

# Just Compete Code of Conduct

**Colorado NFL FLAG, KC NFL FLAG & Girls Play Flag Football**

**Just Compete Sports is proud to offer a family-friendly flag football league powered by NFL Flag Football.**

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

This Code of Conduct applies to all sports and activities associated with Just Compete Sports. These activities include, but are not limited to, signup sessions, partner events, practices, camps, combines, Just Compete Sports sponsored games, and any activities, attended under the Just Compete Sports banner.

This Code of Conduct, Offensive Actions, and disciplinary Procedures will be available on **Just Compete Sports, Colorado NFL FLAG, KC NFL FLAG & Girls Play Flag Football** website for review.

**The following codes of conduct will be strictly enforced:**

# Coaches Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in a Just Compete Program are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest.

By example, coaches and assistant coaches are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, they have respect for their opponent and referees at all times. Just Compete will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or verbally by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the official, league and tournament officials.

## **Responsibilities to the Laws of the Game**

1. Coaches are expected to adhere to NFL FLAG philosophies, coaching guidelines and code of conduct.
2. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the Rules of the Game.
3. Coaches are responsible to assure their players understand the intent as well as the application of the Rules.
4. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Rules of the Game.
5. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit those to perform with intent of causing injury to opposing players.
6. The coach must constantly strive to teach good sporting behavior.

## **Responsibility to Officials**

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and spectators.
2. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or spectators.
3. Professional respect, before, during and after the game should be mutual. There should be no demeaning dialogue or gestures between official, coach or players.
4. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of the games.
5. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the GPFF director via email [officials@justcompete.org](mailto:officials@justcompete.org)
6. Coaches should not approach officials after the game to discuss calls.
7. Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.

8. Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:
  1. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
  2. Point out emergency or safety issues.
  3. Make substitutions.
  4. Ask for the time remaining in the half.
9. Coaches can only challenge a rule if you have a timeout.
  1. Coaches are allowed to use a timeout to question an official's rule interpretation. If the official's ruling is correct, the team will be charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout will not be charged, and the proper ruling will be enforced.
10. 2 Coaches are permitted to coach on the sideline (see page 17 in the NFL Flag rulebook for 6U & 8U coaching guidelines)
  1. All team photographers, managers, additional position coaches, team moms, fans, etc. are required and must remain a minimum of 10 yards off the field in the designated league viewing area. Players, Coaches & Referees are the only ones on the game field.
11. Coaches, this is your responsibility to keep your fans and any other team associated members in the designated areas.

### **Responsibility to Community**

As a coach, you agree to not criticize or make any negative comment on or through social media or online regarding an opposing team, coach, player, referee, staff member or football community related issue. We understand there are direct methods and channels (phone, email, in-person, website forms) for feedback and communication to GPFF and will use these channels to communicate. You understand that (upon review) that Just Compete can, and will if necessary, suspend individual coaches' privileges should you behave in a manner that is rude, offensive or in conflict with the Coaches Code of Conduct.

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

1. If the field monitor or referee witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped, and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
2. Offensive or confrontational language is NOT allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the officials will determine if a warning or immediate ejection is warranted.
3. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
4. Ball-carriers MUST make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
5. Defenders must give free releases off the line of scrimmage to offensive players and are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags. ROUGH PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED
6. Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:
  - a) Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
  - b) Keep comments clean and profanity free.
  - c) Compliment ALL players, not just one child or team.

7. Fans are required to keep fields safe and kids friendly and adhere to league requirements for seating:
  - a) Keep younger kids and equipment such as coolers, chairs and tents on the track, off the field in the end zone area.
  - b) Stay in the end zone area, not between fields.
  - c) Dispose of ALL trash in designated trash cans.

## **Players Code of Conduct**

Each player will ensure that his/her playing conduct is that of a young lady or gentleman fairly competing to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, all players are expected to have the following attitude:

- 1. I will treat all players, coaches, referees, staff, parents, and spectators with dignity and respect, as I would like to be treated, using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with them.**
- 2. I will arrive on time for practices, meetings, and games.**
- 3. I will seek to become the best athlete I can be by practicing with a purpose, trying my hardest on the field, and concentrating on the play of the game. I will learn to take corrections as a compliment.**
- 4. I will win and lose graciously, demonstrating good sportsmanship throughout games and practices.**
- 5. I will be honest and take responsibility for my actions and results.**
- 6. I will not use any form of intimidation or bullying against another player, coach, referees or staff.**
- 7. I will play for the team, not myself.**
- 8. I will support my teammates and have a positive impact on my team.**
- 9. I will encourage and assist my teammates, giving encouragement and support in success and struggle.**
- 10. I will learn the rules of the game, so that I may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.**
- 11. I will be courteous and listen during practice time and halftime talks.**
- 12. I will be respectful of the field, bathrooms, and facilities by no littering, destruction, or any other cause of the damage not mentioned. Leave in the same if not better condition than you found it.**
- 13. I will respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials, understand that they are doing their best to help promote the**

**youth athletes, and admire their willingness to participate in the full view of the public.**

- 14. I will recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.**

## **Offensive & Disciplinary Actions**

Any individual violating the Code of Conduct set forth above shall be subject to penalties and sanctions as outlined in the Disciplinary Procedure below. In addition to conforming to the Code of Conduct requirements above, the following actions are specifically prohibited:

1. Refusing to abide by an official's decision.
  2. Verbally abusing or assaulting any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Golden NFL Flag.
  3. Physically assaulting, abusing, or threatening any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Just Compete Sport volunteer staff.
  4. Stalking, tailing, or attempting to intimidate any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Just Compete Sport volunteer staff.
  5. Engaging in any other type of violent behavior, such as throwing equipment or other objects.
  6. Engaging in any lewd or sexual behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.
  7. Using or under the influence of drugs or alcohol while coaching, attending, or participating in any Just Compete Sport or other Just Compete Sport event.
- **Disciplinary actions for offenses 1 and 2:**
    - 1st Offense - verbal warning
    - 2nd Offense - expelled from the game
    - 3rd Offense - expelled from the league for the remainder of the season
  - **Disciplinary actions for offenses 3-7**
    - Immediately removed from the facility and expelled for the remainder of the season
    - Banned from coaching in future programs Additional Considerations If a coach or parent is expelled from the league, any child associated with that person is also expelled from the league.

## **Additional Considerations**

- If a coach or parent is expelled from the league, any child associated with that person is also expelled from the league.
- If a player is suspended from the Just Compete Sport program, they cannot participate in Just Compete Sport for the duration of their suspension.
- If they are currently on a team, they will be removed from that team. There are no refunds because of any person being removed from the league.