

Coaching Guidelines

1. Remember this is Recreational Soccer and not the World Cup.
2. Serve as a Facilitator
 - a. Set up conditions and environment for learning.
 - b. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback
 - c. Coach must be enthusiastic
 - d. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
 - e. Activities need to be geared toward achieving success
3. Serve as a positive “Role Model”
 - a. Demonstrate respect for team members, opponents, referees, parents, spectators, and opposing coaches.
 - b. Demonstrate a responsibility to the game itself.
4. Understand who you are coaching.
 - a. Recognize that children/players are not defined by chronological age only. They mature and develop at their own pace. There are also growth differences between genders
 - b. Treat each person as an individual
 - c. Recognize that their needs are different and they participate for different reasons (at any level).

IMPORTANT

In previous years, the BSC has had issues with coaches and referees. The following guidelines are to be used during the games.

1. If a coach has an issue with a decision that a referee has made, then the coach can ask for clarification from the referee during the game. As long as the coach does so in a respectful manner.
2. If clarification is not satisfactory to the coach, then the game report card should be filled out and put in the mailbox of the equipment building.
3. At no time is the coach allowed to consistently argue, be verbally insulting or abusive to the referee's.
4. Issue's can be presented to the Referee Coordinator or the President.
5. Please watch your parents to make sure that they do not have a confrontation with the referee's after the game.

** A warning will be issued for the first offense and a review of dismissal from coaching will follow for repeat offenders **

Practices:

- One Hour to Ninety Minutes – depending on age
- One evening or two evenings per week, depending on age
- Try to organize and make the time worth while
- Use practice plans – see coaches page on club website for great resources
- Show your fellow coaches and opposing teams respect
 - Use YOUR division's fields
 - Use the fields you are scheduled for
 - If you plan to scrimmage a team, needing full-field, plan ahead and don't intimidate teams into moving.
 - Please keep from conducting repetitive activities that will tear up the fields
- All players MUST wear shin guards – this is an insurance issue
- Please allow plenty of water breaks, especially when it is very warm

Games

- Prior to arriving to the fields, have a game plan in mind or on paper – have an idea of how you'll substitute and where players will be playing, especially keepers.
- Have players arrive approximately 30 minutes prior – conduct some warm-up activities in an open space nearby.
- About 10 minutes prior to kick-off, referees should be checking players' equipment
- About 5 minutes prior to kick-off, referees should be conducting a coin toss. Please send a couple players over as captains. Referees are not always aware of who is home or who is away – please help them with this. Away team gets to call the heads or tails. Winning team gets to choose the goal to defend or attack, and losing teams gets the first kick-off. Kick-offs will alternate each quarter. Teams will switch sides at the half.
- Have your players ready for kick-off by the scheduled time – games are scheduled tightly, and referees, coaches, players and parents quite often have other games just after yours.
- If playing quarters, there is just ONE minute between the 1st and 2nd and 3rd and 4th. Halftimes are just FIVE minutes. Please make quick time between breaks and get your players back on the field.
- ALL PLAYERS are guaranteed to play at least half the game. If they are injured or sick, that would be an exception. If you need to shorten playing time to discipline them, you must request an exception, and they and their parents must know and understand why they are being disciplined.
- At the younger ages, all players should be playing some offense and some on defense, and at least at U8, all players should get opportunities at keeper. No player should play just one position.
- Don't leave players on the field for entire periods. Each player should play in every period, and each player should get a break in every period.
- After games, line players up to shake hands – make sure you and they all thank the referees for their time. Be sure you have all your equipment and players take all their equipment with them. Before leaving your bench, be sure all garbage is picked up.

Background Checks – will now be required every TWO years. Please see background check release form

Concussion Certification – is required every TWO years. If you did not complete last year, please complete as soon as you can. Instructions and links are at batesvillesoccer.org – Participants – Coaches

Coaching Education – though not required, all coaches are encouraged to at least take the Youth Module online. Please see the handout for instructions on where to find it and how to take it for free. Other, higher, coaching education courses are available from Indiana Soccer for free to all rostered coaches; please check out the Indiana Soccer Coaching Education for course descriptions and schedules.

Kohl's American Cup – Now that we are part of US Youth Soccer, our recreational teams are eligible to play in Kohl's American Cup recreational tournaments. Bloomington Cutters host one each year in October. If you are interested in taking your team, please contact Jesse – president@batesvillesoccer.org for more information. The format for games is usually smaller-sided than what BSC plays, so if a few players can not commit, you may still be able to attend. The entry fee is VERY low.

Batesville Casket Cup 3v3 Tournament – held each year the last Saturday in October. Teams are comprised of just 4 players, and players do not need to have been registered for Batesville rec, or any other soccer program, and are welcome from anywhere. Check batesvillesoccer.org for information under Programs.

Referees – Most referees have 2 or fewer years of experience officiating. Do not expect perfection; just as your players (and some of you) are growing and learning, so are the referees. Being kind to referees and not being all over them throughout the game will potentially keep referees around longer, giving the club referees with more experience and hopefully better referees. Please help the referee program grow, and give the referees some slack – they're not purposefully missing things and none of them are out to get you or are against your team – they are doing the best they can with the experience and abilities they have. If you know of adults who can join our referee program, please encourage them to get certified and help us out.

Game Reporting – there is supposed to be a way for games to be reported for Blue Sombrero – this is year 1, so we're not sure how yet. Look for communication after week 1 on reporting game scores.