



## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

All athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship, and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. Schools and Leagues have entrusted officials to assist them in the educational development of their youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. As such, **it shall be the responsibility of an official to follow the directions provided in this Official's Code of Conduct in conjunction with the publications of the NFHS, Pop Warner, AYF, and other organizations that govern our participants.** Violation of these Codes of Conduct will be a violation of TVFOA Regulations, Policies, and Procedures and may result in a sanction of the offending party.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when all participants (**players, coaches, parents, fans, administrators, and officials**) of all organizations affiliated with or serviced by TVFOA are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to the following six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. This code applies to all participants in sports, but officials are held to the highest of standards as the keepers of the rules, safety, and fair play of all our athletes and their supporters.

**TRUSTWORTHINESS:** *Trustworthiness* – always act so as to encourage and justify trust. *Integrity* – teach and model the importance of integrity by doing the right thing and making the right call even when it may be unpopular; be willing to acknowledge mistakes and, when possible, correct them. *Honesty* – be honest and demand honesty in all communications. *Reliability* – fulfill commitments; be on time; be prepared; know the rules.

**RESPECT:** *Respect* – treat all participants with respect and require the same of all participants. *Disrespectful Conduct* – when appropriate and feasible, seek to control improper conduct of all participants to help prevent conduct inconsistent with a positive atmosphere of character development. *Respect Coaches* – listen to coaches and others who respectfully and in the appropriate setting wish to discuss matters about the rules, interpretation of the rules and your control over the moral environment of the game. *Sports Experience* – ensure that the sports experience is one of fun and enjoyment; correct and instruct players in constructive ways; be generous with praise when it is deserved; tell players when they do something well. *Prejudice* – treat all participants as individuals, appreciating their diversity in skills; never permit statements or acts of prejudice of any kind.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** *Self-Control* – exercise and demand self-control; don't fight, scream or otherwise demonstrate uncontrolled anger or frustration; don't permit any participant to display inappropriate anger. *Grace* – encourage participants to win and lose with grace and dignity. *Accountability* – accept responsibility for your choices of both action and inaction.

**FAIRNESS:** *Fair Play* – model and insist on fair play; make sure all teams compete honorably. *Fair-mindedness* – be open to the ideas, suggestions and opinions of others. *Impartiality* – make all decisions fairly and treat all participants with impartiality.

**CARING:** *Concern for Others* – demonstrate concern for others; discourage selfishness. *Safety* – don't permit participants, players especially, to engage in reckless behavior or potentially unsafe conduct.

**CITIZENSHIP:** *Play by the Rules* – strictly and consistently enforce all rules of the game as they are written in the rulebooks. *Philosophy of the Game* – know how and when to apply appropriate philosophies of the game and use them as teaching moments to allow the game to be played without being overly officious or plagued with penalties.

These Six Pillars of Character are the foundation for a good code of ethics. However, officials must hold themselves to higher standards in order to foster a spirit of cooperation between all participants. Specifically, an official shall:

- Master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm, and controlled manner. In other words, respect the game by training, learning, and knowing the game.
- Place the welfare of the individual athletes above all other considerations.
- Work with fellow officials and the Association and Governing Bodies in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.
- Be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.
- Avoid conflict of interest situations whenever possible.
- Under all circumstances avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- Constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the athletes, coaches, directors, administrators, colleagues, parents, fans, and the public, and be mindful that their conduct influences the respect that all participants hold for the profession.
- Be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the contest.
- Remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to the athletes and others directly involved.
- Not make any false or damaging statements to the news media or any participant unofficially which is critical to any participant, organization, or governing body. All statements should be made to the Association officially, or they shall be considered inappropriate. This includes slander or negative and malicious gossip, orally or written in any form (ie. social media), which creates discord and threatens the harmony and mission of this Association, and/or the relationships with our customers and it's participants.
- Not smoke or use any form of tobacco product on or in the vicinity of the playing area, nor drink any alcoholic beverages within six (6) hours of start through completion of contracted service, or use any illegal drugs on the day of the contest.
- Protect the confidentiality of sensitive information of all participants, especially private business of the Association and its members. The use of all contact information shall be used in conjunction with TVFOA Business. It shall not be shared with third parties, used to promote personal agendas, or used to create competition with our current and existing contracts between the Association and our Client without expressed written permission of the Association.

I have read and understand this Code of Conduct and those mentioned within, and acknowledge that I may be disciplined if I violate any of its provisions.

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date