

Bennington MAYAA Football/Bennington Minutemen

Welcome Letter & CODE OF CONDUCT

2016 SEASON

For Coaches, Parents & Players

Welcome to the Bennington Minutemen!

This is a very exciting time for Bennington Youth Football as we dive into our 2nd season with the NYFL. We will be playing in the Northeastern Youth Football League (NYFL) in the Empire Division. Many volunteers have worked very hard over many years to create this opportunity for the Bennington youth football league. However, with a greater opportunity comes greater responsibility. It is our responsibility as a community to build a quality program to support our youth and be a respectable member of the NYFL.

We believe that the game of football, while fun, also teaches intrinsic life lessons. Our goal is to develop an appreciation for the game for ALL players and help our youth develop positive skills and characteristics to put them on the right path in life.

Bennington MAYAA Football believes that winning should not be pursued as an end in itself, or, at all costs. We do not trade our integrity for wins. Our goal is to help kids realize and play to their full potential. If we do that, winning games will take care of itself as a byproduct of doing all the other things well as a program.

This is a GREAT League and many of these games are real “events” for their communities with hundreds of spectators attending. Our kids will have opportunities to play football at some excellent venues such as high school facilities with turf fields. Some programs with the NYFL even host night games under the lights. We must take great care of our program and respect it if we are going to stay part of the NYFL.

This document will detail all the responsibilities that all parties must agree too in order to play for the Bennington Minutemen. It must be signed by all players, parents and coaches prior to practicing. It represents a commitment to ourselves, our youth and our program so that it may be enjoyed for years to come. This contract is NON NEGOTIABLE.

Coaches Contract

Coaching is a privilege, not a right. Being a Dad does not make you an automatic coach. Our goal is to implement a respectable program that has high standards that are in line with the NYFL, supports our youth and respects the integrity of the game. We are striving to bring in not only quality football coaches, but individuals who are also good people. In order to coach with the Bennington Minutemen you must agree to the following.

- Head Coaches will be Heads Up Certified and are only appointed by the board of directors.
- Player Safety is priority #1. See our & NYFL policy on head injuries. Coaches will always error on the side of caution in regards to any injury. During practice no “Collision” drills will ever be used (EX: Bull in the Ring or similar drill).
- All Coaches will work to create and maintain a POSITIVE atmosphere to help and support ALL players to develop confidence, teamwork, discipline, work ethic and a love for the game of football. Coaches can and should be tough on players, but no cursing or overly negative statements about players will be tolerated.
- Assistant Coaches are to support head coaches in their Systems and Methodology. They agree to help implement the Systems as defined by the head coach to the best of their understanding.
- Head Coaches will have the authority to cut an assistant coach from the team if they feel that coach is not being positive with the kids, undermining the Head Coach, his systems, the team, or not implementing the program as specified to the best of their ability. The board of directors may also cut ANY coach by majority vote.
- During games, Coaches will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and be positive to players from BOTH TEAMS. Excessive yelling, arguing, cursing or degrading comments directed at either team, the officials, or other coaches will not be tolerated and are grounds for suspension/removal from the program.
- Coaches agree to work together as a unit to meet all the game standards set forth by the NYFL.
- Coaches commit to be at as many practices and games as possible. No one should be absent unless notice was given to the head coach in advance.
- Coaches agree to not use any alcohol/Tobacco products in the presence of the players at Team practices, games, or events at any time.
- Coaches will strive to exceed the minimum play standards set forth by the NYFL to the best of their ability.

Coaches Name

Signature

Date:

Parents

We want nothing more than to have a great relationship with all the parents. Whether it's coaching, fundraising, or one of the many other volunteer jobs it takes to complete a season, the parents are the backbone of the organization and always will be.

We ask that you keep in mind that these are 8-12yr old kids! Nobody is playing for a Super Bowl Ring or an NFL contract. Coaches are all volunteers and are trying to give not only your child, but all the kids the best opportunities and experience possible.

Bennington is on a 3 year probation period with the NYFL (2015-2017 Seasons). Nothing will jeopardize our membership to the league or create a poor experience for our kids faster than **poor parent conduct**.

As a Bennington Minutemen Spectator/Parent, you agree to the following

- BE POSITIVE! Cheer, scream and HAVE FUN supporting your child and the Team. Remember that WE ARE THE ADULTS and should set a good example.
- Only Players and Coaches are allowed on the field. NYFL rules say that all spectators must stay behind a barrier at least 5 yards behind the sideline area.
- Leave the coaching to the coaches. If you have suggestions or would like to coach in the future please volunteer! Coaches volunteer around 10-20 hours/week during the season (often more), attend off season meetings, coaching clinics, football camps, pass a background check, and sign a coaches contract. If that's you, then we want to talk to you immediately!.
- Abusive verbal language or cursing towards the officials, coaches, opponents, our players, (even your own child!) or the other teams fans will not be tolerated!
- Be SUPPORTIVE. Parents undermining coaches, creating unnecessary drama or stirring controversy are grounds for dismissal from the team.
- You are responsible for any family members or friends that attend games.
- No alcoholic beverages around the field. No smoking or tobacco use within 100 feet of the sidelines or main spectator area or as the venue dictates.
- Enforcement of any of these rules will be implemented as follows:
 - Individuals will first receive a warning
 - A second offense will result in the spectators child to be removed from the game, until the spectator has left the premises.
 - Other sanctions can be imposed as necessary, to be determined by the board, including permanent ban from the team for the parent and player.

Date:

Parent Signature/Legal Guardian #1

Date:

Parent Signature/Legal Guardian #2

PLAYERS

As a Player for the Bennington Minutemen you will have an opportunity to play organized football at the highest level that this region of Vermont/New York has to offer. You will get to play at tremendous facilities against the top competition from Eastern N.Y & Southern Vermont. Every game is equal to an All-Star game and should be treated as such. Our goal is to make you better people first and football players second.

You must agree to the following to play for the Bennington Minutemen

- I will respect all Coaches and their instruction at all times. I will only refer to them as Coach or Mr. _____ (Last name).
- I WILL WORK HARD IN SCHOOL AND AGREE THAT SCHOOL WORK IS MY FIRST PRIORITY. If I do not meet satisfactory academic standards in school, then I will not be able to participate in football. (Enforceable by parents as well)
- I will respect and obey my parents/guardian.
- I will not choose my position. I understand that every position in football is equally important to the TEAM. I will play the position that I can most help the TEAM be successful and will play it to the best of my ability.
- I will always respect Referees. I agree to never speak to an official Referee unless instructed to do so by my coach. Only Coaches will talk to Referees.
- Sportsmanship will be my #1 priority during any game or practice. I will respect all of my teammates, opposing players, coaches & spectators. I will not “trash talk” to any opposing players or use any profanity in any way at practice or games.
- I will encourage ALL my teammates at all times regardless of circumstances.
- I will attend all scheduled practices/games. If unable to attend, my coach will be notified in advance. Unexcused absences, on the players part, will result in loss of playing time.
- I will respect and maintain all my equipment. I will never throw or sit on my helmet.
- I will conduct myself in a way that presents a positive image of the Bennington Minutemen.
- This Policy will be enforced as follows
 - A verbal warning will be given
 - If behavior continues player will be removed from the game/practice.
 - Continued long term poor behavior will result in serious loss of playing time and possible expulsion from team as determined by the board.

Date:

Player Signature