

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Fairfield County Football League (the “FCFL”) and its member associations in the towns of Darien, Fairfield, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport and Wilton (member organizations) know and appreciate your commitment as a coach to helping and working with the youth of our communities. In order to promote a fun, wholesome and healthy environment, the FCFL has adopted the following Coach’s Code of Conduct, which shall be agreed to by all coaches and assistant coaches participating in the program.

COACH’S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will emphasize at all times that playing football is an opportunity to be part of a team and to develop an awareness of oneself that is present in no other sport. I will de-emphasize playing for the “jacket” or the “trophy”, but rather promote the sport and competition. By instilling these ideals I will provide both players and parents with a better opportunity for success through their future participation in football and other sports.
2. Winning is a very important goal in coaching, but it should not be my only goal. I will keep in perspective that these young people have an interest in a great game. I will encourage and enhance that interest and not create an environment that promotes winning at all costs. I understand that coaching is a privilege, and that in my role as coach I am an ambassador of the game and a role model for my team. I understand that my behavior and actions will have a great influence on the future participation of these young players and their enjoyment of the game.
3. I acknowledge that the FCFL and its member organizations expect that all coaches and assistant coaches involved in the FCFL will adhere to a high standard of personal conduct.
4. I will minimize individual accolades and promote the team concept of success.
5. I will instill in my players the concepts of teamwork and sportsmanship that are consistent with the objectives of the FCFL.
6. I will avoid both verbal and physical confrontations with parents, other coaches and officials. I will never get into an argument with a parent in the presence of any player or others. If I have any criticism of an official’s performance, I will do it through proper channels by reporting it in writing to FCFL officials, and will never create a scene on the field during or after a game. I will communicate clearly to parents the expectations of the FCFL for all players, parents, and coaches.
7. I will not use, or permit anyone else to use, tobacco (chewing or smoking), alcohol or any illegal or controlled substance on either the practice field or playing field.
8. I will refrain from using any language which is racially or ethnically offensive or which is in any way discriminatory towards others. I will not use profane, obscene, or other off-color language.
9. I will not initiate physical contact with any player for disciplinary reasons.
10. I will attend any football clinics or coaches’ meetings required by the FCFL or my member organization.
11. I will be responsible for seeing that all team players are picked-up after practice/game by a responsible adult before I leave the field.
12. I will not use in a practice or game a player who appears to need medical attention

- until such time as competent medical advice is available.
13. I will, along with FCFL league officials, seek to control disruptive or excessively outspoken parents or fans.
 14. I will accept the decisions of FCFL game officials.
 15. I will never verbally abuse or criticize a player in front of spectators, but reserve **constructive** coaching/teaching for a later time in private or in the presence of other team members if others might benefit.
 16. I will never criticize, belittle, antagonize, berate or otherwise incite an opposing team, it's players, coaches, or fans by word of mouth or by gesture.
 17. I will demonstrate sportsmanship at all times.
 18. I will be ever conscious of not running up the score. If my team has a commanding lead, and the outcome of the game is not in doubt, every effort shall be made to let all players play.
 19. I will not permit an ineligible player to participate in a game.
 20. I am responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to the following:
 - a. FCFL Constitution
 - b. FCFL Rules and Regulations applicable to my team level
 - c. FCFL Policies and Procedures
 - d. FCFL Coaches, Players and Parents Codes of Conduct
 21. I will abide by the FCFL Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and Policies and Procedures at all times along with any and all decisions made by the FCFL Board of Directors.
 22. I further acknowledge that if I violate any of the above guidelines I may be subject to disciplinary action by the FCFL or my participating member organization, which may include an oral or written warning, suspension from or termination of my position as a coach.

FCFL coaches have an obligation to report any serious or repeated violations of these policies or league rules to the FCFL President on an Incident Report Form. The FCFL President shall then refer the incident to either the Rules and Regulations Chairperson or Policy and Procedures Chairperson as applicable. The appropriate Committee will then investigate the incident and submit their findings and recommendation to the FCFL Board of Directors for a final decision. All FCFL Board of Directors' decisions shall be final and abided by.

I have read and understand the FCFL Coach's Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it and any disciplinary action imposed by the FCFL Board of Directors or by the member organization for which I coach.

Member Organization

Coach's Name

Date

Coach's Signature