



Coaching philosophy

The board, coaches and referees of **SAY CHICAGO** understand that children participate to have fun. If children don't have fun playing soccer, they'll soon lose interest and give up.

Soccer is just that - a game. It's not about how many wins and losses are accumulated. It is not about how many trophies are collected. It's not about how many goals we score or concede. It's about enjoying the game and at the same time, learning and developing soccer and life skills.

Proper soccer development requires that children play age appropriate activities so they are able to experience, comprehend, and execute the game as it relates to where they are at their own stage of physical and mental development.

It is about playing in different positions so the player learns all the skills necessary to develop in the game.

It's about receiving equal playing time, so everyone is given an equal opportunity to learn.

It's about learning the skills required by the game through playing in games where players have fun and have as much contact with a ball as possible and learn at their own pace.

Code Of Conduct For Parents/Guardians

- Be your child's biggest fan and support him/her unconditionally.
- When you take your child home after a game, please be supportive and always focus on the positive aspects of your child's game.
- Respect the facilities and staff at the UIC fields.
- Do not criticize your child's coach with your child or with other parents. If you are not happy with the coach you should talk with the coach individually (i.e. not in front of the players and parents).
- Help your child to focus on performance and effort, not just the results. Remember - winning is not as important as the performance.



- Support all the players on your child's team. Do not criticize anyone. Remember – children don't mean to make mistakes.
- Do not criticize the other team, their parents or the referees.
- Never audibly dispute a referee's decision. They will make mistakes. We all do. If you abuse or shout at the referee you are breaking the rules of the game and risk being escorted off the field and possibly missing games or the rest of the season.
- Parents and/or guardians must not coach from the sidelines during games. Leave this to the coaches or you may cause confusion and erode your child's confidence.
- Parents and/or guardians must not enter the field of play, except in the event of an injury to their child. Please remember – the game is for the children. It is not for the glory of the coach, manager or parents.

Code Of Conduct For Players

Players should:

- Play according to the laws and spirit of the game.
- Be on time and come prepared to play.
- Display self-control in all situations. Never use foul or abusive language - before, during or after a game.
- Play to the best of your ability, have a positive attitude, and encourage others to do the same.
- Respect your teammates as well as the players on the other team. Treat them, as you would like them to treat you.
- Respect the referee. Do not argue with their decisions. They are only human and they make mistakes, just like you.
- Wear your uniform with the appropriate shirt, shorts, socks, cleats and shin guards. A player will not be allowed to play without shin guards or a team jersey.



Code Of Conduct For Coaches

A coach's primary responsibility is to make sure that his/her players have fun, develop their skills and instill in them a passion for the game.

The performance of coaches is not measured in wins and losses, but rather in what players learn in terms of skill development, sportsmanship, and fair play.

Coaches are charged with the responsibility of controlling their players and parents at all times during a match.

Coaches lead and teach by example; players will be a reflection upon the coaches.

Coaches will:

- PROVIDE EQUAL PLAY TIME FOR ALL PLAYERS
- Use positive reinforcement when dealing with players.
- Never use foul or abusive language and never abuse a player mentally, verbally, or physically.
- Have respect for the authority of the referees, the players on the opposing team and their coaches.
- Teach your players the rules of the game, fair play, and proper behavior.
- Develop your player's skills and decision-making ability.
- Inspect the playing area for hazards and generally make the games as safe as possible. You should be aware, however, that soccer is a contact sport and your player may be injured.

In addition:

- We will not allow a player to take part in a game if he/she is injured.
- We will always be enthusiastic (even in the pouring rain!)
- We will try our best to make the game enjoyable for everyone who takes part – players, opponents, parents/guardians and spectators.



The Disciplinary and Appeals Process

The Disciplinary/Appeals Committee will be made up of three Board Members including the board president, board treasurer and division coordinator. (The only exception will be when the incident being considered places one of the above members into a conflict of interest. Another board member will serve in their place).

The Disciplinary/Appeals Committee will meet at the request of Division Coordinator or Board President.

Decisions made by the Disciplinary/Appeals Committee are final (i.e. are deemed to be decisions made on behalf of the board).

Misconduct Procedures

- Any player or coach who is red carded or removed from the game twice during a season will be suspended for the rest of the season.
- Any player or coach who is yellow carded or cautioned five times during a season will be suspended for the rest of the season.
- Any player, coach, parent or guardian who behaves in a way that is contrary to the Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary action.
- Any parent, guardian or coach who knowingly falsifies documents including, but not limited to registration information is subject to disciplinary action.
- Any coach who allows unregistered or ineligible players to participate in the games will also be subject to disciplinary action.
- Disciplinary actions are the responsibility of the division coordinators and/or board of directors.
- Disciplinary action includes but is not limited to the following: probation, suspension, dismissal, or banning. If the misconduct causes malicious damage to UIC or SAY Chicago property or results in physical altercations, the individual or individuals involved will face immediate suspension from all SAY activities. In the case of malicious damage the player or coach may be asked to pay for the repair or replacement.

Any individual wishing to appeal any above decisions must submit an appeal in writing to the board president providing appropriate background information. This appeal must be lodged within ten days of the date the penalty is imposed. The Disciplinary/Appeals Committee will consider the appeal within fourteen days of the lodging of the appeal. All penalties will remain in force until the appeal is considered.