



## Coaches Code of Conduct

Penn Legacy Academy believes that soccer should be a fun, educational and positive experience for all participants. We believe that those who coach within the Academy are, first and foremost, teachers of the game who have a duty to ensure that they are coaching and acting based upon the concept of sportsmanship and ethical values.

1. **Trustworthiness** – I will be worthy of trust in all I do, and teach players the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.
2. **Respect** – I will treat all people (parents, coaches, players, opponents, and officials with respect at all times and will require the same of my players.
3. **Class** – I will be a good sport, teach and model good behavior, be gracious in victory and dignified in defeat, encourage players to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre and post-game rituals.
4. **Referees** – I will treat referees with respect. I will not complain about or argue with referee calls or decisions during or after a game. I will use Club or League approved methods for reporting referee issues to the proper authority.
5. **Coaching** – I will use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love for and appreciation of the sport. I will refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to the players or others.
6. **Effort and Teamwork** – I will encourage players to pursue victory with honor, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually strive to improve through personal effort and discipline. I will discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the contest than upon effort, teamwork and winning with character.
7. **Professional Conduct** – I will maintain an appropriate professional relationship with players and respect proper coach-player boundaries. Sexual or romantic contact, either verbal or physical, is strictly forbidden.
8. **Role Modeling** – I will be a worthy role model, always mindful of the high visibility and great influence I have as a coach, and consistently conduct myself in a manner that exemplifies the traits I wish to develop in my players.
9. **Personal Conduct** – I will refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of alcohol and tobacco in front of the players.
10. **Competence** – I will strive to improve my coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles appropriate for my team's age group.
11. **Knowledge of the Rules** – I will maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and will ensure that my players know and understand the rules.
12. **Integrity of the Game** – I will protect the integrity of the game, playing the game according to the rules.
13. **Safe Competition** – I will put safety and health considerations above a desire to win. I will never permit players to intentionally injure another player or engage in reckless play that might cause injury to themselves or others.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct. I will act in accordance with this code. I understand that club officials will and should expect me to follow this code.