



**DOVER**  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Dover Football League Coach Code of Conduct

### Introduction

Thank you for your dedication to the Dover Football League. As a coach, you are entrusted with the responsibility of shaping young athletes' skills, character, and love for the game of football. This code of conduct provides clear guidelines for professional behavior, certification, and responsibilities. By upholding these standards, we ensure a positive, safe, and supportive environment for all participants.

### 1. Sportsmanship and Conduct Expectations

- **Respect for All:** Coaches must demonstrate respect for all players, officials, parents, and fellow coaches. At no time should derogatory comments or inappropriate behavior be displayed or tolerated.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Coaches are expected to prioritize positive reinforcement, encouraging players to strive for improvement while maintaining a focus on teamwork and sportsmanship.
- **Role Modeling:** Coaches serve as role models. Exhibit professionalism, integrity, and sportsmanship in every interaction to set a positive example for players.

### 2. Social Media Guidelines

- **Promote a Positive Image:** Social media is an excellent platform to promote the Dover Football League's achievements and events. Coaches should share positive updates that reflect well on the league.
- **Prohibit Negative Comments:** Coaches are strictly prohibited from posting negative comments or criticisms about players, other coaches, officials, parents, or the league. This includes both direct and indirect comments that could reflect poorly on the Dover Football League.
- **Privacy and Discretion:** Coaches should avoid sharing photos, videos, or personal information about players or parents without explicit permission.

### 3. Certification and Training Requirements

- **Background Check:** All coaches are required to pass a background check before they can begin coaching in the Dover Football League.

- **USA Football Certification:** Coaches must obtain and maintain USA Football certification to ensure they meet the national standards for safety, teaching, and mentoring young athletes.
- **Ongoing Training:** Attendance at league-mandated clinics and coaches' meetings is required for continued education and improvement. These sessions are scheduled during the offseason and are essential to maintaining a high standard of coaching.

#### 4. Communication and Dispute Resolution

- **Constructive Communication:** Coaches are encouraged to communicate openly and constructively with players, parents, and league officials. Concerns should be addressed directly through official channels.
- **Resolution of Issues:** Any concerns or disputes related to coaching or league matters should be brought to the attention of the board, who will provide guidance and support in resolving them.

#### 5. Disciplinary Actions

- **Consequences for Violations:** Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct or to complete the required certifications may result in disciplinary actions. This may include warnings, temporary suspension, or other measures as deemed necessary.
- **Board Authority:** The Dover Football League Board reserves the right to determine the severity of any offense and enact disciplinary measures, up to and including removal from the coaching position if necessary.

#### 6. Acknowledgment

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Dover Football League Coach Code of Conduct.

**Coach Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_