



# Parental, Family/ Friends Code of Conduct

WE, the Parents, Family, & Friends of Maricopa Pumas Youth Football & Cheer (MPYFC) and Arizona YFL participants, agree the values embodied in good sportsmanship will be strictly adhered to as follows:

- I will be responsible for my behavior as well as for the behavior of those who attend that game/practice as my guest.
- I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, & encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following these Codes of Conduct.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, & officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional & physical well-being of all participants ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I acknowledge that my child a “student athlete” & sports will not come before academics.
- I will inform my child’s coach of any academic deficiencies immediately & acknowledge/accept my child may lose playing time for poor academic performance.
- **I will always be in control of my behavior & emotions & at all locations.**
- I will remain in the spectator area during games/practices.
- I will insist that my child plays in a safe & healthy environment both physically & emotionally.
- I will support **coaches & officials** working with my child, to encourage a positive & enjoyable experience for all.
- **I will NOT advise the coach on how to do their job. I will not coach my child during the game.**
- **I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, alcohol, violence, etc., & will refrain from their use at all youth sports events. I will not drink alcohol at a game/practice or come to one having ingested any drugs or alcohol.**
- I acknowledge that the game is for our youth, **NOT ADULTS** & participation is a privilege, not a right.
- I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child. I will **NOT** instruct him to harm any other participants.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, & officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will not make insulting comments to players, parents, officials, or coaches of either team. I will always show respect for all participants.
- I will stay off the fields during games unless badged as staff by MPYFC.
- I promise to help my child **enjoy the youth sports experience** by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting the league with fund-raisers snacks, or providing transportation.
- **I agree to abide by and acknowledge the 24-hour rule and dispute resolution process (as described in attachment A which is located on Maricopapumas.org) in the event I have a grievance.**
- I understand & accept that any violation of the Codes set forth herein may result in loss of playing time for my child &/or removal of my child (for action by the child, family member and or guest) &/or removal of myself from an event. Repetitive violations will result in being removed from the team for the safety/well-being of the team (as described in attachment A). In such an event I will return all team owned equipment & I acknowledge there will be no refunds
- I have read the above Code of Conduct, discussed it with my family & student athletes in detail, & agree to uphold the agreement.

Athlete’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment A**

### **24 HOUR RULE & DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS**

**Intent:** As a not-for-profit organization whose services are provided by volunteer efforts, MPYFC has established this 24-hour rule and Dispute Resolution Procedure to provide an efficient, orderly, and uniform method of resolving all covered disputes. This grievance procedure provides the exclusive remedy to resolve such disputes.

Each MPYFC member, player, coach, official, referee parent, guardian, agent or other person, team, sponsor, or other group or organization (“Participant”) agrees to abide by the 24-hour rule & Dispute Resolution Procedures as the exclusive remedy for all grievances by virtue of their membership, affiliation, or participation at any time in the MPYFC program.

**Definition of Grievance:** A “grievance” is defined as any conflict, dispute, or disagreement between Participants, including any parents or guardians of a player & the player’s coach or a league official or members of different MPYFC teams that may allege a violation of MPYFC Policies & Procedures Arizona YFL rules & policies or some other continuing circumstance which requires resolution.

**Procedure:** All Participants should attempt to resolve grievances expeditiously & fairly at the lowest possible level within the Dispute Resolution Procedure.

- **24-Hour Rule:** Unless the nature of the grievance requires immediate attention, MPYFC members & participants are required to wait at least twenty-four (24) hours after the event or incident before initiating these procedures. For example, if a head coach unilaterally suspends a player for more than two games, the parents would not be justified in using abusive language in demanding the coach reinstate the player. Premature grievances may be deferred to the MPYFC President under Step Two until expiration of this cooling off period.

**Step One.** Grievances about a team, its players or its coaches shall first be presented orally to the head coach and addressed between the parties involved in a spirit of cooperation. Coaches should work with the members, assistant coaches &/or other team officials involved to resolve the grievance internally in an expeditious & fair manner. Coaches are encouraged to meet with members to attempt to resolve grievances in an amicable & informal manner. If a grievance arises between members of different MPYFC teams or the head coaches of the teams involved should resolve the issue. If the grievance is not resolved in a meaningful way, the subject should then be addressed by Step Two.

**Step Two.** Grievances may not be resolvable at the team level in Step One &/or some complaints, by their nature, may cause the Participant(s) to be concerned about discussing the matter with the coaching staff(s). In such cases, the matter shall then be referred to the Football President &/or Cheer President &/ or President &/or Director (Executive Staff) as applicable given nature of grievance. Said Executive Staff will discuss the grievance with the Participants to resolve the grievance & will issue a decision regarding any necessary disciplinary action &/or corrective to be taken. The decision of the MPYFC Executive Staff together with the corrective action, if any, may be communicated to the Participants orally or in writing.

**Penalties:** Failure to abide by this policy will result in the following penalties:

- 1st Offense: Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense: Written warning
- 3rd Offense: Removal from all club activities for a minimum of one week – player & parent/guardian. That means the participant cannot be at practice, games or any other team or club events.
- 4th Offense: Removal from the MPYFC.

# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Procedures outlined herein do not apply to any occurrence that jeopardizes the health, safety and/or wellbeing of a youth athlete, coach, or staff member. Occurrences deemed to harm any youth athlete, coach or staff member will result in immediate suspension pending further investigation by the President and/or Board of Directors.

**Significant Escalation:** If a participant engages in a physical altercation with a coach or board member, a thorough investigation will be conducted & if warranted, the participant will be removed from the club with additional notification to Arizona YFL. Also, the police department with primary jurisdiction will be immediately notified & the incident will be reported. Spouses & family are OFF Limits. Although the 24-hour rule does not apply to participants not directly involved, any participant who verbally accosts the spouse or family member of a coach/board member or other member participants will immediately be placed on a one-week suspension. Any second event will be grounds for removal from the MPYFC organization.

## **Event Dismissal:**

- Any participant escorted from an event by either staff or police will be immediately suspended for one week from all activities. A second infraction will result in removal from the MPYFC.
- The President reserve sole discretion to extend a one-week suspension with written notice.
- Any & all disciplinary actions shall be in effect for the competing season in which it occurs. In other words, participants are entitled to “fresh start” at the commencement of a new season unless otherwise deemed appropriate by the President.