



**PLAYERS CODE OF  
CONDUCT**

# PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

**Doncaster Mustangs** are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our club members, players, coaches and volunteers so they can participate in American Football in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. The **Doncaster Mustangs** are absolutely committed to championing diversity and inclusion, and ensuring anyone can be part of our great game and all voices are heard equally.

We have a **strong and a zero-tolerance policy** towards any discrimination and bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club.

This club is committed to playing its part to teach players to treat each other with respect and all voices are heard equal

American Football is a game, should be played in a spirit of friendship. The game should also be enjoyed by players, match officials and spectators alike.

## 1. Policy

- The code of conduct is effective for all **Doncaster Mustangs** all games, practices, team scrimmages or tournament play.
- Each player shall be given a copy of the code of conduct and will sign a copy each year.
- Is to be returned by the first month of BAFA registration.
- A copy of the code of conduct will be posted on the **Doncaster Mustangs'** website and social media pages.
- Code of conduct begins from the time anyone enters any field for Games or practices (home or away) until departure.
- Is subject to the General Manager and Head Coach's discipline, using the code as a guideline.
- Code violators will be warned or ejected immediately from a practice, game or tour.

## 2. Expectations and Standards of Conduct

We hold all of our players to a higher standard and must conduct ourselves in a way that is responsible and promotes the values of the **Doncaster Mustangs**.

Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to the following;

- Actual or threatened physical violence against another person.
- Violent or threatening behaviour toward another club/opposition member, player, coach, volunteer or a league official and representatives of BAFA.
- Abuse either verbally or physically anyone
- Illegal possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or drugs;
- Possession, use, or distribution of steroids or other performance-enhancing substances
- Disorderly conduct
- Conduct that poses a genuine danger to the safety and well-being of another person
- Conduct that undermines or puts at risk the integrity of the **Doncaster Mustangs**, BAFA, BAFA clubs, or BAFA personnel.
- Racism and discrimination of any form.
- Bulling and intimidation of any form.
- Throw any object on or off the field in the manner as to create a safety hazard to anyone.
- Do not Taunt anyone employing baiting or ridiculing a threat of physical violence to anyone.

### 3. The expectations of fair play with the sport.

- Shake hands with match officials and opponents after the game (whatever the result).
- Do not become involved in disputes with officials, opponents or spectators.
- Do not use foul or abusive language towards officials, opponents or supporters.
- Let the officials handle incidents in the game. Do not retaliate against opponents.
- Do not applaud ejections or the errors of opponents.
- Treat the changing rooms and facilities of all Clubs you visit with respect.
- Teamwork effort and enjoyment are as important as winning. Learn to win and lose with dignity.
- Remember you are representing **Doncaster Mustangs**. Be sensible and enjoy yourself.
- Do not Taunt any opposition players employing baiting or ridiculing after scoring or preventing a score.

### 4. Your relationship with people in the game (Team Managers, Opposition Coaches/Club officials etc).

- Officials, particularly coaches, have a crucial role to play in the game
- Encourage your fellow players to play in the correct spirit.
- Do not abuse your players or those of the other team.
- Do not use foul or abusive language to match officials, players or spectators.
- Under no circumstances, enter the field of play during a match unless
- Expressly part of the game or requested to do so by an official.
- Officials, and or team officials who are officiating the game and assistants have the full authority of BAFA.
- It is the responsibility of all the players to ensure they are treated with respect.
- Do not abuse officials, however much you disagree with their decision.

### 5. Your relationship with spectators.

- Your actions influence the mood of the spectators at the game.
- Always stand in the player's box behind the coaches or away from the touchline.
- Encourage all players and applaud their efforts.
- Do not ridicule opponents for their mistakes or encourage spectators to ridicule opposing players.
- Do not applaud foul play, and do not incite spectators to applaud foul play.
- Do not use foul or abusive language to spectators.
- You must not enter any areas used for spectators.
- Remember when you are supporting the team you are representing **Doncaster Mustangs**.
- You are subject to the laws of the game. You can be cautioned, reported, sent away from the ground, and suspended from attending any matches.
- Your team or the club can also be fined, suspended or expelled from the Competition.

