

Vashon Island Soccer Club Coaches' Code of Conduct

VISC welcomes you as a coach. Through your participation, our club teaches life-lessons through soccer. We ask you to abide by our **code of conduct**. Coach responsibilities include keeping participants safe, encouraging fun, teaching skills, fostering camaraderie, and promoting sporting behavior. Your players and your parents will follow your lead. As coach, you will be responsible for monitoring not only player behavior, but the behavior of their parents and assistant coaches during practices and games.

To meet these responsibilities, VISC coaches agree to all of the following:

SAFETY

- At least two adults will be present at every team function. This protects the child and it protects volunteers. Times Two Policy: <http://www.saysoccer.org/risk.aspx>.
- Take your concussion, SafeSport and sudden cardiac arrest training seriously. If a kid says they have a headache after any sort of collision, that practice or game is over for them.
- Inspect the field before your kids get on the field. Pick up any sharp objects on the field, secure goals with sandbags, and mark problematic areas (e.g. holes, broken sprinkler heads, etc.).
- Do not let the kids hang on the goals or nets.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol while serving as a coach. Do not drink at all prior to practices or games.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- Enthusiastically support and practice “everyone plays” and positive coaching philosophies. Try to give equal playtime and certainly all willing players should play at least 50% of each game.
- Catch players doing things right. 5:1 positive to corrective comments.
- Abide by the official USSF Laws of the Game of soccer (<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Laws-of-the-Game.aspx>) and respect the officials interpretation of these rules. Don't challenge the refs (especially in front of your kids and parents).
- Teach and demonstrate good sporting behavior and fair play.
- Arrive at practice early. Set up prior to kids arriving. Have a solid practice plan. Keep training moving. Avoid lines, laps, and lectures. Control the balls and you control the practice.
- Do not teach heading below 11 years old and keep all heading repetitions to a minimum when doing so. Slide tackling should not be taught until appropriate.

SIDELINE BEHAVIOR

- Defuse conflicts rather than escalate.
- Ask parents to not sideline coach and to cheer supportively AFTER the play.

RESPECT

- Everyone likes to win but remember the journey of working hard and trying your best is THE most important element we are teaching. Be gracious when successful. Try not to run the scores up too high if you are mismatched (encourage possession play – everyone touches the ball before we go forward).
- Respect the rules of the ferries that we travel on to away games (e.g. no cleats upstairs).
- Remember that we represent Vashon at all times.

Signed: _____

Date: _____