



## Coaches' Conduct

The conduct of coaches on the playing field directly reflects on US Youth Soccer and the host organization. Parents who entrust their children to US Youth Soccer should feel confident that the standards being taught and demonstrated are consistent with their own. These coaches help shape the public's perception of US Youth Soccer's players, coaches and parents. It is vital that coaches maintain and teach the highest standards of fair play. Every US Youth Soccer coach is expected to read and observe the following guidelines:

- Players will be instructed to play according to the Laws of the Game (as modified for youth soccer) and will be encouraged to play without taking unfair advantage of an opponent.
- Coaches will not dispute the rulings of a referee and will instruct players, substitutes, parents and spectators to do the same. Clarification of a ruling may take place only with the referee's approval during an official break or when the official indicates it is appropriate.
- Coaching from the sidelines is permitted provided that:
  - a. Direction is informative and instructive
  - b. It is done in/from the bench area
  - c. It is done from the correct sideline
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and spectators. If a parent or spectator's conduct warrants caution or ejection by the referee, the caution or ejection can be issued directly to the spectator. If a referee believes that the coach has not attempted to control spectators, then the coach may be cautioned or ejected.
- If a team walks off the field in protest, they forfeit the game. The coach will be summoned by the local organizational committee for unsportsmanlike conduct and possible disciplinary action.