



PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

While participating in an NFL FLAG Tournament, Season, or Event, all PARTICIPANTS agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as a coach, player, parent or spectator as defined below. THIS CODE OF CONDUCT APPLIES TO ALL COACHES, ATHLETES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS.

- Follow all rules as indicated in NFL FLAG Tournament / Season Rule book, as appropriate
- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of athletes and parents - if parents/spectators are behaving poorly, the team itself risks being penalized or disqualified with no right to appeal.
- Crowd support is encouraged. However, inappropriate, rude or confrontational behavior by spectators may lead to disqualification of your team from the tournament, season and/or future events.
- Respect the calls of the referees. No coach's challenges are permitted.
- Once any dispute or challenge has been settled and play resumes, the situation will not be revisited. If a dispute occurs on the last play of the game, this includes the official score, this must be settled prior to leaving the field.
- Refrain from harassing, bullying or engaging in negative behavior towards other athletes, coaches, spectators and/or staff.
- Honor the game by displaying sportsmanship and respecting the rules and officials, staff, teammates, and opponents.
- Resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. Fighting will NOT be tolerated.
- Refrain from the use of profanity.
- No possession of alcohol, drugs or weapons of any kind.
- If there are any concerns or issues that arise, please communicate respectfully and calmly with the tournament or field director of the event.
- Inform staff of any injury or ailment that may affect the safety of the athlete, and refrain from allowing an injured/ill athlete to participate in the event.
- Use social media responsibly and reflect good sportsmanship. Never use it for negative commentary regarding staff, players and/or coaches or to harass/bully others.
- The Event / League Staff and Officials reserve the right to interrupt any game which is not operating within the realm of good sportsmanship and fair play.

Failure to comply with any of the above guidelines may result in removal from the tournament or season, and suspension from the entire tournament series and/or season may be enforced at the sole discretion of Event / League Staff, and additional repercussions for associated league operators, teams, players, and spectators may apply as applicable.

Metro Boston Sports Group / Newton Area Flag Football / MetroWest Flag Football Code of Conduct

The mission of the Metro Boston Sports Group (MBSG) and its affiliates (Newton Area Flag Football and MetroWest Flag Football; hereafter MBSG) is to provide a safe, fun learning environment for the youth of our community. MBSG will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse of its volunteers, coaches, referees, parents, players, coaches or spectators. Spectators, as well as the players, referees, and coaches are expected to abide by the code of conduct described here at all MBSG events. While most of the adults and children in the program will abide by this code without being instructed, it is being published to protect the children, the integrity of our program, and emphasize the values of MBSG.

The MBSG requires that the following Code of Conduct shall apply to ALL PARTICIPANTS in our programs. This includes players, coaches, referees and parents in attendance at games, practices, or events.

The MBSG shall in all instances related thereunto be guided by the core values of SAFETY, INTEGRITY, RESPECT, GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, and FAIR PLAY. All participants are expected to exhibit behavior that adheres to these core values at all times, in any activity or situation that is related to MBSG.

PLAYERS

1. Have fun!
2. Be a good sport (win or lose), be honest and fair.
3. Learn the value of commitment to the team: sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
4. Show courtesy and respect to my teammates, opponents, coaches and officials.
5. Know that athletic contests are educational experiences.
6. Give complete attention to the instructions of my coaches and league officials.

VIOLATIONS

1. Use profanity, talk “trash”, or taunt others before, during or after any game.
 2. Display any unsportsmanlike behavior.
 3. Criticize my teammates or players from other teams.
 4. Act in any way that may incite spectators.
 5. Willfully harm or harass any of my teammates
 6. Arguing or showing disrespect to football officials or coaches.
- Violations of the above may result in a verbal and/or written warning (1st offense), suspension (2nd offense), and/or expulsion (3rd offense).

ADULTS/COACHES/REFEREES

1. At any MBSG event, practice or competition, anyone who: verbally abuses, attempts to intimidate, is flagrantly rude, cannot control their language or actions with an official, coach, player, volunteer or fellow parent, will be asked to leave that event. They will then receive a verbal or written warning regarding their behavior. In addition, his or her child (children) will be immediately removed from that MBSG event.
2. Anyone who commits a second, similar offense that is pursuant to a preceding offense during the same season will be banned from attending the MBSG events for the remainder of that season. In addition, the offending adult’s child (children) may be barred from participating for the remainder of that season. If this should occur, MBSG will not refund registration monies.

3. Anyone who physically assaults an official, coach, player fellow parent or volunteer will be banned effective immediately from the MBSG participation and their child (children) removed from participation for one full calendar year from the date of the offense. Upon the culmination of the 1-year suspension, parents may reapply for re-instatement of their child (children). If the adult commits a subsequent offense, he or she will be permanently banned from participation in the MBSG program with no opportunity for appeal.
4. Parents/fans are prohibited from being on the playing fields during practice/games unless they are a coach-appointed volunteer serving a specific purpose.
5. Failure to pickup your child (children) in a timely manner after an MBSG practice, game, or event may result a review for disciplinary action.

COACHES

Our organization is committed to the principles of Positive Coaching and against a “win-at-all-cost” mentality. A win-at-all-cost coach has only one goal – to win. Our coaching philosophy is one that shares the goal (wants to win) but has a second goal that is **even more important** – to use this sports experience to help young people learn valuable life lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, adversity, resilience and positive character traits that will help them be successful throughout their lives.

To ensure the appropriate atmosphere for these activities, our organization has adopted a zero tolerance policy for violations in its enforcement of the Code of Conduct.

By agreeing to coach, volunteer, or work for MBSG in any capacity, Coaches attest:

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual and expect age appropriate skills from all my players.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players on and off the field.
- I will respect the decisions of referees and coaches.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.
- I will adhere to the Code of Conduct while participating in any Metro Boston Sports Group activity.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and will teach these rules to my players.

By continuing, coaches understand that they must abide by the above Code of Conduct, and if they do not live up to the Code of Conduct, they and their players, spectators, and family members may be banned from participating in any Metro Boston Sports Group activities for a period determined solely by MBSG staff.