

# ***Princeton Youth Football League***

## ***Parent / Participant Code of Conduct***

The goal of the Princeton Youth Football League (PYFL) is to provide a safe and productive environment that enables children to learn and apply the principles of teamwork, discipline, dedication, and sportsmanship. We facilitate the development of strength and character in every child that participates. Participation in our league is open to all boys and girls in the Princeton school district/coop area.

We are sustained by the efforts of volunteers who display an extraordinary amount of commitment and hard work, ensuring that our league is a positive influence in the lives of our children. We also strive to provide a service to our community by providing a healthy outlet for children, opportunities for the community to gather together, and endless hours of entertainment.

### **Sportsmanship Teamwork Strength Character Discipline Dedication**

We welcome all children, regardless of race, sex, creed or national origin. Members of our program deserve success not only on the field, but also in the classroom and life. Therefore, the number one responsibility of our student athletes is school. Football, and all other sports in which children become involved, enable our youth to experience many important lessons which will help form their adult lives. The adults involved, whether as spectators or coaches, have a critical role in assuring that these experiences for our youth are positive and appropriate. To this end, the Princeton Youth Football League believes that the following standards of behavior for athletes, parents and coaches are essential to our goals.

The PYFL board of directors has implemented the following Parent / Participant Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of student athletes, parents and coaches in supporting children in sports. Student athletes and parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

## *Student Athlete*

- Our student athletes are “students first”. School must be every student athlete’s number one priority. Parents have the responsibility of keeping track of academics and making decisions on what are grades are acceptable. You must respect your parent’s decisions regarding academics. Your coaches will.
- Be a leader by being courteous. Say “please” and “thank you”. Be a gentleman / lady at all times.
- Be respectful towards teammates, opponents, coaches and referees. Conduct yourself with honor, dignity, and self-control.
- Play the game for the fun of the game, the challenge, and the chance to show your best. Be gracious when you lose and generous when you win.
- Accept decisions of coaches and referees with class and dignity. Believe in their judgment and honesty.
- At no time will student athletes have contact (hitting) other than during coach-supervised practice.
- Always be ready for practice and games by having all your equipment ready to go at the designated time. Be prepared!
- Be on time to every practice, meetings and games. If you’re on time; you’re late. If you’re five minutes early; you are on time.
- Hustle everywhere we go on the practice field. Helmet on and chin strap buckled.
- No excuses. The football field is not a place for a discussion session. Talk with a coach after practices and games.
- Don’t complain to other student athletes. Ask to speak with a coach if you have a problem.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Remember we are a team. Whether we win or lose, we do it as a team with our heads held high. Look your opponent in the eye, give a firm handshake, and say good game. Have pride in your team, town, school and yourself.
- By signing-up for the PYFL, you are representing this league. Behavior unbecoming a PYFL participant (breaking these rules and guidelines) at any time (on or off the field) will not be tolerated.
- Any student athlete who suspended / expelled from school, arrested or observed by a coach or board member of the PYFL participating in illegal activity will be dealt with as swiftly as possible. A meeting will be set up with the athlete, parents, all involved persons and coaches as soon as possible. The PYFL board will decide what action (if any) should be taken based on the information in this meeting. Their decision will be final.
- There are 4 home games. Each team will be required to help clean up the field at the end of 1 of those days.



## Parents

An organization such as ours is only as successful as our student athlete's parents that support their children and the PYFL. All money collected by our league goes directly back to the children. The PYFL believes that the attitude shown by parents toward coaches, the referees, the opposing players and the importance of winning vs. losing are of paramount importance. Inappropriate comments or actions by adults focused on short-term success rather than the long range benefits undermines the essence of competition and introduces stresses which are inappropriate for children. Any parent, guest, spectator, coach, or official at any youth sports event who initiates a fight, scuffle, or any type of physical or verbal abuse or threats of abuse towards any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator will be banned from attendance at all PYFL events for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the incident.

- Youth sports are played for fun.
- Our student athletes are "students first". School must be every parent / student athlete's number one priority. As we are not school sponsored, it is the parent's responsibility to keep track of academics, make decisions on what are acceptable grades and school conduct and inform coaches when student athletes need to devote more time to academics.
- Encourage your player by word and example. The athlete is counting on you as their primary teacher – in football and in life
- Accept the decisions of referees and coaches with style and dignity. Never criticize a referee's integrity, honesty or judgment. They are there to do an honest job which few others are willing to undertake.
- Applaud good play by all players. Opponents are friends, for without them your child could not play. Be a role model for our team, demonstrating how to treat other players, parents, officials and coaches with respect at all times.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship regardless of the score by acting in a positive manner towards all players, officials, parents and coaches. Never verbally abuse officials, players, or spectators, including the use of obscene or profane language or gestures, or racial, ethnic or sexual slurs.
- Don't complain to other parents. Ask to speak with a coach if you have a problem after the practice or game. Note: It is inappropriate to attempt to speak to a coach during a game or for 24 hours prior to or after a game.
- It is inappropriate to speak with your student athlete or any other participant during a game or practice.
- Show respect to all referees and league officials and never act in a manner that would be disrespectful toward them.
- Do not enter the field of play during any PYFL event for any purpose including physically or verbally abusing or confronting coaches, players or officials.
- Be an encouragement to all players on all teams regardless of the score.
- Place your child's emotional and physical well-being ahead of your own personal desire to win.
- Parents are expected to help your child's team by working the public address, concessions, taking tickets (gate), chain gang, team pictures and/or other needs. Dates and times will be chosen by lottery and if you cannot make your assigned time slot, you are responsible for finding someone to fill it.
- Do not use drugs, tobacco or alcohol at any PYFL practices or games and remind other parents not to do so.
- Remember that the game is played for the youth and not for the adults.
- Encourage your child to shake hands with the other team at the conclusion of all games.
- Encourage your child to shake hands with the officials at the conclusion of all games.

# Princeton Youth Football League Rules and Guidelines for Participation Agreement

This agreement confirms that all players, parents/guardians, and coaches understand the team rules set for this season. It is understood that rules and guidelines are set for the safety of the players and the good of our youth program.

**Name of Student Athlete:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the rules and guidelines for participation and agree to adhere to the youth program rules. I also understand the consequences for breaking the rules.

**Player's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parents / Guardians:**

\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the rules and guidelines for participation and understand the guidelines set for the Princeton Youth Football League that my child and I will be required to follow. **I also understand that I am responsible for the costs of any issued equipment not turned in at the end of the season, which is currently valued at \$500.00, and agree to reimburse the PYFL for said equipment within 1 month of the end of the season.**

**Parent's / Guardian's signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

(After reading and understanding the attached Code of Conduct, please sign and return this agreement to the coaching staff prior to participation in games.)