



UPPER MERION YOUTH VIKINGS FOOTBALL & CHEER

King of Prussia Football Association

Zero Tolerance Policy

Because of the physical and verbal abuse taking place at youth sporting events across the country, many organizations have chosen to adopt a Zero Tolerance Policy towards abusive behavior. The Upper Merion Youth Football and Cheer (UMYFA) has decided to take a proactive approach and adopt the following measures:

The following is the policy for all divisions all teams:

It is the responsibility of **ALL** coaches, players, parents, relatives, siblings, and other spectators to maintain the highest standards of conduct for their behavior at all UMYFC sporting events including, but not limited to, practices, games, and events. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behaviors detrimental to the sporting event will not be tolerated.

It is the responsibility of **ALL** present to support the presiding official of that is: referees, officials, etc. There will be absolutely **NO YELLING OR BELITTLING** of these presiding officials. In addition, there will be no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation of any kind towards the presiding officials. Failure to follow these simple instructions will undermine the official's authority and has the potential to lead to a hostile environment for players, officials, and all other participants and spectators.

It is the understanding of any parent that chooses to have their child participate in UMYVC events that these simple guidelines MUST BE FOLLOWED.

Penalties:

- **Any minor infraction:** A verbal request or warning will be given by a coach or referee, and it is expected that the reason for the warning will stop immediately. However, UMYVC cannot control outside our organization decisions of the League and Officials and any point the verbal can be over ruled and ejection from the event could happen. Any ejections from an event can lead to a ban for a period of time or indefinitely from any and all PIAA, Buxmont League, Pop Warner or UMYVS events.
- **Subsequent infractions:** The offending person or player will be asked to leave the playing field area immediately until the next scheduled event. The UMYFC Board of Directors reserves the right to take further action depending on the severity of the situation. Further action could lead ban for a period of time or indefinitely from any and all PIAA, Buxmont League, Pop Warner or UMYVS events.
- **Serious or consistent infractions:** UMYFC Board of Directors reserves the right to take action as it deems necessary up to and including permanent dismissal from the UMYFC leagues and playing areas. Should anyone not comply with this ruling, the UMYFC will seek assistance from the local Police department immediately.

All participants in any UMYFC sport should adhere to the following principals of good sportsmanship:

- Respect the decision of coaches and officials
- No expletives, disparaging comments or derogatory remarks
- Treat opponents with respect
- Whatever the outcome of the competition, be respectful. At the conclusion of the game, congratulate and shake hands with the officials, coaches, and opponents.
- Do not encourage or participate in conduct that violates the rules or spirit of the game.

The following are some simple guidelines that coaches, players, and spectators are expected to follow:

Coaches

Coaches are the role models for our youth and will make an impression on the players for years to come. Coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field. "Coach" represents and symbolizes a leadership role in our community and a representative of UMYFC at all competitions. Coaches are expected to:

- Insure and promote the safety of all participants.
- Control the behavior of the parents/fans during competitions
- Show respect to all players, parents, officials, and opponents
- Teach fair play
- Lead by example

Players AND Cheer Participants

It is a privilege to play a sport, be on a team, and represent UMYFC at various competitions. Therefore, players must follow the UMYFC rules during all practices, games, tournaments, and other organized UMYFC events. Players are expected to:

- Treat opponents, officials, and spectators with respect
- Follow all UMYFC rules and policies for sportsmanship
- Respect officials and accept their decisions
- Win without boasting, lose without excuses

Spectators

UMYFC is honored to have incredible parents and spectators. It is important to remember that the players respond to the actions and behaviors of the spectators. Spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and show respect to all players, officials, and coaches. Spectators are also expected to:

- Not coach players from the sidelines during the game
- Do not criticize the officials or coaches
- Cheer and support all players regardless of the outcome
- Communicate with the coach and create a supportive environment
- Understand and respect the different roles of parents and coaches
- Understand that improper behavior at any event may result in a parent being asked to leave the field or event by a referee or other official and respect that action
- At all times show empathy for our young developing athletes



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Everyone

- Promote fitness and enjoyment through sport
- Developing new skills
- Instilling a desire to succeed
- Teach responsibility, commitment, and cooperation
- Prepare one to deal with success and failure
- Provide an outlet for the release of energy
- Instill a positive attitude towards authority

The likelihood that our children will realize positive sports value is greatly enhanced when everyone shows good sportsmanship.

Please fill out this page and return to your Child’s Coach or any KPFA Board Member prior to start of the season.

----- (tear off and return to KPFA) -----

I, _____ [print guardian full name] have read and agree to abide by and uphold the KPFA Zero Tolerance Policy. I also sign on behalf of and take full responsibility of all members of our household, family members, caregivers and guests invited to watch participants.

Signature:

Date:

Children’s Names and Teams: (Flag, Tackle, or Cheer)

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