporting behavior.



Coaches are responsible for setting the example of sportsmanship they expect their players to follow.

5. Respect for Referees

Coaches shall treat referees and other match officials with respect and shall not criticize, insult, intimidate, or argue with officials in the presence of players.

Coaches may appropriately and respectfully seek clarification when permitted by the Laws of the Game or applicable competition rules. Concerns regarding officiating should be addressed through the appropriate LSA process rather than through confrontation during or after a match.

Coaches are expected to reinforce with their players and spectators that referees are an essential part of the game and are to be treated with respect.

6. Professional Conduct

Coaches shall conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and appropriate manner whenever representing LSA or interacting with players, parents, spectators, referees, opposing teams, other coaches, or volunteers.

Behavior that a reasonable person would consider inappropriate, threatening, abusive, demeaning, or unbecoming of an adult responsible for youth players will not be tolerated.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Lewd or inappropriate gestures.
- Excessively critical or demeaning remarks.
- Ranting, yelling, or disruptive behavior.
- Snide, insulting, or humiliating comments.
- Threatening behavior or remarks.
- Physical confrontations.
- Uncontrolled temper outbursts.
- Language inappropriate for children or a youth sports environment.
- Favoritism toward particular players, including providing preferential treatment or playing time to a coach's own child.

7. Positive Representation of LSA and the Game

Coaches represent LSA and the game of soccer both on and off the field. Communications and interactions concerning LSA, governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, parents, referees, and volunteers should be respectful, constructive, and appropriate.

Disagreements and concerns should be handled through appropriate channels and should never involve inflammatory, prejudicial, abusive, or intentionally harmful comments or conduct.

8. Recreational Soccer Philosophy and Player Participation



LSA recreational soccer is focused on player development, participation, sportsmanship, enjoyment, and building a lifelong appreciation for the game. Winning shall not take priority over player development or the recreational experience.

Each recreational player shall play a minimum of 50% of each game for which the player is present and eligible to participate. Coaches are responsible for managing substitutions and playing time to meet this requirement.

Coaches shall not favor their own child or particular players when determining playing time and substitutions.

9. Player Recruitment and Team Formation

Coaches shall not recruit, solicit, or otherwise attempt to direct players to their specific recreational team.

Team formation and player placement shall be handled in accordance with LSA's established procedures. Coaches shall not promise or imply that a player will be placed on a particular team.

10. Communication with Players and Parents

Clear and timely communication with players and parents is an important responsibility of every coach.

Coaches are expected to communicate information relevant to their team and season, including, as applicable:

- Practice schedules and changes.
- Game schedules and changes.
- Uniform or jersey information.
- Picture schedules.
- Team activities.
- Weather or field-related updates.
- Important LSA announcements, deadlines, and instructions provided to the coach for distribution.

Coaches should maintain appropriate, respectful, and professional communication with players and parents throughout the season.