



PYSA

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaching a youth sport program such as youth football is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a coach, approved by the Prosper Youth Sports Association (PYSA) Commissioners and the Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play, and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. Football embodies the discipline of teamwork. It challenges players towards the perfection of physical skills and working as a team to accomplish success. The very nature of football teaches that everyone must do their job on every play to achieve success. While every player will eventually experience defeat, whether it is an individual play or losing a game, there is always another chance for success on the next play or game. The PYSA expects each coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good and correct football skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I will realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.
3. I will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
4. I will never, under any circumstances, reference a player's race, ethnicity or religion and I also understand that that there is a NO TOLERANCE policy for type of behavior.
5. I understand verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the PYSA event at the discretion of an official or PYSA board member and may incur additional consequences at the sole discretion of the commissioner and/or board of directors.
6. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will I yell at an official, coach, fan, or player.
7. I understand that profanity is expressly forbidden, at all times, at all PYSA events.
8. I understand that alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all PYSA events including practices and games.
9. I understand that the use of tobacco products on any PYSA fields is prohibited.

RULES AND POLICIES

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them. I will instruct my team members on the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to always compete according to the rules.
2. I will complete my background check.
3. I will complete my USA Football youth coaching certification each year.
4. I will read and understand the TYFL tackle or PYSA flag participation rules for my division.
5. I will review the PYSA website (www.prospertx-sports.com) on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated rules and policies and communicate with the commissioners if I have questions.
6. I will fully comply with the Player/Parents Code of Conduct, and I will ensure each player/parent on my team submits a signed copy to me.
7. I will consistently act with high moral standards/character in all that I do involving PYSA and at all PYSA sanctioned events.

THE OFFICIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES

1. I recognize disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the official will be handled in a civil manner. I understand only the head coach may initiate such discussions with an official. The coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the official has made his/her final ruling, the coaches will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Commissioner and the Board of Directors per league policy.
2. I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields and sidelines after games in accordance with policies that PYSA may establish from time to time. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

PARENTS AND THE LEAGUE

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of PYSA.
3. I will do my best to ensure that fans of the team always conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. Players and coaches of participating teams may not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged.
4. I will make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed on the fields/sidelines during a game.
5. I will support, through participation and organization of parent, PYSA in all fundraising & volunteer efforts along with other duties that may be assigned to teams from time to time.

THE TEAM

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
2. I will focus on providing instruction commensurate with players abilities, so all players can advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further football competition.
3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
4. I will put the emotional and physical well-being of youth participants ahead of a personal desire to win.
5. I will never use physical force in disciplining, correcting, or motivating players. At no time will I strike, push, grab, or otherwise place their hands on a player in a way that could cause harm or be perceived as aggressive.
 - Appropriate physical contact is limited to non-aggressive and supportive gestures such as a handshake, high-five, or pat on the shoulder/back that encourages and affirms players.
 - Coaches are expected to guide players through positive methods such as clear communication, encouragement, teaching proper technique, setting consistent expectations, and modeling good sportsmanship.
 - Discipline should be constructive, focusing on helping players learn responsibility, teamwork, and respect for the game. Screaming, intimidation, or physical punishment are never acceptable.

Any violation of this standard will be considered a serious breach of conduct and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from coaching responsibilities.

6. I understand that coaches are approved by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team, and the town of Prosper, in communications with the officials, opposing teams and league. If a coach leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the coach's duties.

NON-GAME COACH DUTIES

Each coach has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Coach, I will adhere to the following as well:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games, and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.

2. I will attend all required coach's meetings and safety clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.
3. I will complete, obtain, and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include the Coaches Code of Conduct and Player/Parent Code of Conduct forms.
4. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and PYSA officials. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

UNDERSTANDING OF CONSEQUENCES

Failure to follow the outlined rules within may result in the removal from the PYSA fields. Should someone be removed they must leave all fields as well as all access roads to the fields. Such persons may not remain in the PYSA parking lot. Any infraction of the rules outlined within this document will result in a report being delivered to the PYSA Board for consideration of further action, as appropriate.

First Offense: Upon the reporting of a first offense by an individual, the Board of Directors, at a minimum, will provide a written warning to the offender, detailing the consequences of future infractions.

