

Coaches Code of Conduct ⁽¹⁾

Coaches Code of Conduct

All coaches, football and cheerleading, will abide by a Code of Conduct which includes the following provisions. If any of these rules are broken, the Somerset Hills Bulldog organization shall have the authority to impose a penalty. Coaches shall:

1. Give each player the opportunity to be successful in a position, be objective in setting position assignments and never show favoritism (e.g. no "Daddy ball").
2. Not smoke and/or use smokeless tobacco on the field.
3. Make every effort not to criticize players/cheer participants in front of spectators, and will make best efforts to communicate constructively when delivering criticism.
4. Accept decisions of the game officials and judges on the field and in competitions as being fair and called to the best of the ability of the officials. If any coach gets a warning from an official or if SHB is given a fine as a result of a coach's action then that coach will be suspended for the following game. If a warning or another fine is given to this same coach (occurring more than once/season), then this coach will be suspended from coaching for life with SHB.
5. Carry a copy of the MCMFL Rulebook (download latest from MCMFL website under "Rules") at all times of games. If a Coach disagrees with a ruling of the official (for example length of quarters, number of timeouts, overtime rules, etc.), the Coach should pull the official aside politely and point out the article in the MCMFL rulebook to help resolve the issue. If the official disagrees still, then the Coach should go along with ruling but report to the SHB Board immediately following the game. A Board member, along with Coach, will then report to MCMFL league for further remedy. If the SHB Coach does not have a rulebook during the game, then he can politely request a conference with official but in the end must comply with the official's ruling without complaint during the game.
6. Comply with Trainer decisions always. If a Trainer, from SHB or competitor team, is on the field then the 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.) Any disregard for a Trainer's instructions can result in the coach being suspended and/or the player being suspended/removed from the SHB program.
7. Not express criticism in a un-sportsmanship like fashion towards an opposing team, its players, cheer participants, coaches, or fans by word of mouth or by gesture.
8. Emphasize that good athletes strive to be good students.
9. Strive to make every football and cheer activity serve as a training ground for life, and a basis for good mental and physical health.
10. Emphasize that winning is the result of good teamwork.
11. Together with team officials, be jointly responsible for the conduct and control of the team fans and spectators. Any fan who becomes a nuisance and out of control will be asked to leave.
12. Not use abusive or profane language at any time.
13. In the spirit of good sportsmanship, and in compliance with the league rules, not encourage their team to run up the score of a game well in hand. In these instances, best efforts shall be used to remove dominant players and let alternative players play.
14. Not receive any payment, in cash or in kind, for services such as coach in SHB football/cheer.

15. Not recommend or distribute any medication, controlled or over the counter, except as specifically prescribed by the participant's physician.
16. Not permit an ineligible player or cheer participant to participate in a game.
17. Not deliberately incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
18. Abstain from the possession and drinking of alcoholic beverages and the possession of use of any illegal substance on both the game and practice fields.
19. Make the call as to a player's ability to play if no Trainer is available. (If Trainers are available, the Trainer is the sole decision maker.) Head Coaches are second in line to Trainers to make judgments whether to remove a player/participant from a game or practice, based on observations of a player appearing/claiming to be ill or injured. In these cases, competent medical written notes must be provided in order for a player to re-join program practice/play.
20. Control their fans as best possible using reasonable attempts. Remember, as a team coach, you are responsible for your team, and fan reaction will usually be in step with your reaction.
21. Uphold all rules and regulations of the SHB and the Morris County Midget Football League regarding football and cheerleading.

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