

## **AYSO 33 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

Our goal at AYSO Region 33 is to encourage a fun, positive and safe atmosphere for our players, parents, and volunteers. To do that, we need to create a culture of respect and courtesy for others.

Remember, all Referees and Coaches are “volunteers.” They are not paid. They are difficult to find and critical to retain. We cannot afford to lose them because of rude or threatening behavior by others. As a result, we are announcing a code of conduct that will be enforced by the Region.

### **COACH CODE OF CONDUCT:**

**NOTE:** Coaches are responsible for the conduct of parents/spectators on their sideline. If a parent/spectator becomes uncontrollable, the coach must discuss the matter with their Division Manager.

#### **1. Standing area during a game:**

[For Region 33, the “technical area” is defined as the area 10 yards on either side of the center/half line, generally the diameter of the center circle. Failure to remain in the technical area can result in disciplinary action from the referee.]

For U14, U12 and U10 games, coaches shall remain within the technical area/coaching box, which is located 10 yards on either side of the center line.

All coaches shall stand a few feet behind the sideline so as not to block the view of the assistant referee on their side of the field.

#### **2. Speaking to Referees about a call or non-call during or after a game is prohibited:**

Once a game begins: coaches are not to speak to any referee about any call or decision made (or not made) by any referee. This includes making a comment about a call in a voice loud enough to be heard by any referee. A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or a red card ejection of the coach and parent/spectator at the discretion of the referee.

During a break in the game at the quarter or half: at the referee’s discretion, a coach may speak to a referee about a concern, provided it is done in a respectful manner. The conversation must be brief and shall not delay the restart of any quarter or half.

When the game ends: a coach may not speak to a referee on the field or when a referee is leaving the field about any call or decision made (or not made) by a referee during the game.

Should a coach want to discuss any decision made (or not made) by a referee, the coach should contact the Referee Administrator to discuss the issue either at the Referee Tent or by email ([ayso33refadm@gmail.com](mailto:ayso33refadm@gmail.com)).

3. **Insulting or swearing at a referee (or in a voice loud enough to be heard by a referee) is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.** Any violation will likely result in a red card ejection of the coach and a minimum 1-game suspension.

4. **A coach may NEVER talk to a youth referee during or after a game** (except to thank them for their time and effort). Any issue about the conduct or performance of a youth referee should be addressed to the Referee Administrator.

5. **Talking negatively to, or about players on an opposing team is prohibited:** Coaches are prohibited from speaking to, or about players on an opposing team in a negative way during or after a game. This includes speaking in a loud enough voice to be heard by any player from the opposing team and includes statements concerning dangerous play (which may be made to the referee as permitted under these rules. A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or red card ejection of the coach at the discretion of the referee.

6. **Talking negatively to the opposing team's parents/spectators is prohibited:** Coaches are prohibited from speaking to, or about parents/spectators on an opposing team in a negative way during or after a game. This includes speaking in a loud enough voice to be heard by any parent/spectator from the opposing team. A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or ejection of the coach at the discretion of the referee.

7. **Going onto the field during a game is prohibited unless summoned by a referee:** The laws of the game prohibit any person from entering the field unless summoned by the referee.

This includes a situation where a player appears to be injured or where there is a fight among players on the field (If a player appears to be injured, when play is stopped the referee will assess the situation and call the coach onto the field if appropriate.) A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or red card ejection of the coach at the discretion of the referee.

8. **A coach may NEVER make physical contact with any player while on the field.** This includes touching another child who appears to be in an altercation with a player on that coach's team. Any violation will likely result in a red card ejection of the coach and a minimum 1-game suspension.

9. **Injured Player:** A referee may determine that a player should not be allowed back on a field due to injury or other health concerns which cause repeated stoppages of a game. The referee's decision is final. The Region may require the parent/guardian to provide a doctor's note permitting the player to participate in future games. For further information about this issue, the parent/guardian should contact the Regional Commissioner ([ayso33regcom@gmail.com](mailto:ayso33regcom@gmail.com)).

10. **Complaint Procedure:** Should a coach wish to make a complaint or discuss a situation involving a referee, the coach should contact the following persons, in this order: the Referee Administrator, the Division Manager, the Dispute Resolution Administrator, the Regional Coordinator. The contact information for all of these persons is on the AYSO Region 33 Website: [www.ayso33.org](http://www.ayso33.org).