

# NFL FLAG WEST GA ELITE COACHES POLICY

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Standard coach conduct, supervision, communication, safety, and operational expectations.

Applies to all head coaches, assistant coaches, substitute coaches, volunteers, and sideline coach representatives serving West GA Elite unless replaced by an updated written version.

**Important Notice.** This document is a strong operational coach-policy draft for league use. It should be reviewed by local counsel before final public use if you want legal advice specific to your state, screening process, volunteer structure, supervision practices, and risk profile.

## 1. Scope and Acceptance

This Coaches Policy applies to every person who serves, assists, shadows, fills in, communicates, or otherwise acts in a coaching role for NFL FLAG West GA Elite (the "League"), whether paid, unpaid, part-time, temporary, volunteer, or guest approved by the League. By accepting a coaching role, attending a coach meeting, entering a team sideline, leading a drill, communicating with players or families in a coaching capacity, or otherwise participating in league operations, you agree to comply with this Coaches Policy, the Terms of Service, registration disclosures, code of conduct, safety rules, and any additional written or verbal League direction.

## 2. League Mission and Coaching Standard

Coaches are expected to help create a positive, organized, family-friendly, and development-focused environment consistent with the League's mission. Coaches must place player safety, respect, inclusion, effort, and sportsmanship ahead of ego, personal disputes, or win-at-all-costs behavior. NFL FLAG West GA Elite expects coaches to teach fundamentals, support confidence, model discipline, communicate clearly, and help athletes enjoy the game while developing as teammates and competitors.

## 3. Coach Appointment and League Discretion

All coach roles are subject to League approval and may be limited, reassigned, modified, suspended, or revoked at any time in the League's discretion. A parent request, prior relationship, volunteer interest, or previous season participation does not guarantee assignment to a specific team, age group, friend group, sibling team, or returning roster. The League may appoint, replace, add, combine, or remove coaches whenever reasonably necessary for safety, roster balance, operations, attendance, parent concerns, or mission alignment.

## 4. Screening, Eligibility, and Required Information

The League may require any coach or prospective coach to provide identification, contact information, emergency information, coaching background, references, screening authorizations, certifications, photo identification, or other information the League deems reasonably necessary. Any false, incomplete, misleading, or omitted information may result in denial, suspension, or removal. The League may require background screening, abuse-prevention training, identity verification, or other compliance steps before sideline access or player interaction is permitted.

## 5. Onboarding, Meetings, and Training

Coaches are expected to complete required onboarding and attend any coach meeting, orientation, rules review, safety session, or administrative check-in designated by the League. The League may require coaches to review NFL FLAG resources, league playbooks, practice guidance, communication rules, scheduling procedures, and sideline expectations before the season or during the season. Failure to complete required onboarding may delay assignment, limit access, or result in removal from the role.

## 6. Player Safety Comes First

Coaches must actively prioritize player safety at all times. That includes supervising athletes appropriately, enforcing safe spacing during drills, discouraging dangerous conduct, monitoring conditions, following League and facility instructions, and immediately reporting injuries, safety incidents, conflicts, or field concerns. Coaches may not

encourage head contact, unsafe tackling-style behavior, retaliatory conduct, abusive conditioning, humiliating discipline, or any instruction that conflicts with NFL FLAG rules or League safety standards.

## **7. Respectful Treatment of Athletes**

Every athlete must be treated with respect. Coaches may correct, redirect, and challenge athletes, but may not shame, threaten, harass, intimidate, bully, demean, isolate, or verbally abuse a player. Coaches may not use profanity directed at athletes, humiliating nicknames, discriminatory statements, physical punishment, or fear-based coaching tactics. Coaching must remain age-appropriate, constructive, and consistent with a youth-development environment.

## **8. Parent and Family Communication**

Coaches represent the League when communicating with families. Coaches are expected to communicate professionally, remain calm, and direct families to official league platforms, notices, and schedules whenever possible. Coaches must not make promises about playing time, team placement, postseason outcomes, refunds, sponsorships, scholarships, or future opportunities unless the League has expressly approved that message. Coaches should escalate major disputes, behavior issues, schedule complaints, or safety concerns to League leadership rather than arguing with families on the sideline or through private message chains.

## **9. Approved Communication Channels**

Coaches should use approved league communication channels, including PlayMetrics, official text groups, approved email threads, or other League-authorized methods. Coaches should avoid private one-on-one communications with minor players unless a parent or guardian is copied, included, or otherwise aware in a manner approved by the League. Coaches must not use disappearing-message apps, private late-night messaging, or side channels that undermine parent visibility, league records, or player safety.

## **10. Practice Expectations and Time Management**

Coaches are expected to arrive on time, be prepared, and use assigned practice windows efficiently. Practice time is limited and valuable. Coaches should plan age-appropriate warm-ups, skill work, installation, and team teaching that fit within the assigned time. Coaches must respect shared field space, setup rules, start times, stop times, and any League direction regarding rotations, transitions, or shortened windows. Coaches may not take unauthorized extra field time or interfere with another team's practice schedule.

## **11. Game-Day Responsibilities**

On game day, coaches are expected to arrive on time, manage check-in and player readiness, maintain sideline order, follow official instructions, and model sportsmanship. Coaches should help keep the game moving, confirm roster attendance, assist with lineups and substitutions, and ensure players are prepared for warm-ups and kickoff. Coaches must comply with any field marshal, site director, or operations instruction regarding weather, timing, game adjustments, safety, or sideline control.

