

Wethersfield Soccer Club

Coach Expectations & Code of Conduct

All members of the Wethersfield Soccer Club coaching staff are to see themselves as role models and ambassadors for the Club. We ask that our coaches be aware of how they represent themselves, their team, and Wethersfield Soccer Club. It is imperative that our coaches are respectful to all around them including parents, opposing teams, and referees. We expect our coaches to always exhibit professional behavior, both on and off the field. Disciplinary action will be taken against any member of the coaching staff whose actions bring the Club into disrepute.

Wethersfield Soccer Club coaches should aspire to be experts in player development and seek feedback and education, both formal and informal, that will help them down that path. We provide a variety of educational opportunities and resources for our coaches, including the U.S. Soccer Grassroots Licensing pathway, to help our coaches be the best they can be. We ask that our coaches prepare for their practices by reviewing the session and curriculum materials provided.

Wethersfield Soccer Club coaches must embrace the Club philosophy, *Development First*, and take pride in that development of each individual player assigned to them, rather than fostering the ideology of winning is everything. Coaches are evaluated by the development of the team, and not the wins & losses at the end of a season. We are committed to building a consistent style of play across our programming with the help of our dedicated coaches and the implementation of the approved Wethersfield Soccer Club curriculum.

A Wethersfield Youth Soccer Club coach will:

- Know the Rules & Regulations and teach them to your players at the appropriate to the specific age group you are coaching. Read the rulebook and complete at a minimum before the start of the season the U.S. Soccer Introduction to Grassroots Training module (online course). All coaches are recommended to also complete subsequent coaching courses needed for the Grassroots coaching license(s).
- Player Development is *first and foremost*. Cumulative team results are SECONDARY to player development.
- Abide by the Laws of the Game and the CJSA Youth Rules.
- Treat referees with respect, no matter what the call. Remember, most of the Wethersfield Referees are youth themselves, and for home games, children of Wethersfield Soccer Parents.
- Exhibit excellent conduct at both practices and games. Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 100%. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the players when they are together as a team as well as the conduct of the spectators at practices and games.

- Coach clean, skillful, and honest soccer by stressing playing hard over winning.
- Stress good sportsmanship conduct.
- Help maintain a climate of safety and enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees, other coaches and other spectators. Remember that coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Keep all comments positive.
- Work at team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics. Be a “fun leader”. Stress individual skill development more than tactics. Minimize lectures, maximize demonstrations. Stress having fun.
- In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticism. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.
- DO NOT use profanity or vulgar language. Remember you are helping to mold the character of your players. Verbal, foul language will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.
- Coaches assigned to the U9-U10 age groups **WILL** play talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. This means allowing equal playing time to ALL players on a regular basis.
- Coaches assigned to the U11-U15 age groups will, within reason, award players displaying effort and team mentality, additional minutes on the field over those that do not.
- Minimize coaching from the sideline during the game. Know where your position on the sideline is during a game. Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing.
- Use the approved Wethersfield Soccer Club curriculum-based sessions provided in detail by the Wethersfield Competitive Director for practices. Make the sessions interesting, fast paced and involve all team members as much as possible (minimize standing around).
- Welcome feedback from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.

Wethersfield Soccer Club has a zero-tolerance policy regarding aggressive coach sideline behavior. Excessive coaching is strongly discouraged, and only positive reinforcement should be provided to our players by coaches and sideline spectators. Coaches will be removed from the program for consistent violations of this philosophy.

There should be no negative interactions between coaches and referees, coaches and opposing coach/players, or coaches and visiting parents. Failure to comply with this policy **will** result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or dismissal from the club once reviewed by the Wethersfield Soccer Club disciplinary committee.

Furthermore, the Wethersfield Soccer Club reserves the right to refuse any coach for any reason, except for reasons of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. Most importantly, majority of reasons include perpetual negative or abusive sideline behavior.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and adherence to these guidelines!

Wethersfield Soccer Club

Board of Directors