

## **TC NFL Flag Football**

### **Coaches Code of Conduct**

The TC NFL Flag Football association and the leaders of the affiliated Leagues are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels.

We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A football game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct:

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Explain to the parents that they are to respect the decisions of the referees and the play of both teams in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team.
- Discourage them from yelling at players and the referee.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- During the game, only address the referee in a calm and respectful manner.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your concerns will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.
- There shall be no use of foul and abusive language.
- Be familiar with all rules of the contest.
- There shall be no use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs at TC NFL Flag Football programs. This includes games and practice sessions.
- There shall be no recruitment of players from other teams or clubs.
- Win with character, lose with dignity.

**We stress two points:**

1. Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.
2. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing and uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Tooele County and will grow for the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

I agree to abide by the policy while participating in TC NFL Flag Football regardless of contest site or jurisdiction.

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Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Position : Head Coach

Assistant Coach

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Keep in mind that we may have more people sign up to coach than we have teams. Checking the box is not a guarantee that you will be invited to take a team.