

Elk Grove Youth Football & Cheer

Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

Mission Statement: Our mission is to foster a culture of respect, integrity, and accountability within our organization. We are committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and productive environment where every individual is valued and treated with dignity. Through our code of conduct and disciplinary procedures, we aim to uphold high ethical standards and ensure fairness in addressing violations, promoting trust and confidence among our team members, coaches, and families.

*Note: TCYFL and the Elk Grove Park District rules supersede the EGYFC rules.

Guiding Principles of Code of Conduct Committee

1. Purpose

These principles are written to ensure a balanced blend of sportsmanship, recreation, skill development, and competitive activity in keeping with the EGYFC mission Statement.

2. Principles

- I. All athletes, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators will be treated fairly and with respect.
- II. Retention of athletes is a key measure of success.
- III. Athletes will be provided with the highest quality training and coaching that EGYFC can supply.
- IV. Parents play an extremely important role in the development of young athletes.
- V. All activities and actions sanctioned by EGYFC will be conducted in an open and transparent manner.
- VI. EGYFC will openly accept criticism and complaints and will effectively and fairly resolve these issues consistent with our mission statement.
- VII. EGYFC has a goal of continuous improvement. As deviations from our mission are noted, we will look for the underlying problem and make the necessary adjustments to ensure that we are living up to the standards and goals of our mission statement.

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

EGYFC values sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. This Code of Conduct has been established and adopted to ensure the guiding principles of EGYFC are understood and met by all individuals associated with this organization.

The Code of Conduct for coaches, athletes, parents, and spectators will be thoroughly discussed at the pre-season coaches meeting.

The following codes of conduct will be strictly enforced.

2. Players Code of Conduct (A & B - pages 12-14)

The Athlete Codes of Conduct have been designed for sport-appropriate distribution and compliance. All Football athletes are given the "Player Code of Conduct (A)" and all Cheerleader athletes are given "Player Code of Conduct (B)" as seen below (page 12-14). Both are available for printing through the EGYFC website.

3. Coaches Code of Conduct

Purpose: The purpose of this Coaches Code of Conduct is to establish clear expectations for all coaches within the Elk Grove Youth Football and Cheer program. Coaches are responsible for fostering a safe, respectful, and positive environment that promotes skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship. This document was created within the parameters of the Elk Grove Park District and TCYFL Guidelines.

1. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Coaches must serve as role models by demonstrating integrity, fairness, and respect for all athletes, parents, officials, and fellow coaches.
- Coaches must abide by Elk Grove Park District Guidelines, TCYFL Guidelines and EGYF Guidelines.
- Coaches should prioritize the well-being and development of all athletes over personal interests or winning.
- Profanity, abusive language, or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

2. SAFETY & WELL-BEING

- Coaches must ensure the physical and emotional safety of all athletes at all times.
- No coach shall physically, verbally, or emotionally abuse any athlete, parent, or fellow coach.

3. COMMUNICATION & CONDUCT

- Coaches should maintain professional communication with athletes, parents, and board members.
- Concerns from parents should be addressed professionally and respectfully. If coaches or the parents feel as though the situation is not resolved, please reach out to the League Coordinator, Patrick Murray.
- Coaches must refrain from public criticism of athletes, parents, referees, or board members.

4. RESPECT & SPORTSMANSHIP

- Coaches must demonstrate and encourage good sportsmanship at all times.
- No coach shall engage in or allow bullying, hazing, or discrimination. There is a zero tolerance for bullying.
- Officials' decisions must be respected; excessively arguing with or aggressively confronting referees is not allowed. Head Coaches should be the only person communicating with officials per TCYFL Guidelines.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring athletes and parents demonstrate respect toward all players, coaches, and officials.

5. PRACTICE & GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

- Head coaches should ensure practice begins on time.
- Coaches are responsible for teaching age-appropriate skills, techniques, and strategies.
- Coaches must enforce attendance, effort, and discipline in a fair and consistent manner.
- Any safety concerns or misconduct must be reported to the board immediately.

6. SOCIAL MEDIA & PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

- Coaches must represent the organization in a positive manner at all times, including on social media.
- Negative, inappropriate, or damaging posts related to the organization, athletes, parents, officials, or other coaches are strictly prohibited.
- Coaches should refrain from discussing confidential team matters on social media.

7. DRUGS, ALCOHOL, & TOBACCO POLICY

- Coaches must not use, possess, or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during any practice or game.
 - The use of tobacco or vaping products is prohibited during practices and games.
 - Suggested location for smoking: Out of view of all players and parents (ie: near field #1 parking lot or in the parking lot near Speedway)
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8. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Violations of this Code of Conduct will be reviewed by the board and may result in the following actions:

1. **Verbal Warning** – For minor infractions.
2. **Written Warning** – Documented misconduct.
3. **Suspension** – Temporary removal from coaching duties.
4. **Dismissal** – Permanent removal from the coaching position.

