



Seacoast Junior Football League

Code of Conduct

In promoting the ethics, safety, and spirit of youth football, the Seacoast Junior Football League has adopted this Code of Conduct; this code is binding upon all its participants: players, coaches, parents, supporters and board members. Violations of this code, including unsportsmanlike conduct, will result in disciplinary action against any offender.

LEAGUE MEMBERS

Chester
Raptors

Dover
Little Green
Little Wave

Exeter East
Seahawks

Exeter West
Seahawks

Portsmouth
Junior Clippers
Little Clippers

Rochester
Raiders

Sanborn
Blue Demons

Timberlane
Tornadoes

Winnacunnet
Little Warriors

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include the following: fighting, verbal abuse or dissent toward an official or opponent, racial or ethnic slurs, inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment, profanity, obscene gestures, flagrant and violent fouls, taunting, “trash talk”, baiting, cheating, throwing or abusing equipment, physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent, and unauthorized leaving of a team bench area (NSSA 2001).

Players

- A. Will show proper respect to all.
- B. Will stay in the team-designated area(s), unless excused to leave, or is accompanied by a coach, parent or guardian.
- C. Will not at any time push, shove, punch, kick, fight or be guilty of physical contact as an aggressor upon any official, player, coach, spectator, or other(s).
- D. Will not verbally abuse or threaten any official, player, coach, spectator, or other(s).
- E. Will not harass, bait or be guilty of objectionable demonstration or dissent at any official's decision.
- F. Will not refuse to abide by an official's decision.
- G. Will not disobey or attempt to circumvent rules and regulations or the intent thereof.
- H. Will not use tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics or act in any way that is detrimental to themselves, their team, or the Seacoast Junior Football League.

Coaches

- A. Will show proper respect to all.
- B. Will not at any time push, shove, punch, kick, fight or be guilty of physical contact as an aggressor upon any official, player, coach spectator, or other(s).
- C. Will not verbally abuse or threaten any official, player, coach, spectator or other(s).
- D. Will not harass or bait any official, player, coach, spectator or other(s).
- E. Will not use tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics in front of players/cheerleaders during practices, games or team sponsored events or be present during practices, games, team-sponsored events under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics. This rule applies any time a coach is representing his team and/or the Seacoast Junior Football League.
- F. Will show the same respect that is due to all participants, including: other coaches, players, cheerleaders, spectators, league officials.
- G. Will not act in anyway that is detrimental to themselves, their team or the Seacoast Junior Football League.

Parents, Spectators, and Others

- A. Will show proper respect to all.
- B. Will not at any time push, shove, punch, kick, fight or be guilty of physical contact as an aggressor upon any official, player, coach or spectator.
- C. Will not verbally abuse or threaten any official, player, coach, spectator or other(s).

- D. Will not harass or bait any official, player, coach, spectator or other(s).
- E. Will not directly contact coaches or players during a game or practice.
- F. Will not be in the coaching box, player's area, or on the game field/area prior to, during, or at the conclusion of a game, unless the head coach has given permission to do so.
- G. Will not use tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics in front of players/cheerleaders during practices, games or team sponsored events or be present during practices, games, team-sponsored events under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics.
- H. Will not act in anyway that is detrimental to themselves, their team, their community or the Seacoast Junior Football League.

Board Members

- A. Will show the proper respect to all.
- B. Will not at any time push, shove, punch, kick, fight or be guilty of physical contact as an aggressor upon any official, player, coach or spectator.
- C. Will not verbally abuse or threaten any official, player, coach, spectator or other(s).
- D. Will not harass or bait any official, player, coach, spectator or other(s).
- E. Will not use tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics in front of players/cheerleaders during practices, games or team sponsored events or be present during practices, games, team-sponsored events under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics. This rule applies any time a coach or board member is representing the Seacoast Junior Football League.
- F. Will not directly contact coaches or players during a game, unless requested to do so, or unless endangerment (i.e., fighting) or loss of coach control requires a member of the Board present to take action.
- G. Will not be in the coaching box or players area, unless requested to do so, or unless endangerment, such as fighting, or loss of coach control requires a member(s) of the Board to be present.
- H. Will inform the Board of Directors of any rule violation by coaches, players, managers, spectators or other(s). Board Member(s) will document any observed violation along with date and time of the incident.
- I. In all dealings with team personnel – including coaches, players, cheerleaders, spectators – Board Members will show the same respect that is due all participants of this organization.
- J. Will not act in anyway that is detrimental to themselves or the Seacoast Junior Football League.

Disciplinary Action

The Board of Directors of the Seacoast Junior Football League shall have the power to impose any disciplinary action(s) it deems necessary and appropriate for those who fail to abide by the League Bylaws, Code of Conduct as set forth by this organization, and/or the National Federation of State High School Rules governing football. Disciplinary action can range from a written reprimand to being barred from participation or association with the Southern New Hampshire Football League and its members.

