**MID-HUDSON YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**Code of Conduct**

The MHYFL will impose a Zero Tolerance Policy to all players, parents, spectators, and coaches. This policy will prohibit any disrespect, abuse, profane language, intimidation, or other unsportsmanlike behavior towards any referee, player, parent, coach, or MHYFL Official/designee.

To curb abuses, referees will penalize team officials, along with players and/or parents, who through verbal communications or physical gestures, try to:

* Intimidate a referee.
* Challenge the authority or competence of a referee, parent, player, coach or MHYFL Official/designee.
* Incite abuse or disrespect of any referee, parent, player, coach, or MHYFL Official/designee[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Embarrass or harass a referee for a call made on the field.
* Make comments (profanity) or gestures intended to be personal in nature to any player, parent, referee, coach, or MHYFL Official/designee.
* “Coaching” their player/child from the sideline.
* Being in an area deemed off limits by MHYFL Officials and coaches, including but not limited to but including the sideline and the Equipment building.

If the Zero Tolerance Policy is violated, the on-field referee and/or any MHYFL Official will stop the game immediately. The offending person or persons will be asked to leave the field area. Failure of the offending person or persons to leave the area may result in the game being forfeited. These rules apply at all games, practices, and scrimmages. Any time a player, parent, or coach has violated the Zero Tolerance Policy, a complaint will be filed with the MHYFL Board, and those persons will be banished from playing, coaching, and/or participating in the Hudson valley Youth Football Association.

If any player, parent, or guest is found to be in violation of this Zero Tolerance Policy, that player will be removed from the participating teams League without refund of any monies paid. Coaches and Board Members are volunteers and will not be subject to intimidation and/or harassment.

Our referees, coaches, and Board Members are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial, and constructive manner always. The actions/decisions of a referee must be above reproach. Actions such as “baiting” or inciting players, parents, or coaches are strictly prohibited.

If you encounter a problem, DO NOT take matters into your own hands. You should file a written complaint to your teams League President. All complaints will be reviewed by your teams Board and appropriate action will be taken immediately. If there is need for further action or complaints beyond that of your team, then all complaints are to be presented to the MHYFL League Commissioner and its board members. Only after THE CONCLUSION of the team’s game or practice will they be accepted, and an investigation will be started on the alleged incident.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)