



Help us help the children of the St. Croix Valley

# VAA Youth Football League

## Team Playing Policies and Standards



The following policies and standards are intended to insure that the VAA Football experience is equally enjoyable and beneficial for all participants. These policies are of course intended to accommodate unique and extraordinary circumstances, but should be applied as consistently and completely as possible.

Please communicate to the VAA Football Commission any observed deviations from these policies and standards during the season.

### Playing Policies to be applied by ALL teams/coaches participating in VAA Youth Football:

1. Team selection/ assignment WILL NOT consider the past performance of a team to intentionally affect the relative skill level of any team. Teams will be assigned primarily upon school affiliation and geography. Team assignment changes must be approved by the VAA Football Commission to alleviate any suspected impropriety. No players will be added to any team without Commissioner approval after rosters are finalized or distributed. Late registrations will only be accepted with approval from Commissioner or Vice-Commissioner.
2. Players should be given a reasonable opportunity to play any position they request for which they qualify under League rules.
3. Playing time will be balanced for ALL players. Participation will be prioritized above winning at all times!
4. Playing time for players will be managed as follows:
  - o Predetermined ‘Squads’ will be identified. A minimum of two(2) offensive squads and two(2) defensive, where different players are assigned to different positions
    - Note\*- Teams with less than 22 players will have a duplicate player on both squads, but must be assigned to a different position.
  - o All players must be assigned an offensive and a defensive position on one of the squads.
    - Note\* - Where a team has more than 22 players each players must be assigned as a ‘starter’ on at least one squad and no player may be assigned as a ‘starter’ on more than 2 squads. Likewise a team with less than 22 players will require more duplication.
  - o THE PLAYING TIME FOR THESE SQUADS WILL BE AS BALANCED AS POSSIBLE IN BOTH HALVES OF EACH GAME. Equalize the series and opportunities as much as possible.
  - o Players with ‘unexcused’ absences from practice may be left off the Squad list but should be considered as back-ups and should play some during the game. This will be managed equally among players of all skill levels. Parent concerns regarding this will be addressed to the VAA Football Commission.
5. All players will play on Offense AND Defense equally during each game!!
  - o there are no allowable exceptions to this policy other than attendance issues
6. Game Captains should be determined for each week and each player who regularly attends practices should be given the opportunity to serve as a Game Captain at least once during the season.
  - o Players and parents need to understand the importance of consistently attending practices. Team cohesiveness and their reliance on each other necessitate a dependence that doesn’t manifest itself as completely in many other sports. Players with ‘unexcused’ absences from practices will not play as much in games as others. Players with repeated ‘excused’ absences will not play as much as others either.
7. Coaches are allowed on the field, but once the Offensive line is set, the on-field coach will be **silent** until the whistle blows to end the play. Vocal coaches should choose to remain on the sidelines where no such restrictions apply. (6<sup>th</sup> grade coaches are only allowed on field for the first 4 games or League selected date)
8. All coaches, players and parents will be instructed by each Head Coach to refrain from visible or vocal condemnation of Game Officials performance. Those that cannot control this will not participate or be allowed as spectators. All instances and concerns must instead be addressed to the VAA Football Commission. Head Coaches are responsible for addressing violations at the game official’s request.
9. All players participating in any contact drills during games or scrimmages (where officials are not present), must wear all required protective equipment. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that mouth-guards are worn during practices too.
10. No “Team Fees” or additions to League Standard uniforms will be allowed. Do not adorn helmets or solicit any organized addition or alteration of the standard VAA uniform. (Any exceptions must be approved by Commissioner in advance).
11. Copies of these policies will be given to each Head Coach and **MUST** be distributed to the Parent/Guardian of each player.

I hereby agree to apply these policies and standards consistently as a Youth Football Coach in the Valley Athletic Association. I understand that parental or league concerns regarding my adherence to these policies and standards or the spirit therein will be brought to my attention and if confirmed I will adhere to the requests of the League regarding my responsibilities as a Coach. A copy of this must be distributed to all players parents.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_