



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Coaching Guidelines

The BMYSL bylaws open with a declaration of the League's mission, which is to promote the sport of soccer, and to instill in our players a spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship. Our League's philosophy is that the achievement of these goals comes before everything else, rendering winning, trophies, medals, etc. as secondary accomplishments.

Our League holds an important position in the Lehigh Valley soccer community, affecting the lives of thousands of young players every season. The primary instrument in communicating our League's values, and to whom we have entrusted the development of our players, is the coaches. It is imperative that all BMYSL coaches behave in a manner that best represents our League's high standards, and also provide the best example for our players and spectators.

Coaches set the tone.

The coach has the most direct effect on the conduct of the players, as well as the conduct of the spectators. A coach under control is less likely to create an unhealthy environment that produces unruly fans. A coach with a positive, upbeat demeanor is more likely to affect those around him in the same manner.

One of the most important facets of the coach's conduct is his interaction with the officials. Referees make mistakes, don't always know the rules, and will not see every infraction on the field. **GET OVER IT!** Treating the officials with the proper respect (addressing the referee as "Sir or Ma'am", for example) is one of the best examples a coach can set for both the players and the spectators. Coaches must always keep in mind that they are held accountable for the behavior of everyone connected to their team, including assistant coaches, players, parents, and other fans.

This issue is discussed further in the **Coach Card** section.

Logistical Information

<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u># of Players</u>	<u>Referee Fees</u>
U-16 80min (40 min halves)	5	11	1 - \$44.00 / 2 refs-\$30 each
U-14 70min (35 min halves)	5	11	1- \$40.00 / 2- \$28 each
U-12 60min (30min halves)	4	11	1- \$34.00/ 2- \$26 each
U-10 50min (25min halves)	4	8	1- \$24.00
U-08 40min (20min halves)	3	5	Coaches Referee

***** NOTE: The referees should be paid prior to the start of the game. Each team is responsible for paying the referee their half of the total fee required. These fees are subject to change. *****

Official Team Rosters

Every team will be given three copies of the team roster that have been issued by the BMYSL's Registrar, specifically date stamped as per the League deadline. These rosters are the only rosters that will be accepted as valid. Before each game, one roster copy is to be given to the opposing coach, one copy to the officials, and one copy must be retained for the team's records.

Rosters cannot be changed after the stamped date, and must remain the same for the entire season. Players may not be added to the roster after the official version has been issued. Any attempt to alter the official roster is a violation of BMYSL rules and will result in penalties against the offender.

If a player is not at a game, his/her name must be lined off the roster, but can be added back upon notice to the referee. This is the only acceptable alteration to an official roster. If at any time, you become aware of a discrepancy regarding your roster, including incorrect jersey numbers, have your commissioner notify the Registrar at once.

Pre-game Coaches' Responsibilities

It is the home team coaches' responsibility to not only have his players and his team ready for play, but the field as well, including the following:

- Coach Cards. Each team is allowed a maximum of 3 coaches on the sidelines.

- Coaching Guidelines (Coaches must have these guidelines in their possession at all games for easy reference. This also includes the end of season Tournament) **Actually reading and being aware of the contents can help prevent conflicts.**
- Corner Flags
- Goals and nets. Goals must be properly secured (sand bags)
- Litter and debris cleaned off the field
- If the home team has a bench, then **the away team must also have a bench.**
- Referee fees (see first section)
- Fields lined, including coaches boxes, and 10ft minimum spectator line
- Three game balls
- Side-line runners (runners may not coach)
- First Aid Kit, Cell phone (access to 911), Ice/Cold Packs

***** NOTE: Every coach must have his roster in his possession and available at the end of season Tournament. *****

Substitution Rules

Substitutions may be made with the referee's permission at the following times:

- Own team throw ins
 - On the opposing team's throw in **if they are substituting**
- Own team goal kicks
 - On the opposing team's goal kick **if they are substituting**
- Own team corner kicks, **not on the opposing team's corner kick, even if they substitute.**
- For an injured player. If the coach comes on the field, the player must exit until the next substitution opportunity. One substitution is allowed to the other team if they so choose.
- A players receiving a yellow card must exit the field of play until the next substitution opportunity

Coaches must receive permission from the referee for all substitutions. Substitutes must report to the mid field line and await permission to enter field.

Player Eligibility

Per BMYSL rules, every player participating in any game, preseason, regular season, and the post season, must be registered with all appropriate entities (Club, League, EPYSA, etc...). All players must be properly rostered for any team that they play for. Clubs, Commissioners, Head Coaches, and Assistant Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all participating players are both eligible and properly registered.

All players must play at least 15 minutes per game.

In order to be eligible to play in the post season Tournament, a player must have played in at least half of all regular season games. Even though the 15 minute rule is not in effect for the Tournament, every effort should be made to get every player into each game.

Injury related exceptions must be appealed to the BMYSL executive board.

If a player receives a red card, they are ejected from the game, the team must play a player down, and the red carded player is suspended for the next game. As stated in the BMYSL Bylaws, if the Executive Board decides that the circumstances of the infraction require more than a one game suspension, a hearing to discuss the incident will be scheduled. The player, his coach, and the player's parents will be required to attend this hearing, and the extent of the punishment will be determined.

