



**Guelph Minor Football Association**  
100 Crimea St., Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6  
E: [info@guelphminorfootball.net](mailto:info@guelphminorfootball.net)  
Website: [guelphminorfootball.net](http://guelphminorfootball.net)

## **Guelph Minor Football Association**

### **Player 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.**

As such, there is an explicit expectation that every **player** of Guelph Minor Football agree with and abide by the following:

1. They will demonstrate positive sportsmanship and positively represent Guelph Minor Football on and off the field, at home and away.
2. They will exercise positive self-control, graciously accepting the outcome of games and treating all members of our football community, team volunteers (managers, equipment managers), Certified Athletic Therapists, league officials and fans with courtesy and respect.
3. They will respect the coaches and their authority during games and practices, and will never question, discuss, or confront a coach on the field, but will take time for further conversation at an agreed upon time and place.
4. They will adhere to GMFA's Social Media Policy
5. They will exhibit respect for officials, by accepting their decisions. Insulting comments, arguing, gestures and profanity directed at officials will not be tolerated, for any reason.
6. They will abide by the **24 hour rule**: Football can be an emotionally charged sport. The 24 hour rule states that a player will wait 24 hours following a competition to make comments about the performance or outcome and that they will do so, in a calm, respectful manner.
7. They will practice and work on skill development as is appropriate for their age and competitive level of play for their team.
8. They will treat all equipment with respect and under no circumstances will they alter equipment without prior consent. They will not throw or sit on their helmet and they will not damage, throw or step on their jersey.
9. They will seek to learn and understand the rules of the game as appropriate for their age and competitive level of their team.
10. They will be responsible for timely notification of absences from games and practices to the Coach or Manager of the team.
11. They will acknowledge that GMFA has zero tolerance for violence, abuse or hazing of any nature.
12. They will not use alcohol, illegal drugs and tobacco products while a member of GMFA.
13. They will never ridicule or yell at a teammate or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
14. They will respect and abide by the instructions from and decisions of the team's Therapists with respect to:



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- 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 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.

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.