

Somerset Youth Football League Coach Code of Conduct

As coaches, you have a very important role in the development of young athletes; a role that goes far beyond coaching the game of football. Your leadership, philosophy and actions will leave impressions far more indelible and much farther reaching than you may have ever imagined. Developing character, sportsmanship and respect depends greatly upon your own approach and the example you set. At SYFL, we want to represent a winning organization not counted just by wins and losses on the field. We want to lead by example; therefore, this defines expectations of conduct. The SYFL expects all coaches to conform to the code while coaching in the program.

1. **Integrity**-The coach must act with integrity in performing all duties. As a coach, pursue victory with honor. Advocate the importance of honor and good character.
2. **Honesty & Respect**-Don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in or permit dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct. Use courtesy, honesty and respect in regard to other coaches, parents, game and league officials.
3. **Positive Coaching**-Use positive coaching methods that increase the athlete's self-esteem and fosters the word TEAM. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal or physical abuse and conduct that is demeaning to a SYFL athlete. Direct comments and/or constructive criticism at the athlete's performance rather than the athlete.
4. **Personal Conduct**-Refrain from profanity and disrespectful conduct in front of the SYFL athlete or other situations where the coach's conduct could undermine the coach's impact as a role model. The coach must be sensitive to the fact that he is responsible for promoting a positive image for the SYFL program.
5. **Competence**-Strive to improve coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles. Attend coach's clinics, first aid, safety and other required classes or clinics. Maintain knowledge of the rules of the game and eligibility rules regarding weight and age/grade of the SYFL athlete.
6. **Fundraisers and Volunteers**-Fundraisers are the lifeblood of our organization. They provide us with much needed funds to ensure that our program continues to grow and flourish. Each coach needs to support our fundraising program by getting the information to the parents. Organize your team with a motivated "Team Parent". Each coach is required to support this effort to the best of their ability.
7. **Respect for Officials**-The coach must accept the role of the officials in providing judgment. The coach must accept both the letter and spirit of the rules that govern our game.
8. **Gamesmanship**-Promote sportsmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptation to gain the competitive edge through risky strategies or techniques such as requiring an athlete to lose excessive weight, alteration of equipment and other related events. Be fair in competitive situations, selecting a team, disciplinary issues, and all other matters. Coaches be aware of your egos and emotions.
9. **Athlete's Interest**-Put the well-being of the SYFL athlete above all other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.
10. **SYFL Assets**-Protect the assets belonging to the SYFL, including, but not limited to the physical property, player equipment and team equipment. I will aid in the recovery of all equipment assigned to my team and players.
11. **Background Check**-I understand that as a condition of being named a coach, I have provided the necessary personnel information to authorize a background check. I understand that the information contained in this report will be used to determine my eligibility to coach.