

Middle Tennessee FIRE Code of Conduct

Christian Biblical Principles and Common Sense will guide our Code of Conduct. Its purpose is to allow all of us to enjoy the sport, NOT to make our players constantly worry about getting an infraction. Our coaches are given the responsibility and authority to enforce the Code of Conduct with our players. The Code of Conduct is in force during ALL team functions, not just games and practices. Player penalties can include being removed from the current game, reduced playing time in games following the infraction, formal apologies and restitution, and suspension from the team either temporarily or permanently. Coaches, players, and families will be required to sign and abide by the Code of Conduct. In the case of coaches or family members breaking the Code of Conduct, it is the responsibility of the Parent Board to discuss with the offending parties. Any blatant infraction of a player, coach, or family member that seems to have gone unnoticed can be brought to the President in writing.

SPECIFIC INFRACTIONS

*Immediate and 100% compliance with all coaches' instructions (as long as not inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or Parental Guidelines) is expected and required. Anything less is an infraction.

*Teamwork means we conduct ourselves as a team on and off the field; we win and lose as a team. Any extreme and continued display of lack of teamwork is an infraction. Examples of this type of infraction are: being unkind to a team member in general, blaming a team member for a mistake made during a game, or blaming a team member of losing a game. These are just a few examples of a lack of teamwork and are not meant to be all inclusive.

*Use of foul language is an infraction.

*Fighting or provoking another player to fight is an infraction.

*Any extreme and continued disagreement with an official's call in any blatant non-verbal manner (throwing the ball, hitting or kicking anything, negative facial expression or gestures directed towards the official, etc.) or arguing with an official is an infraction.

*Use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products is an infraction.

*Any immoral activity that goes against the Ten Commandments will NOT be tolerated.

*Pre- and post-game actions are also important. Any poor sportsmanship pre- or post-game is an infraction. Examples of poor sportsmanship are: taunting the opposing team; making fun of the opposing team, its facilities, etc.; not paying attention to or not appropriately participating in pre-game prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, song, etc.; refusing to shake hands with any or all of the opposing team; throwing, hitting, or kicking anything; the removal of any part of the uniform that should remain on; use of foul language; fighting or any negative physical action towards anyone; or the continuation of any problems with any opposing player or officials encountered during the game, etc.

*Generally, disrespect of authority is an infraction. In addition to coaches and officials, others to keep in mind are public officials, authority figures in businesses we are visiting (i.e. restaurants and hotels), and authorities of the host organizations for games and tournaments. A very likely example is that we will be guests for games and tournaments where required dress code may be radically different from our own. Respecting authority in this case is to submit to and comply with the dress code quietly and without making fun of or attempting to argue the merits of the dress code.

*Not respecting the “48-hour rule” - referring to any negative comments or feedback to the coach must be made respectfully after 48 hours following a game.

*Headphones are prohibited in the field area. If worn, it is an infraction.

*Non-compliance with our own dress code is an infraction. The Middle Tennessee FIRE has a mandatory dress code. It is designed to develop team unity and to ensure that all our teams are represented in a respectable manner. Uniforms need to be worn before and during the game. After the game player may wear their uniform or a FIRE T-shirt.

If a player is not in compliance with this Code of Conduct, the following disciplinary action will be enforced:

*The first time a player does not comply, he will sit the bench for one half of the ballgame.

*The second time a player does not comply, he will sit the bench for the entire game.

*The third time a player does not comply, that player's parents will be contacted regarding further discipline, which could include temporary or permanent suspension from the team.

We, the players and parents of the players have read and agree to ensure compliance with this Code of Conduct:

Player's Signature

Parent's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date