- Depending upon the severity of the infraction, nothing precludes the Board of Directors from banning an offender from all PYSA activities, including but not limited to, practices and games, for a period deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

Second Offense: The Board of Directors may institute a wide range of penalties for repeat offenders, beginning with the second offense, as deemed appropriate by the Board. Such penalties include, but are not limited to:

- A ban from participating in all PYSA activities for a set period of time or number of games.

Severe violations can result in one or more of the following:

- Suspension from all PYSA activities for the remainder of the current season or, in situations deemed severe by the PYSA BOD, expulsion from coaching in future PYSA seasons moving forward.

Third Offense: The Board of Directors may choose to apply any of the penalties listed above for a third offense and, in the most extreme of circumstances, the PYSA Board of Directors may additionally hold a meeting to determine whether the individual should be permanently banned from all future PYSA activities. The individual in question will receive official written correspondence letter, via email or mail, of such a hearing at least one week prior to the meeting and must be given the

opportunity to speak at the meeting.

- Permanent expulsion from coaching in future PYSA seasons moving forward.

***PYSA reserves the right to bypass any official warnings or notices of offenses if the Board of Directors deems that the overall safety of any/everyone involved is in jeopardy or if the offense places the reputation and/or credibility of PYSA under question. These situations supersede anything that may be written in the code of conduct. The PYSA takes a strong stance on issues of safety and unethical/immoral behavior.*

Physical Abuse/Fighting – The PYSA has a 100% zero tolerance for any form of physical abuse or fighting whether it be with an official, another coach, player, parent or spectator and will result in *immediate expulsion* from the PYSA event at the direction of an official or a PYSA board member. Anyone expelled for this reason may not return to the PYSA event or participate in any PYSA activity until the approval of the PYSA Board of Directors.

CONDUCT VIOLATION & APPEAL PROCESS

1. Notification of Violation

- The parent or coach receives written notice of the alleged violation.
- The notice will include:
 - Date and description of the incident.
 - Specific section(s) of the Code of Conduct violated.
 - Initial disciplinary action or sanction (e.g., warning, suspension).

2. Right to Appeal

- The individual has 7 days from the date of notification to file an appeal in writing (via email)
- The appeal must include:
 - Reason for contesting the decision.
 - Any supporting evidence or witness accounts.

3. PYSA Board of Directors Appeal Review

- The PYSA BOD will review the appeal, follow up with witness accounts and review evidence.

4. Appeal Hearing

- A hearing will be scheduled following the receipt of the appeal.
- The individual can:
 - Present their case via virtual meeting.

- Submit additional evidence or call relevant witnesses.
- The committee can ask questions and review all materials.

5. Decision

- The committee will deliberate and provide a written decision within a reasonable amount of time following the hearing.
- The decision will:
 - Uphold, modify, or overturn the original disciplinary action.
 - Be final and binding.

6. Recordkeeping

- All documentation related to the violation and appeal will be securely maintained for a minimum of 1 year.

INVOLVEMENT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION

PYSA strives to resolve all matters internally in a fair and respectful manner. If a coach or parent chooses to seek legal counsel, PYSA will work to maintain clarity, transparency, and integrity throughout the process, and ask all parties involved to do the same. In that regard we request all parties to follow these guidelines:

1. Notification of Legal Representation

- If a parent or coach chooses to involve an attorney in any matter related to PYSA (including appeals, conduct issues, or disciplinary actions), they must notify PYSA in writing.
- The notification should include:
 - The name and contact information of the attorney.
 - The nature of the legal concern or case.

2. Point of Contact

- Upon receiving legal notice, PYSA will cease all communication, both verbal and written, and will only communicate from that point forward after consulting with our legal counsel. Additionally, PYSA may choose to only communicate with our legal counsel present.

3. Pause in Internal Proceedings

- Once legal representation is involved, internal appeals or disciplinary hearings may be paused until proper legal protocols are established.
- PYSA will cooperate fully with legal processes while protecting the integrity and privacy of all individuals involved, especially minors.

4. Confidentiality and Protection of Minors

- Due to the involvement of minors, confidentiality remains a top priority.
- Any legal communication must comply with child protection and privacy standards.

5. Good Faith Cooperation

- PYSA will work in good faith with all parties to reach a resolution.
- Legal involvement does not exempt individuals from following the Code of Conduct or other organizational policies.