



2008 WFF Coaches Code of Conduct

Listed below are Westford Flag Football League's mandatory Code of Conduct principles for every WFF coach.

Core Coaching Responsibilities

- Obtain thorough knowledge of Westford's flag football rules and Code of Conduct principles.
- Sign and submit CORI form.
- Hold practice every week during season (weather permitting).
- Be fully prepared for each practice and game.
- Do not cancel games except for weather reasons.
- Help referee at least three games between other teams (as scheduled by WFF).
- Allow all players on your team to play at least 50% of all team plays during each half.
- Allow each player to play any position they wish for at least a few plays.
- Complete the player assessment survey at the end of season on a timely basis.

Parent Communications

- Promptly contact parents once you have received your team roster.
- Help parents understand the league philosophy of fun and fairness for all players.
- Help parents understand the league rules and their rationale.
- Fully inform parents on practice and game schedules in advance.
- Obtain feedback from parent of each player on how to make WFF more fun for their child.

Player Development

- Help players understand the league philosophy of fun and fairness for all players.
- Fully explain and train players on game rules and their rationale.
- Be open and responsive to player ideas for plays, positions, line-ups, practice drills, etc.
- Mostly provide positive praise for their efforts, even if not perfect.
- Just provide calm constructive feedback on areas in need of improvement.
- Adequately instruct and motivate players to improve their knowledge and skills during the season.
- Explain the fun, fairness and player improvement goals to players if they lose or complain.

Coach Sportsmanship & Compliance

- Fully comply with all equal playtime rules (i.e., equal share of plays per half and 50% offense/defense)
- Coaches should not be too intense, competitive, or win-oriented.
- Do not get overly emotional; no yelling, swearing or throwing things.
- Shake hands with the opposing coaches before and after each game.
- All communications regarding penalties must be with the adult Field Official.
- Disputing or publicly commenting on calls or non-calls by referees is strictly prohibited.
 - ♦ Coaches may obtain clarifications on a penalty call to understand the details. However, ref "tampering" is strictly prohibited. Just ask for clarification; no talking back or explaining how they are wrong.
 - ♦ If an infraction is not noticed by referee, just point out a single time to the adult Field Official.

Player & Parent Sportsmanship

- Explain the need for players to respect referees if they think a bad call or non-call was made; not a professional league, even professional refs miss calls, calls go both ways, can't see everything, etc.
- Do not allow players to speak with or make negative comments near referees regarding calls/non-calls.
- No rough or foul play, trash talking or obvious flaunting by players is allowed.
 - ♦ Pull players from game if they do not follow these rules; even if a referee does not notice or act.
- Help players become good sports. Shake/high-five hands of opposing players at end of game. Applaud good play on both sides. Hand player back their flag. Treat as friends, not enemies. Retrieve the ball.
- Try to control outbursts, disrespect and rude behavior by parents. If needed, give them a copy of league rules and/or NFL Principles for Parents if helpful. Encourage cheerleading, not criticizing.

Please sign below if you agree to follow the above WFF Coaches Code of Conduct principles.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

My signature indicates that I agree to fully comply with the above Code of Conduct principles and, if I am found in violation of any of the above principles, I understand that WFF's Board of Directors have the right and duty to issue me a warning, suspend me from coaching for one or more games, and/or impose other requirements depending on the nature, frequency and severity of my non-compliant behavior.