



USA Coaches Canon

Revised June 2023



As coaches in the United Soccer Athletes (USA) Club we are all joined by common intentions, skills, and responsibilities. As part of the USA coaching and management staff we are each a critical part of the lives of young people through the game of soccer. With this in mind, we must embrace and uphold a number of tenets that are both generally understood and unique to our Club. They are as follows:

- Keep players safe at all times.
- Lead by example while actively guiding your players, parents, and team staff to embrace the tenets of positive behavior, high character, universal respect, sportsmanship, and Club loyalty.
- Embrace the game of soccer and your role as an influential mentor.
- Work together with other coaches and Club management to provide all players the best experience possible.
- Work to develop your coaching skills by all means available.
- Understand and uphold Club guidance and policies, including the Code of Conduct, Canon, player development guidelines, and parent/player-focused Codes of Conduct and Canons.
- Understand and uphold league guidance, policies, and rules.
- Dress in a professional manner at all club functions (particularly practices and games). Wear a club-logo'd top whenever possible (at a minimum – club-provided polo to be worn at games). Wear appropriate bottoms (at a minimum – clean with no holes) and footwear (at a minimum – solid toed/upper footwear).
- Support all Club activities personally or, at a minimum, promote functions to your players and families.
- Participate as a team in all Club-offered player training opportunities and/or provide the players with similar opportunities (and communicate those activities with the Club management).
- Work in collaboration with all other coaches to maximize opportunities/optimize player experience across your age group.
- Do not recruit candidate players from other clubs or teams (including USA teams) during active competition windows.
- Do not use Club assets, communications, contacts, or resources for purposes that do not benefit or are outside of the Club.
- Consider participation in tournaments, winter leagues, and camps.
- As a coach for a team (expectations are heightened for team head coaches):
 - Act on all Club communication in a timely and complete manner.
 - Prioritize your active participation in all Club functions including, tryout and team formation activities (pre-tryout meetings, both tryout events, team selection evening, team formation activities, registration).
 - Prioritize your active participation with the other coaching staff, teams within your age group and Club management to ensure the success of all functions that will unify and strengthen your age group and be in the best interest of the overall Club.
 - Support the time-tested integrity of the Club tryout and team formation process and the related decisions of Club leadership by ensuring that your player fully participates, that you do not interfere in any way, and you do not seek to manipulate the preparation, performance or outcome of those processes.
 - Attend (or be excused from) all mandatory Club meetings.
 - Attend at least 2/3 of the offered coaches trainings per competition year.
 - Obtain and maintain the required Risk Management, Concussion Awareness, SafeSport, and any other league or state soccer association-mandated credentials.
 - Obtain the required coaching licensing/certification as required for participation at the competition level of your team (to be reimbursed by the Club).
 - Serve as a coach for a team of players within an age group where the team dynamics may change for many reasons (e.g., roster size adjustment, player promotion, player additions, Club intervention, etc.). As such, view your role on the team as a mentor supporting the tenets of this canon rather than the “owner” of a team (suppress the drive to maintain a team indefinitely (work with Club management to understand why)).
- Understand that failure to support any of the above, the more overarching Code of Conduct, or policies may result in disciplinary action and potential removal from the Club.

I, the undersigned acting on behalf of myself and my family, have read, fully accept, and will abide by all the content and intentions of this document and those referenced and understand that not doing so may result in the inability to participate in and/or removal from the Club.

Printed Name

Signature

Date