The following, and any other acts so deemed by the Board of Directors will constitute grounds for disciplinary action:

1. Striking, or abusing physically and/or verbally any player, cheerleader, Seacoast Junior Football League member, official, spectator, or other(s).
2. Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.

3. Violating the Southern New Hampshire Football League Bylaws.
4. Violating the Seacoast Junior Football League Code of Conduct.
5. Ejection (removal) from a game.
6. Using tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics at a league game.
7. Acting in a way that is detrimental to themselves, their team, and/or the Seacoast Junior Football League.
8. Conviction of or pleading guilty to theft or illegal taking of funds or equipment from any organization, including the League or any member team of the League.

Anyone who does not abide by the above League Code of Conduct, Bylaws, or the rules governing football of the National Federation of State High Schools, can and will be asked to leave the game or event, and may be barred from attending any other Seacoast Junior Football League sponsored game or event. Any sitting board member of the Seacoast Junior Football League or its designee (i.e., head football coach of a team within the Seacoast Junior Football League, or a League team board member) has the power to ask, and if necessary, remove anyone whom they deem to be in violation of by the Bylaws or Code of Conduct for the Seacoast Junior Football League or the rules of the National Federation of State High Schools. Upon taking such action, said person must notify the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Seacoast Junior Football League.

Ejection and Suspension

1. Game Ejections:
 - A. Any coach, manager, player, spectator, or anyone else – whether associated *or* not associated with one of the Seacoast Junior Football League teams – who is ejected (removed) from a game is automatically suspended from attending and/or participating in the next scheduled game. This rule is not subject to protest or review. (Removal from a game shall be interpreted to include the playing field and the spectator area.)
 - B. A second offense by the same person during the same season and/or during the following season will result in immediate suspension for the remainder of the then current year.
 - C. A third offense by the same person will result in immediate lifetime suspension from participating or attending any Seacoast Junior Football League game and/or any activity sponsored by the Seacoast Junior Football League.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. While on suspension, the coach, manager, player, cheerleader or other(s) may not attend any practices or games in which any Seacoast Junior Football League team participates.
2. Those who receive (1) one-year suspensions must take the initiative to contact the Board to apply for reinstatement.
3. Violations of League Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and/or the rules governing football of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NHFS): Unless otherwise proscribed in the Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall reserve the right to impose any penalties or disciplinary actions it deems necessary and appropriate.
4. Public Address System: Use of public address systems at all Seacoast Junior Football League games is restricted to game/event announcements, introductions, identification of players, participating players after plays, scorers and scores. Any use of the public address system by the home team to “psych-up” or give their players an advantage is considered unsportsmanlike and therefore prohibited.

Fact Finding Hearing

Prior to the Board of Directors decision for disciplinary action for coaches, board members, players, spectators or other(s), a Fact Finding Hearing before the entire board will be held behind closed doors, with notice given to all involved, via (1) telephone (2) email, and/or U.S. Mail. Said hearing is to take place within 72 (seventy-two) hours of the alleged incident.

Hearing Organization/Process

1. The Chairman – or Vice Chairman if Chairman is the accused – shall run the hearing.
2. The Chairman (or Vice Chairman if Chairman is not present) shall read the charges brought against the accused.
3. The Board of Directors shall then hear from both sides and/or witnesses in an orderly manner.
4. The Board of Directors shall then determine whether sufficient facts and/or evidence have been presented to warrant the holding of the hearing on some or all of such charges.
5. The Board of Directors shall then judge whether or not the preponderance of the evidence presented in a hearing shows the accused to have committed the acts alleged.
6. The Board of Directors shall then impose any disciplinary action(s) it deems necessary and appropriate, and/or as specified in the Bylaws, if the accused is judged to have committed such act or acts as brought before the board.

If the accused does not appear at the hearing, the Seacoast Junior Football League Board of Directors will render their decision, and the accused person(s) will be notified of the disciplinary action to be taken via telephone with a follow-up written notice via certified U.S. Mail.

Complaints, Allegations, Grievances

Improper conduct should be reported to a League Disciplinary Representative, the head football coach and/or a board member of the Seacoast Junior Football League within 24 hours of incident. Those who are guilty of improper conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by the Seacoast Junior Football League Board of Directors (see above).

Complaints, allegations, or grievances should be brought to the immediate attention of either the designated Team Representative, and/or a sitting board member of the Seacoast Junior Football League, who shall then do the following:

- a. Make note of complaint, allegation or grievance, including date, and time of incident and date and time of complaint, allegation or grievance.
- b. Notify, within 24 hours of date/time of complaint, allegation or grievance, to the Chairman (if not available, then the Vice Chairman) of the Seacoast Junior Football League that a complaint, allegation or grievance has been made.

NOTE: If the board finds that the Team Representative and/or the head football coach did not act upon the complaint, allegation or grievance in a timely manner, then the board at its discretion may impose disciplinary action(s) it deems appropriate.