## **12. Playing Time, Rotation, and Competitive Decisions**

The League expects coaches to operate fairly and developmentally, especially in youth divisions. At the same time, coaching decisions about positions, rotation, lineup combinations, and in-game strategy may vary by age, safety, attendance, effort, conduct, and team needs. Coaches should not guarantee positions, touches, statistics, or equal usage in every moment. If the League adopts any division-specific participation expectation, coaches must follow it. League leadership reserves the right to review complaints about coaching fairness, sideline behavior, or participation issues and issue corrective direction when necessary.

## **13. Sportsmanship and Sideline Conduct**

Coaches must model composure and respect toward referees, opponents, families, players, and staff. Excessive arguing, profanity, taunting, public ridicule, retaliatory conduct, or refusal to follow official rulings is prohibited. Coaches may respectfully seek clarification, but may not create a hostile or chaotic sideline environment. The tone a coach sets directly affects the families and athletes on the team; coaches are expected to raise the standard, not escalate the moment.

## **14. Prohibited Conduct**

The following conduct is prohibited and may result in immediate removal:

- physical aggression or threats
- abusive or discriminatory language
- harassment, bullying, or intimidation
- unsafe drills or unsafe instruction
- leaving players unsupervised inappropriately
- inappropriate contact with minors
- private communications that violate League visibility expectations
- alcohol, drugs, or impairment at league activities
- misuse of league funds, merchandise, or equipment
- unauthorized promises, fundraising, sponsorship collection, or outside transactions done in the League's name
- conduct that damages the League brand, operations, or family environment

## **15. Uniform, Equipment, and Field Compliance**

Coaches must help ensure players comply with League equipment and dress requirements, including safe gear usage, pocketless shorts where required, mouthguard rules if adopted, flag-belt compliance, and any division-specific equipment rule. Coaches should not allow known non-compliant or unsafe participation without direction from the League. Coaches are also expected to respect facility rules, designated areas, and the proper use of league-owned or facility-owned equipment.

## **16. Injury Reporting and Emergency Response**

If an athlete appears injured, ill, overheated, or otherwise unsafe to continue, coaches must respond conservatively, notify league staff and the family as appropriate, and follow emergency procedures. Coaches may not ignore a serious complaint simply to continue play. Any significant incident, injury, confrontation, ejection, or safety concern should be documented and reported to League leadership as soon as reasonably possible after the event.

## **17. Photography, Video, and Social Media**

Coaches may take or share team-related content only in a way that aligns with League policies, approved media practices, and family expectations. Coaches should avoid posting content that embarrasses a child, reveals sensitive information, fuels parent conflict, or misrepresents League decisions. Any public post made in a coaching capacity should reflect the League positively and professionally. The League may request the removal of any content that it believes is unsafe, inaccurate, disruptive, or inconsistent with league standards.

## **18. Confidentiality and Information Handling**

Coaches may receive roster information, parent contact details, attendance information, schedule details, or other internal league information. That information must be used only for legitimate team and league purposes. Coaches may not sell, misuse, post publicly, or casually share private family information. Any access to registration platforms, roster systems, or communication platforms is for authorized use only and may be revoked at any time.

## **19. Compensation, Reimbursement, and No Guarantee**

Some coaches may serve as volunteers and some may receive stipends or other compensation only if the League expressly approves it in writing. No one is entitled to compensation, reimbursement, free merchandise, fee waivers, or future opportunities unless the League has specifically offered those terms. Even where compensation exists, continued eligibility depends on performance, conduct, attendance, and compliance with League direction.

## **20. League Property, Branding, and Representation**

League names, team identities, sponsor relationships, registration systems, documents, logos, and player/parent relationships are League assets. Coaches may not present themselves as owners, league decision-makers, or official spokespersons unless authorized. Coaches may not create side merchandise, separate fee collections, private sponsorship packages, or outside competing programs using league branding or league relationships without written approval.

## **21. Reporting Concerns and Duty to Escalate**

Coaches are expected to report material concerns, including player safety risks, misconduct, harassment, suspected abuse, serious conflicts, threats, equipment concerns, or significant parent disputes. Silence is not acceptable when a concern could reasonably affect safety, league operations, or the experience of families. Coaches should escalate

concerns promptly to the designated League contact or site director rather than handling major issues informally on their own.

## **22. Suspension, Removal, and Final League Authority**

The League may warn, suspend, sideline, reassign, or permanently remove any coach or sideline helper at any time if it believes such action is advisable for safety, operations, legal compliance, parent trust, or mission alignment. A coach removed from the role is not entitled to reinstatement, team control, compensation, refund, or public explanation beyond what the League chooses to provide. The League's operational decisions regarding coaching assignments and removals are final unless the League decides otherwise in writing.

## **23. Policy Changes**

This Coaches Policy may be updated at any time. Updated versions become effective when posted, distributed, or otherwise communicated by the League. Continued participation in a coaching role after notice of an update constitutes acceptance of the revised policy.

## **24. Coach Acknowledgment**

By serving in any coaching or coaching-adjacent capacity, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and agree to comply with this Coaches Policy in full, together with all related league rules, communications, safety requirements, and operational direction.