



## **Prosper Youth Sports Association Player/Parent Code of Conduct**

Youth should be a fun and rewarding time for the players, parents, coaches, officials, and fans. Through football, the Prosper Youth Sports Association (“PYSA”) seeks to enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of every child that takes part. It is the League’s express goal that every player will be a better citizen and have a greater chance for success in future endeavors, because of their Youth experiences. As such, the PYSA expects the highest degree of sportsmanship from its members.

In keeping with this philosophy, the following Code of Conduct has been adopted to better promote fairness, teamwork, trust, good citizenship, sportsmanship, responsibility, and respect among the members of PYSA.

The Prosper Youth Sports Association strongly encourages the following:

- Applaud effort on the field, regardless of the score.
- Remember that the league exists for the players to learn and to have fun. Even though football is competitive in nature, winning is of secondary performance.
- Parents should be supportive of coaches. The coaches are volunteers giving of their time – and often, giving of their money – in order to coach. Parents should be a positive role model that fosters respect of the coaches among the players. Concerns about a player’s role on a team should be expressed to the coach(es) in a private setting, never in public.
- All officials will make mistakes occasionally, but coaches and parents are expected to accord the officials with the respect their position within the game deserves.
- Booing, taunting, refusing to shake another coach’s and/or player’s hands after a game, or ridiculing another player is not acceptable behavior.
- Teach players that they have a responsibility to learn and to try their best. Effort leads to achievement and respect.

Players will learn these values by the examples they see from those around them, and to this end, the following rules will be strictly enforced:

- Verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated. The offender may be removed from the PYSA fields at the discretion of an official or PYSA board member.
- Football is a game of physicality and emotions, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the official will be handled in a civil manner. Only the head coach may initiate such discussions with an official.
- Coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
- All discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an official, coach, fan, or player.
- Profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at PYSA practice and game fields.
- Alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all PYSA games and practices.
- The use of tobacco products on the PYSA fields is prohibited.
- The use of sunflower seeds at PYSA turf fields and game locations is prohibited.

Anyone removed from the PYSA fields must leave all fields and the access roads to the fields. Such persons may not remain in the PYSA parking lot.

Any infraction of the above rules will result in a report being delivered to the PYSA Board for consideration of further action, as appropriate.

**First Offense:** Upon the reporting of a first offense by an individual, the Board of Directors, at a minimum, will provide a written warning to the offender, detailing the consequences of future infractions. Depending upon the severity of the infraction, nothing precludes the Board of Directors from banning a repeat offender from all PYSA activities, including, but not limited to, practices and games, for a period deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

**Second Offense:** The Board of Directors may institute a wide range of penalties for repeat offenders, beginning with the second offense, as deemed appropriate by the Board. Such penalties include, but are not limited to:

1. A ban from participating in all PYSA activities for a set period or number of games.
2. Severe violations can result in suspension from all PYSA activities for the remainder of the current season.

**Third Offense:** The Board of Directors may choose to apply any of the penalties prescribed for a second offense. In the most extreme of circumstances, the PYSA Board of Directors may hold a meeting to determine whether the individual should be permanently banned from all future PYSA activities. The individual in question must receive a certified letter of such a hearing at least one week prior to the meeting and must be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

**Physical Abuse** - Physical abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator will result in **immediate** expulsion from the PYSA event at the direction of an official or a PYSA board member. Anyone expelled for this reason may not return to the PYSA event or participate in any PYSA activity until the PYSA Board of Directors approves.

Any parent, fan, or player who has been suspended or banned from league activities may petition, in writing, to the Board of Directors for a review of the penalty. The petition should be delivered to the league commissioner, and the Board of Directors will meet as soon as reasonably possible to consider the petition. The aggrieved parties will have the opportunity at the meeting to present their appeal.

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth football experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Code of Conduct.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will expect to receive a fair amount of playing time if my performance in practice warrants it.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, creed, sex, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my absolute best in school.
- I will remember that youth football is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect ~~regards~~ of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss,

or confront coaches at the game field and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.



## Prosper Youth Sports Association

### Player/Parent Code of Conduct

My signature verifies that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by and agree to the consequences of Prosper Youth Sports Association guidelines on the Player Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of player)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of player)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Team if known)

My signature verifies that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by and agree to the consequences of the Prosper Youth Sports Association guidelines on the Code of Conduct. I have also read and discussed with my child participant the Player Code of Conduct and will do my best to positively encourage my child to abide by its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**This page is to be returned to the Head Coach and submitted to the PYSA Football Commissioner.**