4. Parent's Code of Conduct

- I. Do not force your children to participate in sports but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- II. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays/performances of teams we compete against.
- III. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at athletes, coaches, or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit.
- IV. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- V. Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the field / mat. This approach will help in the development and support of the sport.
- VI. Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat. Enforce the positive points of the sport. Never yell or verbally/physically abuse your child after a game, competition, or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing any physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- VII. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- VIII. Do not air grievances on social media, kindly direct them to the Code of Conduct Committee (CCC) for review. This will ensure we can address any concerns/conflict in a constructive manner with the goal of achieving resolution and closure.

5. Spectator's Code of Conduct

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect athletes, coaches, and officials. Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the sport together.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the fields / mats can cause injury to athletes and officials.
- Support the referees, judges, and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be supportive after the game / competition – win or lose.
- Recognize good effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Disciplinary Procedures

Definitions Specific to these Issues of Disciplinary Procedure:

Improper Conduct Incident: Any misconduct on or off the field / mat, left to the discretion of coaching staff. It is strongly suggested that written records be kept for documentation of escalating behavior.

Formal Allegation: Any misconduct that has escalated from an informal Improper Conduct Incident to a more serious matter is deemed a Formal Allegation and will be brought before The Disciplinary Committee.

1. Athlete Improper Conduct Incident Escalation Process

- Level 1: Disruptive behavior (such as foul language, etc.) during a game, practice, or sponsored event. Disciplinary action is at coaches' discretion and will be reported to the CCC.
- Level 2: Offensive / Aggressive behavior (such as fighting, bullying, racist remarks, etc. and does not halt when asked to stop) during a game, practice, or sponsored event. Disciplinary action will include formal write-up to the CCC and will result in a disciplinary action up to and including having to leave practice, reduced game time. Any further violations will result in the CCC and EG Park District involvement.
- Level 3: Multiple reports of Level 1 and / or Level 2 conduct violations with no signs of improvement. Disciplinary action will result in a disciplinary action up to and including game / competition suspension.

- Level 4: Continued violation of our code of conduct will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the program without refund.

2. Reporting Improper Conduct Incidences

EGYFC provides an Improper Conduct Incident Form to allow coaches to document these incidents. These forms align with the code of conduct signed by each athlete at the beginning of the season.

- a. It is the responsibility of every coach to address Improper Conduct Incidents observed by the coach or brought to the coach's attention in a timely and respectful manner.
- b. Coaches are encouraged to keep record of any Improper Conduct Incidents and the steps taken by the coach to address the misconduct. This aids in the process of recording escalation of behavior and enables all adults to better serve the athletes.
- c. If a player receives his/her 4th incident, all the prior records shall be given to the Discipline Committee and a Formal Allegation Form should be submitted to the Discipline Committee.
- d. If an incident arises and is deemed serious enough, a player can immediately be sent to the Allegation Process outlined in our EGYFC Disciplinary Procedures.

3. Coach Improper Conduct Escalation Process*

- Initial Discussion:
When an issue arises, the League Coordinator or an EGYFC Board member will have a formal discussion with the coach to address concerns, clarify expectations, and provide an opportunity for the coach to explain their perspective.
- Written Warning:
If the issue persists or is serious enough to warrant formal action, a written warning will be issued. This document will outline the specific concern, expectations for improvement, and consequences if the behavior or performance does not improve within a specified timeframe.
- Suspension from Games/Competitions/Events:
For more serious infractions or repeated offenses, a coach may be placed on probation or suspended from coaching duties. During this period, specific conditions or corrective actions may be imposed, such as additional training or monitoring.
- Termination:
If the issues continue despite previous interventions, termination may be necessary. This decision will be made following a formal review by the CCC and EGYFC Board.

