



REQUIREMENTS, PLEDGE, CODE AND STANDARD OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, ADMINISTRATORS, AND VOLUNTEERS. SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

SECTION 16 – COACHING REQUIREMENTS/BACKGROUND CHECKS/SCOUTING

The following Information has been adapted from and is compliance with the National Rules. All Association Presidents are to be fully versed in all expectations contained herein; as well as ensure that ALL COACHES have been issued, read, and understand all parts of this document and have acknowledged same by signing. One signed copy of this document is to be given to each coach and one signed copy is to be submitted to CMYFCC at the time of Book Certification. Failure to provide a copy to CMYFCC will prohibit the coach from participating in CMYFCC.

All coaches by their appointment to coach, are bound by the “Coaches Pledge,” “Coaches Code” and “Standard of Conduct.”

- A. Associations are required to perform Background Checks on all of their Coaches and any and all volunteers deemed to have repeated contact with the participants, each year. Conferences are required to obtain an Affidavit that all background checks have been completed from their member associations. Conferences must submit all collected Affidavits to the AYF National Office.
- B. All coaches must be approved by and serve at the pleasure of the Local Association.
- C. Coaching assignments are for one playing season only and is therefore automatically terminated at the close of each season. Coaches must re-apply for coaching positions annually. The close of the season will be determined by the local Association but must not extend past the “End of the Year Banquet”.
- D. All Coaching appointments and their appropriate contact info must be submitted to the National Office each year by August 31.
- E. Head coaches must be at least 21 years of age. The coaching staff will be under his/her direction and supervision.
- F. Assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age and have graduated from high school or hold a GED certificate. They must have a general knowledge of the game of football.
- G. Coach Trainees must be a minimum of 16 years old and may only carry out the instructions of the Head or Assistant coaches.
- H. Each Team must have a Coach or Volunteer that is the holder of a current Red Cross Certificate in Community CPR and First Aid or its equivalent.
- I. Head coaches are in complete charge of their players. They are responsible for their own actions or inactions, their assistants’ actions or inactions and the actions of their players.
- J. Each team will present a Substance Abuse lecture to players and cheerleaders at all levels of play. The lecture will be presented during the first week of practice and will be repeated as many times as necessary to ensure all American Youth participants are aware of the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The lecture must be given by a member of the coaching staff or an adult volunteer designated for that purpose. Some examples would be “just say no” or “DARE” programs. Also included with this talk should be topics like “Academics – Tolerance – Giving Back to the Community”.
- K. Head coaches may be required to be certified through any available training program available to their Association/Conference. The Association/Conference may also make this a requirement of assistant coaches.

SECTION 17 - COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS PLEDGE

All administrators and volunteers are bound by the “Pledge,” “Code” and “Standard of Conduct”.

COACHES PLEDGE:

Each game and practice I participate in or administer over will provide me with an opportunity to be a Champion of Character. I pledge, as an AYF member to accept the five core character values of American Youth Football and will do my best to represent AYF, my Conference, my Association, my Team, and myself by: respecting my opponent, the officials, my team, my administrators, coaches, myself and the game; taking responsibility for my

actions in all areas of my life; having the integrity to stand by my word; providing leadership where I serve others while striving to be a personal and team leader; and being an example of sportsmanship by holding myself to the highest standards of fair play.

COACHES CORE VALUES:

Coaches can make a conscious choice to uphold the best of values. Individual players can make choices that will define them as athletes. American Youth Football believes in the following five core values.

- a. Leadership
- b. Integrity
- c. Respect
- d. Responsibility
- e. Sportsmanship

