

Central Texas Youth Football League (CTYFL) Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct outlines the behavior expected from all participants, coaches, players, officials, volunteers, and spectators involved in the Central Texas Youth Football League (CTYFL). Our primary goal is to foster a safe, positive, and respectful environment for youth athletes, families, and all members of our organization. All individuals associated with CTYFL are expected to adhere to these guidelines to maintain the integrity of our league and uphold the values of sportsmanship and community.

1. General Conduct for Organizations, Associations, Presidents, Coaches, Players, and Association Members

All individuals associated with CTYFL, including but not limited to coaches, players, parents, members, and volunteers, must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the league's core values of respect, fairness, integrity, and sportsmanship.

- **Respect for Others:** Treat all players, coaches, referees, spectators, and volunteers with respect. Discrimination, harassment, or bullying based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, or any other protected status will not be tolerated.
- **Positive Behavior:** Demonstrate good sportsmanship and lead by example. Encourage players to perform to the best of their ability, promote teamwork, and focus on individual development.
- **Zero Tolerance for Profanity and Abusive Language:** Profanity, abusive language, or offensive behavior will not be tolerated at any time, whether during games, practices, or events. This includes any form of verbal abuse directed at coaches, referees, players, or spectators.
- **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs:** The use of alcohol, tobacco products (including vaping), and drugs is strictly prohibited at all CTYFL-related events, including games, practices, and any associated functions or facilities. This applies to coaches, players, and spectators.

2. Guidelines for Games and Hosted Games

- **Game Behavior:** All coaches, players, and spectators must act with respect during games. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will result in immediate consequences, including removal from the premises if necessary.
- **Spectators' Behavior:** Spectators must remain in the designated areas and are not allowed on the field at any time during games, except under specific circumstances as permitted by the association's Field Director or the president of the hosting organization.
- **Field and Game Area Restrictions:** Only authorized personnel (coaches, players, officials) are allowed on the field. Spectators entering the field without authorization will be immediately suspended from attending future games and their associated organization will be fined.

3. Cheer Competitions and CTYFL Functions

- **Cheerleading Conduct:** Cheerleaders, coaches, and spectators at cheerleading events must uphold the same standards of conduct expected at games. Disruptive behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct, and negative interactions between teams or spectators will not be tolerated.

- **CTYFL Functions:** At any CTYFL-sponsored event, including but not limited to meetings, banquets, and social gatherings, all members must behave in a manner that promotes a positive environment. Any form of misconduct will result in consequences as outlined in this Code of Conduct.

4. Social Media Guidelines

- **Respect on Social Media:** All participants, including coaches, players, parents, and members, should be mindful of the content they post on social media. Posts that are defamatory, threatening, or discriminatory in nature are strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.
- **No Negative Public Comments:** Any negative, disrespectful, or inflammatory comments made about players, coaches, referees, or any CTYFL member on social media will be treated as a violation of the Code of Conduct.

5. Enforcement of Code of Conduct

- **First Offense:** A warning will be issued to the offending party. They will be reminded of the expected behavior and the importance of adhering to the Code of Conduct.
- **Second Offense:** A suspension from the next game or event, with a possible probationary period where the offending party's behavior will be closely monitored.
- **Third Offense or Severe Violation:** Immediate removal from the event or function, suspension from future events, and possible permanent removal from the league, depending on the severity of the offense.
- **Serious Misconduct:** Any form of sexual misconduct or physical violence will result in immediate removal from the event, suspension, and a review of the situation, which may lead to permanent expulsion from CTYFL.

6. Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct, including inappropriate comments, gestures, or physical contact, is a serious violation of this Code of Conduct. Any allegations of sexual misconduct will be investigated immediately, and the individual responsible will be permanently removed from participation in CTYFL activities, with legal authorities notified as necessary.

7. Referee Code of Conduct

Referees are essential to the smooth functioning of games and must maintain a professional, unbiased, and fair approach at all times. Referees must:

- **Demonstrate Professionalism:** Referees must make impartial decisions and refrain from any behavior that could be perceived as biased, unfair, or disrespectful to any party.
- **Respect and Communication:** Referees should communicate clearly and professionally with players, coaches, and spectators. Any form of aggression, verbal abuse, or inappropriate behavior from referees will not be tolerated.
- **Confidentiality:** Referees should avoid discussing internal league matters or personal opinions regarding officiating publicly.

8. Enforcement of Referee Conduct

Any violations of the referee code of conduct will be addressed by the CTYFL's officials. Disciplinary measures may include training, suspension, or removal from officiating CTYFL games, depending on the severity of the violation.

9. Field Access and Spectator Conduct

- **No Spectator Field Access:** Spectators are not allowed on the field unless explicitly permitted by the association's Field Director or President. Any spectator who enters the field without authorization will be suspended from future games and may cause their team or organization to incur a fine.
- **Safety First:** Coaches, players, and officials must prioritize safety on the field. Any action that jeopardizes the safety of players, coaches, or spectators will result in immediate suspension and further disciplinary action.

Conclusion

By participating in CTYFL activities, everyone agrees to abide by the standards set forth in this Code of Conduct. We are committed to creating a positive, respectful, and safe environment for youth athletes to develop their skills, enjoy the sport, and thrive as individuals. All individuals involved with CTYFL must understand the importance of promoting these values and are encouraged to speak up if they witness violations of this Code of Conduct.

Acknowledgment By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to adhere to the Central Texas Youth Football League Code of Conduct.

Signature of Participant (Player/Coach/Member)

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicable)

Date

