



Coaching Standards

Norwood Youth Soccer considers itself a recreational and developmental organization. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun, environment for the children of Norwood to learn to play and love the Beautiful Game. As a coach, you are the most important part of that environment. Without your help, we simply cannot meet our goal.

We believe our coaches have several key things they should be focused on at all times: player development, make it fun, and keep it focused.

Player Development

This is a coach's primary role, teach the kids how to play the game. This goes way beyond running drills to teach them how to pass, dribble and shoot. It includes the rules of the game, sportsmanship, and, as appropriate, strategy and tactics.

Every player should be exposed to all positions on the field, especially at the younger ages. By 6th grade, you may have kids tending towards forward, midfield or defense, but we should be using kids all over the field, at least some of the time. Goalkeeper may be the one exception, where we do not want to force players into goal unless there is no choice.

We should give everyone ample playing time, at least half of each game. It may be acceptable for some kids to play more minutes based on fitness, but it should not cause less-fit kids to play less than a half. Poor behavior would be the one acceptable reason for a player's minutes to be reduced to less than half a game, but that should be clearly communicated to both the player and their parents.

Know the rules your team is playing under. If you are coaching at the intramural level check our website for the appropriate guidelines. If you are coaching at the travel level, look at the BAYS website. The rules are not what you see on TV, there are some key differences. It is important for the coaches to understand the rules in order to effectively communicate those to the players during games and teach them ahead of time.

Make it Fun

Try to keep the atmosphere light and enjoyable for everyone. Stay positive, even if a game is not going your way. Compliment what your team did well, explain what they need to work on as a team, and build that into your next practice.

Norwood Youth Soccer strives to teach good sportsmanship on and off the field. This means coaches should focus on positive reinforcement. **Abusive language or emotional misconduct will not be tolerated.** This goes for coaches and your players. Everyone is part of the team and should

treat each other and those players/coaches we host with respect. Please be mindful of your Safe Sport training.

On the sideline, coaches should refrain from trying to direct every bit of play. Communication from the sideline should be positive and supportive. Save correcting mistakes for more private sideline conversations.

Keep it Focused

Have a plan for your practices and games so you can come prepared. There are a lot of resources available for you to use including, our website, BAYS website, the Mass Youth Soccer website, and of course Google and YouTube. Of course, we also have professional coaches here to work with each of you during your Revs nights. PLEASE take advantage of these coaches, they are professionals and know how to teach the game as well as anyone. If they seem reluctant to approach your team, call them over and ask for help, pick their brains on things your team may be struggling with. They are there for you!

Things to Avoid

We try to avoid focusing on statistic-based items. Rather than worrying about winning and losing, look for week to week improvement in your team. If your team was placed properly all of your games should be competitive, and you should lose as much as you win. If you are winning or losing all your games, we will work with BAYS to get you moved to a more competitive section.

Who gets the most goals in a season is absolutely meaningless to everyone but that player and their parents. If anything, one player getting all the glory takes a lot of the fun away from the rest of the team. Passes, team play, strong defense, saves, are all just as important to the success of a team. Soccer is a team sport and that is how we want it to be played as an organization.

Discipline

BAYS have a very strict Zero Tolerance policy with regards to coaches interacting with referees during and after games, especially, but not limited to, questioning calls on the field. Norwood Youth Soccer fully supports this policy and will adhere to their recommended discipline for violations. For complete details on this policy visit the BAYS website. If you have issues with how a game was officiated BAYS has mechanisms for you to voice those concerns, also on their website.

The sanctions that are handed down by BAYS for a zero-tolerance violation are as follows:

- **Level 1 ZT:** BAYS Member Clubs track and monitor their own coaches' or spectators' ZT 1 violations and impose sanctions as they see fit.
- **Level 2 ZT: a one game suspension.** Violators may not coach and/or attend their cited team's next* BAYS game once they are notified of their infraction and suspension by their club. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure the ZT violator fulfills their suspension.

- **Level 3 ZT: a two-game suspension.** Violators may not coach and/or attend their cited team's next* two BAYS games once they are notified of their infraction and suspension by their club. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure the ZT violator fulfills their suspension.
- **Repeat offenders may face harsher penalties.**

*Next BAYS game(s) is inclusive of all BAYS competitions including regular season, Presidents' Cup, BAYS Playoffs, and representing BAYS at MTOC.

If the violation is committed by a coach and the specific coach cannot be identified, any suspensions will be served by the head coach. If the violation was committed by a spectator, and the specific individual(s) cannot be identified, the violator's team ENTIRE TEAM's spectators will be sanctioned. This means all parents and supporters must stay 100 feet from the field or in the parking lot whichever is further.

The NYS Board of Directors will track zero-tolerance violations and if we find a coach becomes a repeat offender, we will impose suspensions beyond the BAYS recommendations as follows:

- 3 ZT's in one season – suspended for the remainder of the season. Must be approved by the NYS Board for reinstatement for the following season.
- 6 cumulative ZT's – suspended for 1 year (2 seasons). Must be approved by the NYS Board for reinstatement.

Complaint procedure

We take any and all complaints seriously. If there is a complaint against a coach from any source, it will be put into the complaint database and investigated promptly. Once the complaint enters, the appropriate coordinator, coach, and Executive Board will be notified. If the complaint is corroborated, appropriate action will be taken. During the investigation (or after) any retaliation against the complainant or a player connected to the complaint, that is verified as true, will not be tolerated and will require immediate suspension for the rest of the season.

Here are some examples of complaints and possible outcomes:

- Communication, negative coaching (non-abusive)/playing time issues – conversations & monitoring.
- Verbal abuse – suspension, remainder of season. Must be approved by the NYS Board for reinstatement.
- Physical abuse – immediate termination, notification of proper authorities, and a permanent ban from NYS coaching.
- Multiple offenses will result in a permanent ban.

These are not an all-inclusive list of complaints or outcomes and are used as a guideline for the complaint procedure. The NYS board will maintain discretion within these guidelines and according to our by-laws.

Change Log

3/31/2024 - Revised BAYS ZT Sanctions to reflect new policy enacted for the Spring 2024 season – CML.