

Toronto United Flag Football (TUFF)

CODE OF CONDUCT and ETHICS POLICY

Purpose

The TUFF Code of Conduct outlines the expectations of behaviour as a participant in TUFF, ensuring that our activities remain safe and enjoyable to all.

The TUFF Ethics Policy identifies the process of which a possible violation of the Code of Conduct can be reported and investigated. It also defines the associated penalties should an offending member be found to be in violation of this Code of Conduct.

Amendments

The Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy may be amended or re-written by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members voting at any properly convened meeting, as provided in the Bylaws.

Effective Date

The Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy takes effect immediately.

Periods Covered

The Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy is in place throughout the current year that a member has paid his/her registration fees, and will continue to remain in effect in perpetuity, even during off-season periods.

Individuals Affected

The Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy govern the behaviour and actions of all league participants. This refers to all players, non-players, referees, and spectators.

League Functions Covered

The Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy covers all League-sponsored functions including, but not limited to, scheduled games, league-wide and team practices, post-game gatherings, when representing TUFF at any tournament, or any other league associated party or event.

Code of Conduct

1. Conduct should at all times be supportive of the Mission Statement of TUFF.
2. All participants shall treat fellow participants, the neighbourhood, and the community in a positive, sportsmanlike, and respectful manner.
3. No participant shall participate in fighting, or otherwise contact another participant in an aggressive manner.
4. No participant shall engage in objectionable demonstrations of dissent, flagrant unsportsmanlike acts, taunting, intimidation, harassment, or other disrespectful behaviour.
5. No participant shall question or dispute the decision of a referee unless acting in a respectful manner.
6. No participant shall participate in playing or officiating football, or appear in or around the playing area, in any condition that would be a danger to themselves, or to any other player, official, and/or bystander. This provision includes but is not limited to physical and/or mental impairment of any kind.

Ethics Policy Committee

For each reported incident of possible violation of the Code of Conduct severe enough to result in game suspension, the TUFF Commissioner shall appoint an Ethics Policy Committee. This Ethics Policy Committee will consist of one (1) member of the TUFF Executive and two (2) non-leadership TUFF players, all in good standing. They will have jurisdiction over investigating the potential violations, determining whether there was a violation of the Code of Conduct and its severity, and in the case of determined violation, issuing prompt and reasonable punishments if warranted. This investigation could include:

- reviewing medical records/history,
- interviewing any TUFF participant or member of the public who observed the possible violation,
- if the potential violation occurred during a game, interviewing any game officials,
- reviewing any video evidence of the possible violation that may exist,
- or any other methods to gather information about the possible violation or a player's history that the Ethics Policy Committee may deem necessary to make an informed decision.

Punishment may include, but is not limited to, suspension from games or other league events, or revocation of membership, depending on the degree of the violation and the history of the member within TUFF.