SECTION 18 - COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS CODE

- a. I believe in the power of athletics as a program for the training of youth for a strong and efficient democracy.
- b. I believe in athletics for the building of good character and personality.
- c. I believe in athletics as a significant part of a sound educational program.
- d. I believe in athletics as a constructive force in the lives of millions of sports followers throughout our nation. Therefore, I will hold sportsmanship and fair play high above all other values to be gained through sports participation.
- e. I consider the privilege of guiding youth through participation in sports as a sacred trust.
- f. I will always keep the best interests of each participant as my aim. I shall never be guilty of enhancing my progress by the use of a participant's skill for my benefit.
- g. I will forever keep before the participants under my direction the high ideals, honesty, sincerity, and integrity which have made our nation great. I will not encourage, or tolerate, any form of trickery or evasion of rules in order to gain an advantage over an opponent.
- h. I will do all in my power to instill in those under my direction a tolerance for all races and creeds, and I will stand out against intolerance wherever it may occur.
- i. I will strive to instill in every youth great purposes and aims in living and will use the desire to play not as an end, but as a training ground for the participant's highest development.
- j. I will strive to teach each participant's to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat, to be above bragging or using alibis, and shall help develop inner strength and poise.
- k. I will use only fair and honest means in my desire for personal achievement and shall count the goodwill of my peers far above any achievement unfairly gained.
- l. I will not sacrifice the values to be gained through a wholesome enjoyment of challenging sports activity for institutional pride or commercial ends.
- m. I will use only fair and honest means of securing talent for athletic teams and never stoop to trickery or insincere promises in influencing participants in the selection of their experience.
- n. I will use every means at my command to protect the moral, mental and physical health of the participant's under my guidance and will never be party to the use of athletics for the financial or political gain of any office or group.
- o. I will encourage each participant to avail himself/herself of the best experience to be gained in a well-rounded education and to progress normally toward graduation. I will never encourage participation in athletics as an end in itself.
- p. I will help each participant under my guidance toward the development of honest habits of work and pride in work well done and I shall not practice or allow evasion in any obligation surrounding the athletics program.
- q. I will shoulder my total responsibility as a leader through athletics and will not allow that responsibility to be transferred to any person or group outside the organization. I will not violate this sacred trust for financial support or political prestige.

SECTION 19 - ADMINISTRATORS, COACHES, VOLUNTEERS STANDARD OF CONDUCT **STANDARD OF CONDUCT:**

All Administrators, Coaches, and Volunteers will abide by a Standard of Conduct, which includes the following provisions. If any of these provisions are violated, the Association / Conference shall have the authority to impose any penalty they see fit. If any of these provisions are violated during a Regional or National event, the National Office at its sole discretion shall have the authority to impose any penalty it sees fit with no right to appeal. Administrators, Coaches, and Volunteers, having already accepted and agreed to abide by the Coach and Administrators Pledge and the Coach and Administrators Code, by their accepting and active participation in membership, shall follow the intent of the Pledge and Code and shall inclusively and/or additionally agree to:

1. Not smoke and/or use smokeless tobacco on the field or in front of participants at any time.
2. Abstain from the possession and drinking of alcoholic beverages and the possession or use of any illegal substance on the field or in front of participants at any time.

3. Accept decisions of the game officials and judges on the field and in competitions as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
4. Not criticize an opposing team, its players, spirit participants, coaches, or fans by word of mouth or by gesture.
5. Together with team officials, be jointly responsible for the conduct and control of team fans and spectators. Any parent, guardian, or fan that becomes a nuisance and out of control must be asked to leave.
6. Not use abusive or profane language at any time.
7. Not encourage their team to intentionally run up the score on an opponent. In the event of a commanding lead every effort shall be made to let all players play.
8. Not permit or encourage, “extreme dieting”, or “sweating down” tactics of any kind for any reason. Must report any instance witnessed or suspected to the parent/guardian and local administrator.
9. Not recommend or distribute any medication, controlled or over the counter
10. Not deliberately incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
11. Not criticize/berate participants ever, to provide constructive criticism, in private, or in the presence of team/squad members if others might benefit.
12. Remove from a game or practice any participant when his/her health is in question, whether or not as a result of injury, until competent medical advice is available.
13. A coach will follow the parameters of the Anti-Substance Abuse Rule and see that it’s carried out faithfully and that all players understand its importance.
14. A coach will not use ineligible players and will take the responsibility of having proper and legal documents on each and every player proving his eligibility at all times.
15. Insure that all participants meet the minimum required number of plays under the Mandatory Play Rules and Regulations.
16. Uphold all rules and regulations of Association, Conference, Region, and National AYF.
17. A coach must discourage the wearing of Gang colors or any gang symbol and the use of any gang related forms of communication during any and all team related activities including but not limited to team practices.

SECTION 20 – ANTI-SUBSTANCE ABUSE RULE

PENALTIES: - MINIMUM PENALTIES

A) Coach/Administrators

The following are the minimum penalties to be enforced for violation of, but not limited to the following rules. Any organization found to have allowed a variance to this rulebook, the rules regulations and the spirit of the rules and regulations without filing and receiving written approval may be suspended.

Any organization found not enforcing this rulebook, the rules regulations and the spirit of the rules and regulations may be suspended.

