

PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT



Parent/guardian behavior is a ***significant factor in the success of a team*** and is a prime reason why team/player morale declines and coaches quit. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

It is the expectation of the Vernon and District Minor Football Association (**VDMFA**) that parents/guardians will abide by the following rules:

1. **Respect** - Parents/guardians (and their guests) will be a positive role model for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other related event.

Always treat coaches and others (parents, officials and players) the same way that you would want you and your child to be treated. Set the example for your child by showing respect, dignity, and total sportsmanship at all times

As a parent/guardian:

- a) I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- b) I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- c) I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning.
- d) 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.

2. **Coaching Decisions** - Playing time and the position your child plays on the field is a coach's decision. Parents/guardians will not discuss the coach in a negative manner with other parents and players. If you have a concern, there is a process to have that concern addressed.

As a parent/guardian:

- a) 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.
- b) I will respect and show appreciation for the trained volunteer coaches and staff who give their time to provide sport activities for my child, understanding that I have a responsibility to be a part of my child's development.
- c) I will ALWAYS observe VDMFA's 24-Hour Policy before making a complaint.

3. **Game Officials** - Parents/guardians will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront officials at the game field. VDMFA has a **ZERO** tolerance for referee abuse

4. **Sports Environment** - A positive sports environment can have a direct and dramatic positive effect on sports teams, resulting in more fun (and more wins). A positive sports environment should be exactly that; a place where team members feel at home and are inspired to connect with their teammates and coaches.

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A positive sports environment doesn't usually develop by chance but instead by carefully designing a place where the team can come together with expectations of integrity, hard work, and success.

As a parent/guardian:

- a) I will teach my child that doing one's best is winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- b) I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner.
- c) I will make every effort at ensuring my child attends practices and games and will alert the coach if my child will be absent.
- d) I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- e) I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all VDMFA related events.
- f) I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- g) I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, economic status, or playing ability.
- h) I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
- i) I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- j) I agree that I will stay in the appropriate fan seating and not be behind or in the player's area during anytime of a game.

It is expected that all parents/guardians observe these rules. Should any disciplinary action be considered, the Disciplinary Committee will not consider an explanation that consists of not knowing the extent or basic premise of this Code of Conduct.

As a parent/guardian:

- a) I agree that if I fail to abide by the above rules, I may be subject to disciplinary action that could include a warning, game suspension, or removal from VDMFA programs permanently.

I have read and understand the above:

Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature

Date

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PROCESS FOR CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS

Parent's occasionally disagree with the decisions of the coach – if you find yourself in that type of a situation please follow the following procedure to bring your concern forward:

1. **NEVER** discuss any problems or complaints just before, during or right after a game or practice. Go home and wait 24 hours and then email a factual, non-emotional account of your concern to the coach. Do not call your coach on the phone.
2. If you cannot resolve the concern with the coach, then email the VDMFA coaching coordinator at coachcoord@vdmfa.ca for clarification or assistance. All concerns will be kept confidential.
3. If the Coaching Coordinator cannot resolve your concern then contact the VDMFA at generalinquiries@vdmfa.ca to set up a meeting with VDMFA Board Members to discuss the issue.