Southern Maine Youth Football League
Coaching Code of Ethics

I,_____, of _____ Organization, hereby pledge to abide by, and live up to, my position as a SMYFL Football Coach by following the SMFYL Coaches' Code of Ethics:

1. **I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.**
2. **I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.**
3. **I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.**
4. **I will promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.**
5. **I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.**
6. **I understand that as Head Coach I am responsible for all Coaches, Players, Parents and Fans and as such I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players in my dealings with opposing coaches and officials.**
7. **I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use or influence while at all youth sports events.**
8. **I will be knowledgeable in the proper technique and rules of football, and I will teach these proper techniques and rules in order to promote the safety and sportsmanship of all players.**
9. **I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.**
10. **I will abide by and adhere to the 36 point (Jr. High) / 24 point (Pee Wee/Mite) gentlemen's agreement whereby if my A or B team is ahead of my opponent by 36 or more points I will immediately do everything in my power to equalize the level of play between my team and my opponents. This may include substituting on a limited or, if need be, wholesale basis the players I have on both the Varsity and J.V. levels, not only on defense but offense and special teams as well. This will all be done in the context of a safe-as-can-be environment for this contact sport and for the explicit purpose of not humiliating my opponent.**

It is further understood that should I need to use my J.V. players in the Varsity game in order to comply with the 36 point rule for Jr High or the 24 point rule for Pee Wee/Mite, that they may be on the field again during the J.V. game and there needs to be no negative feedback on this fact.

Additionally, it is further understood that should the lead drop below the 36 point (Jr High) or 24 point (Pee Wee/Mite) level I am free to substitute my more gifted athletes, should I choose to do so, in order to facilitate their playing time and hence their development as student athletes until such time as my lead again grows to 36 points (Jr High) or 24 point (Pee Wee/Mite) or more whereby I am governed by the above rule requiring an action(s) to equalize the level of play.

My signing this pledge and recommending that the governing body of my SMYFL team pass a resolution endorsing said pledge it is my intent to have all involved in our league understand at all times what is going on the field of play and endorse a non-humiliation environment for the positive development of our student athletes. It is further understood that each team in SMYFL may share this document with the players and their parents and guardians.

It is further understood that any written violations of this Code will be reviewed first by the elected officers, not directly involved in the complaint, of the SMYFL. If said written complaint is found to contain merit then the representative(s) of the two teams affected will be required to appear before the SMYFL officers for the purpose of exonerating the accused or imposing sanctions against the offender.

Sanctions will be in accordance to the following: A First time violation will result in a Notice of Violation sent to the guilty team's Governing Body asking for a written response to the infraction. Any subsequent violation(s) will result in but are not limited to monetary fines, suspension of coach, probation of the team in question and expulsion of the team in question for multiple violations.

_____ _____ _____

Coach's Name Printed ***Coach's Signature*** ***Date Signed***

The Governing Body of the _____SMYFL Team organization, in a duly called meeting and with a quorum present, voted to endorse the Southern Maine Youth Football League Coaching Code of Ethics and voluntarily agrees to be bound by its spirit and intent as evidenced by the signature of its authorized representative as noted below.

_____ _____ _____

Organization's Name Printed ***Organization's Representative's Signature*** ***Date Signed***