

## **NorCal Premier Soccer - Ethics Policy**

Membership in any NorCal Premier Soccer League or other competition is considered to be an automatic acceptance of its rules, policies and procedures.

The purpose of this league is to set the highest standards for Soccer Clubs to develop youth players to their fullest potential – both physically, emotionally, ethically. As such, participants must conduct themselves to the highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in this league - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat.

All participants in NorCal Premier Soccer Events are members of US Club Soccer and therefore must adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules and policies as well as to their intent.

In addition to those stated bylaws, rules and policies:

### **Adult members of the NorCal Premier Soccer will not:**

- (a) No coach/player will have in his/her possession, or consume, alcoholic beverages during any NCPS event.
- (b) All coaches, managers, players and spectators will adhere to the NCPS Code of Ethics.
- (c) Any coach, manager or official found guilty by a NCPS Ethics Committee of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (over-age, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all NCPS activities for the current and subsequent seasonal year.
- (d) Note the ethics policy as listed below: NorCal Premier Soccer Coaches Code of Ethics:

### **Adult members of the NorCal Premier Soccer will not:**

1. Recruit Players – The definition of “recruit” for purposes of this league shall be: Approaching a player who is registered to and actively playing for another team within a NorCal Premier Soccer or US Club Soccer Club and asking them to either try-out, play or guest play for any other team, without first receiving prior written permission from

the player's current club Director Of Coaching or Coaching Coordinator – even for purposes of guest play. (Email is considered acceptable "written permission").

2. Acquire Teams from outside their Club; to bring into their club.
3. Engage in behavior so as to be suspended, by any NCPS or US Club Soccer disciplinary body, and/or acquire enough accumulated points (see disciplinary point system) so as to be required to stand before any US Club Soccer or NCPS disciplinary body.
4. Unnecessarily hamper the playing of any scheduled match at its originally scheduled time and place, or cause undue hardship should the re-schedule of a match become necessary;
5. Allow players to exhibit unsporting behavior before, during, or after any sanctioned match or practice. This includes, but is not limited to blaming, (or teach players to blame) others in the case of defeat, or to excuse unsporting behavior;
6. Accept players from another club who have outstanding fees to another member of NorCal Premier Soccer or US Club Soccer. (Clubs should have written player/parent agreements for each year)
- 7. Select a coach from another club and allow this coach to work in the same age and gender of his/her previous club or academy unless the coach moves his/her residence outside of their current region - without permission of their former club.**
8. Hold try-out related activities in a neighboring Clubs community without contacting the affected neighboring Clubs to receive approval for usage of their home based fields. Any issues will be dealt with first by NorCal's RAC and second by NorCal's BOD.

NorCal Premier Soccer Members alleged to be in violation of these, or any other stated USSF, US Club Soccer or NCPS Codes of Ethics will be required to stand before the NorCal Premier Soccer Ethics Committee (NCPSEC) who will be made up of at least three and no more than seven club members who will act as the League's Ethics Committee.

Allegations of ethics violations will be made in accordance with USSF, US Club Soccer and NorCal Premier Soccer bylaws and

operating procedures, with a copy sent to the Chair of the NCPSEC. A written decision of suspension by a NCPS disciplinary body is automatically considered to be a written allegation of a NCPS Ethics Violation.

## **NorCal Premier Soccer Coaches Code of Ethics**

Purpose: This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of soccer within the NorCal Premier Soccer and US Club Soccer Organizations.

### **(b) Article I - Responsibilities to Players**

- (1) The coach shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
- (2) Coaches shall instruct players to play within the laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
- (3) Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
- (4) Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players regardless of the situation.
- (5) Demands on players' time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals or progress.
- (6) Coaches must never encourage players to violate NCPS recruitment, eligibility or player's rules and policies.
- (7) Coaches should direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.
- (8) Coaches should take an active role in educating their players about sports nutrition, fitness and about prevention of tobacco use.
- (9) Coaches should educate themselves on a constant basis in order to provide their players with the highest level instruction possible.
- (10) Coaches should always place the individual players development first and place team success second.

### **Article II - Responsibility to NCPS and Member Associations**

- (1) Adherence to all NCPS, USSF and US Club Soccer rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation and recruiting are mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of each coach to know and understand these rules.
- (2) Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches or clubs

should be referred to the appropriate NCPS committee.

### **Article III - Responsibilities to the Laws of the Game**

- (1) Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Laws of the Game.
- (2) Coaches are responsible to assure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the Laws.
- (3) Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Laws of the Game.
- (4) Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with intent of causing injury to opposing players.
- (5) The coach must constantly strive to teach good sporting behavior.

### **Article IV - Responsibility to Officials**

- (1) Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials the presence of players or spectators.
- (2) Professional respect, before, during and after the game, should be mutual. There should be no demeaning dialogue or gestures between official, coach or player.
- (3) Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the game.
- (4) Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization assigning the official.

### **Article V - Responsibilities regarding Scouting and Recruiting**

- (1) All NCPS rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by coach, manager or any team representative.
- (2) It is inappropriate to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team - unless the players club provides written permission.
- (3) It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Player Development Program setting, either by his PDP coach or any other coach, manager, player, parent or team representative present at said event.
- (4) When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams and organizations.

(5) It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.

(6) It is unethical for coaches to attend tryouts for other clubs, unless invited by the club in writing, or to have players attend tryouts at other clubs to recruit players.

(7) It is unethical for a team or groups of players to be recruited from one club to another club by a coach working in the teams present club, a coach from another club, or any club representative from inside or outside the club.

### **Article VI - Responsibility of Public Relations**

(1) Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public when representing their team, their club, US Club Soccer and NCPS.

### **Article VII - Other Responsibilities**

(1) A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to himself, his organization and the sport of soccer.

(2) While the concept of rivalry is wholly embraced, it cannot take precedence over exemplary professional conduct.

(3) The attitude and conduct of the coach towards officials, players, spectators and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.

(4) It is unacceptable for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench before, during or after the game.

(5) Coaches must use their influence on his/her spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, player(s) and opposing team members.