



PYSA

PLAYER / PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Youth sports should be a fun and rewarding time for the players, parents, coaches, officials, and fans. Through football, the Prosper Youth Sports Association ("PYSA") seeks to enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of every child that takes part. It is the League's express goal that every player will be a better citizen and have a greater chance for success in future endeavors, because of their Youth experiences. As such, the PYSA expects the highest degree of sportsmanship from its members.

In keeping with this philosophy, the following Code of Conduct has been adopted to better promote fairness, teamwork, trust, good citizenship, sportsmanship, responsibility, and respect among the members of PYSA.

The Prosper Youth Sports Association asks that the following behaviors be kept in mind whenever in attendance at a PYSA sanctioned event:

- Applaud effort on the field, regardless of the score.
- Remember that the league exists for players to learn, grow in understanding of the game of football, and to have fun. Even though football is competitive in nature, winning is secondary performance.
- Be supportive of coaches. Remember that coaches are volunteers giving of their time, and often their financial resources, in order to coach. Please model respect of all coaches, in front of players, at all times. Voice any concerns about a player's role on a team expressly to the coach(es) in a private setting, never in public and wait 24 hours after a game to discuss grievances, should they arise.
- All officials will make mistakes occasionally, but coaches and parents are expected to treat officials with the respect their position within the game deserves.
- Booming, taunting or ridiculing player is not acceptable behavior, ever.
- Teach players that they have a responsibility to learn and to try their best. Effort leads to achievement and respect.
- Players will learn these values by the examples they see from those around them, and to this end, the following rules will be strictly enforced:
- Verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated. The offender may be removed from the PYSA fields at the discretion of an official or PYSA board member.
- Football is a game of physicality and emotions, and as a result, 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. Only the head coach may initiate such discussions with an official.

- All discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an official, coach, fan, or player.
- Profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at PYSAs practices and games.
- Alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all PYSAs practices and games.
- The use of tobacco products on any PYSAs fields is prohibited.
- The use of sunflower seeds at PYSAs turf fields and game locations is prohibited.

If asked to leave, the offender must exit the event and leave the premises completely and may not wait in the parking lot or access roads. ***In addition, if you are ejected from a PYSAs game, for any of the above mentioned misconduct, it will also result in the ejection of your child from the game as well.*

Anyone removed from the PYSAs fields must leave all fields and the access roads to the fields. Such persons may not remain in the PYSAs parking lot or access roads. Any infraction of the above rules will result in a report being delivered to the PYSAs 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 a repeat offender from all PYSAs 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 PYSAs activities for a set period of time, or number of games.
- Severe violations can result in suspension from all PYSAs activities for the remainder of the current season.

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 PYSAs Board of Directors may additionally hold a meeting to determine whether the individual should be permanently banned from all future PYSAs 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.

***PYSAs 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 PYSAs under question. These situations supersede anything that may be written in the code of conduct. The PYSAs 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, 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.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth football experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Code of Conduct.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will expect to receive a fair amount of playing time if my performance, including attitude and effort, in practice warrants it.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, creed, sex, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my absolute best in school.
- I will remember that youth football is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I will refrain from booing, taunting, refusing to shake another coach's and/or player's hands after a game, or ridiculing another player.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will put the emotional and physical well-being of youth participants ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or sporting event.

- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly, trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field. I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

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.