

# **Adults & Participants Code of Conduct <sup>(1)</sup>**

## **Adult Code of Conduct**

- 1. All participants are entitled to a safe and fun learning environment. To that end, all parents, coaches, Board members, guardians and other adults and attendees of Somerset Hills Bulldog (SHB) events, including practices, competitions and banquets must behave accordingly in a respectful, courteous and sportsmanlike manner at all times.**
- 2. Any adult who is using alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs and/or appears to be intoxicated or under the influence at any SHB event, and/or who is flagrantly rude, attempts to intimidate, verbally abuse, heckles, taunts, ridicules, boos, throws objects and/or uses vulgarity or profane language/gestures with an official, coach, volunteer, staff member, participant or other event attendee, must receive a verbal warning and/or be asked to leave a SHB event. SHB may also provide a written warning to the individual regarding the misbehavior which seeks a remedy and/or includes prevention of that adult from participating in future SHB event(s). Depending on the severity of issue, the adult's children may also be removed from current or future SHB events. Any adult who commits any of the above stated offenses a second time, will be banned from any and all SHB events for a period of one year from the date of the second offense, and their children may also be removed from the program(s) for that time period.**
- 3. Any adult who physically assaults an official, coach, volunteer, staff member or participant or threatens grave bodily harm will receive a written notification from the Board of Directors, and may be banned from any and all SHB events for one year from the date of the offense, and their children may also be removed from any and all SHB programs for that same period of time. After the ban has expired, if the individual commits another offense of the Adult Code of Conduct, the individual will be permanently banned from any and all SHB programs.**
- 4. Any suspension or removal of an individual must receive written notice within 5 days of the event with Bylaw violation reasons for proposed suspension or removal. All petitions for removal of suspension must be in writing by the individual affected to the Board along with specific rationale. The Board will consider the petition and make a ruling at the following Board meeting, then notify the affected individual in writing of the outcome.**
- 5. Parents are discouraged from badgering coaches in ways that have, or are perceived as trying to result in favoritism for players (positions, etc.)**
- 6. If a Trainer, from SHB or competitor team, is on the field then their authority must be recognized by all parents and coaches. The Trainer is in charge of player's safety on the field and any decision by the Trainer is final. No coach nor parent can change or challenge the Trainer's decision. For example, if the trainer says a player is out of the game, then the player is out the entire game. Also, if the trainer says a player should immediately go to the hospital, then the parent must take the player to the hospital immediately in order to continue with the SHB program. Any disregard for a Trainer's instructions can result in an Adult code of conduct violation, the coach being suspended and/or the player being suspended/removed from the SHB program.**

## Participants Code of Conduct

- I. As a SHB participant, you agree to:
  - a. **Maintain your Studies:** Participants agree to maintain high grades in school as a top priority.
  - b. **Be Respectful:** Participants agree to act in a respectful manner to coaches and each other. Respect is the basis for a Team to exist. Disrespectful behavior will be warned at the first incident with a benching. At the second incident, the uniform will be requested. Disrespect includes: rudeness to a coach or other participants, poor sportsmanship, or destruction of school or association property.
  - c. **Be Prepared:** Participants agree to show up on time to each scheduled event, properly dressed, mentally prepared and ready to go.
  - d. **Learn:** Participants agree that learning is a key element of football. Learning includes in-practice and out of practice understanding of plays, drills, safe techniques, position responsibilities, etc.
  - e. **Teach:** Share your SHB play/drill understanding with other players, especially younger or less experienced players.
  - f. **Put in 100% effort to get results:** Good results come from active participation in practice, conditioning, walk-through's, watching game films, studying playbooks, etc. As a participant, your success in games and events are a direct result of your putting in effort in advance. Failing to come to scheduled practices, not actively participating in practices, etc. will negatively impact your game performance, teamwork and safety so coaches are encouraged to reduce and limit your game playtime (in accordance with min playtime rules).
  - g. **Have Fun:** Playing Football and Cheerleading with old and new friends can be a lot of fun, and often is a cherished memory as you get older.

## Mandatory Play Guidelines:

- I. Flag through Super Pee Wee: equal play time is the goal for these instructional levels.
- II. Pee Wee through Varsity: Min Play Time for regular play (not including special teams plays such as kick-off/punt/extra point):
  - a. Team Size: 16-25 Players - 10 Plays
  - b. Team Size: 26-30 Players - 8 Plays
  - c. Team Size: 31-35 Players - 6 Plays
- III. All Mandatory Play Guidelines are based on eligible players at the time of the game. Eligibility for playing requires players to have attended all scheduled practices prior to the game that week, have adequately practiced the position, been cleared to play by the Trainer and are demonstrating good sportsmanship during the game. Coaches should set as a goal to have players in for a series at a time to enable optimal learning and enjoyment. An Assistant Coach or Bench Coach will be given the responsibility to track plays by player. The tracking sheet does not need to be shared with parents, but must be available to Director of Football Operations or the Board upon request.
- IV. If the team size exceeds 25 and the team participates in the Central NJ league which plays games each week during the normal season, then the min play count for normal MCMFL weekend games is 4 (again, not counting special teams).

### **Game Scheduling:**

- I. Games will be played at Home Team designated fields.
- II. Postponed games must be rescheduled within one (1) week of the original schedule.
- III. If Polo Fields are closed due to weather when a home game is scheduled, rescheduling will first look to schedule on Ridge HS or BHS turf fields at a time/date closet to the original scheduled time.
  - a. In the case of the lower levels which play on the Polo Fields on Saturdays, rescheduling will look to move the games to Sunday morning (the next day) so as to avoid a forfeit. Parents and players must be flexible for situations in which weather interferes with the normal game schedules.

### **Player, Adult and Coaches Agreement to Codes fo Conduct:**

- I. Prior to the start of the pre-season practices, players, parents and coaches must sign-off on the respective codes of conduct in the SHB Bylaws to confirm they have read, understand and commit to following these codes.
- II. Additionally, parents and players should read and understand the additional sections of the Bylaws which are important to understand as the season gets underway -- including Min Playtime, Game Scheduling, etc.

(1) Extracted from the Somerset Hills Bulldogs Bylaws