



# Junior Development League

-

## Ethics Policy

### General

1a: Participation in any Junior Development League, or other JDL competition, means a club or team accepts its rules, policies and procedures.

1b: 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, and tactically.

1c: Participants must conduct themselves to the highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for youth players who participate in this league.

1d: Adult participants are expected to exhibit good sporting behavior in victory and defeat.

1e: All participants in JDL Events are members of US Club Soccer and therefore shall agree to accept and follow its bylaws, rules, and policies.

1f: Club officials agree to follow league rules and policies that are required for participation in JDL leagues and tournaments. **Any violation of the bylaws, league rules or articles below shall be grounds for range of penalties including suspension, removal or exclusion from the league.**

## **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 always play within the laws of the game and within the spirit of the match.

**(3)** Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.

**(4)** Coaches must 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.

**(6)** Coaches must never encourage players to violate JDL recruitment, eligibility or player's rules and policies.

**(7)** Coaches must 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.

**(9)** Coaches should educate themselves on a constant basis 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 of JDL Clubs**

- (1)** Adherence to all JDL, PSRL, 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)** Shall not accept players from another club who have outstanding fees to another member of JDL or USSSA.
- (3)** Shall not Recruit Players who have registered to another team within the JDL or USSSA during the JDL season. Recruiting is defined as asking a player 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 - even for purposes of guest playing. (Email is considered acceptable "written permission").
- (4)** Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches or clubs should be referred to the appropriate JDL Director.
- (5)** 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.

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

- (1)** Coaches should review and understand of FIFA's 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.

## **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. The JDL takes a particularly aggressive stance against any negative referee interactions, given the age and experience of JDL referees. Please refer to league rules for more information.
- (2)** Professional respect, before, during and after the match, should be mutual. There must 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 match.
- (4)** Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the JDL Director.

## **Article V - Expectations for Scouting and Recruiting**

- (1)** All JDL 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 JDL team - unless the player's club provides written permission.
- (3)** When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks to other coaches, teams, and organizations.
- (4)** It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled, such as promises of compensation or inducement for play; and/or acts, or suggestions of immoral behavior.

(5) 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.

(6) It is unethical for a coach to leave one club and then recruit the former team to the new club that their former coach has joined.

(7) Any coach, manager or official knowingly using an ineligible player(s) (over-age, improperly registered, or under disciplinary suspension) will be suspended from participation in all JDL activities for the current and potentially the subsequent seasonal year.

(9). A coach shall not take a fully registered team from one club to another club. For 7V7 teams, the term fully registered means taking five players or more to a competing club.

(10) If a team of players follows a coach to another club, that coach is prohibited from coaching those same players in the new club for one complete, 12-month soccer year, typically May to May.

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

Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when representing their team, their club, US Club Soccer and the JDL in a public setting.

## **Article VII - Other Responsibilities**

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

(2) While the concept of rivalry is embraced, it cannot take precedence over professionalism, fun, safety, and development.

(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 match.

(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

(6) No coach, player, club, or club official shall engage in any conduct, or associate with any individual that has engaged in any conduct which:

(A) Damages the public confidence in sports.

(B) Damages the honor, integrity, or reputation of the JDL or its member clubs.

(C) Constitutes corruption in any form.