



Montvale Athletic League

MAL Coaching Code Of Conduct

As an MAL coach, I acknowledge having read the following rules and agree to strictly adhere to them:

- 1) I will take, understand and abide by, the Rutgers SAFETY Clinic (once), the "Protecting Children from Abuse" online course (once), the "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" online course (annually), and I will provide proof of completion to the MAL. I will also submit my fingerprints via *IdentoGo* (once every three yrs), so the NJ State Police can conduct a background check.
- 2) I will understand, and abide by, and teach, the rules of the sport I am coaching and the league my team is participating in.
- 3) I will teach children how to play and enjoy sports.
- 4) I will care about the welfare, development, and enjoyment of the child more than winning. (Note: Travel coaches will generally emphasize winning more.) Teamwork, good sportsmanship, self discipline, and building self esteem are my ultimate goals.
- 5) When helping to create the teams with the other coaches, my priority is for competitive balance across all teams -- not to make sure my team is the strongest. I will draft my team fairly.
- 6) I will always conduct myself in a positive manner and exercise self-control. I will never use, or tolerate, inappropriate language or gestures.
- 7) I will not embarrass my players. I will not yell negatively at them. I will always be supportive. I will only raise my voice to positively direct, encourage, or cheer. I will not criticize a player in public but will instead offer constructive criticism in private.
- 8) I will not touch my players.
- 9) I will show equal interest in all players, regardless of ability or personal relationship. I will not favor my own child or his/her friends over others.
- 10) I will abide by the playing-time rules set by each sport. I will communicate these rules to the parents before the first game. (Note: Recreation and travel have different playing time rules with recreation coaches generally ensuring equal playing time while travel coaches have more discretion over playing time per player based mostly on relative talent.)
- 11) I will make every effort possible to hold all practices and to play all games scheduled. If there is a cancellation, I will make every effort possible to hold a makeup.
- 12) I will never engage in, or tolerate, bullying, bad sportsmanship, cheating, or foul play.
- 13) I will lead by example and always demonstrate good sportsmanship. I will teach my players to be humble in victory, and courteous in defeat. I will not embarrass my opponent.
- 14) I will enforce player, coach and parent code of conducts. I will keep control over my players/spectators/other coaches at all times. If things get out of control, I will do my best to immediately diffuse the situation.
- 15) I, and my players/spectators/other coaches, will respect the facilities and equipment that we use. We will follow all rules and regulations of the facility. I will ensure that we clean up after ourselves before leaving, etc.
- 16) I will always consider player safety. I will be aware of any medical condition. "When in doubt, I will sit them out."
- 17) I will have a first aid kit always available. I will try to learn basic first aid. I will teach the importance of hydration.
- 18) I, and my players/spectators/other coaches, will always respect the opposing players/spectators/coaches, the officials and MAL Board members. We will never evade their personal space, touch them, yell at them or threaten them.
- 19) I, and my players/spectators/other coaches, will always respect the officials regardless of how a game is being officiated. We will never criticize/question or "educate" them. We will accept their calls as we understand they are making calls as best they can.
- 20) The official's calls are not arguable. I, and my players/spectators/other coaches will never confront an official during or after a game. If I have a concern re. the officiating, I will contact the MAL commissioner.
- 21) I, and my spectators/other coaches, will never enter the field/court without being invited by the official.
- 22) If a player/spectator/coach receive a yellow card, red card, technical foul, etc. or is ejected from a game, I will proactively report the incident (including my own infractions) to the MAL commissioner and/or an MAL board member within 24 hours. I will then submit a written narrative to the MAL within 72 hours.

I understand that failure to adhere to the above rules (or poor personal conduct outside the MAL) will result in a review by the MAL Grievance and Ethics Committee, which may result in disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- A warning.
- Removal from game.
- Suspension from future game/s.
- Dismissal as coach for the rest of the season or for an entire year.
- Permanent ban from coaching any MAL team.

I understand that I have the right to appeal any disciplinary action decided against me.

I _____ will adhere to the Coaching Code of Conduct as stated above.

Signature: _____