

Edgewood Pee Wee Football Association

Code of Ethics

I. PURPOSE

- The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to provide guidelines to follow in all aspects of activities and events of the Edgewood Pee Wee Football Association (here forward known as E.P.W.F.A. or the Association).
- It is the duty of the members of the E.P.W.F.A. to teach players good sportsmanship, proper conduct, proper care of personal property and equipment, and the importance of self-discipline, in addition to teaching football fundamentals.
- It is the duty of the parents, players, and coaches together with the Executive Board of Directors of the E.P.W.F.A. to see that these codes are followed and enforced.

II. FAIR PLAY CODES

A. Players

- I will show the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- I will respect the other team's players, parents, coaches, and officials.
- I will control my temper since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.
- I will remember that being the best isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making friends, and learning the game are also important.
- I will remember that coaches and parents are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect and understand that they have given their time to be with me.
- I will participate in the sport because I want to and not just because my parents or coaches want me to.

B. Coaches

- I will be reasonable when scheduling practices, etc., remembering that young people and their parents have other interests and obligations.
- I will teach my players the game of football while respecting the rules, Executive Board Members, the player's parents, and the team's opponents.
- I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support, and opportunity.
- I will not ridicule my players for making mistakes or performing poorly. I will remember that young people play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will remember that young people must have a coach that they respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the players' ages and abilities.
- I will continue to upgrade my coaching skills to the best of my ability.

C. Fans

- I will remember that young people play sports for their enjoyment and not to entertain me.
- I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing their best is as important as being the best. I understand that ridiculing a player is a mistake and is NOT acceptable behavior.
- I will respect the coach's and Executive Board's decisions and will encourage other participants to do the same.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and Executive Board members and understand that they have volunteered their time to provide this activity for our young people.
- I will encourage players, coaches and Executive Board Members to abide by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize that without them, there would be no game.
- I will not use bad language and will not harass players, coaches, officials, Executive Board Members, or other spectators.
- I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best through the examples we set for them.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONSEQUENCES

A. PARENTS

Responsibilities:

- While in attendance of the Pee Wee Football event, parents will be expected to display and engage in the proper behavior in order to set a good example and have a positive influence of all participants. The following guidelines should be followed:
- No smoking, no smokeless tobacco and no drinking on school ground, practice fields or game fields. The smoking ban is in accordance with the law passed by the State of Ohio
- No cursing or foul language
- No yelling or arguments with the officials or coaching staff
- No physical violence
- No yelling or derisive comments to any team members or parent
- No firearms are permitted on school property, including practice fields
- Parents will be responsible for their child's attendance at all scheduled practices and games. All intended absences should be reported to a team coach at least 3 hours before each game, if possible, and 1 hour before practices.
- Parents are responsible for all of their child's monetary obligations (sign-up fees, fundraisers, etc.) and seeing that these obligations are met by specified deadlines.
- Parents are also obligated to supply all needed written information (names, addresses, phone numbers, birth certificates, recent picture, and responsible party) that the Association deems necessary.
- Parents are responsible for the care and maintenance of any and all issued equipment that is the property of the Edgewood Pee Wee Football Association and to see that all said equipment is returned to the Equipment Manager upon request.
- EPWFA issued equipment is to be turned in at the end of the football season. Failure to do so will result in the player being unable to play football the next season.
- It is the expectation of the parents to offer their assistance in any and all Pee Wee activities, including but not limited to concession stand duty, gate duty, clean up, field maintenance, etc.

Consequences:

- Coaches, parents, Board Members, and Spectators can be reprimanded, suspended, or permanently banned from the Edgewood Pee Wee Football Association events and all its functions if the situation is severe enough to warrant such action. Should that happen, the ban would affect only the person/people involved, not the child/player.

B. PLAYERS

Responsibilities:

- Players are expected to treat each other with respect. No profane or abusive language will be tolerated while participating with the team. No threatening or aggravating behavior towards any other player will be tolerated. Players guilty of violating this code can be suspended for up to one year.
- No player will misuse or abuse any equipment. Any malicious damage to equipment will result in dismissal from the team and restitution demanded.
- Any player that is suspended for any reason must be present and sit on the team bench for the game that he is suspended from, in order to consider the suspension served.
- No profane or abusive language will be tolerated while participating.
- No player will enter into an argument with and spectator or official during a game.

- Players must remain on the team bench or behind the side lines, not on the field. If a player is found away from the team bench or field without permission, the player can be suspended for the remainder of the game.

