

# SCVAA Football Policy on Coaching

SCVAA Football appreciates all who are willing to step into the roles of Head Coach, Co-Head Coach, or Assistant Coach/Parent Volunteer. We recognize that coaching youth football requires a lot of time and energy. These policies and guidelines will help coaches understand what is expected of them during the SCVAA Football season.

The mission of the SCVAA Football program is to make the sport enjoyable for as many kids as we can. We strive to teach fundamentals and develop skills and abilities of all players so they can get the most out of the sport. We balance fun with competition, and stress the importance of integrity teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Coaches should emphasize the core values of teamwork, sportsmanship, development, safety, and integrity at all times during the season. While the intent of playing any game is to win, the coach will not compromise these values in the interest of winning.

**Training/Certifications:** Having extensive knowledge in football is not required to be a coach. However, this is a contact sport with many rules and safety measures at the youth level that a good working knowledge of the game is recommended.

- ALL head coaches will be Trusted Coaches certified before they can receive their roster and can begin practice. This is non-negotiable.
  - The commissioner will contact coaches that need to be certified or recertified.
  - Certifications are valid for 3 seasons before renewal is needed.
    - Example: Coach was certified in August 2021. They will need to be recertified for the 2024 season.
  - We recommend one tackle football assistant coach be Trusted Coaches certified in the event the head coach is absent from a practice or game.
- USA Football Certification is recommended but not required to be a SCVAA Football coach. [USA Football | Account](#)
- ALL coaches are strongly recommended to attend the Youth Coaching Clinic conducted by the varsity coaches prior to the start of the season. This clinic is especially helpful for new head coaches and assistant coaches.

**Assistant Coaches:** Head coaches make their coaching staff as they want to have it. The football commissioner has final approval of all assistant coaches. Assistant coaches will be held

to the same standards as head coaches are held with regards to the SCVAA Conduct Policy as well as the SCVAA Football Coaching Policies.

- Head coaches will be limited to 1 game day assistant coach per 5 players on the sidelines.
- There is no limit to the number of parent helpers a head coach can use for practices.

**Communication:** Coaches will maintain an open line of communication with the parents of the team for the duration of the season.

- Coaches should have a parent meeting prior to the first practice to set the expectations of the season.
- Coaches will first speak directly with parents regarding anything with their player that may impact playing time in a game.
- Coaches will find amicable solutions to any conflicts between players and/or with parents. If no solutions can be found, coach will contact their grade coordinator, the vice-commissioner, the commissioner, or any combination of the three.

**Conduct:** Coaches will conduct themselves within the guidelines of the SCVAA Code of Conduct policy. There is a zero-tolerance policy regarding unacceptable conduct. This includes, but not limited to

- Tobacco, alcohol, and drug use of any kind is prohibited during practices and games
- Coaches will refrain from any verbal or physical abuse of a player, coach, parent, referee, or spectator
- Profanity of any kind, directed at anyone, at any time is prohibited
- Influencing or arguing with officials is prohibited. Asking for clarification is permissible.
- Coaches will refrain from addressing officials disrespectfully
- Tantrum-like acts are prohibited

**Development:** Development of a player is an important part of football. The coach will do their best to develop skills and fundamentals of all players for the betterment of the team. Development is not a static metric that can be measured by wins and losses or by how good a player is or became during the season.

- A coach should always find a place and playing time for a player despite their level of development throughout the season.
  - A coach can manipulate playing time if a player has missed significant practice time or is a safety risk on the field at certain times.
    - A coach will communicate these situations PRIOR to a game with the parents/guardians and player
  - Coaches will continue to work with a player to improve their development during the season.

**Playing time:** Coaches will make a point to distribute playing time as equally as possible. This can be done various ways by creating first and second half offenses and defenses, rotating players per series or by quarter.

- Coaches should not strive to win at all costs at the expense of playing time. The goal should be to make it a good experience so that players want to continue to play more years.
- Exceptions to this can be made if a player has missed several practices and is not familiar enough with the plays or is considered a safety risk
  - Both of these reasons will be communicated with the parents/guardians PRIOR to a game being played.
- Players should be given every reasonable opportunity to tryout or play any position they request as long as they qualify under league rules.
- Starting: A coach will prioritize starting as many players as possible on offense and defense each half. In addition, the coach and the assistants should prioritize substituting players as often as possible to ensure players participate.
  - A player can start on both offense and defense but this should be as limited as possible.
  - If a player doesn't start on either offense or defense, the coach will prioritize that player "starting" on special teams as much as possible until that player is ready to start on offense or defense.
  - The coach has final say on where they believe a player is best suited positionally to help the team be successful.
  - An exception to player positions is in 4th and 5th grade where the league (MEYFL) requires players to only play one half of football at a skill position.
  - Every player should have an offensive and defensive position for each game and should have the opportunity to play both positions in each game as long as they understand the plays and assignments of the position.