



Western Patriots Code of Conduct - Coaches

1.0 Coaching Code of Conduct

1.1 Introduction

This Code of Conduct has been developed to protect and promote the best interests of the game. Its primary purpose is to clarify and distinguish ethical and approved professional practices from those that are detrimental. Its secondary purpose is to emphasize the purpose and value of football in the development of children and young adults and to stress the proper function of coaches in relation to players, and the public. The ultimate success of the principles and standards of this Code depends upon the football coach and the association executives that oversee the activities of all the involved parties.

1.2 Responsibilities to Players

- A. In his relationships with players under his care, the coach should always be aware of the tremendous influence he wields. The coach should never place the value of a win above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in his players. The safety and welfare of his players should always be uppermost in his mind, and they must never be sacrificed for any personal prestige or selfish glory.
- B. In teaching the game of football, the coach must realize that there are certain rules designed to protect the player and provide common standards for determining a winner and loser. Any attempts to beat these rules, to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate un sportsmanlike conduct have no place in the game of football.
- C. The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem and should, under no circumstances, be considered the province of the coach. A coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention and that the minutest detail of physician's orders is carried out.
- D. Under no circumstances should a coach authorize the use of drugs, non-natural vitamins or homeopathic remedies of any kind. Medicines, stimulants, or drugs should be used only when authorized and supervised by a physician.
- E. A player's future should not be jeopardized by any circumvention of eligibility rules.
- F. In the educational setting, a coach should not make demands on his players that will interfere with the player's opportunities for achieving academic success.

1.3 Coaching Director's Responsibilities

- A. The Coaching Director should supervise the program and personnel so as to maintain the principles, integrity and dignity of our organization.
- B. No Board Member should exert pressure on members of our organization or coaches, to give any player the consideration they do not deserve.
- C. The Coaching Director, in conjunction with our coaches, should set and follow the procedures which relate to the players, rules, officials, game day and other applicable responsibilities.

1.4 Rules of the Game

- A. Each coach should be acquainted thoroughly with the rules of the game. He is responsible for having the rules explained and interpreted for his players.
- B. The coaches must adhere to both the letter and the spirit of the rules. To gain an advantage by circumvention or disregard for the rules brands that person unfit to be associated with football.
- C. A coach is responsible for flagrant roughing tactics. He is responsible for illegal substitution. He shall not permit faking of injuries in order to stop the clock.
- D. A coach must remember that it is not the purpose of football to hurt or injure an opponent by legal or illegal methods.
- E. Habit formation is developed on the practice field. Where coaches permit, encourage or condone performance that is dangerous to an opponent, they are derelict in their responsibility to teach fair play and good sportsmanship. Any coach who fails to stress this point, or who permits, encourages or defends the use of un-sportsmanlike tactics, shall be considered guilty of the most serious breach of football coaching ethics.

1.5 Officials

- A. No competitive contest can be played satisfactorily without impartial, competent officials. Officials must have the respect and support of Directors, coaches and players. On and off-the-record criticism of officials to players or to the public shall be considered unethical.
- B. There should be a cooperative relationship between coaches, Directors and officials' associations, with frequent interchange of ideas and suggestions. Coaches should, whenever possible, accept invitations to attend officials' rules meetings. Similarly, coaches should extend invitations to officials to discuss the interpretation of rules with their squads, and, on occasion, to officiate at scrimmages (if possible) for mutual benefits.
- C. Good officiating promotes enjoyment of the game and protects the players. When an official accepts a game assignment, his responsibility is well defined. The protection and welfare of the players are paramount and there can be no compromise. Any official, who fails to discharge promptly his responsibility to penalize a player or coach for an infraction, is delinquent and unqualified to officiate.
- D. On the day of a game, officials should be treated in a courteous manner. On their part, officials are expected to show courtesy and respect to players, coaches, and vice versa. Any criticism which the coach may have concerning officiating, or any official's criticism of the public, teams, coaches or individual players, should be made in writing to the office which assigned the official to the game. For a coach to address, or permit anyone on his bench to address uncomplimentary remarks to any official during or after a game, or to indulge in conduct which might incite players or spectators against the officials, is a violation of the rules of the game and must be considered unworthy conduct for a member of our coaching staff.

1.6 Public Relations

- A. Coaches should avoid talking in public about anything that is detrimental to our organization.
- B. Solution of problems will be dealt within our organization.

1.7 Recruiting

- A. All institutional, league, conference and national regulatory body rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed.
- B. It is a breach of ethics to recruit a player enrolled in another program (or to recruit a prospective athlete who has avowed his intention to enroll in another program) for the purpose of participating in regularly organized practice, exhibition game or league game for the purpose of making that player ineligible for another program.
- C. In discussing the advantages of our organization, the coach must confine his statements to an honest and forthright presentation of the facts. He shall refrain from making derogatory statements about other organizations/institutions.
- D. It is unethical for any coach to make statements to any prospective athlete that cannot be fulfilled.

