

Professionalism

Sporting Columbus conducts its business fairly, impartially, in an ethical and proper manner and in compliance with all laws and regulations. The highest standards of ethical business conduct are required of employees in performance of their responsibilities. Employees will not engage in conduct or activity that may raise questions as to **Sporting Columbus'** honesty, impartiality or reputation or otherwise cause embarrassment to the **Sporting Columbus**. With the expectation of success, employees are held to a high standard. A few points to help in this regard anytime you're conducting training, coaching a game or at an off-field event:

- Coaches should always wear **Sporting Columbus** gear when representing **Sporting Columbus**. All outerwear should always be Adidas (with the exception of shoes). While Adidas shoes are recommended, coaches have the choice of what shoe they prefer to wear.
- Ensure players wear appropriate **Sporting Columbus** uniform and gear to trainings and games. This includes, training shirts, shin guards, appropriate team uniform, socks & cleats. Coaches should demand this of our players to create a cohesive and professional training environment.
- Eyes on play at all times (even if speaking to parent or player).
- Wear a watch instead of using your cell phone to keep time.
- To demonstrate professionalism, employees shall adhere to a zero tolerance for drugs and tobacco products at all team events, including games, practices, **Sporting Columbus** functions, hotel stays and non-soccer activities such as team parties or events where players or families are present.
- Stand with good posture. One note about posture and watching play: most of the time parents are able to see what you are doing at practice and games but not able to hear you. Many will read a lot in to your body language and the most irritating thing parents see, is a coach that appears disengaged or disinterested. A coach who is sitting, leaning against a goal, bouncing a ball, talking on phone, turning his back to the field or putting their hands in pockets is almost always going to be noticed by parents and players. As commonsense as this may seem, it's one of the biggest complaints parents make and is perhaps the largest reason that coaches are passed up for higher level coaching positions.
- Ask questions, seek guidance, report suspected violations and express concerns regarding compliance with these guidelines.
- Be engaged in your session: less idle standing, sitting and chatting with other coaches/parents.
- Do not leave a team without adult supervision.
- Avoid embarrassing players. Avoid games such as butts-up and don't play shirts against skins at any time.
- Arrive 20 minutes early to practice.