

# The Coaches Code of Ethics

**The Coach** shall not abuse children in any way, including physical abuse—striking, spanking, shaking, slapping, and so on; verbal abuse—humiliating, degrading, threatening, and so on; sexual abuse—touching or speaking inappropriately; mental abuse—shaming, withholding kindness, being cruel, and so on; neglect—withholding water, or basic care. No type of abuse will be tolerated and will be cause for immediate dismissal.

**The coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, either positive or negative, on the development of the athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of Coaching. In all personal contact with athletes, parents, officials, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**The coach** shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products or any illegal substances when in contact with players.

**The coach** shall seek to master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with parents and the Board of Directors

**The coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those allowed by PYFL, MYFL, or SMYFL.

**The coach** shall not discuss private matters of players or other coaches in public forums, and shall not disparage other coaches, players, or Board members in public forums.

**The coach**, as a steward of the league, shall not engage in any illegal or immoral activity that jeopardizes the moral and ethical integrity of Portland Youth Football League.

**The Head Coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The Head Coach** will be responsible for assessing any Athlete Code of Conduct breaches, and determine proper disciplinary actions that may include game suspension(s), dismissal from practice, or dismissal from the team, using best evidence available, on a case-by-case basis.

**Failure to meet these expectations may result in removal as coach, pursuant PYFL By Laws Article 3, "Coaches," section 5.**

Agreed Coach Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_