Establishing the Final Score

At the end of each game, both head coaches will meet with the officials to have their coach cards returned and to establish the final score of the game. This discussion should be brief and if a final score can not be agreed upon, each coach should report their version of the score with the discrepancy noted, as will the officials. This discussion is then over and should not continue on the way off the field or in the parking lot.

Coach Cards

All sanctioned BMYSL coaches, including all assistant coaches, must complete the EPYSA's Risk Management Process online. All coaches must also obtain their BMYSL coaching card by attending and fulfilling all requirements at the appropriate League Carding Clinic. **All coaches are required to do this every year** These coach cards will be numbered and registered to specific, authorized, BMYSL coaches. These cards are not to be shared, copied, or tampered with in any manner what so ever. Any violations of BMYSL rules and regulations relevant to these coaching cards will result in severe penalties to the offending parties, including the possible loss of all BMYSL coaching privileges.

EVERY COACH MUST COMPLETE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION, INCLUDING EPYSA ID #, SIGNATURE, AND A PICTURE ON THE BACK. THE CARD MUST BE LAMINATED. ANY CARD NOT PROPERLY COMPLETED IS CONSIDERED INVALID, AND NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO COACH WITHOUT A VALID COACH'S CARD.

***** NOTE: Replacement for lost cards will result in the coach being charged a replacement cost and a possible fine. *****

All BMYSL teams must have a carded coach present for each of their league games, including the post season tournament. This may be any carded coach within the club (i.e. U-12 coach fills in for U-10 coach). Prior to the start of every game, the referee will collect all cards from every coach in the coaches' box. Failure to present a valid coaches card will result in a forfeit by that coach's team. The game may still be played, but only as a scrimmage and the referees must be paid.

If the referee finds the conduct of any coach, player, parent, or spectator unacceptable in any manner, the referee will confiscate that coach's card. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of everyone connected with their club, be it players, assistant coaches, parents, or spectators. Any coach, who has his card confiscated by the referee, cannot retrieve that card until they appear before the Executive Board at the next scheduled BMYSL meeting. Currently the BMYSL meets the first Thursday of every month.

UNSPORTSMAN- LIKE CONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

Game Cancellations

In order to change the date or time of any scheduled games, all established procedures listed on the BMYSL Website must be followed. Any and all changes must be approved at the commissioner level. **Coaches do not have the authority to change the schedule, without prior approval.** Don't forget to notify the Ref Assignor.

The referee is responsible for determining if a game is to be cancelled, 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. In the event of inclement weather the commissioners are responsible for determining if the playing venue is not suitable.

In nearly all cases if a venue is playable, a game will be played in its entirety with the exception of thunderstorms.

Incident Reports

Any incident of any kind, related to a game, that a coach feels should be reported to the League, must be communicated, in writing, to that club's commissioner within 24 hours of the game's ending. The commissioner then has 24 hours to send a written report to the BMYSL President. Email satisfies the "in writing" requirement.

Key Points of Interest

The BMYSL adheres to the PIAA rule book as the official rules governing league play. Only those rules noted below differ from the current PIAA rule book.

- If you want to question a referee's call, wait until half time and politely address your concern.

- Small sided fields – Goal keeper may not punt the ball past mid field in the air.
 - This will result in an indirect free kick at the point where the ball crossed mid field for the opposing team. Throws and six kicks are excluded from this rule.
- Goal keepers may not pick up a ball intentionally kicked back to them by a player on their own team; this includes throw- ins. However, the goal keeper may play the ball with their feet.
- The BMYSL has a zero tolerance policy regarding the abuse of officials both verbal and physical. Under no circumstances should an official ever be accosted at any point before, during or after the game by coaches, parents, players, or spectators. The penalties levied for these infractions will be severe and could include a lifetime banishment for the offender.
- Coaches are prohibited from the use of any TOBACCO products. In your preseason team meetings, strongly suggest that all spectators also follow this ban. It is unlawful to use TOBACCO on school fields. This includes the end of season Tournament.
- Coaches are not to come out of the coaches' box and only three carded coaches are allowed in the box during the game.
- No one is allowed to coach from outside the boxes (i.e. sideline runners, parents, etc...)
- Dogs should be kept away from the game, especially the sideline. Dogs are usually prohibited from school grounds and most municipal parks anyway.

BMYSL CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

With every new season, it is beneficial for all involved in the Blue Mountain Youth Soccer League to renew our commitment to the League's goals and principles, as well as what is in the best interest of every children's sports endeavor. Every player, coach, parent, and spectator, plays a role in determining the purpose and health of the BMYSL. Each of these contributors should abide by those principles that best ensure our league exhibits the highest level of teamwork, sportsmanship, and community spirit. The ultimate result will be respect for teammates, coaches, officials and opponents.

In light of the sometimes questionable state of organized sports of today, it is imperative that we conduct ourselves in such a manner as to avoid the player clashes, bad attitudes, and conflicts with authority that negatively impacts our League. It seems particularly important to note that in a youth sports environment, trash talking and personal attacks of any kind cannot be tolerated.

If every individual involved in every role, adheres to the highest level of personal conduct, it will give everyone in our organization the best opportunity to achieve the maximum benefit from our sport.

Please take a moment to review FIFA's U.S. Code of Conduct.

FIFA Code of Conduct

Play the game for the game's sake.

Be generous when you win.

Be graceful when you lose.

Be fair always, no matter what the cost.

Obey the laws of the game.

Work for the good of your team.

Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.

Believe in the honesty of your opponents.

Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.