

# *St. Albert Minor Football Association*

## 2025 Parent Code of Conduct

The St. Albert Minor Football Association (SAMFA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a positive, safe, and enjoyable football experience for all participants in both tackle and flag football, across all ages and genders. Our success relies on the commitment of every player to uphold the values of sportsmanship, respect, fair play, and teamwork. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for all players involved in SAMFA activities, ensuring a healthy and supportive environment for everyone. We are proud to align with the Capital District Minor Football Association (CDMFA) Code of Conduct and Football Canada's ethical standards, as well as the principles of the Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP), demonstrating our unwavering dedication to safety and respect.

**1. Purpose and Application:** This Code of Conduct is designed to promote good conduct and guide the behavior of all SAMFA parents, guardians, and spectators. It applies to all conduct during SAMFA activities, including but not limited to games, practices, training camps, tryouts, team travel, and any related team or association events. Violation of this code may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from SAMFA activities or expulsion from the association. It is crucial to understand that adherence to this code is not optional, but a requirement for all involved in SAMFA.

**2. Core Principles:** As a SAMFA parent, guardian, or spectator, I agree to:

- **Respect Others:** The foundation of our football community is built on mutual respect and understanding. As a SAMFA parent, guardian, or spectator, your role is crucial. You will treat all players (your own and opponents), coaches, officials, volunteers, and other spectators with dignity and respect. This includes demonstrating respect regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, age, ancestry, color, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, sex, or sexual orientation. Your respect is what makes our community strong and inclusive.
- **Exhibit Sportsmanship and Fair Play:** I will always encourage sportsmanship and fair play, and cheer for our team rather than against opponents. I will promote competition within the rules and encourage athletes to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostilities or violence. I will acknowledge good plays and performances by both my team and opponents.
- **Prioritize Safety and Well-being:** Your child's safety and well-being are our top priorities. As a SAMFA parent, guardian, or spectator, you will place the emotional and physical well-being of all players above personal desires or winning. This commitment to safety ensures that everyone can enjoy the game without fear of harm, providing a secure environment for all.
- **Promote a Positive Environment:** Your contribution to a positive, encouraging, and safe playing environment for all SAMFA players is invaluable. As a SAMFA parent, guardian, or spectator, you will provide positive comments that motivate and encourage athletes and refrain from 'sideline coaching' or constant criticism that can dampen a child's enthusiasm or confuse the player. You will not embarrass your child or others through loud, obnoxious, or rude behavior. Let's all do our part to make SAMFA a place

where everyone feels welcome and encouraged, empowering you with the responsibility to contribute to a positive environment.

### **3. Specific Expectations and Prohibited Conduct:**

#### **3.1. General Conduct:**

- I will maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of myself and others involved in SAMFA.
- I will focus comments or criticism appropriately and avoid public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, or volunteers.
- I will consistently treat individuals fairly and reasonably.
- I will respect the decisions of game officials as fair and made to the best of their ability, and I encourage athletes to do the same. It's okay to disagree, but inappropriate to disparage.
- I will respect the property of others and refrain from intentionally causing damage.
- I will promote the sport in the most constructive and positive way possible.
- I will not criticize coaches or players, on our own or opposing teams, by word of mouth or gesture.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse, coercion, intimidation, and sarcasm.
- I will respect and show appreciation to all competitors, coaches, officials, and other volunteers.
- I understand that non-certified or non-registered adults may not enter the playing field for any reason and will be asked to leave by Team Managers or Coaches.

#### **3.2. Anti-Bullying and Harassment:**

- I understand that bullying of any kind is unacceptable at SAMFA.
- Prohibited forms of harassment include, but are not limited to:
  - Bullying (physical, verbal, relational, cyberbullying).
  - Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outbursts.
  - Persistent unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendos, or taunts.
  - Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures.
  - Condescending or patronizing behavior intended to undermine self-esteem or diminish performance.
  - Any form of hazing.
  - Unwanted physical contact, including but not limited to touching, petting, pinching, or kissing.
  - Behaviors that create a negative or hostile environment.
  - Retaliation or threats of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment.
  - Repeated offensive or intimidating phone calls or emails.
  - Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs, or materials in printed, electronic form, or through social media.
  - Psychological abuse, personal harassment, discrimination, intimidating words or conduct, or any words or actions that are offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, or demeaning.

### 3.3. Violence:

- I will refrain from any behavior that constitutes violence, including the exercise or attempt to exercise physical force that causes or could cause bodily injury, or any statement or behavior interpreted as a threat.

### 3.5. Communication and Conflict Resolution:

- I understand that if I have suggestions for improvements or disagree with the way the organization is managed or the way my child's team is coached, my opinion is important and should be voiced through proper channels, not through sideline gossip.
- I will follow SAMFA's Conflict and Dispute Resolution Protocol, which emphasizes "first contact" and specifies steps:
  1. Speak to the Team Manager privately.
  2. If you are not satisfied, please speak with the Vice President of Coaches.
  3. If the dispute remains unresolved, bring the issues to the President for the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.
- I understand that not following proper channels can delay the addressing of issues. CDMFA will not entertain emails, phone calls, or visits if this protocol is not followed.
- I acknowledge that decisions regarding player positions are coaching decisions, and the SAMFA Board of Directors will not consider coaching decisions unless there is a legitimate safety concern.
- I will utilize communication resources available to the association for appropriate and constructive communication only, avoiding widespread media communication channels (e.g., emails to 'all', open letters) that are not suitable and carry a significant risk of legal liability and escalating tensions.

### 4. Reporting and Consequences:

- I understand that I have a duty to report violations of this Code of Conduct, particularly concerns of breaches involving vulnerable persons, to SAMFA promptly and in accordance with the prescribed procedures (referencing SAMFA's Conflict and Dispute Resolution Protocol and Anti-Bullying Policy).
- Disciplinary actions for violating this Code can include, but are not limited to: verbal warning, written warning, game suspension, disqualification of playoff eligibility, or a lifetime ban. In severe cases of bullying, suspension or removal from SAMFA will be strongly considered and enforced.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the St. Albert Minor Football Association 2025 Parent Code of Conduct.

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**Player's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_