

# Northeast United Soccer Club Coaching Policy

Approved December 13, 2011

In order to coach, individuals must complete and pass all background checks required by Northeast United Soccer Club (hereafter referred to as the "Club"). In the context of the Club, coaching means instructing a team's players on the field during practices or games. Individuals who have not registered as a coach or assistant coach through the organization(s) that completes background checks specified by the Club will not be allowed to coach at any level. Those whose background check is declined will not be allowed to coach.

All coaches, including assistant coaches, agree to do the following:

## I. SAFETY

- Ensure that at least two adults, at least one of whom has completed a background check, are present at all times during all practices, games, and other events.
- Ensure that at least one coach arrives at practice sessions and games at least 10 minutes before the team is expected to arrive.
- Ensure that fields are inspected for hazards before practices and games.
- Avoid playing in unsafe conditions, such as during thunder storms or lightning storms.
- Check that players use proper equipment and gear.
- Provide times for water breaks during practice and encourage hydration.
- Remain at the site of the practice, game, or event until all players are picked up or accounted for.
- Keep on hand at all practices and games a copy of the Medical Treatment Authorization form for each player.
- If applicable, monitor player registration cards; only players with appropriate registration will be eligible to participate in games.
- Coaches should encourage team parents who think they may be actively involved at practices or games to have a background check done at the beginning of the season.
- Consider completing first aid training.

## II. CONDUCT

- Maintain a positive and professional attitude when representing the Club.
- Set high standards for sportsmanship, respectfulness, and fair play in players' interactions with players, referees, parents, and coaches.
- Understand and behave consistently with the Club's mission, philosophies, policies, and rules and by the standards and organizations and leagues in which the team participates, including the following: PYSA, OYSA and the *Kidsafe-OYSA Risk Management Program*, Oregon Premier League, and US Club Soccer and the US Club *Risk Management Program*.

## III. DUTIES

- Teach the rules, strategies, and skills of soccer.
- Stay abreast of PYSA, OYSA, OPL, US Club Soccer, USSF, and FIFA rules and regulations that govern and/or operate applicable leagues or soccer activities.
- For recreational play, ensure that all players play at least 50% of every game except in cases of illness, injury, unsportsmanlike conduct, or disciplinary reasons including missing practice sessions.
- Hold a meeting for parents at the start of the season.
- Encourage a balance of family, school, and soccer.
- Encourage parent involvement in the support functions for the team.
- Work closely with a parent manager to facilitate off-field activities of the team.
- Monitor and manage parents' sideline behavior.
- Maintain open communication with parents.
- Communicate with the Recreational Coach Coordinator or Competitive Head Coach, as applicable, about concerns and questions, including clarifications.
- Complete an Incident Report for any incident occurring during any regular, preseason, or postseason team activity, tournament, or other club or team activity in which an injury occurs to a player and prevents the player from returning to play, an injury occurs to any person affiliated with the Club and causes medical treatment to be summoned or sought, or property damage occurs.
- For recreational coaches, consider attending coaching clinics and meetings to improve teaching and coaching skills.