

Coaches Code of Conduct

The VMFL requires all association Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Associate Coaches to abide by the code of conduct included in the following provisions. The VMFL executive will have the right to remove or suspend any coach that fails to comply with the provisions.

All Coaches shall comply with the following:

- Create an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and respect for the players to develop within. Give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem.
- Act towards all players, other coaches, parents and officials in a manner characterized by courtesy, good faith and respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability
- Coaches must abide by the rules and policies as set out in the VMFL handbook.
- Coaches are to familiarize themselves with the rules, techniques and strategies of football. In addition to being a positive role model for the players.
- Never openly criticize players, coaches, parents, officials or association members. Coaches must reserve constructive criticism for private meetings arranged with appropriate party (s).
- Agree to follow directives issued by the Association and VMFL Executive Board and/or Coaches Committee whether written or verbal.
- Use of tobacco products, drugs or alcoholic beverages is prohibited on game or practice fields or near or around players of the team.
- Coaches will not allow an ineligible or injured player to participate in practices or games.
- Coaches agree to inform the association president or Coaches Committee of any challenges with a player or parent immediately as the incident arises.
- The use of profanity or abusive language toward a player, official, parent, volunteer, or spectator is prohibited at all times.
- Coaches will abide by home association and park rules when playing opposing teams at visiting parks.
- Coaches are to check and ensure all players are fit and properly equipped before allowing them to participate in a practice or game.
- Coaches will read and acknowledge the responsibilities as stated in the VMFL Policy Manual attached to this document.

Coaches Responsibilities

The principal of respect for all participants challenges coaches to act in a manner respectful of the dignity of all participants in Football. Fundamental to this principal is the basic assumption that each person has value and is worthy of respect.

ALL COACHES MUST:

- Be aware of significant pressure in a players' life, e.g. school, family, and financial pressure, and coach in a manner that fosters positive life experiences.
- Be acutely aware of the power in coaching relationships and, therefore, avoid intimacy with players, both during coaching and during that period following coaching when imbalance in power could jeopardize effective decision-making.
- Abstain from and refuse to tolerate in others all forms of harassment and loss of self-esteem.
- Act toward players, other coaches, parents and officials in a manner characterized by courtesy, good faith and respect.
- Recognize and address harmful personal practices of others in football, e.g. drugs and alcohol, physical and mental abuse, misuse of power.
- Strive to be fully present, physically and mentally, in the performance of coaching duties.
- Ensure players train and perform in suitable and safe settings.
- Act in the best interest of the player development as a whole person.
- Be honest, sincere and honorable in all relationships with players, parents, officials and other coaches.
- No use of Tobacco products around the team or field.

The Coaching staff is under the direction of the Head Coach; all other coaches will be considered Assistant Coaches.

HEAD COACH

- The Head Coach is responsible for the players of his/her team and will make sure all players are picked up or other arrangements are made before the Head Coach shall leave the park, both practice and games.
- In the absence of the Head Coach, the Head Coach shall appoint an Acting Head Coach for any VMFL game.
- The Head Coach is responsible for the actions and behavior of all his/her Assistant Coaches.
- The Head Coach has final responsibility for his/her actions, also of his/her Assistant Coaches, players, staff and parents. They are also responsible for any and all misconduct by anyone on their sidelines before, during and after a game, including but not limited to taunting, fighting, and verbal abuse of officials. These actions can result in game suspensions by either the league commissioner or the VMFL Executive.

