

Parent & Guardian Code of Conduct

2026 - Ephrata Youth Football

Ephrata Youth Football is committed to establishing an environment where character-building and ethics are prioritized through sportsmanship and the "Six Pillars of Character": Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Good Citizenship. Participation in this program is a privilege, not a right, and requires a professional commitment from all parents and guardians to maintain a safe, positive atmosphere for our athletes.

I. Athlete-Centric Philosophy

- **Prioritizing the Youth Experience:** I will remember that the game is for the children and their teammates, not for the adults. My child's participation should be driven by their own interest rather than adult pressure.
- **Emotional & Physical Well-being:** I will place the emotional and physical health of my child ahead of any personal desire to win, recognizing that winning should be the byproduct of preparation and discipline.
- **Focus on Development:** I will emphasize skill development and the benefits of practice over game outcomes, ensuring my child feels successful regardless of the final score.

II. Sideline Conduct & Boundaries

- **Professionalism Toward Officials:** I will respect the authority of the officials and will never question, discuss, or confront them during or after a game. Verbal "heckling," taunting, or any behavior that disrupts the flow of the game is strictly prohibited and serves as grounds for immediate removal from the facility.
- **Let the Coaches Coach:** I will refrain from "sideline coaching" or advising coaches on how to do their jobs. Providing conflicting instructions to players during games or practices causes confusion and undermines the coaching staff's efforts.
- **Designated Spectator Areas:** I will remain in the spectator area during all games and practices to ensure the safety of the players and to allow the coaches and officials to operate without interference.

III. Communication & Sportsmanship

- **The Chain of Command:** If I require clarification or wish to discuss a concern, I will follow the proper "chain of command" by calmly approaching the head coach. I agree to speak with coaches only at a pre-arranged, agreed-upon time and place, rather than at the game field.
- **Respectful Interaction:** I will not engage in verbal or physical confrontations with any players, coaches, officials, or fans. This includes a total ban on booing, using profane language, or making insulting remarks.
- **Inclusive Environment:** I will demand that my child and their guests treat all participants with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.

IV. Safety & Digital Responsibility

- **Substance-Free Environment:** I will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. I will refrain from the use of these substances at all youth sports events and will not attend games or practices while under the influence.
- **Social Media Integrity:** I will not make negative, condescending, or derogatory remarks regarding the organization, coaching staff, or officiating on any social media platform. Online conduct is expected to reflect the same level of respect as in-person behavior.

V. Accountability & Sanctions

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the EYF Board of Directors:

- **Immediate Expulsion:** Any parent guilty of improper conduct will be asked to leave the sports facility immediately.
- **Suspension:** Violations may result in a suspension from attending future games or practices.
- **Permanent Disqualification:** Repeat or severe violations may lead to the permanent forfeiture of the privilege of attending games or the disqualification of the athlete from the program.
- **Financial Liability:** I understand that no reimbursement of registration fees or other monetary funds will be issued if I or my family members are removed from the program for conduct violations.

Guest Accountability Agreement

I acknowledge that I am responsible for the behavior of all guests attending games or practices on behalf of my athlete, including grandparents, relatives, and friends. I agree to hold these individuals to the same standards outlined in this Code of Conduct. I understand that their actions reflect upon our family and our athlete's standing within the organization, and their failure to comply may result in my own removal or sanctions against my participant.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Athlete Name(s) and Team(s):
