



**Guelph Minor Football Association**  
100 Crimea St., Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6  
E: info@guelphminorfootball.net  
Website: guelphminorfootball.net

## **Guelph Minor Football Association**

### **Coach and Volunteer Code of Conduct**

Youth football provides an opportunity for young athletes to develop physical fitness, motor skills, and coordination. Playing football also encourages teamwork and communication, as athletes must work together to achieve a common goal. Moreover, it teaches young athletes important life skills such as discipline, respect, resilience, and sportsmanship, which can help them succeed both on and off the field. Additionally, youth football provides a platform for athletes to showcase their talent and potentially advance to higher levels of competition – if they choose to pursue it. Above all else, **youth football is for the growth and development, fun and enjoyment of the athletes.**

Guelph Minor Football expects **all coaches and volunteers** to be responsible for the safety and well-being of the players on our teams and there is an explicit expectation that they agree with and abide by the following:

1. They are representatives of Guelph Minor Football, as a whole and understand that this is not “THEIR” team and that decisions by the appointed Board of Directors will be sanctioned without challenge.
2. They will abide by and follow the policy with regards to field usage, team dedicated fields and canceled bookings.
3. They will place the physical and mental well-being of the players ahead of their personal desire to win.
4. They will treat each player as an individual, keeping in mind the large range of emotional and physical developments for youth in the same age group.
5. They will ensure and enforce a positive and safe playing environment.
6. They will NOT use foul, derogatory or abusive language during practices, games or any club sanctioned event.
7. They will provide game and practice environments for the program that are free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
8. They will be knowledgeable in, abide by the rules of youth football, and teach those rules in the league in which we play.
9. They will use coaching techniques appropriate for the skill levels of the players on the team.
10. They will always remember that this is a youth sports association that is for the players and not the fans or adults.
11. They will adhere to GMFA’s Social Media Policy
12. They will show respect for and abide by the decisions, calls and judgements of the referees, regardless of whether they are in attendance in an official capacity or as a spectator.
13. They will not criticize a fellow coach, board member, player or family member in front of players or other coaches.
14. They will only discuss any disagreements, conflicts or opinions with the person(s) with whom they have the disagreement, and will do so at an appropriate time and place.
15. They will abide by the **Rule of Two** and ensure there are at least two adults and two children present at all times, in every situation.



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16. They will respect and abide by the instructions from and the decisions of the team's Therapists with respect to:

- a. Concussion protocols, including removal from play, referral to other professionals (e.g. Physicians), and all requirements of the return to play stages including documentation from other professionals and rest periods.
- b. Injury decisions including removal from play, modified participation, whether or not supportive taping is indicated, and referral to other professionals (e.g. Physicians).
- c. Safety instructions including implementation of thunder/lightning protocol, hydration and equipment recommendations and any other safety related situations.

17. They will be a good role model for the players.

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct could result in sanctions deemed necessary by the GMFA Board of Directors and in accordance with the GMFA Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy.