

Mississippi Soccer Association Policy Manual

Code of Ethics for Coaches/Volunteers

- a. I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players
- b. I will always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
- c. I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- d. I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game, and teach these rules to my players.
- e. I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- f. I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- g. I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
- h. I will never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
- i. Youth have a greater need for example than criticism. I will be the primary soccer role model.
- j. I will at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
- k. Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
- l. Coach's actions on sidelines during games shall be in the spirit of "good sportsmanship" at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the affiliate.
- m. **Alcohol, illegal drugs and unauthorized prescription drugs shall not be possessed, consumed or distributed before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex.**

Failure to comply with the MSA Code of Ethics may result in the suspension of the privilege to participate in MSA sanctioned events, for the following periods:

- **1st offense suspension minimum fifteen (15) days to a maximum of Five (5) years**
- **2nd offense suspension for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of Ten (10) years**
- **3rd offense suspension for a minimum of five (5) years to a maximum of Twenty five (25) years.**

NOTE: Any individual charged with a violation of this Code of Ethics, except for cautions and send-offs as stated in the Laws of the Game, Tournament Rules or MSA Disciplinary policy including allegations of referee abuse or assault, shall be afforded due process as defined in MSA's rules before the implementation of any suspension.