1.8 Game Day and Other Responsibilities

- A. It is vitally important that a coach's actions and behavior at all times bring credit to him, our organization, and the game of football.
- B. During a game a coach should be as inconspicuous as possible. Coaches are encouraged to demonstrate a friendly and kindly attitude toward their players.
- C. In the interests of enjoyment and growth of the game, Coaches should encourage the type of support from fans, which is conducive to producing an environment of good sportsmanship and healthy competition.
- D. The home field coaches are responsible for maintaining order and should enforce crowd control measures, laid out by their league, which is designed to prevent spectator encroachment on either the home or visitor benches.

1.9 Substance, Physical, Sexual or Verbal Abuse

- A. At no time is any coach permitted to be under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or any mind altering substance during games, practices or any other venue where the coach is assuming their official duties.
- B. At no time and under any circumstances is it permitted to physically or verbally assault a player, spectator, official or any other person in attendance at a practice, game tournament or any other venue where the coach is assuming their official duties.
- C. At no time should a coach be in a potentially compromised situation regarding a minor player. This is to state that a coach should never place themselves, alone, in a dressing room area, lodging establishment, home or any other non-public or confined area with any player or players. Another adult should always be present in any such situation.
- D. The use of profane language in the presence of players, spectators and officials will not be condoned.
- E. Any violation of the above rules can result in immediate dismissal.

The role of the coach is to challenge players to exert themselves physically and mentally. Verbal challenges, encouragement and discipline shall not be considered as verbal abuse.

Coaching Requirements

2.0 Introduction

This section outlines the desired experience and certification requirements for coaches. Its primary purpose is to clarify and set down the minimum requirements for all individuals who wish to coach at a minor football level. Its secondary purpose is to emphasize the purpose and value of the development of practical and theoretical coaching techniques in all our coaches.

2.1 Police Checks

All coaches must go through a police check.

2.2 Coaching Certification

A. All Head Coaches must attain, at a minimum, level one or two (depending on the level coaching at) certification by a Recognized Coaching Certification Program. All coaches must attain this minimum level one or two certification prior to the second anniversary of their first on field practice session with players.

B. All Assistant Coaches are strongly encouraged to do the same.

C. Equivalent status and/or exemptions to this rule, for coaches who have previous coaching experience, will be evaluated by the executive committee on a case by case basis.

2.3 Commitment

Effective coaching requires consistent re-enforcement of theories and technical execution in practice sessions. The continuity of coaching personnel is essential in obtaining the highest degree of consistent effort by the players. The use of "game day" coaches is prohibited. The term "game day" applies to coaches who do not attend practice sessions but want to participate in coaching the players only in game situations.

Code of Conduct - Parents, Guardians and Spectators

3.0 Parent / Guardian / Spectator Information

3.1 Introduction

This section outlines the responsibilities of the head coach in respect to the conduct of parents and spectators associated with their team. The head coach shall make the parents or guardians of all his players aware of the following provisions via a team meeting or written handout.

3.2 Home Game Crowd Control

The head coach, in the absence of an association executive, is responsible for ensuring that all spectators and parents are kept away from the home and visitor benches. The head coach shall notify officials of any breach of this league requirement and shall instruct the official to halt the game until such control is established.

3.3 Verbal Abuse by Parents / Guardians / Spectators

The head coach shall instruct any parent, guardian or spectator, who engages in any verbal abuse

of officials and opposing players, to leave the field. This applies only to those individuals associated with their team.

3.4 Coaches Domain

A. The head coach, together with their assistants, shall set out the manner in which the team is run, what calls are made and which players see game action and to what extent.

B. The head coach shall make his policies regarding practice and game attendance well know to all persons associated with their team.

C. The head coach shall be responsible for all player discipline.

D. Players who intentionally attempt to injure another player or who are out of control shall surrender their equipment and shall not play until such time as the head coach deems it acceptable.

Selection Of Coaches

4.0 Applicants Responsibility

The person applying for a coaching position (Head or Assistant Coach) with the Western Patriots Football Association must read and agree to comply with this document and then sign it. He must also fill out a Coaches Application Form and then remit both of these documents to the Coaching Director.

4.1 Coaching Directors Responsibility

The Coaching Director will then go through all the applications and make his selections. He will then submit his selections to the Western Patriots Board Of Directors for final approval.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE!!!

It must be fully understood that just because you were coaching a certain team, position or level within our association this year does not automatically guarantee you the same team, position or level next year. This process must be repeated every year.

I have read and agree to fully comply with all of the above as long as I' am a coach with the Western Patriots Football Association.

Date:_____

Name (Please Print):_____

Signature:_____