

## GREEN WHITE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB LEADER CODE OF CONDUCT—2010/2011

The Green White Youth Soccer Club (GWYSC) is concerned about the conduct of coaches, trainers, and parent volunteers. GWYSC believes that those who coach children are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their actions and words promote important life skills and development of good character. GWYSC believes that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our program and the well being of our players. The following code of conduct is expected of all **Leaders**—coaches/assistant coaches/trainers/volunteers.

1. **Leaders** will complete background checks at [www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org/Background\\_Search.htm](http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org/Background_Search.htm) before the first training session. **Leaders** must notify the head of division or his/her designee when the check is completed. Contracts or volunteer status can be immediately voided based on findings in the check.
2. **As a Green White Leader your character is constantly being evaluated. It is expected that you are a role model for your players, the opposing players, referees and the parents in attendance.** You will set the tone for what is appropriate. Your demonstration of character and attitude are more important than the soccer skills you teach. Conduct yourself in a manner that demonstrates trustworthiness, integrity, honesty, reliability, loyalty, respect and sportsmanship.
3. Green White Youth Soccer Club is not a “WIN AT ALL COST” club. Our primary function is to provide a positive soccer experience for our player’s participants. The core philosophies of the club are: **sportsmanship, fundamentals, enjoying the game, skill and tactical instruction, teamwork and competition.** There is an emphasis on the philosophy of **SPORTSMANSHIP** superceding all others. This applies to all **Leaders’** actions before, during and after games and practices.
4. A **Leader** will maintain professional relationship with players and respect proper boundaries. GWYSC has no tolerance and little flexibility in handling violations of the following rules:
  - Physical contact with a player must at all times be appropriate. Striking, slapping, shaking, hitting, or tripping a player is inappropriate
  - Verbal or physical attacks on players, referees, parents, other coaches or other person is forbidden.
  - Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed to or in view of players is forbidden
  - Phone conversations directly with a player are inappropriate unless a parent is on the call or it is perfunctory like indicating where and when a game/practice will be played.
  - Psychological intimidation and conduct that is demeaning to players and others.
  - Sexual or romantic contact with players is forbidden
  - Texting or emailing a player without including a parent is inappropriate.
5. A **Leader** will show respect to officials in games including not complaining or arguing with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event. A leader will treat parents of players with respect and be clear about expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communications.
6. A **Leader** will use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for sports and soccer.
7. A **Leader** shall not use profanity in either practice or games as this may be grounds for termination of contract or volunteerism.
8. A **Leader** will advocate the importance of education. Schoolwork comes before soccer. Teach players to finish their homework to allow participation in the sport and to never prioritize soccer over schoolwork.
9. A **Leader** will prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship. Player taunting, boastful celebrations or other actions that demean individuals or the sport should not be tolerated.
10. All paid private or group training sessions not covered under the contract between the **Leader** and the club shall be disclosed in writing or email to the President or his designee including time and players involved within 7 days after the session. Regular weekly sessions can be reported as such.
11. A **Leader** will have at games and practices a list of emergency contact information for the players and shall make an effort to have another adult at practice. First aid kits should also be available.
12. A **Leader** will control his/her ego and emotions and avoid displays of anger and frustration. If a player does not respond to team rules or is a behavioral challenge, a **Leader** will communicate this with the President, his/here designee or a board member immediately and ask for guidance or help. Do not go it alone.

- 13. A **Leader** will educate, monitor and assist the parents and other Leaders to comply with the letter and spirit of the code as well.
- 14. A **Leader** will sit down for the rest of a game after receiving a yellow card. A **Leader** will leave the premises of a game upon receiving a red card and be suspended for at least the following game. The **Leader** will notify in writing the President or his designee within 24 hours of receiving any card of the circumstances of said card.

A report of actions that violate the spirit or letter of this Code will result in a prompt review process by appropriate officials of the GWYSC. The report should be made in writing unless emergency circumstances dictate otherwise. Every effort will be made to hear all sides of the situation, to maintain privacy issues and to render timely response by GWYSC. If GWYSC finds the **Leader** to be in violation of the code, appropriate steps will be taken by the GWYSC Board which may result in fines, dismissal from the program as a **Leader**, voiding of a contract, or other sanctions and may preclude further activity with GWYSC programs.

“I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the **GREEN WHITE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB LEADER CODE OF CONDUCT**. I hereby agree to abide by this policy and not to engage in any of the prohibited transactions. I understand that, if I fail to follow the terms of the foregoing league policy, I may be subject to disciplinary action by the Club”.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO GREEN WHITE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB OFFICIALS