

## **Sportsmanship in Soccer, the Responsibilities of the Coach**

By Harry Rodgers, Cofounder of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association

The coach bears the greatest burden of responsibility for sportsmanship. His influence upon the attitudes and behavior of the players are unequaled. In order for good sportsmanship to become a reality, it is essential that the coach subscribe to the values of sportsmanship and teach the principles through word and deed. It is recommended that the coach:

1. Always set a good example for others to follow
2. Instruct the players in their sportsmanship responsibilities
3. Discipline those players who display unsportsmanlike behavior, if necessary forfeit their privileges of representing the club.
4. Be a good host to opponents; treat them as guests.
5. Provide opportunities for social interaction among coaches and players of both teams before and after the game.
6. Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules.
7. Publicly shake hands with the officials and opposing coach before and after the game.