*Coaches reserve the right to appeal any disciplinary action taken against them. An

appeals process before the CCC will allow them to present their case to the appointed committee in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

4. Parent/Guardian Improper Conduct Escalation Process*

- I. Warning or Verbal Reprimand:
 - A. A coach, team official or EGYFC Board Member may issue a verbal warning to the parent/guardian, clearly outlining the inappropriate behavior and its impact.
- II. Written Warning:
 - A. If the behavior persists or escalates, a formal written warning may be issued. This document will outline the specific incidents or behaviors that are problematic and the
 - B. consequences if they continue. You may also be asked to excuse yourself from the game, competition, practice, or event. Any further violations will result in the CCC and EG Park District involvement.
- III. Suspension from Games/Competitions/Events:
 - A. In more serious cases, parents/guardians may be suspended from attending games, competitions, practices, or other team events for a specified period. This action aims to protect the athlete's well-being and the team's cohesion.
- IV. Expulsion or Ban:
 - A. As a last resort, parents/guardians may be expelled or banned from attending any EGYFC games, competitions, or events for the remainder of the season if their behavior continues to be detrimental despite previous interventions.
 - B. *Parents/Guardians reserve the right to appeal any disciplinary action taken against them. An appeals process before the CCC will allow them to present their case to the appointed committee in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

3. Formal Allegation Process

EGYFC provides a form on its website to allow coaches, parents, spectators, and athletes to submit a formal allegation to the Code of Conduct Committee.

Process

Allegation submitted to the committee member associated with the team of the athlete, coach, parent, or spectator.

1. Allegation Form (pages 15-18) to be filled out and submitted to the Code of Conduct Committee
2. The allegation will be discussed with all committee members.
3. Committee members will determine if the allegation becomes an Official Violation, an Improper Incident or results in dismissal.

EXAMPLE:
EGYFC Allegation Form

Please respond to the following questions:

1. Who does the allegation involve?

2. When did the alleged behavior occur and where?

3. Who observed the alleged behavior?

4. Describe the alleged behavior. Please be specific about what was observed.

Name of person making the allegation

Contact Phone Number

Please note: An allegation must include contact information from the informant.

Violations will be:

1. Investigated utilizing Elk Grove Park District and EGYFC Code of Conduct Rules (available on website)
 - a. Any committee member with a conflict or perceived conflict of interest will voluntarily recuse themselves from the investigation. If the complaint involves a family member of the committee member, they will automatically be recused.
2. Submitted to the EGYFC Board with 2 recommendations
3. Board will vote and act on the complaint
 - a. Athlete, coach, or parent impacted will be notified by representative of the board
 - b. Parents will be required to be present with their player when notification occurs
 - c. Board will notify the Head Coach and appropriate communication to the rest of the team.

Logging/ Reporting Allegations and Complaints

Code of Conduct committee members will log and report all formal allegations to the EGYFC Board.

- A. Report (if any exist) will be given at each board meeting
 - a. Names will not be included.
- B. Code of Conduct Committee guidelines and recommendations
 - a. The Code of Conduct Committee will be providing periodic guidelines to all coaches.

Player Code of Conduct (A)

Name: _____

Please circle athlete level for 2025 season:

Flag, Bantam, Featherweight, Middleweight, Lightweight, Jr. Varsity, Varsity

As a member of EGYFC, I pledge to uphold the principles of sportsmanship and fair play, consistently demonstrating respect for the game, my teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.

Please read carefully and initial each item below.

Date: _____

_____ **Respect:** I will show respect towards teammates, coaches, opponents, referees, and all others involved in the game. This includes respecting facilities, equipment, and the rules of the game.

_____ **Ambassador:** I will serve as an ambassador for the Eagles organization and my team. I will represent myself and my team with integrity, sportsmanship, and good character at all times, both in person and online (social media, etc.). This includes anytime I am representing EGYFC (example: When I am wearing my j in public whether during a team event or not). I will conduct myself in a manner in which my actions will not reflect poorly on the organization.

_____ **Sportsmanship:** I will always demonstrate good sportsmanship, regardless of the outcome of the game. This includes shaking hands with opponents after matches, accepting decisions made by referees, and refraining from unsportsmanlike conduct. In the unfortunate circumstance of an injured teammate or opposing team's player, I will show compassion by taking a knee until the player is able to leave the field. While also understanding, in some instances, a game may abruptly be postponed. I will put the health and safety of others and myself above the outcome of the game.

_____ **Commitment:** I will attend all practices, games, and team events punctually and prepared to give my best effort. Consistent attendance and dedication contribute to the success of the team and the development of individual skills.

_____ **Teamwork:** I will work collaboratively with my teammates, supporting and encouraging each other to achieve common goals. Selflessness, cooperation, and effective communication are essential for team success.

_____ **Fair Play:** I will adhere to the rules of the game and compete fairly and honestly. Cheating, foul play, and unsportsmanlike behavior are not tolerated and undermine the integrity of the sport.

_____ **Positive Attitude:** I will maintain a positive attitude, even in challenging situations. A positive mindset contributes to resilience, perseverance, and personal growth both on and off the field.

_____ **Self-Control:** I will demonstrate self-control and manage my emotions appropriately. Reacting negatively to setbacks, criticism, or provocation is counterproductive and can disrupt team dynamics.

