



**Merrimack Youth Association
Merrimack Cardinals Football and Spirit Program
P.O. Box 153
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054**

**2010
Coaches, Parents and Players**

With continued commitment to excellence, referencing the 2010 Pop Warner Little Scholars Official Rules, Adult Code of Conduct S1-S3, Members Code of Conduct S1-S21, and Juvenile Offenses S-2, the Merrimack Cardinals Board of Directors has clearly defined the following Code of Conduct guidelines:

Coaches Code of Conduct

1. Coaches agree to never physically engage a child, (grab face mask, push, poke, slap, pull) regardless of their intentions, in any manner, which leaves a reasonable doubt (perception of the general public) as to their motivation.

- Violation will result in immediate removal from Coaching within the Cardinals Organization.

2. Coaches agree to not criticize/berate participants ever. Coaches agree to provide constructive criticism, in private, or in the presence of team/squad members if others might benefit.

- Violation will result in:
 - 1st - Written warning
 - 2nd - Suspension of 1+ games and/or suspension for the season
 - 3rd - Banned from coaching with the Cardinals Organization

Code of Conduct for Parents

- Parents and guests are expected to be positive role models for their children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or sporting event.

- Parents and guests are prohibited from engaging in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, swearing, or using profane language or gestures.
- Parents are expected to respect the officials and their authority during games and are prohibited from questioning, discussing, or confronting officials and coaches at the game field.
- Parents are prohibited from the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol at practices and games. Smoking is only permitted in designated areas where available.

(For a full list please refer to Merrimack Cardinals Football and Spirit Teams Parent Handbook 2010 available at www.merrimackcardinals.org)

Parents of all Merrimack Cardinals program participants are expected to comply with this Code of Conduct. Failure to comply will result as follows: (Updated 10-02-08)

- First Offense - Removal from practice and game facilities for a one week period
- Second Offense - Suspension from any Cardinal event and/or removal of child from practices and games for the remainder of the season
- Third Offense - Permanent removal from the Cardinals Organization including registration.

Code of Conduct for Participants

As stated in the 2010 Pop Warner Little Scholars Official Rules (S-2), “Fighting, intimidation, or disrespect for authority shall be cause for ejection from a game/competition. Any player/spirit participant ejected from any game/competition for cause shall be ineligible for participation in their next game/competition. A second ejection during the same season shall be cause for removal from the team for the balance of that season.”

The safety and wellbeing of the participants, coaches and spectators is of paramount concern to the Cardinals program. Problems or concerns regarding specific football/spirit team rules or regulations should be brought to the Head Coach first. If you do not receive a satisfactory resolution, you should bring it to the attention of the Football Coordinator, Steve Anderson or Spirit Coordinator, Kitti Rondeau. Email is available at www.merrimackcardinals.org under the Board of Directors. For further resolution, you may contact the President, Richard Mailloux at 424-0938. (Problem Resolution Procedure, Parent Handbook 2010)

It is the desire of the Board of Directors that we continue with the Cardinals’ proud tradition of excellence for all our players, parents, coaches and volunteers. We look forward to an exceptional 2010 season.