Consequences:

- Players guilty of violating any codes outlined in this document can be verbally reprimanded or other suitable actions as deemed appropriate by the coach.
- Players can be suspended from a game or multiple games, depending on the severity of the infraction.
- Players can be suspended or dismissed from the Association, depending on the severity and details of the infraction.

C. COACHES AND TEAM MOMS

Responsibilities:

- Coaches and team moms are not permitted to use any profane or abusive language while competing or practicing.
- Coaches and team moms are not permitted to smoke or use smokeless tobacco while on the practice field or during a game. A coach or team mom may, however, leave the practice area during a break and smoke (not in sight of the team). During a game or pre-game warm-up, no smoking or smokeless tobacco will be permitted. A coach or team mom may, however, leave the field area to smoke (not in sight of the team).
- Coaches and team moms will not argue with, threaten, or touch any game officials.
- Coaches must be at all practices and games. A coach must give ample notice to the players and parents of all practices and games.
- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team.
- Team moms are responsible to keep parents and interested parties informed of the schedules and other details of the team while maintaining a spirit of harmony and good sportsmanship among team parents.

Consequences:

- Coaches or team moms guilty of violating any codes outlined in this document can be verbally reprimanded or other suitable actions as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board of Directors.
- Coaches or team moms can be suspended from a game or multiple games, depending on the severity of the infraction.
- Coaches or team moms can be suspended or dismissed from the Association, depending on the severity and details of the infraction.

D. EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- It shall be the responsibility of individual Board Members and/or any member of the Association to accurately report any and all violations of these codes to the Executive Board of Directors.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board of Directors to review any violations of the Code of Ethics in a timely manner and come to agreement on the consequences. The consequences will be communicated to the involved parties in the form of a letter by the President.
- It is the duty of the Executive Board of Directors to display behaviors that support the Code of Ethics and strive to ensure enforcement of all Codes throughout each season.
- **It is the duty of the Executive Board of Directors to maintain strict confidentiality at all times regarding board business. Violation of any of the above is grounds for immediate termination of Board Member status in the EPWFA.**

E. BOARD LIAISON

- A board appointed liaison is an officer of the Executive Board who serves as a contact for all interested parties that can bring things confidentially to the Executive Board of Directors. A board liaison should

not have a player on the team that they represent. Board liaison assignments for each team will occur each year before the season starts.

F. **MEMBER COMPLAINTS**

- Any issues are to be brought to your head coach. If you feel the situation is not resolved, contact your board appointed liaison for your team, not other board members.
- All members have a right to bring a complaint before the Board of Directors on any issue they consider to be detrimental to the best interest of EPWFA.
- All complaints must be submitted in writing, signed and dated by the concerned party and given to the team's Board Liaison. Emails will be accepted with the following information: *electronic signature, contact information is provided (i.e. home phone number/cell phone number), and a convenient time stated in writing, when a board member may contact you to discuss the issues of concern.* **No texts messages will be accepted.** All complaint documents and their contents become the property of EPWFA. Any unsigned complaints will be considered void and will not be recognized or discussed by the EPWFA Board.
- The Executive Board will review all concerns brought to their attention from each board liaison. In the event that the complaint received is of such a serious nature that the President determines that immediate action is warranted, the President will call an emergency Board meeting.
- Upon receipt of an issue, the Board shall review it and determine if a formal disciplinary hearing is warranted or if the issue can be resolved informally. In the event the Board determines that a formal hearing is not necessary, the issue will be delegated to the Board Liaison for that team or other Board Member as appropriate. That person will fully investigate the allegations on the Board's behalf and then report their findings to the Board. The Board will determine what action needs to be taken to serve the best interest of the Association. The Board shall respond in writing to all parties involved and will maintain documentation in the Secretary's files for future reference.
- If the issue needs a formal hearing, the Board will meet and set a course of action to resolve the complaint. The Secretary shall notify the member(s) in writing of the nature of the complaint and request that these members appear before the Board in a special meeting. Failure of the member to appear will result in the Board conducting the meeting without the presence of those members. Any decision of the Board will be final. In the event that the Board decides expulsion is called for, a majority vote shall be required. A written notification shall be sent to all parties involved with the incident on the results.

G. **DISTRIBUTION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS AND BY-LAWS**

All parents, coaches, and other interested parties will be informed that they are expected to abide by the by-laws and code of ethics as outlined here. This document is available on the website and in hard copy by request.

Reference: Some of these Code of Ethics and Fair Play Codes have been adapted from information provided by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Edgewood High School Athletics program. Additional By-Laws, Code of Ethics and Fair Play Codes can be enforced by the OYVFL when deemed necessary.

REVISION: MARCH 2013
REVISION: FEBRUARY 2014