



## COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

**Introduction:** Arundel Soccer Association (ASA) sponsors youth soccer activity with the goal of providing our vision to develop soccer players and coaches of all levels with emphasis on strong work ethic, a commitment to sportsmanship, and a passion for the game. ASA's mission is to provide a conduit for youth soccer players of all ages and skill levels to compete and improve while having fun. ASA strives to grow its players, and to instill in them an unwavering love for the game of soccer. To better achieve that mission, ASA has provided the following Codes of Conduct for all ASA Coaches.

This Code of Conduct is a covenant by which ASA coaches agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, to adhere to all club policies and requirements as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship.

This Code of Conduct expresses ASA's values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed. The Code of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles:

1. **Demonstrating a positive attitude** - Coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for club and league officials, referees, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of ASA.

2. **Setting a good example** - Each person associated with ASA is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Coaches should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples. ASA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of club or league officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents.

3. **Maintaining good relationships with Club and League Officials, ASA players, parents and other ASA Coaches** - Coaches should inform the appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. Managers should make reports through appropriate channels, including e-mail evaluations where available. In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control him/herself in addition to players and parents/supporters. Opponents - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect.

*As a coach, I recognize that coaches are role models for their team members and all participants involved in the activity. As such, I agree to abide by the following:*

- I will lead by example in demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play to all my players before, during and after every game.



- I will never harass the club and/or league officials in any manner. I will treat officials with respect and ensure that my players, spectators and supporters do the same.
- I will provide an environment for my team that is free of tobacco, drugs and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of all children on my team and on my opponent's team ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual and keep in mind the wide range of emotional development within the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing environment for all players on the field. I will never knowingly permit an injured player to play or return to the game without proper medical approval.
- I will ensure that all equipment used by my players is safe and conforms to the rules of the game. I will not allow illegal or unsafe equipment to be used in the game. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for the children and not the adults.
- I will know the ASA Rules, Policies and Procedures.
- I will comply fully with the Anne Arundel County Background Check Policy and ensure that all assistant coaches complete a background check. An assistant coach is anyone given the authority to coach or instruct the team.

**Acknowledgement:** I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support this ASA Coach's Code of Conduct.

Coach's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

ASA Team: \_\_\_\_\_