



# GRAND VALLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Coaches Code of Conduct – Fall 2026

As a coach, I understand the responsibility I hold and the significant influence my actions have on the youth athletes I coach. I pledge to uphold the highest standards of conduct and professionalism by adhering to the following Coaches Code of Conduct:

### **Commitment to Conduct and Respect**

1. I will conduct myself in accordance with this Code of Conduct at all times, understanding that failure to do so will result in consequences in accordance with the Grand Valley Youth Football Bylaws.
2. I will treat all athletes, opposing coaches, parents, and officials with respect and dignity, regardless of Disability, Race, Creed, Color, Sex, sexual orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Marital Status, National Origin, or Ancestry.
3. I will not use abusive or profane language directed at anyone involved in program activities, including players, officials, coaches, parents, or spectators.

### **Standards of Behavior**

As a coach with Grand Valley Youth Football, I understand that the following actions are expected of me to maintain a positive and safe environment:

1. I will not use or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any league event, nor will I coach, officiate, or participate while impaired.
2. I will not encourage or participate in physical or verbal altercations, including initiating fights or arguments with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or attendee.
3. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct or verbal/physical threats or abuse directed at any participant, including coach, parent, player, official, or attendee.
4. I will not encourage or allow behavior that endangers the health, safety, or well-being of any participant, official, or attendee.
5. I will aim to prevent and take action if parents, guardians, or spectators representing my team verbally assault or intimidate participants at any time before, during, or after games.
6. Coaches and staff members will maintain professional relationships at all times, ensuring interactions remain appropriate, respectful, and within the context of sport, focused on fostering a safe and supportive environment. This includes in- person, virtual, and social media interactions.

## Prohibited Conduct

The following Prohibited Conduct outlines unacceptable actions while engaging with Grand Valley Youth Football. All references to prohibited conduct are defined by Colorado law or the Grand Valley Youth Football Prohibited Conduct Policy:

1. Child Abuse: Including physical, emotional, sexual, medical abuse, or neglect.
2. Substance Provision: Offering or providing players alcohol, tobacco (including vaping), or illegal drugs. Parents/guardians' approval is required and advice from medical professionals is recommended before consuming or incorporating any over-the-counter medications or supplements including weight loss/dietary supplements.
3. Profane or Abusive Behavior: Any verbal, visual, physical, or virtual behavior involving profanity or abuse that impacts minor athletes.
4. Unlawful Behavior: Breaking any Federal, State, or Local laws.
5. Misconduct: Emotional and physical misconduct, including stalking, bullying, hazing(Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-9-124), and harassment.
6. Reporting Failures: Failing to report child abuse or neglect as required by law.
7. Retaliation: Retaliating against individuals for disclosing or making a report of child abuse or for participating in the resolution of such a report is strictly prohibited and will result in serious disciplinary action.
8. Aiding and Abetting: Supporting or enabling prohibited behaviors.
9. Social Media: Communicating with players through social media including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, or Snapchat.
10. Sexual Misconduct:
  - Sexual assault or unlawful sexual contact.
  - Displaying, providing, or exchanging sexually explicit or pornographic material with players.
  - Engaging in massages, intimate physical contact, or romantic relationships with minor athletes.
  - Holding uninterrupted or unobservable coaching sessions or meetings. Best practices include ensuring another adult, coach, parent, guardian, or trusted mandatory reporter is present.

## Preparation and Fair Play

1. I will be prepared for all practices and games and will focus on teaching fundamental skills to ensure all athletes have an opportunity to improve through active participation.
2. I will uphold the authority of officials and assist them in conducting a fair and impartial contest.
3. I will comply with all league rules and regulations and will promptly report any suspected violations.

## Transportation Guidelines

- Transportation of players by a coach is not sanctioned by Grand Valley Youth Football.

## Mandatory Reporting

As a mandatory reporter under Colorado law, Senate Bill 24-113 (SB24-113), and other applicable statutes, including Section 19-3-304 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.), mandatory reporters are legally obligated to report any suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect.

- Reports must be made when there is reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or has been observed in circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.
- In emergencies, I will call 911. For non-emergencies, I will contact 844-CO-4-KIDS or Mesa County Child Protection Services at (970) 242-1211.
- I understand that good-faith reporting provides immunity from liability, civil or criminal, or termination of employment unless it is determined that the report was made recklessly or misreporting requirement changes, highlighting the disproportional reporting rates for minority communities.

Stay informed about updates or additions to the mandated reporter laws as appropriate under 19-3-304 (C.R.S.)

## Compliance and Accountability

I will complete all required certifications, training, and other requirements as mandated by Grand Valley Youth Football, including:

- Completion of USA Football Youth Coach Certification 2026
- Background Check through the National Center for Safety Initiatives
- Copy of State Issued Photo ID

I understand that if I fail to abide by this Code of Conduct, I may face disciplinary actions, including but not limited to:

- Verbal warning from an official, head coach, or Grand Valley Youth Football
- Written warning Grand Valley Youth Football
- Suspension or ejection from a game by an official or Grand Valley Youth Football
- Game forfeiture as determined by an official
- Suspension from coaching in the league, with reinstatement subject to league rules

## Documentation of Incidents

I acknowledge that any incidents related to my conduct will be documented and kept on file by the appropriate organizations for accountability purposes.

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By signing below, I agree to adhere to this Coaches Code of Conduct and understand my role in promoting a positive and safe environment for all participants.

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_