- A,1 Cheating:** Permanent suspension. (Roster/Participant Manipulation/Mandatory Play will be considered cheating) – Mandatory Play violation would be if player does not start in the 4th quarter. President of the Association will assume the same penalty for any roster Manipulation.
- a. *First offense: suspension for two games and two weeks of practice*
 - b. *Second Offense: permanent suspension*
- A,2 Failure to keep faith with juveniles & parents:** Defined as any deliberate practice of a coach, team, or Association, which placed the health, welfare and safety of juveniles in jeopardy, or exploits or treats them in such a manner that the juvenile becomes a “tool” of the team.
- a. *First offense: permanent suspension.*
- A,3 Badgering of game officials** with threats and inciting fans to display poor sportsmanship:
- a. *First offense: suspension for two games and two weeks of practice.*
 - b. *Second offense: permanent suspension (If ejected from game - automatic permanent suspension).*
- A,4 Fighting of any kind:**
- a. *Permanent Suspension and subject to criminal proceedings.*
- A,5 Inciting a confrontation:** (Verbal/Threatening/Use of Profanity; may include one or all)

- a. *First offense: suspension for two games and two weeks of practice. MAY not be present at field, during practices or game.*
 - b. *Permanent Suspension*
- A,6 Disrespect for coaches, participants, conference staff, game and team officials:**
- a. *First offense: removal from the game/practice and parental/guardian conference and suspension for two games and two weeks of practice.*
 - b. *Second offense: Permanent Suspension*
- A,7 Failure to control parents or fans:**
- a. *First offense: Warning of Suspension of Association; Head Coach is suspended for 2 games and two weeks of practice, if no effective action was taken by the Head Coach.*
 - b. *Second offense: Suspension of the Association from the Conference until the administration of the Association can submit evidence satisfactory to the Conference that the problem has been rectified; Head Coach Suspended for the remainder of the season, if no effective action was taken by the Head Coach.*
- Note: Both Punishments may be implemented at same event*
- A,8 Failure to control coaches from actions contrary to the health, safety and welfare of players.**
This would include failing to enforce punishments implemented by the conference, failure to take corrective action including training, supervision, or removal of a coach who isn't able to comply with codes of conduct.
- a. *First offense: Probation for the entire Association for the remainder of the season.*
 - b. *Second offense: Suspension of the Association from the Conference until the administration of the Association can submit evidence satisfactory to the Conference that the problems have been rectified.*
- A,9 Teaching players dirty tactics:**
- a. *First offense: Permanent suspension.*
- A,10 Falsifying birth or any other documents** to make a participant eligible is grounds for forfeiture of all games in which they have participated;
- a. *permanent suspension of the adult(s) responsible for the act*
- A,11 Playing ineligible players:**
- a. *Suspension for rest of season. Conference will review status for next season. Suspension may be appealed, if an appeal process exists, to the Conference depending on the nature of the ineligibility.*
 - i. *When ineligible players are found, all games of which the ineligible players have participated in are forfeited and will count in the league standings as such.*
 - ii. *When ineligible players are found the Team is ineligible for post-season play of any kind regardless of the number of losses it has suffered for playing ineligible players.*
- A,12 Scouting rules:**
- i. *Any videotaping allowed by your local Conference is prohibited from the field level end zone and from home side of the field, unless it is your home field or with permission from Home team.*
 - ii. *Scouting of any kind during a team's practice session is strictly prohibited.*
- a. *First offense: 2 weeks from practices and the following two games for both the person involved and the head coach.*
 - b. *Second offense: suspension of the person involved and the head coach for remainder of season.*
- Note: AYF will allow scouting of teams during post-season play in the form of video and written reports as long as the minimum rules listed above are followed.*

Conferences shall have complete jurisdiction over hearings and appeals within their programs. All hearings and appeals must be conducted in the manner the Conference has constructed in its bylaws/organizational documents. Should no process exist it will be at the complete discretion of the Conference to allow or disallow a hearing or appeal. [There shall be no right of appeal to any violation of adult extreme behavior; the determination of the Conference is final] The National AYF office will not hold hearings or appeals of any kind concerning local issues.

Monetary Fines will be assessed by the Conference for any and all violations of codes of conduct, coach's code, coach's pledge or any violation of the above in an amount of \$500.00 per violation and no more than \$1000.00 total accumulative for violations. Failure to comply with all punishments and/or payment of fines will result in the Association being suspended from the Conference for the following year until rectified.



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COACHES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

I _____, as a _____ Coach for the
_____ Association have received the “Coaches Pledge,”
“Coaches Code” and “Standard of Conduct.” I further acknowledge that being allowed to coach a team within
the CMYFCC is dependent upon my reading, understanding, and full compliance with all aspects of these
documents. By signing below I accept all expectations placed on me as a Coach and mentor to the children of
CMYFCC by setting the proper example at ALL times. I also understand that coaching is a privilege and that
privilege may be revoked at any time by either CMYFCC and/or my local Association.

Signature

Date