



FORT ST. JOHN
S O C C E R C L U B

Coach Support and Expectations – House League

Part 1: Club Support for Coaches

Purpose:

The purpose of Part 1 is to outline how the Fort St. John Soccer Club will support coaches in creating a safe, well-prepared, and positive environment for players. Coaches will not be expected to manage difficult situations alone and will have access to resources provided by the club.

1.1 Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

- Each session location, either the Kids Arena Field House or the Futsal Pitch at the FSJ Curling Club, has an Emergency Action Plan in place.
- Coaches will be provided access to these plans to utilize in the event of an emergency.
- EAP's are considered private and confidential as they may contain personal medical information. Access outside of an emergency is strictly prohibited.

1.2 First Aid

- First aid kits are available at both the Kids Arena Field House and the Futsal Pitch at the FSJ Curling Club.
- The club will provide guidance on kit locations and coaches are required to access them in the event of an emergency or injury.

1.3 Incident Reporting

- If player behaviour escalates beyond normal coaching management (e.g., bullying, harassment, abuse, unsafe behaviour, or repeated defiance), coaches must complete an incident report, which can be located on the Fort St. John Soccer Club website under the policies and forms tab.
- The “24-Hour Rule” is recommended, when appropriate and when the incident is not considered an emergency. Waiting 24 hours after an incident, before raising concerns, allows time for emotions to settle.
- The Fort St. John Soccer Club will review reports and follow up with players, parents, coaches, and staff as needed.
- All incident reports are kept private and confidential.

1.4 Communication

- The Grass Roots Coaching Leads, along with the Technical Director, will be the designated contacts at each session for support and guidance.
- Open communication is encouraged for questions, challenges, or concerns.

1.5 Coaching Resources and Staffing Support

- The Technical Director will provide pre-planned practice activities to support coaches in delivering quality, age-appropriate sessions.
- The Fort St. John Soccer Club will maintain a ratio of one adult per 10 players, with the added support of junior coaches where available.

1.6 Handling Conflict with Parents

- All parent Concerns and disputes must be directed to the Fort St. John Soccer Club using the incident reporting form located on the FSJSC website and emailed to fsjsoccer@telus.net.
- Coaches are not to manage conflicts, complaints, or disputes with parents on their own.
- If a parent raises an issue at a session, coaches should calmly redirect them to the club as the proper point of contact. This allows for consistency, fairness, and support for both coaches and families.

Part 2: Expectations of Coaches

Purpose:

The purpose of Part 2 is to outline the standards of behaviour and professionalism expected of all coaches representing the Fort St. John Soccer Club. These expectations ensure that players experience a respectful, inclusive, and development-focused environment.

2.1 Professional Conduct

- Coaches are expected to demonstrate respect, fairness, and sportsmanship towards players, parents, referees, and fellow coaches.
- Coaches are expected to always follow the Fort St. John Soccer Club policies including the Rule of Two Policy.

2.2 Player Treatment

- All players must be treated with dignity.
- The use of punishments as a form of discipline are strictly prohibited. Discipline should be constructive and focused on teaching and guiding players towards positive behaviour. See Section 2.6 for guidance.
- Preferential treatment will not be given to any individual player; all athletes are to be treated equally and fairly.

2.3 Inclusivity and Safety

- Coaches must maintain an inclusive environment that is welcoming and free from bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- Concerns in these areas must be reported to the Fort St. John Soccer Club immediately by filling out an incident report.

2.4 Communication Tools

- Coaches are required to use the RAMP app for scheduling and updates. Coaches are required to check all players in on the app at the start of each session noting if they are present or absent.
- Coaches will demonstrate privacy, discretion, and confidentiality while using the RAMP app. Distributing information that is specific to a player or incident related in nature is strictly prohibited.
- Accessing parent and/or player personal information on the RAMP app, including phone numbers and email addresses is strictly prohibited. Please direct concerns to the Fort St. John Soccer Club directly.

2.3 Role Clarity: Coach vs. Parent

- Coaches who also have children participating in sessions are expected to clearly separate their roles.
 - **When acting as a coach**, decisions and interactions must prioritize the needs of the entire player-group present at a session.
 - **When acting as a parent**, personal concerns should be addressed outside of practice or game times to maintain fairness and professionalism. Negative criticism towards a child is strongly discouraged at any time by the Fort St. John Soccer Club.
- **Preferential treatment will not be given** to a coach's child or any individual player; all athletes are to be treated equally and fairly.

2.4 Examples of Discipline Practices

Appropriate Strategies (encouraged):

- Giving a player a brief time-out on the bench to calm down and reset.
- Having a conversation about behaviour after the session has concluded, while following the Rule of Two Policy.
- Redirecting energy into a constructive role (e.g., helping with equipment, etc.) or soccer focused action (e.g., toe-touches, etc.)
- Setting clear rules and expectations at the beginning of the season.
- Recognizing and rewarding positive behaviour consistently.

Inappropriate Strategies (Not Allowed):

- Physical discipline of any kind.
- One-on-one discussions with players that violate the Rule of Two Policy.
- Assigning push-ups, burpees, lines, or other non-soccer focused action as punishment.
- Denying water, rest, or bathroom breaks.
- Yelling, name-calling, or humiliating a player in front of others.
- Excluding players from session activities as punishment.

Part 3: Commitment

The Fort St. John Soccer Club is committed to supporting its coaches in their role as mentors and leaders. By working together, we can ensure that players have a safe, fun, and positive soccer experience.