

OKOBOJI YOUTH FOOTBALL

Code of Conduct & Player Safety Rules

Okoboji Youth Football aspires to be an outstanding youth athletic organization that provides a high-quality experience to every athlete and a safe welcoming environment for all. As a member of Okoboji Youth Football you represent more than just yourself. Your actions on and off the field can reflect positively or negatively upon many people. Being part of this organization is both a privilege and a responsibility. All players must sign, follow and strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct.

1) Sportsmanship: Being a good sportsman means showing respect to other competitors and everyone involved in the sport. A good player does not let his/her emotions take over, NO MATTER the circumstances.

Sportsmanship defined by OYF: “A person who can take a loss or defeat without complaint or victory without gloating, and who respects his/her opponents with fairness, courtesy and respect.” We do not speak inappropriately to other team’s players, coaches and/or referees: Profanity and vulgarity are unacceptable. Any form of racial slur or insult will be met with harsh consequences. Let our playing make the statement. We will remain composed at all times. You are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play during all games and practices. In addition you must abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness and good citizenship.

2) Work Ethic: Winning is not our primary goal. Each player will be dedicated and give 100% effort in practice and in competitions. If you can accomplish this, wins will follow.

3) Be Accountable: Do not come to Coaches with excuses. We recognize this is a youth sport but you are old enough to take responsibility for your actions. If you’re having any kind of problem we can work to fix it together. We do not point fingers and pass blame; that has no place in Okoboji Youth Football.

4) Attendance: You are expected to be on time and attend all practices and team functions. Please communicate all “excused” absences with the coach prior to practice or function. Excused absences include; illness or injury, bereavement, school sponsored activity, event required by religion, pre-arranged special circumstances or other extenuating circumstances. Failure will result in an “unexcused” absence.

5) Behavior: Your behavior on and off the field can and will affect your status in Okoboji Youth Football. Be smart. Think before you act or speak. Your conduct is as important as your athletic skill. Discipline issues at school and practice affects your teammates and our program.

If there is an occurrence, for any of the above, the following will occur:

- A. First Offense = Reminder
- B. Second Offense = Parents will be contacted by Coach
- C. Third Offense = player will sit out one quarter of play
- D. Fourth = sit out one half of play.
- E. Beyond this, the player will be released from the program.

6) Suspension from School: Any student suspended from school for violation of school rules will be ineligible to participate in any Okoboji Youth Football practice or games until reinstated by the Director.

A. First Offense

- If the participant admits within three (3) school days of the violation to the OYF Director, ineligibility will be a minimum of one (1) game.

B. Second Offense

- If the participant admits within three (3) days of the violation to OYF Director, ineligibility will be a minimum of two (2) games.

C. Third Offense

- Ineligible for the remainder of the season.

7) Drugs and Alcohol: Because of the adverse effects of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other dangerous drugs as listed in the State Code, no player shall procure for their or others' use, be in possession of, or use any of these substances or look- a-likes during the calendar year. A violation of this rule shall result in the student's being declared ineligible to represent the OYF in any performance, scheduled contest, program or trip for the remainder of the season.

Determination of Violation: A player is said to have violated any of the above if:

- He/she admits to violating one of the standards.
- Witnessed breaking one of the standards by one or more coaches.
- If the accused claims innocence, Steering Committee and Coaches appointed by the Director will, within five days, conduct a meeting to determine guilt or sustain innocence.
- Upon thorough investigation, the coaches and Steering Committee determine the student, beyond a reasonable doubt committed the act.

Injury Reintegration:

1. Players missing 3 practices must have 1 reintegration practice before a game day. Helmet only.
2. Players missing 4 - 6 practices must have 2 reintegration practices before a game day. Helmet only.
3. Players missing 6 or more practices must have 3 reintegration practices before a game. Helmet only.

Players diagnosed with a concussion must be released to play by their Physician. They must also undergo the CDC's five gradual steps to help safely return an athlete to play:

CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/providers/return_to_activities.html

The baseline step of the Return to Play Progression, the athlete needs to have completed physical and cognitive rest and not be experiencing concussion symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours.

"By signing this agreement, I have read and will comply with Okoboji Youth Football's Code of Conduct and Player Safety rules. I hereby acknowledge football and associated practices, games, and other activities are potentially hazardous and can result in permanent injury. I accept full responsibility and accept and assume all risks involved. I agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify Okoboji Youth Football, Inc., its employees, agents, representatives, board members, sponsors, volunteers and affiliates from any injury or damage from any cause, including any negligence which arises out of my or my child's participation in, travel to and from any event and any related football activity."

Parent Signature: _____ Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____