

Springfield Youth Football League

Coach's Code of Ethics/Expectations

1. Be positive in your approach to the players. Reserve criticism for private and make it constructive. Cussing is not allowed on the practice field or playing field. Positive Impact has been a long-standing theme of the league and the conference.
2. Accept the decisions of the game officials and judges on the field as being fair and called to the best of their ability. When there is a question or dispute handle in a professional and mature manner that would exhibit positive character. Be an example of good sportsmanship to the players, parents and spectators... don't just talk it.
3. Support the opposing players and coaches. Criticizing the other team by word of mouth, gesture, reactions or any other way is not acceptable whether on or off the field.
4. No coach at anytime should smoke or use smokeless tobacco or consume alcoholic beverages while on the playing or the practice field.
5. Strive to make every football activity serve as a training ground for life and a basis for good mental, emotional, and academic health. Coaches should encourage their players to put schoolwork first and football second. Maintain balance.
6. It is expected that each coach teach the age appropriate fundamentals of the game. Football is the ultimate team sport. Stress that teamwork and hard work is the way to win in football and in life. Also, effort should be noticed and awarded. Players should know that winning does not always have to do with the score of a game.
7. Coaches are responsible for their fans including parents of the players. Coaches should control their fans and remember that they will usually follow your example and your influence. Leadership from the coach in this area is expected.
8. Coaches should abide by and uphold all rules and expectations. Springfield Youth Football Conference rules apply to all games regardless of where they are played. Coaches will not teach or encourage players to "hedge" on rules that have been set forth by the league leadership including abiding by the junior high school boundaries.
9. A coach should never incite un-sportsmanlike conduct which includes but is not limited to running up the score, piling on, getting revenge on another player or team, excessive arguing with referees, leading the team in any kind of taunting chants or sayings and anything else that is not consistent with good sportsmanship.
10. At all times every coach should make decisions that are best for the players. Our league is about the kids and the love of the game of football and every effort should be taken to protect and uphold that fact. At no time should a coach let his love for winning override his love for the players and the integrity of the game.
11. Each coach is expected to be a leader and lead with excellence. This means everyone who is present at any game and/or practice follows the above guidelines because of the influence of the coaches. Leadership is influence. Therefore, coaches are expected to be a leader of influence and lead their team to positive impact.
12. Coaching in Springfield Youth Football is more than just a football season. In order for us to maintain excellence and to improve it is necessary that coaches be available for meetings and clinics throughout the year. Therefore, coaches are expected to be at scheduled meetings or at very least have a representative from the team present. Failure to do so results in miscommunication and lack of information necessary to fulfill the coaching expectations.

Safe Kids Program

1. I agree to provide a safe environment and to prevent child abuse and sexual misconduct.
2. I will make every reasonable effort to ensure that every person involved in coaching/training will abide by the Safe Kids guidelines.
3. I will make every reasonable effort to exclude any adult with a legally documented history of child abuse/molestation or any other record that would bring unnecessary risk to the health and safety of the participants of this organization. I agree to have any person helping as a coach complete the Coach's Information Form.
4. I agree to take all appropriate action on all allegations of child abuse and/or sexual misconduct. All allegations will be reported immediately to the authorities for investigation and I will cooperate fully with any such investigation.
5. I agree to follow the following preventive measures:
 - a. Physical, mental and verbal abuses are forbidden
 - b. Inappropriate touching is forbidden
 - c. Coaches should not socialize with the participants outside of the sponsored activities of the organization
 - d. Coaches should not ride solo with a child
 - e. Parents are encouraged to attend sponsored activities
 - f. If a child needs special attention (one-on-one), do it with the assistance of another adult.

By signing this statement, I understand and will practice this Code of Ethics and Safe Kids Program and will be a supporter of the league. I will lead my team according to the above code.