

Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc.



Coach Codes of Conduct

Preface

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and these principles: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these principles

Code of Conduct

Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc. (hereinafter “**MAYFL**”) recommends that it league members to include a code of conduct rules for all of its coaches. Establishing proper ethics and integrity are essential ingredients for a successful league. Therefore, **MAYFL** recommends that league officials include conduct rules pertaining to all participants, i.e., coaches, officers, players, and parents in their respective programs. Additionally, each league member is encourage to establish guidelines for handing out suspensions to players, coaches, parents, and any other disorderly spectator.

Coaching Ethics & Conduct

The primary goal of a coach should be the development of boys and girls to be better citizens. The players or cheerleaders must be taught sportsmanship and fair play, and these teachings should always govern their behavior on and off the field of play. A coach shall be responsible for the conduct of all players, members of the coaching staff, parents, and spectators. This includes the time periods before, during, and after league games and other events. Improper conduct, in the judgment of the game officials, on the part of the players, coaches, parents or other spectators may result in penalties, expulsion, suspension, or forfeiture of the game. A coach must be aware that their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

A coach is essential to the establishment of ethics and integrity in football. Thus, his/her concept of ethics and sense of integrity directly affects the behavior of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with winning. However, these codes of conduct call for coaches to disassociate themselves form a “**win-at-all-costs**” attitude.

Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent.

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MAYFL requires the following coaching ethics:

- The coach will not attempt to falsify birth certificates or any other documents to make a participant eligible to compete in football or cheerleading in **MAYFL**. The coach shall not engage in any activity that includes the substitution of another person's birth certificate as the birth certificate of the player or cheerleader who desires to participate in **MAYFL's** football or cheerleading programs.
- The coach will not criticize players in front of spectators
- The coach will accept the decisions of officials
- The coach will not criticize the officials, the opposing team, the coaches, fans or parents, through language or gesture.
- The coach will emphasize that good athletes are good students, and both are physically and mentally alert.
- The coach will strive to make every football activity serve as a training ground for life, and as a basis for good mental and physical health.
- The coach will emphasize that winning a game is the result of teamwork.
- The coach shall not use abusive or profane language before anyone connected with the game.
- The coach will refrain from "running-up" the score against an opponent. This includes keeping in the first defense at all times.
- The coach will not be under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs
- The coach will set a positive example in personal conduct at all times.
- The coach will not smoke or use any form of tobacco while on the field of play during games, scrimmages or practices.
- The coach will treat each player, opposing coach, parent and administrator with respect and dignity.
- The coach will learn the strengths and weakness of his/her players so that he/she might place them into situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
- The coach will protect the health and safety of his/her players by insisting that all of the activities under his/her control be conducted for their psychological and physiological welfare, rather than the "interest" of adults.
- The coach will read **MAYFL's** Official Rules and assist your players and parents in understanding them.
- The coach will respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport
- The coach will place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance
- The coach will adhere to all guidelines laid down by MAYFL

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- The coach will develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect
- The coach will not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- The coach will encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance –
- The coach will ensure that the activities he/she directs or advocates are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players
- The coach should, at the outset, clarify with the player (and, where appropriate, their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach
- The coach will co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player
- The coach will always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques
- The coach will consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance. Any breach of any provision(s) of this Code of Conduct by a coach associated with MAYFL shall constitute a breach of the Rules of **MAYFL** and shall be dealt with under the procedures as set out in the Rules of **MAYFL**
- The coach will complete the requirements of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association to be certified as a coach to coach in **MAYFL**.
- The coach will not include any player or cheerleader on a MAYFL roster that is not duly registered with a league or association member.

The coach agrees that if he/she fails to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, he/she will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file
- Game(s) forfeiture with written documentation of incident kept on file
- Season suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file
- Fines with written documentation of incident kept on file
- Banned for life from coaching within MAYFL, and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law by legal authorities in the case of falsifying a person's birth certificate to include substituting another person's birth certificate as that of a player or cheerleader desiring to participate in MAYFL's football and cheerleading programs.

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- All players participating in MAYFL’s football program must be registered with a league or association member. Any coach found with a non-registered player participating in a MAYFL event (including practice) will result in a lifetime ban of that coach from MAYFL. Additionally, any non-registered player found participating in a MAYFL sanctioned game would result in the forfeiture of all games in which the non-registered player was a participant for the offending team.

I certify that I have read and familiarized myself with the rules and regulations governing football play, cheerleading, and conduct in **MAYFL**, and that I will uphold and abide by these rules and codes of conduct.

Coach Signature

Date:

Coach Printed Name

League Affiliation