

Arundel Developmental Soccer League

Coaches Code of Conduct

As a coach of the recreational program at Arundel Developmental Soccer League, I hereby understand all of the following excerpts below and agree to follow the rules and behavior listed within:

Before reading the rest of this document, all volunteers understand that their participation as a volunteer for ANY team activities, practices, and games, will not take into effect until they have completed each of the following which have been provided to them by our staff:

1. **Completion and approval of** background check through Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks. This can take up to two weeks to be reflected in the county system after submission.
2. ADSL Coaches Code of Conduct form
3. Attended the preseason meeting (either in person or virtual) with all other coaches regarding league policies and standards

Volunteer Coaches, Team Managers, and Administrators

All the coaches, managers, and administrators who run the day-to-day operations of ADSL's Recreational Program are volunteers. Overall, the success of ADSL depends on its volunteers. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. The league will provide a Coaches Manual to help you during your journey.

The Coach's Role

Coaches should consider themselves as role models for all of ADSL's recreational players. It is imperative to cultivate the ability to change gears from your adult world to the youth player's world. Vary your voice. Learn soccer terminology. Be active and alive! Have energy and enthusiasm! Be positive and praise each player. Coaches should be dedicated to the development of all players. Set ideal standards for yourself and for the players. Use positive reinforcement as often as possible. Your players will respond and want to continue if the process is fun. Create and celebrate their enjoyment!

The Coach and Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship starts with the coach. Your attitude as a coach and role model sets the tone for the players and their families. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team's spectators during practices and games. Continually remind players to support one another and show good sportsmanship towards all players, including opponents.

The Coach and Player Safety

Player safety is of the highest importance. Coaches should have a first aid kit at practices and games just in case. Please contact the Recreational Commissioner for a list of medical supplies each coach should have. The league will also have a first aid kit available during game days.

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Rules and Discipline

The Spirit of the Game

Soccer is a tough, combative, contact sport where the contrast to gain possession of the ball should nonetheless be fair and sporting. Foul play and misconduct are strictly forbidden. These actions violate the Spirit of the Game and the referee must respond to them by stringently applying the Rules of Competition. The punishment for persistently breaking the rules is player or non-player dismissal from the game (either temporarily or permanently). Referees must be particularly vigilant regarding foul play and misconduct.

ADSL relies on many young referees for its recreational program. ADSL will not tolerate misconduct that is directed at our referees. Players, coaches, and spectators should refrain from any negative conduct in regard to the referee(s). Any concerns should be expressed in writing and given to the Recreation League Commissioner.

Discipline Procedures for Unsportsmanlike Play

All unsportsmanlike behavior that results in ejection from, or disruption of, will be reported in writing to the Rec Commissioner, who will then follow discipline procedures that are outlined below.

Discipline Procedures

When handling discipline issues, the Recreation League Commissioner will follow these procedures:

1. Acknowledge all written concerns of players, parents, and coaches.
2. Discuss the situation with appropriate board members.
3. Hold discussions with all concerned parties to reach a solution, or issue an appropriate consequence (verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or expulsion) to the violator(s).

Procedures for Filing Concerns

1. All concerns should be expressed in writing.
2. Written concerns should be submitted to the ADSL Recreation Commissioner at Rec@arundelsoccer.com
3. All written concerns will be acknowledged as quickly as possible.

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Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is the most important traditional goal of amateur sports. We monitor sideline behavior, and the Board and its officials may impose consequences as necessary.

Youth sports offer opportunities for personal growth in many ways. Unfortunately, both negative and positive outcomes are possible. The focus of “win at all costs” ultimately leads to losses, as seen when players are turned away from the game. Players receive the wrong message when they are encouraged to compromise the integrity of fair play, or when they are berated for an adult’s opinion of poor performance.

On every game weekend, ADSL staff members are present at the fields for games of all age groups. Game officials may impose consequences for disrespectful sideline behavior as necessary, and they will have the full support of the ADSL.

Criticism of the referees will not be tolerated during or after games. Consequences may include warnings and removal from the field of play. Remember that the referees are learning as well.

In the ADSL, we support everyone’s best effort and celebrate every team’s performance when such hard work reflects good sportsmanship. In a positive environment, children participating in organized sports can perform better in school, develop effective social skills, and enjoy healthier levels of fitness. Coaches and parents serve as important role models to young players.

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1. Player-Centered Coaching

I agree to:

- Prioritize the safety, well-being, and development of every player above winning.
 - Create a positive environment that fosters learning, confidence, and enjoyment.
 - Provide equal playing time to the best of my ability, consistent with league policies.
 - Encourage skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship over results.
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2. Safety & Responsibility

I agree to:

- Ensure players are supervised at all times during practices and games.
 - Maintain a safe playing environment (proper equipment, appropriate drills, hydration, etc.).
 - Follow all injury-management guidelines, including removing players who may be hurt.
 - Report any unsafe conditions, injuries, or incidents to league officials promptly.
 - Complete all required background checks, training, or certifications.
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3. Sportsmanship & Behavior

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I agree to:

- Model respectful behavior toward players, referees, spectators, and opponents.
 - Never use profanity, ridicule, intimidation, or abusive language.
 - Hold myself to the highest standard of integrity, regardless of game outcomes.
 - Discourage negative behavior from players and redirect it constructively.
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4. Interaction With Players

I agree to:

- Treat every player with respect regardless of ability, gender, race, or background.
 - Use age-appropriate, positive instructional methods.
 - Avoid physical contact with players except when necessary for safety or instruction.
 - Communicate in a way that builds confidence and self-esteem.
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5. Interaction With Parents & Spectators

I agree to:

- Promote open, respectful communication with parents.
- Provide clear expectations about practice schedules, game times, playing-time philosophy, and team rules.
- Never engage in confrontations with parents or spectators during games.

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- Direct concerns or disputes through proper league channels.
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6. Respect for Officials

I agree to:

- Accept referee decisions without argument, even when I disagree.
 - Teach players to respect referees and their role in the game.
 - Address concerns about officials only through appropriate league procedures after the game.
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7. Coaching Ethics

I agree to:

- Arrive prepared and on time for games and practices.
 - Use developmentally appropriate drills and game strategies.
 - Never encourage or permit dangerous, overly aggressive, or unsportsmanlike play.
 - Avoid running up the score; promote balanced competition.
 - Not use or promote alcohol, tobacco, or drugs at team events.
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8. Commitment to the League Philosophy

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I agree to:

- Support the league's recreational mission: fun, fairness, sportsmanship, and player development.
- Comply with all league rules, policies, and directives.
- Foster a culture of inclusivity and respect.

By checking the box below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by this Coach Code of Conduct. I understand that violations may result in warnings, suspension, or removal from coaching duties.