



NWSL Coach Code of Conduct

Coaches shall hold themselves to the highest standard of coaching within the soccer ecosystem and promote a positive and safe environment for all participants.

Coaches shall comply with the NWSL coach licensing standards (as defined in Operations Manual Section 8.19) and seek continuous personal and professional development.

Coaches shall treat all athletes, staff members, officials, and opponents with respect, and will focus on the effect of their communication rather than relying on their intent.

Head coaches shall collaborate with and engage their entire coaching staff to develop a strong coaching unit, and all coaches shall collaborate and engage with broader club staff.

Coaches shall not show favoritism toward one athlete over another, but rather shall treat all athletes with equal dignity and compassion, including rookies, non-rostered athletes, and injured athletes.

Coaches shall maintain an open line of communication with athletes and commit to honest and respectful two-way communication, including maintaining confidentiality when appropriate and necessary.

Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on age, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Coaches shall refrain from all manners of abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual.

Coaches shall maintain appropriate professional boundaries between themselves and athletes and refrain from participating in social activities with athletes outside of team events.

Coaches may not engage in, develop, continue, or pursue any romantic and/or sexual relationships or encounters, even when consensual, with any athlete on their team. Such relationships are strictly prohibited.

Coaches shall avoid one-on-one meetings with players where possible, but in the event where one is necessary, the meeting shall be limited to locations designed for the purpose of meeting (i.e., conference room, hotel lobby, office). Coaches shall never schedule a one-on-one meeting in a hotel room, bedroom, or at their home.

Coaches shall trust in the professionalism of the athletes and shall not take on a parental or overly supervisory role within the athletes' lives.

Coaches shall provide athletes with adequate notice of training and travel schedules, as well as off days, displaying the appropriate respect of an athlete's personal life.



Coaches shall promote an environment where constructive feedback is sought and shall never retaliate against an athlete for any reason, including, but not limited to, raising a concern about the coach.

Coaches shall advocate on behalf of the athletes to ensure the facilities, equipment, and resources provided meet appropriate safety standards.

Coaches shall adhere to all policies set forth by the NWSL and the clubs, modeling appropriate behavior.