



Code of Conduct

Football Manitoba

Football is a great sport and all who participate - players, coaches, athletic therapists / sport-aiders, officials, administrators, families and spectators - contribute to its success by:

- Being fair and respectful
- Following the rules
- Practicing ethical and non-abusive treatment of all individuals
- Providing a safe and welcoming environment
- Supporting all efforts to remove verbal & physical abuse from football

We all benefit when we treat others as we wish to be treated. Remember, we learn best by example. Football Manitoba follows the Football Canada's Code of Ethics. (www.footballcanada.com)

Players

1. Play for fun & always be a good sport. Remember that winning isn't everything – making friends & doing your best are important.
2. Work hard to learn the rules, improve your skills and work as part of the team. Attend practices and games.
3. Listen to coaches, managers and athletic therapists / sport-aiders - follow their direction in a positive manner. They are volunteers who love the game like you do.
4. Maintain personal self-control since you are responsible for the consequences of your decisions and actions.
5. Never verbally or physically harass or abuse coaches, athletic therapists / sport-aiders, managers, administrators, officials, opponents, spectators, or teammates. Be respectful of your opponents in victory and in defeat.
6. Accept an Official's on-field game judgment and decisions.
7. Respect your team's and your opponent's field, buildings and equipment.

Coaches, Athletic Therapists/Sport-aiders, Managers, Administrators

1. Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important. There is more about football than winning the game. Remember, players are in football for fun and enjoyment.
2. Be reasonable when scheduling practice – players / families have other obligations. A player's opportunity for achieving academic success is more important than success on the football field.
3. Have realistic expectations – remember that players are not professional and cannot be judged by professional standards.
4. Be a positive role model to players, parents/guardians, officials and spectators – display emotional maturity, show consistency and ensure the physical safety of others. Be honest, sincere and honourable in your relationships with others. Maintain personal self-control since you are responsible for the consequences of your decisions and actions.
5. Know the rules of the game and follow them as well as the 'spirit' of the rules. Do not disregard the rules since they exist to keep the game fair for all participants.
6. Be consistent, honest & just and generous with your praise when it is deserved. Do not ridicule or criticize players publicly. Be an effective teacher and communicator.
7. Respect all individuals and never verbally or physically harass or abuse players, coaches, athletic therapists / sport-aiders, managers, administrators, officials, parents/guardians, or spectators.
8. Ensure that an injured player receives prompt and competent medical care.
9. Be considerate of the personal needs and problems of others. Be a good listener. Remember that events occur in the lives of others that make for good days and for bad days.
10. Be concerned with the overall development of all players – stress good habits on and off the field, give players the opportunity to improve their football skills, gain confidence, develop self-esteem and display good sportsmanship. Encourage players to be 'team players'.
11. Organize practices that are fun and challenging, as well as effectively teaching the rules, strategies and individual / positional techniques of football.
12. Obtain proper training including the Sport Manitoba 'Respect in Sport' Certificate and continue to upgrade skills.

Turn page over....

Officials

1. Know the rules and be consistent, objective and fair in calling all infractions. Realize that sometimes infractions will require explanation so that players and coaches understand the call.
2. Maintain a safe environment during the game by not allowing intimidation of any player by verbal or physical actions of another individual.
3. Do not tolerate unacceptable conduct towards officials, players, coaches or spectators.
4. Have realistic expectations - remember that players are not professional and cannot be judged by professional standards.
5. Be a positive role model to players, parents/guardians, officials and spectators – display emotional maturity and ensure the physical safety of others. Be honest, sincere, and honourable in relationships with others. Maintain personal self-control since you are responsible for the consequences of your decisions.
6. Respect all individuals and never verbally or physically harass or abuse coaches, athletic therapists / sport-aiders, managers, administrators, officials, parents/guardians, spectators or players.
7. Obtain proper training including the Sport Manitoba 'Respect in Sport' Certificate and continue to upgrade skills.

Parents / Guardians / Spectators

1. Players are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun - do not force your child to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport.
2. Teach your child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that a player will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game. Offer praise for competing fairly and displaying a positive attitude.
3. Enjoy the game. Cheer good plays of both teams. Be supportive after the game - win or lose. Recognize good effort and sportsmanship.
4. Never ridicule or yell at others for making a mistake or losing the game. Profanity and rude gestures / comments are offensive.
5. Teach your child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without verbal or physical hostility.
6. Respect all individuals and never verbally or physically harass or abuse coaches, athletic therapists / sport-aiders, managers, administrators, officials, opponents, spectators or players.
7. Display a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants. Maintain personal self-control since you are responsible for the consequences of your decisions. Don't embarrass your child by stating negative feelings towards others.
8. When you talk with the coach – do so at the next practice. Do not approach the coaching staff immediately following a game to question the coaching decisions including play calls and player participation.
9. Emphasize the importance of practices and how they benefit the player. On-going practice builds skill development, teamwork and increases knowledge of the game. Help the player attend team practices and games.
10. Recognize the importance of the volunteer coaches, athletic therapists / sports-aiders and managers & administrators. Be willing to communicate with them and understand their viewpoints. They are important to the development of the players.
11. Learn all you can about the game – it will enhance your enjoyment and will enable you to discuss the game with your player.

Remember.....

1. **Misplaced Enthusiasm and Guilt** – don't overemphasize the winning or losing.
2. **Expectations** – don't push the player to make up for your own limitations or to match your 'star' ability. Less than 1% of players will have a successful professional career in football. Don't let great expectations become a distraction or burden.
3. **Perspective** – don't lose sight of what is important to the player – having fun and being part of the team. Players do not mean to make mistakes.