_____ **Safety:** I will prioritize my safety and the safety of others. This includes following safety guidelines, using proper equipment, and reporting any concerns or injuries to coaches or officials.

_____ I understand that playing football for EGYFC is a privilege and violations of the Code of Conduct can result in my suspension and may be reviewed by the Code of Conduct Committee of EGYFC.

Athlete Signature

Parent Signature

Player Code of Conduct (B)

Name: _____

Please circle athlete level for 2025 season:

Rookie Squad, Teenie Squad, Mini Squad, Junior Squad, Senior Squad

As a member of EGYFC, I pledge to uphold the principles of sportsmanship and fair play, consistently demonstrating respect for the sport, my teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.

Please read carefully and initial each item below.

Date: _____

_____ **Respect:** I will show respect towards my teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and all others involved in the sport. This includes respecting the rules of the game, the facilities, and the equipment.

_____ **Ambassador:** I will serve as an ambassador for the Eagles organization and my team. I

will represent myself and my team with integrity, sportsmanship, and good character at all times, both in person and online (social media, etc.). This includes anytime I am representing EGYFC (example: When I am wearing my uniform in public whether during a team event or not). I will conduct myself in a manner in which my actions will not reflect poorly on the organization.

_____ **Sportsmanship:** I will always demonstrate good sportsmanship, whether cheering at football games or at competitions. This includes showing appreciation for the efforts of all participants and accepting decisions made by officials with grace.

_____ **Commitment:** I will attend all practices, performances, and team events punctually and prepared to contribute positively. Consistent attendance and dedication are essential for team cohesion and success.

_____ **Teamwork:** I will work collaboratively with my teammates, supporting and encouraging each other to achieve common goals. Cooperation, communication, and inclusivity are vital for creating a supportive team environment.

_____ **Fair Play:** I will adhere to the rules and regulations of cheerleading, competing fairly and honestly. Cheating, foul play, and unsportsmanlike behavior are unacceptable and undermine the integrity of the sport.

_____ **Positive Attitude:** I will maintain a positive attitude, even in challenging situations. A positive mindset fosters resilience, perseverance, and the ability to overcome obstacles both in cheerleading and in life.

_____ **Self-Control:** I will demonstrate self-control and manage my emotions appropriately, especially during high-pressure situations. Reacting with poise and composure reflects maturity and leadership qualities.

_____ **Safety:** I will prioritize my safety and the safety of others. This includes following safety guidelines, using proper equipment, and reporting any concerns or injuries to coaches or officials.

_____ I understand that cheering for EGYFC is a privilege and violations of the Code of Conduct can result in my suspension and may be reviewed by the Code of Conduct Committee of EGYFC.

Athlete Signature

Parent Signature

Improper Conduct Incident Form (A)

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Athlete Name: _____

Incident #: _____

Penalty based on Escalation Process:

Incident Explained:

Violation of which Player Code of Conduct: (indicate with checkmark)

_____ **Respect:** I will show respect towards teammates, coaches, opponents, referees, and all others involved in the game. This includes respecting facilities, equipment, and the rules of the game.

_____ **Ambassador:** I will serve as an ambassador for the Eagles organization and my team. I will represent myself and my team with integrity, sportsmanship, and good character at all times, both in person and online (social media, etc.). This includes anytime I am representing EGYFC (example: When I am wearing my jersey in public whether during a team event or not). I will conduct myself in a manner in which my actions will not reflect poorly on the organization.

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_____ **Safety:** I will prioritize my safety and the safety of others. This includes following safety guidelines, using proper equipment, and reporting any concerns or injuries to coaches or officials.

Athlete Signature: _____

Coaches Signature: _____

Date emailed to Parent _____ or Parent's Signature _____

_____ Athlete's Initials to acknowledge 3rd incident and any further violation will result in review by the EGYFC Code of Conduct committee

Improper Conduct Incident Form (B)

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Athlete Name: _____

Incident #: _____

Penalty based on Escalation Process:

Incident Explained:

Violation of which Player Code of Conduct: (indicate with checkmark)

_____ **Respect:** I will show respect towards my teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and all others involved in the sport. This includes respecting the rules of the game, the facilities, and the equipment.

_____ **Ambassador:** I will serve as an ambassador for the Eagles organization and my team. I will represent myself and my team with integrity, sportsmanship, and good character at all times, both in person and online (social media, etc.). This includes anytime I am representing EGYFC (example: When I am wearing my uniform in public whether during a team event or not). I will conduct myself in a manner in which my actions will not reflect poorly on the organization.

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