



CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Expectations of Board Members, Coaches, Players and Spectators:

All participants in league events, including but not limited to parents, players, spectators, coaches and board members, agree to adopt a **24 hour policy** with regards to addressing issues, concerns and/or complaints. Any participant must wait **24 hours** after an incident occurs before addressing those concerns to any other participant. No discussions should take place until **24 hours** after the incident. For the purposes of this paragraph, an incident is defined as any on or off field event, disagreement, conflict, complaint, confrontation, or similar occurrence that occurs between any participants during league sanctioned events. All participants agree to address any incident in a calm, respectful, and sportsman like manner so as to maintain a positive atmosphere for our youth participants.

Grievances should not be aired on social media or in any public forum.

B. Violations of this policy by, Coaches and Members of the Board will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Section II of the code of conduct.

C. Violations of this policy by parents, spectators, players or other participants will first be addressed by written or verbal notice of violation. Subsequent violations may result in the suspension of the corresponding youth participant from league involvement.

D. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, as well as the parents and other spectators who attend the game. A coach, player, or spectator can be removed from the playing field or spectator area by order of a referee, coach for violating any of the rules of conduct listed below.

Adults are expected to:

- Be open and understanding,
- Show patience
- Have the capacity and willingness to work with players, coaches and board members
- Be reasonable in their demands on the players/coaches and remember that the game is for them.
- Emphasize good sportsmanship at all times.
- Show good sportsmanship at all times.
- Not use abusive language or swear
- Not ridicule or harass referees or allow coaches, parents or players to do so.

- Not ridicule or harass any league official, coach, player or parent.
- Not throw or kick equipment or other items or abuse league property.
- To know the rules for his / her Age Group, including but not limited to playing time, safety and position play.
- Refrain from the use of any tobacco products on or around the field of play during games and practices
- Be respectful and considerate to all participants and attendees of games, practices and other league events
- Not engage in disruptive behavior of any type at games, practices and other league events
- All attendees must abide by township and school rules. All violators will be prosecuted.

Saxonburg Spartans will not tolerate any unsportsmanlike conduct within any of the teams. Board members, coaches, players and parents are expected to conduct themselves as positive role models within the community.

E. Disciplinary Action

Violations Requiring Disciplinary Action

Section I

Violation:

Any directing of remarks or actions to a board member, coach, assistant coach, player, spectator or referee that are of a negative, aggressive, or distracting nature.

Refusing to follow any league or game rules or removal of a team from the field of play before regulation play is done, unless it is done so for player safety.

Penalty: **First violation:** One-week suspension pending board review of incident.
Second violation: One-week suspension with possible indefinite suspension pending board review.

Section II

Violation:

Any board member, coach, assistant coach, player, or spectator that is found:

- Arguing with a referee or league official in a manner that results in an official warning
- Throwing equipment or damaging the property in any way.
- Using tobacco, drug, or alcohol products at any time during games or practices
- Refusing to proceed through a traditional, orderly “handshake line” after each game, in the spirit of good sportsmanship. No coach or player shall avoid participation in this line or exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct in the line.

Penalty: **First violation:** Written or verbal warning
Second violation: One-week suspension pending board review

Disciplinary Process

If a board member, coach, player or spectator is removed from a game or

otherwise notified by a board member that they have violated the Code of Conduct or penalties as determined by league authorities, that person will be given an opportunity to state their perspective.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in Saxonburg Spartans to report violations to this code of conduct to their Coach or another Board member. In the event that Saxonburg Spartans is notified of a violation of the above guidelines, the Board will conduct an investigation of the facts consisting of interviews with those involved. The Board shall review the statements and gather any other information from other parties that they deem necessary to determine if a further penalty should be assessed.

Following an investigation of the facts, a determination will be made by the Board and a notification of action will be submitted. The person accused of the violation will be notified of the decision by the Board in writing. The Board, at its sole discretion, may take disciplinary action to any incident, reported or otherwise, if it feels it is warranted to continue to provide a safe and positive environment for the entire organization and its participants.

ARTICLE XIV.

COACHES

- A. All applicants applying for a Coach's position shall be presented to the secretary no later than January 31st, to be voted on and board approved at the February meeting. All Coaches including assistants must be approved by the Board.
- B. Coaches must attend the annual coach meeting held at the conclusion of the June board meeting.
- C. Coaches must be responsible for his/her coaches and players' actions while under his charge.
- D. Coaches must have a general understanding of the rules of football.
- E. Coaches must be an instructor of all players and not in the position for the purpose of promoting his/her own child.
- F. Coaches must have good communication skills to be able to work with players and parents.
- G. Coaches must be willing to attend seminars or courses on managerial skills so he/she can teach players the necessary skills to be able to move on to the next level of competition and attend the annual coach's clinic held at a time and place as determined by the Organization.
- H. Coaches must be able to delegate to assistant coaches, and parents to share the team's responsibilities to make football a community and family sport.
- I. Any person not approved to be team Coach must be approved by the Board to be involved with the team in any fashion.
- J. Coaches must be willing to donate time to field repairs and league functions.
- K. Coaches must work with the Board to keep the league functioning properly.
- L. Coaches must be able to have fun with the players to keep their interest as well as teach them football. If players stop having fun, they stop playing football.
- M. Coaches must be considerate of the needs of both players and parents in the administration of his/her team responsibilities.
- N. Coaches must know the specific league rules for their age group, including but not limited to playing time requirements, safety and position play.
- O. Coaches must work with the board to adopt a 24-hour policy with concerns and

complaints. Any person in the Organization must wait 24 hours after any on or off field incident between parents, players, or any member of the Organization (Coaches, asst. coaches, board members) that occurs during a league sanctioned event before addressing concerns to any coach, and/or board member. No discussions should take place until 24 hours after the incident occurs.