

Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc. (MAYFL)

COACH'S CODE OF ETHICS

Football is a game played at numerous levels including professional, collegiate, interscholastic, community, and recreational from the local to the international levels of competition. The function of all players, coaches, referees/umpires, officials and workers is to abide by only the highest level of sportsmanship and conduct.

The coach must be aware that he or she has tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the development of the football player, and thus, shall never place the value of winning above instilling the highest desirable ideals of character. The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the game. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct in all personal contact with the athletes, parents, referees/umpires, officials, administrators, local organizations, and the public.

Coaches are key to the establishment of ethics in Football. Their concept of ethics and their attitude 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 that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate from 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 of the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent.

Set out below is MAYFL's Coaches' Code of Conduct (which reflects the standards expressed by the National Coaching Foundation and the National Association of Sports Coaches) which forms the benchmark for all involved in coaching:

1. **"Bench jockeying"** will not be allowed.
 - a. Coaches are to prohibit bench jockeying, which would include personal and malicious remarks, cursing and obscene language towards opponents, umpires/referees, spectators, and/or each other.
2. The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug; alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use.
3. The coach shall not use tobacco products on the practice/playing fields or during practices or games. The coach shall not use or have used alcohol products or any other drugs not prescribed by a doctor when in contact or at any function where players are present
4. Coaches shall not make statements that are false, deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent concerning work activities, personal and organization affiliations.
5. The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with MAYFL and the Georgia High School Athletic Association (GHSAA) rules and regulations.
 - a. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements.
 - b. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
 - c. Coaches shall not permit ineligible player(s) to participate, practice or be a part of any team function without first discussing with the football commissioner about obtaining eligibility in accordance with the League rules. All proper forms must be received before players can practice.
 - d. Players should be taught to respect the dignity of the game, umpires/referees and opponents.
6. Coaches should confine their discussion to the rules and not challenge umpire/referee decisions involving judgment.
7. Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their athletes and spectators.
 - a. Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings in order to set the correct tone for the game.

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8. Contest umpires/referees will be treated with respect and support by the coach.
 - a. The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which will incite players or spectators against umpires/referees.
 - b. Public criticism of umpires/referees, players, a league or association official is unethical.
9. Coaches should expect from the umpires/referees a courteous and dignified attitude towards themselves and the players.
10. Coaches do not engage in sexual harassment, abuse (physical or mental), or any other harassment.
11. Coaches should develop and promote a spirit of cooperation among the MAYFL family, including sponsors and any person connected with the program.
12. Coaches shall allow parents of players to become actively involved with the team by filling positions on the team with parents first.
13. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
14. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
15. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
16. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
17. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
18. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviors and performance.
19. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
20. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
21. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (i.e., other coaches, officials, and others) in the best interests of the player.
22. Coaches must always promote the positive aspect of the sport (i.e., fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviors contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
23. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance.
24. Not to use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Football is a game of fun, designed for the enjoyment of youngsters, not to be a hobby for adults coaching them. The purpose of youth sports programs is to teach youngsters the game and its fundamentals. I recognize the responsibility encumbered upon me to model ethical behavior. I pledge myself to observe, practice and maintain this code of ethics.

I recognize, as a coach of the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, the responsibility encumbered upon me to model ethical behavior. I pledge myself to observe, practice and maintain this code. I understand breaking this code will result in revocation of participation in the football program under the auspices of the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc.

By: _____
(Signature)

Date: _____

By: _____
(Type or Print Name)