Maroons Soccer Club is the driving force for soccer development and excellence in Ridgewood. We are a competitive soccer club focused on ***Player Development*** that allows each player to achieve their maximum potential by creating an enduring love for the beautiful game. Critical to each player’s success is the quality and excellence of our coaches as they create a learning environment that nurtures the best development of a complete player – technical, tactical, physical, psychological, and good sportsmanship.

**COACH EXPECTATIONS**

***TO FACILITATE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT***

In order to facilitate this learning environment, Maroons Soccer 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. I know that 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 Soccer Club Curriculum*** (under development), and working closely with my professional trainer.
* 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 compliance for my players, team, and parents for any league guidelines and policies.
* I will read, understand, and ensure compliance for my players, team, and parents for the ***Maroons Soccer Club*** ***Fields Policy***, especially in relation to goal safety.
* I will dress the part of a coach, with proper soccer clothing, Maroons Club shirt, and athletic shoes; Professional coach trainers can wear respective program logo shirts.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR TRAINING SESSIONS:**

* I will ensure I prepare a training lesson plan in advance of each session, and outline how best to teach my players each topic, including coaching points.
* 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.  I will do this by:
  + Maximizing touches
  + Replicating the game and allowing the game to be the teacher
  + Using a questioning technique to allow for guided discovery and I will limit my use of a directive technique (telling them what and how to do things).
  + Keeping focus on long term player development, and not allowing short term decisions, like winning a game, interfere with this focus.
  + Praising, as much as possible, each of my players, in every session.

**EXPECTATIONS ON GAME DAY:**

* I will use a “One Voice” coaching approach during matches, and I will minimize the number of coaches standing close to the touch line.
* I will focus the majority of my in-game coaching on tactical guidance (e.g. team shape and movement -- drop, width, depth), 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 develop a pre-game warm-up that involves high ball touch, and/or a focused training topic, as well an incorporating a dynamic warm-up.
* I will analyze the match and my players’ performance to understand if learning is taking place and to ensure our learning agenda is properly focused for the coming weeks.
* I will try and attend my players’ games 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.

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

**U8-U10**

* Coaches must hold at minimum a “USSF Youth License, F, or Parent Coach” or “NSCAA Level II”.
* Allow players to play all positions (backs, midfield, forwards) 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.
* Allow equal playing time for ALL players, for every game attended.
* Allow every player the opportunity to start multiple games.
* Allow every player to be team captain during each season.

**U11-U12**

* Coaches at U11-U12 must hold at minimum a “USSF E” or “NSCAA Level IV”.
* Allow players to play all positions (backs, midfield, forwards).  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 for all games attended during the season.  Players can 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**

* Coaches at U13-U14 must hold at minimum a “USSF National D” or “NSCAA Level VI”; “NSCAA National Diploma” highly recommended.
* Continue to allow players to play all positions (backs, midfield, forwards) as this is an important aspect of learning and player development.
* Some players might gravitate toward more specific positions (goalie, backs, midfield, forwards) 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 are able to 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 Coach or Professional Coach Trainer in Maroons Soccer Club, I support and give every intention to uphold these **COACH EXPECTATIONS TO FACILITATE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**.

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Coach Name

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Coach Signature

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Team

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Date