



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

Guelph Minor Football Association **Parent / Guardian / Spectator 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 parents, guardians and spectators to contribute to an environment that promotes sportsmanship and a positive experience for all players, coaches, referees and volunteers. As such, there is an explicit expectation that **all parents, guardians and spectators** of Guelph Minor Football will agree with and abide by the following:

1. They will not force their player to participate in football.
2. They will inform the coach of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their player or the safety of others and will not encourage any behaviours or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
3. They will learn the rules of the game and abide by the policies of GMFA and the league.
4. They will remember that players participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
5. They will be positive role models and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators on or off the field, in every game, practice or any club sanctioned event.
6. They will **not** engage in any kind of booing, taunting, ridiculing or yelling at any player, participant, coach or referee. Nor will they use profane language or gestures, for any reason.
7. They will adhere to GMFA's Social Media Policy
8. They will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question or confront officials, at any time.
9. They will abide by the 24 hour rule: Football can be an emotionally charged sport. The 24 hour rule states that a parent/guardian will wait 24 hours following a competition to make comments to a coach about the performance or outcome and that they will do so, in a calm, respectful manner.
10. They will respect the coaches and their authority over the team and will never question or confront Coaches. If they wish to speak with a Coach, they will do so in a respectful manner, at an agreed upon time and place.
11. They will demand that their player treat other players, coaches, referees and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
12. They will teach their player that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that their player will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or their performance. They will emphasize skill development over winning.



Guelph Minor Football Association

100 Crimea St., Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6

E: info@guelphminorfootball.net

Website: guelphminorfootball.net

13. They will support a sports environment for their player that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all sports events.
14. They will refrain from coaching their player or other players during games and practices, unless they are one of the official coaches of the team.
15. 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 reduced or 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.
16. 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.