



NORTHERN COLORADO
LIGHTNING
ACADEMY

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Northern Colorado Lightning Academy (NOCOLA) philosophy is based on a sincere desire to promote the advancement of youth soccer at a local grassroots level, to encourage the improvement of an individual player's skills and abilities via the vehicle of 'The Team', to help nurture character and resilience in our young people ('The Warrior Spirit'), and to support the growth of our trained coaches and referees. Our goal is that each of our players and coaches enjoy the sport of soccer, while developing their own self-esteem and confidence. Our 'product' is not soccer, it is people and relationships; respect, kindness and decency towards others is crucial in this process and this extends across the entirety of our Club's internal and external interactions. NOCOLA is committed to continually abiding by our cultural 'north star' of **'Experience over Outcomes'** and we will maintain a safe, fun and inclusive family environment that can facilitate this. In order to live up to our values and to hold each and every one of us accountable to the Club's expectations and standards, the NOCOLA mandates adherence to the following 'Lightning Academy Code of Conduct' for all players, parents/guardians, coaches and leaders.

NOCO Lightning Academy Player Code of Conduct:

- I will treat my coaches, my teammates, other players, referees, and spectators with respect - ALWAYS.
- I will be a positive role model and encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches,

and parents - ALWAYS.

- I will not bully any teammate or other person involved with the club. I will report any bullying to the coaches or staff members.
- I will remember that all players have talents and weaknesses, the same as I do. I will not ridicule or yell at any player for making a mistake during a soccer game or during practice.
- I will listen to my coaches and do what is asked of me in order to improve my game and my position on the team.
- While sitting on the bench during a game, I will watch the game and support my teammates who are in the game. I will provide only positive comments to the players on the field.
- I understand that I am responsible for my uniform and my equipment.
- I understand that I must be on time and play my best at all practices and games.
- Once I am at the soccer field for practice, I will not utilize my cell phone to call or text anyone during practice unless I receive approval from one of my coaches.
- I will tell one of my coaches in advance if I cannot attend training, games, or other team events through the TeamSnap availability tab or messaging feature.
- I will never use social media to damage my reputation or our soccer community. I understand that posting hurtful information can destroy a friendship, family relationships, and even a soccer team in a matter of minutes. I will treat these words for what they are: permanent records that can never be erased.
- I understand that drug/alcohol use and other inappropriate behavior, including posting inappropriate information on any social media are grounds for dismissal from the team.
- I will notify my coach if a member of another club's staff or other club representative approaches them for purposes of recruitment.

NOCOLA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct:

Parents are a crucial part of a player's soccer development and of a team's success. Parents are an integral part of the NOCO Lightning Academy community. As such, parents' behavior on the sideline and

appropriate support/encouragement of their child is of the utmost importance. To that end, this agreement outlines what is expected of parents in order to create a positive environment for all players. By allowing your player to accept a spot on the NOCOLA roster you are accepting the following parent agreement.

All NOCO Lightning Academy Parents Shall:

- Always display appropriate behavior on the sidelines.
- Support the coaches, especially regarding lineup choices and discipline.
- Encourage players with cheers and positive comments.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Never speak to the referee, opposing coach, or opposing players. Only speak to opposing parents in a complimentary fashion, or if you know them personally. No matter their behavior, how the other team or coach acts, YOU will take the high road and show 'class'! Let's 'win' each and every game as a Club in this area!
- Do not speak about players on the team while on the sideline. Do not speak negatively about an opposing player while on the sideline. You have no idea who is overhearing you, or who may be friends or relatives of that player's family. Do not speak about players in any negative way. Remember, they are kids.
- Do not coach or give instructions to players on the field. This applies to your own child as well as other players on the team.
- Have players at practice and games on time. Be on time to pick up players and stay tuned in the case of inclement weather.
- Notify the coach in advance if a player cannot attend a scheduled practice or game.
- Focus on effort and development, not on winning - this is what our club motto of 'Experience over Outcomes' means.
- Provide a positive environment for learning and developing. For Example: proper nutrition/hydration before & after games, purchasing/providing the necessary uniform/equipment for your player, not

participating on other teams without prior approval of the Executive Director of the NOCO Lightning Academy – James Walters.

- Communicate with coaches if there are questions or concerns, but not during, before or after the games. We strongly recommend a 24 hour rule - i.e. let a full day pass before engaging in what could be difficult conversations and email/text/call your coach to set a time to talk. All urgent communication is exempt from this rule.
- Schedule vacations & other absences around the soccer season when reasonably possible.
- You are responsible to ensure that all family members and guests you bring to games are aware of the codes of conduct.
- You will notify the Executive Director of NOCOLA- James Walters, if a coach is not meeting expectations of the Coaches Warriors Code (Section III)

Failure to comply with the above requirements may lead to you being suspended from games and practices. Any league fines incurred by the club due to your actions will be your financial responsibility.

**As NOCOLA has a limited number of roster spots, registration is considered a binding commitment to pay 100% of all registration fees for the season or program even if the player chooses to leave the team/program before the season ends. All fees paid to the club are non-refundable once a player accepts a spot on the team roster. Payment of the club registration fee implies consent, and we rely on this information to form teams and any reversal will negatively impact this process.*

NOCOLA Coaching Code of Conduct:

- Coach by the mottos of ‘Experience Over Outcomes’ and ‘The Score is Always 0-0’.
- Provide a positive role model for your players and parents, by consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of a Warrior coach.

- Provide players with a safe environment that allows them to be an individual and grow to their fullest potential both on and off the pitch.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and maintain a proper perspective on the purpose of NOCOLA soccer, namely, participation is for the enjoyment and benefit of the players (not the adults).
- Learn the rules of soccer and earn at least a basic certification.
- Above all else, maintain the safety and well-being of your players.
- Explain to (and remind) parents what is expected of them and their children.
- Provide a positive, enjoyable atmosphere for the players and parents.
- Refrain from open arguments with referees and other coaches.
- Encourage parents to support the team with their presence as much as possible.
- Provide necessary guidance and equipment at games and practices.
- Discipline players in a FAIR and CONSISTENT manner.
- Refrain from making negative comments about other coaches, players, parents and referees.
- Be prepared to deal with injuries in a timely manner by reviewing first aid principles.
- Maintain a consistent practice schedule that is both fun and challenging for the players.
- Provide open and honest communication to players and parents/guardians alike.
- Meet on a regular basis to discuss club matters creating consistent communication and organization for practices/other events.

All participants of Northern Colorado Lightning Academy shall abide by the Lightning Code at all times. Inappropriate behavior that is determined to violate this Code of Conduct shall result in disciplinary action by the NOCOLA Board of Directors, up to and including, without limitation, expulsion from the game/field, and expulsion from the Northern Colorado Lightning Academy.