### 6. Racism and Discrimination

**Doncaster Mustangs** strongly support recent BAFA statement that there should be a **zero-tolerance** approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to BAFA for action by that Association." In the case of racism, it will be taken as a serious breach of club ethics and be classed as **gross-misconduct** with the person **expelled from the Doncaster Mustangs**, with immediate effect. A proven case of racism or discrimination will forfeit any subscriptions paid to the club by the person in question.



## 7. Discipline and Enforcement

**Doncaster Mustang** players shall have the primary responsibility for their conduct the General Manager and Head Coach and assistant coaches will impose the appropriate provision of the code of conduct when necessary.

- During a game Officials and umpires can enforce ejection to any manager, coach, player, parent, or spectator that breaks league rules/game regulations/bring the game into disrepute.
- Upon learning of conduct that may give rise to discipline, **Doncaster Mustangs** may initiate an investigation to include interviews and information gathering from BAFA, Game Officials, and other relevant persons
- On matters involving other team players, **Doncaster Mustangs** will timely advise BAFA of the investigation and outcome. As appropriate, the player will also have the opportunity, represented by counsel, to address the conduct at issue.
- Upon conclusion of any investigations, **Doncaster Mustangs** will make the representation of the outcome to BAFA and BAFA will have full authority to impose discipline as warranted.
- Discipline may take the form of fines, suspension, or banishment from the League and may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied before or following reinstatement.
- The specifics of the disciplinary response will be based on the nature of the incident, the actual or threatened risk to the participant and others, any prior or additional misconduct (whether or not criminal charges were filed), and other relevant factors.
- Unless the available facts indicate egregious circumstances, significant bodily harm or risk to third parties, or an immediate and substantial risk to the integrity and reputation of **Doncaster Mustangs** and BAFA.,
- A first offence generally will not result in discipline been enforced by **Doncaster Mustangs**, unless it has breached the rule and regulations of BAFA as a direct concurrence of racist behaviour.
- In such cases, the timing and nature of the discipline will be determined by the General Manager and any appointed BAFA officials based on several factors including but not limited to:
  - the severity of the initial charge and later charge;
  - the facts underlying the later charge; the length of time between the initial offence and later charge;
  - Moreover, the player or employee's compliance with support programs.
- Following a full investigation and/or resolution of the proceedings, the General Manager and any league representatives will review the matter and make any appropriate adjustments.

**BULLYING, RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION**  
**WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

## 8. Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs & Bullying Policy

### 8.1 Smoking

- It is illegal to sell cigarettes to anyone under the legal age.
- Anyone who does not comply with the Smoke-Free Law will be committing a criminal offence.
- Smoking is prohibited within all organisations buildings and breach of this important safety rule may result in removal from the club.
- Smokers are also required not to smoke immediately outside any open entrance to the clubhouse, due to passive smoking implications.
- Every individual has the right to a “smoke-free” clubhouse.
- Only those who are the appropriate legal age should be allowed to smoke on club property.
- Anyone found smoking who is not the legal age should be requested to extinguish the cigarette and if appropriate his or her guardian/carer informed of the incident.
- Smoking should be avoided by the Age-Grade Player.
- Smoking is a serious health risk. It should play no part in a player’s lifestyle.

### 8.2 Alcohol

- Alcohol should only be consumed on club property by those who are the appropriate legal age.
- Anyone under the legal age found to be drinking on club property should be requested to stop and if appropriate their guardian/carer informed of the incident.
- It is a legal requirement not to sell alcohol to anyone under the appropriate age.
- Do not come to **Doncaster Mustangs**, Practice, Games, Training under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs.
- Instances of this being discovered may be reported to a member of the teams safeguarding team.
- Do not bring non-prescribed drugs onto club premises. Instances of this being discovered may be reported to the General Manager and Head Coach.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about the side-effects of prescribed medications and inform your team coach if required.
- Offer support and advice to players who you suspect of suffering from alcohol or drug abuse: Do not “protect” them by keeping silent.
- Ask for assistance if you feel that matters are beyond your control. Your request will be dealt with in strictest confidence subject to the provisions of the law.

I have read the above extract and hereby declare my intention to adhere to club policy and guidelines

Name.

Signed.

Date.



**Doncaster Mustangs (BAFA Club Number CL000173)**  
**Registered Address** 22 Palington Grove, Cantley, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 6LP