



FC CHARLESTON

Coaches Code of Conduct

COACHING STANDARDS & SPORTSMANSHIP

Lead by example. Put players first.

FC Charleston coaches shape the experience of players, families, and officials. Every coach is expected to create a positive environment that builds skill, confidence, character, and a lasting love of the game. These expectations apply to head coaches, assistant coaches, and other team coaching staff at club activities, travel, and in club-related communications.

FC Charleston follows the US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct Policy. Coaches must read and comply with the full policy alongside applicable club, SCYSA, league, and event requirements. This document adds practical FC Charleston coaching expectations.

[Read the US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct Policy \(June 23, 2026\)](#)

As an FC Charleston coach, I will:

- 1. Prioritize development and enjoyment.** Plan purposeful, age-appropriate sessions. Value progress, effort, teamwork, and learning above results. Give players room to make decisions and learn from mistakes.
- 2. Coach with respect.** Give clear, constructive feedback without humiliation, threats, or profanity. Address behavior calmly and consistently. Never use fear or embarrassment as a coaching tool.
- 3. Support every player.** Create a welcoming team culture. Treat players fairly and explain expectations in ways they understand. Recognize different learning needs and stages of development.
- 4. Be prepared and professional.** Arrive on time, organize equipment, and maintain required credentials, screening, and training. Carry or have access to the current coach pass required by the competition.
- 5. Follow the rules.** Know the IFAB Laws of the Game used by FIFA, authorized youth modifications, SCYSA requirements, and current league and tournament rules. Use only eligible, properly authorized players.
- 6. Respect officials and opponents.** Accept decisions without dissent, intimidation, sarcastic comments, or demonstrative gestures. Model courteous pregame and postgame interactions.
- 7. Communicate constructively.** Use Byga or the designated platform. Discuss individual concerns privately, respect the parent communication policy and 24-hour rule, and respond promptly to urgent safety issues.

Manage the bench and technical area

Stay within the designated coaching area and keep the assistant referee's path and sightlines clear. Organize substitutes, appropriate warm-up areas, and distinguishing tops. Follow the competition's substitution procedure and wait for the referee's permission when required. Avoid constant instructions that overwhelm players.

- Have a first-aid kit, emergency contacts, and relevant medical information. Know the emergency plan, field address, and how to summon help.



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PARENT & SPECTATOR MANAGEMENT

Take responsibility for the sidelines

Coaches are responsible for actively managing the behavior of their team's parents and spectators. Set expectations, respond to misconduct, and work with team managers and club leadership to maintain a safe, respectful environment. Do not leave spectator management solely to referees.

Set expectations before problems arise

- Review the FC Charleston Parent Code of Conduct before the season. Explain positive cheering, respect for officials, designated spectator areas, and the need to leave coaching to the coaches.
- Remind families that these expectations apply to their guests. Reinforce standards throughout the season and recognize positive sideline behavior.
- Explain how to request a private meeting and how concerns are escalated. Do not allow performance or playing-time disputes to become sideline confrontations.
- Ask the team manager to help communicate with spectators. The coach remains responsible for ensuring concerns are addressed.

Respond to disruptive or abusive behavior

- 1. Intervene promptly.** Address negative comments, sideline coaching, or confrontations calmly. Tell the parent or spectator what must stop and restate the expected behavior.
- 2. Protect players and officials.** If behavior continues, is abusive, or creates a safety concern, request assistance from officials, event personnel, or club leadership. Support any direction to remove the spectator. Do not physically confront them.
- 3. Follow match instructions.** Comply with referee and event directions about spectator conduct, interruptions, or removal. If a person refuses to leave, seek event or security assistance. Call emergency services if there is immediate danger.
- 4. Document and report.** Notify the Director of Coaching or designated club leader promptly. Record the behavior, time, witnesses, official directions, and actions taken. Report suspected abuse immediately through required channels.
- 5. Enforce club decisions.** Communicate and support attendance bans or other restrictions. Refer repeat or serious incidents to club leadership and/or the Board of Directors for review under the Parent Code of Conduct.

Support referees and de-escalate conflict

Do not join spectators in questioning calls, encourage criticism of officials, or excuse abuse because a decision appears incorrect. Give young referees the same respect as experienced officials. Avoid exchanges with opposing spectators; seek assistance through the proper match channels.

Submit referee feedback factually and in writing through a designated FC Charleston official to the competition administrator. Never pursue, corner, or confront an official after a match. Encourage respectful thanks and postgame greetings when appropriate.



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PLAYER SAFETY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Protect players. Uphold club standards.

Prepare for injuries and emergencies

- Check conditions and equipment; provide water and rest; follow weather and facility guidance. Wait for referee permission to enter the field, while summoning immediate help for emergencies.
- Remove a player immediately if a concussion is suspected. Do not allow same-day return or try to diagnose severity yourself. Notify the family, arrange medical assessment, and follow healthcare clearance and the required return-to-play process. Seek emergency care for danger signs.
- Respect medical restrictions and age-group heading rules. Never pressure an injured player to continue or use exercise in a way that endangers or humiliates a player.

Maintain safe professional boundaries

Keep adult-minor interactions observable and interruptible. Hold meetings with another adult present. Individual training requires advance written guardian consent, renewed at least every six months, with guardian observation allowed.

Use transparent electronic communication: copy a guardian or another participating adult on direct messages to minors and another adult on team messages. Avoid private social media contact and personal social media connections with minor players.

Follow all USYS requirements for travel, lodging, changing spaces, and physical contact. Coaches must not massage players. Protect private spaces and follow recording restrictions. Maintain appropriate supervision through pickup.

Prohibited conduct and reporting

Abuse, discrimination, bullying, harassment, hazing, sexual misconduct, and retaliation are prohibited. Do not possess or use alcohol or illegal drugs at sanctioned activities. FC Charleston also prohibits coaches' tobacco and vaping use during player activities.

Immediately report suspected policy violations through the required channels. Notify club leadership and make legally required reports to appropriate authorities; club notification does not replace those duties. Protect good-faith reporters and do not investigate abuse yourself.

Accountability

The Director of Coaching and/or Board will review concerns and hear the coach's account. Action may include guidance, warnings, training, restricted duties, suspension, or removal. Serious concerns may require immediate restriction pending review.

Cooperate with reviews and honor club decisions. Applicable SCYSA, league, USYS, U.S. Soccer, and SafeSport requirements and sanctions also apply.

Required policy: [US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct Policy - June 23, 2026](#)

Safety reference: [CDC HEADS UP: Responding to a Sports-related Concussion](#)