



## **Dover Strikers Travel Soccer Association**

### **Dover, New Jersey**

#### **TRAVEL COACHING GUIDELINES**

- Coaching a travel soccer team is a big commitment not just for the players and their parents, but for the coach too. Coaching travel soccer involves a high standard of soccer competition and a high level of administration and team management.
- The role that a coach can have on a player's life is significant in youth development. The soccer field offers a place to develop both as an athlete and individual, and lessons learned on that field will be carried throughout life.
- The positive impact a coach can have on a child is undeniable. It's about developing a child into a healthy, self-confident adult through the wonderful medium of soccer. Like parents or teachers, coaches can be hugely influential in helping kids learn about themselves, build relationships with others, and overcome obstacles.

#### **COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The team's coach is directly responsible for any issue related to his or her team.
- Coaches are responsible for directing all practices and coaching the team during fall and spring travel league games and pre and post-season tournament games.
- It is the responsibility of the coach to arrange for a substitute or assistant coach to step in at practices and games if he/she is not available.
- The coach must work to help each player develop to their maximum soccer potential at practices and games, balanced by the need to achieve success as a team during travel league games.
- All coaches must be involved in doing outreach to recruit new players (within league recruiting guidelines).
- The coach should provide formal constructive feedback to each player during practices and at the end of each season, in writing or verbally.

#### **COACH EXPECTATIONS**

- Prepare comprehensive and meaningful practice sessions based on ability and age level.
- Attend all coaches meeting.
- Be on time to practices and games and expect the same of your players.
- Bring equipment and complete first aid kit to each practice and game.
- When coaching (Games & Practices) please dress in appropriate coaching gear.
- Require that players wear appropriate shoes, shin guards to practices and a complete kit to each game.
- Conduct a parent meeting before the beginning of the season to discuss player and parent expectations, including commitment, appropriate behavior and timeliness.
- Work with the trainers to develop a training curriculum that fits your team philosophy and strategy.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Collect and submit all appropriate credentials by the deadline.
- Make sure all registered players pay their fee completely one week before the first game of the season. Players with outstanding balances will not be allowed to play.
- Maintain and provide to the league a database of all of your players and parents for easy club communication.
- Complete all post game league and club reports, including score form and referee feedback.
- Complete a report within 24 hours of a game, practice, or other related incident.
- Maintain positive and up to date communication with parents regarding date and time changes, and any other club, league, or tournament modifications.
- All communication to the MCYSA must be done through a club official or the club representative.