



# Phoenix Youth Flag Football League (PFFL Youth)

Effective 1/16/26 Updated 1/16/26

## Code of Conduct (Players, Parents/Guardians, Coaches)

Phoenix Youth Flag Football League (PFFL Youth) is committed to providing a safe, fun, competitive, and respectful environment for all participants. This Code of Conduct applies to **all players, parents/guardians, coaches, team staff, spectators, and volunteers** at any PFFL Youth event, including games, practices, combines, meetings, and league activities.

By participating in PFFL Youth, all individuals agree to follow the standards below. Violations may result in removal from the event, suspension, or season dismissal at the league's discretion.

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## 1) Core Expectations for Everyone

All participants are expected to:

- Show respect to **players, coaches, officials, staff, opponents, and spectators**
- Keep language and behavior **positive and age-appropriate**
- Support a safe environment free from harassment, bullying, intimidation, or discrimination
- Follow all league rules, facility rules, and staff instructions
- Prioritize sportsmanship over winning

PFFL Youth has **zero tolerance** for threats of violence, physical aggression, or repeated abusive behavior toward anyone (officials, players, parents, staff, or bystanders).

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## 2) Sportsmanship and Sideline Behavior

PFFL Youth is a **sideline-positive** league. This means:

- Cheering is encouraged
- Coaching from the stands, arguing calls, taunting, or negative commentary is not permitted
- Officials and coaches must be allowed to do their jobs without interference

**Only designated coaches and league staff** may address officials, and discussions must remain calm and respectful.

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## 3) Player Code of Conduct

Players must:

- Play with effort, integrity, and good sportsmanship
- Follow the rules and respect officials' decisions
- Respect teammates and opponents (no trash talk, taunting, or bullying)
- Avoid dangerous play (no fighting, deliberate contact, or retaliation)
- Avoid profanity or inappropriate gestures
- Listen to coaches and league staff instructions immediately

Players must also:

- Stay with their team area unless escorted by a coach/guardian
- Never leave the facility without a parent/guardian or coach approval

**Bullying, harassment, or intimidation** (including online/social media behavior tied to the league) may result in suspension or removal.

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## 4) Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

Parents/guardians must:

- Support and encourage all players
- Allow coaches to coach and officials to officiate
- Demonstrate respectful behavior toward staff, officials, and other families
- Keep sideline communication appropriate and non-disruptive
- Refrain from confronting children who are not their own
- Address concerns through the league's process (not during games)

Parents/guardians may not:

- Use profanity, threats, insults, or aggressive behavior
- Argue calls or attempt to influence officials
- Enter the field of play unless directed by staff (injury/emergency exception)
- Encourage unsportsmanlike conduct or retaliation

PFFL Youth may remove spectators for behavior that disrupts the environment or impacts player safety.

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## 5) Coach Code of Conduct

Coaches are responsible for setting the standard. Coaches must:

- Prioritize player safety, development, and sportsmanship
- Teach rules and proper technique
- Maintain control of the sideline (including assisting with parent behavior when needed)
- Communicate respectfully with players, parents, and officials
- Never use humiliating, threatening, or abusive language
- Never use physical punishment or intimidation

Coaches must also:

- Ensure fair playing time to the extent possible (league guidance may apply)
  - Maintain appropriate boundaries and professionalism with youth athletes
  - Immediately report injuries, safety concerns, or misconduct to league staff
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## 6) Safety and Physical Conduct

PFFL Youth is a flag league—safety is non-negotiable. The following are strictly prohibited:

- Fighting, shoving, or physical intimidation
- Targeting, excessive contact, or intentional rough play
- Dangerous acts (including throwing objects or equipment)

Any participant who engages in physical aggression may be removed immediately and subject to further discipline.

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## 7) Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination

PFFL Youth prohibits bullying, harassment, hazing, and discrimination of any kind, including but not limited to:

- Race, ethnicity, nationality
- Religion
- Gender or gender expression
- Disability
- Body type, skill level, or personal background

Violations may result in immediate suspension or removal.

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## 8) Drug, Alcohol, and Weapon Policy

- **No alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or illegal substances** are permitted at youth events.
- **No weapons** are permitted at any PFFL Youth event.

Anyone violating this policy may be removed immediately and, where applicable, reported to facility authorities.

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## 9) Reporting Issues and Dispute Resolution

To keep games running smoothly:

- Do not confront officials during or after games
- Do not approach opposing teams/players to address issues

If you have a concern (rules, safety, behavior, scheduling, etc.), contact the league through the official channel. PFFL Youth will review concerns and respond as quickly as possible.

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## 10) Photography, Video, and Media Policy

PFFL Youth games may be photographed or recorded for purposes such as:

- Player/team highlights
- League recaps and announcements
- Sponsor/community promotion
- Internal review and training

**PFFL Youth reserves the right to use photos/video taken at league events on our website, social media, promotional materials, and marketing content,** consistent with appropriate youth privacy and safety practices.

### **Opt-Out Option (Recommended):**

If a parent/guardian does not want their child featured in promotional media, they must notify the league in writing before the season begins. We will make reasonable efforts to honor the request; however, complete removal from all background footage may not always be possible (e.g., wide shots of game play).

PFFL Youth will not post content that includes:

- Full names with identifying details (unless authorized)
  - Sensitive personal information
  - Content intended to embarrass or exploit any child
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## 11) Discipline, Removal, and Refund Policy

PFFL Youth may take action for violations including (but not limited to):

- Verbal warning

- Removal from the game/site for the day
- Suspension (one or more games)
- Season dismissal

**Threats of violence** toward any referee, player, parent, staff member, or bystander may result in **immediate suspension**, with the length determined by the league.

If a player/parent/coach is removed or dismissed for Code of Conduct violations, the league may deny future participation. Refunds (if any) will follow league policy and may be denied for serious or repeated misconduct.

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## **12) Acknowledgement**

Our mission is to build a league kids are proud of and parents trust. We appreciate everyone's support in creating a positive, safe environment where athletes can grow.

**Thank you for helping us set the standard.**