

CLUB EXPECTATIONS FOR COACHES & TRAINERS

To Facilitate Player Development



The Maroons Soccer Club mission is to deliver an inspiring soccer learning experience that creates a culture of intelligent, skilled & confident soccer players who play the beautiful game, beautifully.

Critical to this experience is the player's coach/trainer who inspires and motivates players to learn, to spend more time with a ball, and to build a passion for soccer. For Maroons, Coaching IS TEACHING. The coach/trainer creates a learning environment that nurtures the development of a complete player – technical, tactical, physical, psychological/social, and good sportsmanship.

To facilitate this learning experience, the Club operates under certain expectations for our coaches. These expectations are both for our Parent Coaches as well as our Professional Coach Trainers.

OVERALL EXPECTATIONS:

- I understand that as a coach, I bear the responsibility for the holistic soccer development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of my players.
- I will base my decisions and actions on what is best for developing the individual player, and collective players on my team. If I do this, then most of my actions will be the right ones.
- I will guide my team's learning agenda for the season, aligning with the *Maroons Player Development Pathway*, and working closely with my professional coach trainer.
- I will read, understand, support, and always try to represent the *Maroons Style of Teaching*
- I will operate with the highest moral standards and not bring the Club any ill repute.
- I will encourage my players to learn about the broader world of soccer and to watch games at the highest level, as this will facilitate their learning development.
- I will show players how to be a good sport, how to treat others with respect, and how to be worthy of being treated with respect.
- I will model inclusive behavior, actively supporting diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of the game.
- I will impress on my players that they must abide by the Laws of the Game at all times.
- I will read, understand, and ensure my players, team parents and I support and uphold:
 - The *Club Expectations for Players & Club Expectations for Parents*.
 - Any league guidelines and policies.
 - The *Maroons Fields Policy*, especially related to goal safety.
- I will dress the part of a coach, with proper soccer clothing, Maroons Club shirt, and athletic shoes; Professional coach trainers may wear respective program logo shirts.
- I will try to continually improve my knowledge of the game and expand my ability to teach and inspire each player.
- I will encourage my players to participate in Club activities, like *Free-Play Football Fridays, Futsal, Goal Keeper Training, and Juggling Elite*.

EXPECTATIONS FOR TRAINING SESSIONS, specific to the coach/trainer running the session:

- I will align with the *Maroons Player Development Pathway* and develop an appropriate *Season Learning Plan*.
- I will prepare a training lesson plan in advance of each of my sessions, outlining the topic, organization, progression, coaching points and visual cues to best teach my players.
- I will strive to arrive early to set up, ensure a prompt start, and I will finish on time.
- The ball will be the center of my players' attention, not me as a coach; I will not take away touches from my players by talking too much or running an inefficient session.
- I will work tirelessly to improve every one of the players I am graciously invited to coach, by:
 - Using various *Teaching Approaches* and the proper *Coaching Methodology*.
 - Maximizing touches, repetition, and time on task.
 - Replicating the game and allowing the game to be the teacher.
 - Using a questioning technique to allow for guided discovery and limiting my use of a directive technique.
 - Praising, with specific feedback, each of my players, in every session.
 - Using proper end of training scrimmage numbers and small-sided games.
- If I am not running the training session, and I am the game-day coach, I will make every effort to attend training to best understand the players, their ability, and their development.

EXPECTATIONS ON MATCH DAY:

- I will represent the Maroons in a professional manner through my actions and behaviors.
- I will ensure to use a “One Voice” coaching approach, and I will minimize the number of coaches standing close to the touchline.
- I will maintain my focus on long-term player development, and not allow short-term decisions, like winning, interfere with this focus.
- I will not expect my players to do things in a game that they have not yet been taught.
- I will develop a pre-match warm-up that involves high ball touch, and/or a focused training topic, as well as incorporating a dynamic warm-up.
- I will focus the majority of my in-game coaching on tactical guidance (e.g. team shape and principles of attack and defense), and use a questioning technique (e.g. “where is a better position”) to encourage my players to discover the solution; I will limit my directive coaching (“kick it”, “shoot”, “dribble”) as I know that this does not facilitate player development.
- I will analyze the match and my players' performance to 1) inform my half time talk and 2) illuminate additional individual, group, and team learning needs that are needed as well as understand how well learning is taking place against topics already taught.
- I will try and attend my players' matches when I might not be their game day coach, so I can motivate my players and better understand if learning is occurring.
- I will treat all referees, opponents, and parents with respect, at all times.

I will understand and abide by the following **SPECIFIC AGE GROUP EXPECTATIONS**:

U8-U10

- Coach must have a “USSF Youth License, F, or Parent Coach” or “NSCAA Level II”.
- Players must play all positions (goalie, back, midfield, forward) on a regular basis. Playing all positions aids the player in learning and understanding the game. Encourage, but don’t require, that each player play a half in goal.
- Equal playing time for ALL players.
- Every player must have the opportunity to start multiple games.
- Every player must have the opportunity to be team captain during each season.

U11-U12

- Coach must have, at minimum for U11-U12, a “USSF E” or “NSCAA Level IV”.
- Allow players to play all positions (back, midfield, forward). Playing all positions aids the player in learning and understanding the game. Encourage, but don’t require, that each player play a half in goal.
- Allow playing time to equal, on average, half a game. Players should earn more game time based on commitment, effort, attitude, skill level, and training mentality.
- Allow every player the opportunity to start multiple games.
- Allow every player to be team captain during each season.

U13-U14

- Coach must have, at minimum for U13-U14, a “USSF National D” or “NSCAA Level VI” and understand that a “NSCAA National Diploma” is highly recommended.
- Players continue to play all positions (back, midfield, forward) as this is an important aspect of learning and player development.
- Some players might gravitate toward more specific positions (goalie, back, midfield, forward) and those players should be allowed to further develop their abilities if that is the player’s preference. To continue balanced development, each player should still be rotated into other positions given the benefits received for better game understanding.
- Playing time is not required to be equal. Players can earn increased game time based on dedication to soccer, commitment, effort, attitude, skill level, and training mentality. Flexibility in game time is allowed for high level teams playing in State Cup or other high level competitions. For league matches, it is recommended that, on average, game time reflect an average of 30 minutes a match for all games attended over the course of the season.
- Players earn the right to start games based on performance and each week’s participation.
- Players earn the right to be team captain. It is recommended that captains be selected based on each week’s participation.

As a Parent Coach or Professional Coach Trainer in Maroons Soccer Club, I support and give every intention to uphold these **CLUB EXPECTATIONS FOR COACHES** to facilitate the development of each of the players I teach.

2015-16 SEASON

Coach/Trainer Name

Coach/Trainer Signature

Date