

# Verona Community Association

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*“SERVING THE YOUTH OF THE FORT DEFIANCE HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY”*

## Coach's Code of Conduct

Coaching a youth sports program is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a coach, appointed by the Verona Community Association (VCA) Board, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play, and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. All sports embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards the perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. We also teach that while every player eventually ‘strikes out’ or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next game. With this in mind, VCA expects each coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

### **1. Setting a good example**

- The coach’s example is powerful. If a coach insists on fair play, concentrates on players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and supports the umpire, players and parents will notice. If a coach discourages (or allows) players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, and/or criticize the umpire or opposing coach, players and parents will also notice. Above all, children deserve a coach they can respect.
- Coaches, in all contact with VCA players, parents, officials, and coaches should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit.
- Before games, opposing coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Coaches should ensure that their players’ experience is one of fun and enjoyment, and improvement in skill (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at, lectured or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game. Coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches should avoid any conduct which could be construed as physically or verbally abusive.
- Coaches should completely refrain from verbal dissent during a game with an opposing coach.
- Coaches should honor all professional relationships with colleagues, associations, umpires, and the public. Conflicts of interest and exploitation of these relationships must be avoided.

### **2. Keeping players safe**

- Coaches should have the safety of the players as their first priority at all times. Coaches should be familiar with the facility and fields on which their teams practice and play, and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players.
- Coaches should also be familiar with the Rules of the Game and aware of applicable existing rules and regulations.
- Coaches should check players’ equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.

### 3. Creating a positive experience

- VCA wishes to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players. If a player is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the coach should remove the player from the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down. Coaches should explain acceptable behavior to players and parents at a preseason meeting. Encourage parents to make positive comments about good play by either team. Prohibit them from yelling at players and the umpire.

### 4. Relating to Officials

- Coaches should demonstrate respect for the umpire and his/her role. Coaches can help umpires improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post-game comments.
- Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the umpire. During the game, they should address the umpire only as needed to continue play. After the game, they should thank the umpire and ask players to do the same.
- A small disagreement should be discussed with the umpire calmly after the game. For major complaints, or if the umpire appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to the Chief Umpire.

VCA has a “zero tolerance” policy for any aggressive or inappropriate verbal or physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan or other person and any breach of this Code of Conduct is grounds for immediate action, including removal from the position of Coach, Commissioner, or Board Member. If a coach is ejected from a game, the coach will be suspended from 1 game. If a coach is ejected from 2 games, the coach will be suspended from his/her coaching duties altogether.

I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge the Verona Community Association’s Coach’s Code of Conduct and agree to represent the VCA appropriately.

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Signature

Date