

Expectations of our Coaches

- Place the emotional and physical well being of your players ahead of any personal desire to win. Improvement in play and enjoyment of the game for all players at all levels are the goals of VUSC.
- Provide a safe environment for the players. Be on time for practices and games and do not leave an event, game or practice site until all of your players are with their responsible guardian or parent. Inspect all fields and equipment to ensure safe playing conditions.
- Understand that you are a role model. Set the standard for acceptable behavior by exhibiting exemplary behavior at all times. Your actions reflect not only on yourself but also on your team, the City of Apple Valley, Valley Athletic Assn and Valley United Soccer Club. A team and club's reputation is built on positive behavior, courtesy, sportsmanship and playing ability.
- You are responsible for the proper behavior and conduct of your assistant coaches as well as players, parents, and supporters. Encourage all to applaud good plays by either team. The use of profanity or vulgar language is unacceptable.
- Teach players how to win and lose gracefully - be humble, generous, and gracious in victory; courteous and dignified in defeat.
- Be enthusiastic with all players, motivating and encouraging. Provide the opportunity for players to develop skills at multiple positions. Provide all players with the opportunity to start in a game.
- Communicate effectively and regularly with parents.
- Know, and abide by, the rules of soccer, and teach these rules to your players. Do not try to seek an advantage by circumventing the spirit of the rules.
- Respect and support the referees. Before games, introduce yourself to the referees. Opposing coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in nothing less than a sportsmanlike manner. Thank the referees and ask your players to do the same.
- Be properly prepared for practices and games (eg, have correct equipment and know your game plan ahead of time) and insist that all players are also prepared (eg, with complete uniforms and proper equipment).

We stress these points:

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you are always organized and prepared, if you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and if you support the referees, your players and parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, or are overly critical of the referees or your own players that will also be noticed.

Think about what you're doing during the game! Uphold the spirit of the game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Apple Valley and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

What Are People's Expectations of a Coach?

by Byron & Catherine Pulsifer, © 2004

In talking with people, and from our own experiences, the following are expectations of the type of attitudes coaches should have:

A genuine interest in people

The best coaches really care about people. They have a sincere interest in people.

Enthusiasm

“The real secret of success is enthusiasm.”

Walter Chrysler

Those coaches who have enthusiasm for what they are doing influence the rest of the team.

“Nothing great was ever achieved, without enthusiasm.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sense of Humor

We all enjoy working with someone who has a sense of humor. At times the workplace can become a stressful place, and a sense of humor lightens the environment.

“Humor and knowledge are the two great hopes of our culture.”

Konrad Lorenz

Fairness & Integrity

One of the most important qualities people look for is fairness and integrity in a coach.

When I know the way I am treated is the same as my co-worker, it brings cohesiveness to the team. There is no second class in the team.

Everything is upfront and put on the table. There are no hidden agenda's. Honesty is one of the important values of a coach.

Willing to listen, not just hear

A good coach is one whom I can go to and discuss issues that are bothering me. The coach knows how to ask questions to get to the root of the problem. The coach does not necessarily accept the first reason; they listen and question to get to the heart of the problem.

The coach does not get upset or "fly off the handle" as I am talking. They listen. They then help me to see the issue clearly or where I went wrong. They teach me to learn from my experiences and push me to find my own answers. There is no fear in admitting mistakes or what went wrong. The coach will help me identify a solution.

Patience

With changes to the working environment, it is extremely important that a good coach has a lot of patience. I know that if I don't understand something I can go to my coach and they will help me. I also know if I didn't get it the first time the coach will patiently re-explain the issue or process to me.

Clear expectations

As a team member I need to know what is expected of me. A good coach communicates the expectations clearly. Team members are clear on what is expected. There is no confusion on what the end result is to be.