

## MEFC TEAM POLICIES

### **Policy Enforcement:**

The Club has a number of options available to deal with violations of club policy. The directors are the primary arbitrator of club policy. Head Coaches have the authority to exercise these options only when the directors are not reasonably available.

### **Methods of enforcement (in order of severity):**

**Game Suspension:** This should be the next game(s) that the player attends.

**Public Apology:** The audience may depend upon whom the player has let down. If the player has let down the club, their teammates, their guardians or whomever.

**Team Demotion:** For example, a player continually misses practices because of outside commitments. This would show that the player is not committed to the level of team for which they currently play. They may be moved down to the lesser commitment of another team or dismissed.

**Team Dismissal:** A last resort for chronic problems.

**Club Ban:** The player would be banned from any Michigan Elite Football Club (MEFC) participation (Usually the result of personal conduct violations)

**Attendance and Rules of Practices (2)** Two absences whether excused or not can result in dismissal of the team without refund.

Practices, tournaments, and team activities are mandatory. If a tourney is to be missed the coach must know 1 week prior to the date. Once you accumulate 2 missed practices/tournaments you can be dismissed from the team or benched. Players who are chronically late without sufficient reason will be treated as absent. At no time is a player to ever practice or play with another 7on7 team without receiving a release from a MEFC Official. This may result in immediate dismissal from the team.

If a player has a legitimate medical condition requiring extended care or a family tragedy, the player's parent/guardian must contact the coach. If a planned personal or family event will cause a player to miss practice, the coach must be notified. Keep in mind that extended absences can affect a player's preparation for a tournament and playing time can be affected. All practices will start on time regardless of missing players. All teams, athletes, coaches and parents are to leave the facility and field neat and clean.

### **Playing Time**

Playing time is not guaranteed. Playing time is a privilege and not a right. However, it is usually in the best interest of the team for everyone to receive an earned amount of playing time. It is not appropriate to question the coach on his decisions concerning playing time. They are doing what is best for the team and will be treated as doing such.

### **Travel**

Our objective is to provide members and team parents with cost friendly, quality accommodations for each weekend that travel is required. Parents will need to assist with the driving. Each team will have one travel parent responsible for coordinating and communicating their teams specific travel needs (bus, hotel& air travel) to our MEFC travel director. We will aim to accommodate teams close to playing venues as well as have as many teams as possible in the same hotel; however due to the high demand

for rooms during tournament weekends this is not always attainable. Effective communication with the travel parent and our travel director via phone and email will be essential. Team parents will need to provide travel parents with their most recent email address and best contact number (as the season progresses, email addresses and phone numbers may change, be sure these changes are passed along to your travel parent to ensure effective communication).

### **Curfew**

When teams play the next day, every player has a curfew for the consideration of other hotel guests.

*For morning games:* Lights out no later than 11pm

*For afternoon games:* Lights-out no later than midnight.

### **Equipment**

Athletes need to be responsible for taking their own equipment to tournaments. Soft Shell MEFC provided helmets must be worn at all times. Coaches may bring a ball bag or additional items from MEFC.

### **Player Conduct**

All players will sign and agree to follow the MEFC Commandments.

Team Rooms: will be allowed as long as they are not abused, then you will stay with your parents.

Cell Phones: Collection at the events by the coach, so we can stay focused!!! Call or text your coach directly if you are going to be late or miss a practice.

### **Concern & Complaint**

The harshest penalties will be reserved for anyone who violates this policy. Please realize that the athlete will be held responsible for their parent's actions. This means that if a parent breaks any club rule, their child can and will be "sat" from play or dismissed.

Over the course of a season, disagreements occur between players, parents, and staff. Please observe the following guidelines in resolving these issues:

Observe the 24- hour rule then appropriately ask the coach your questions. Do not jump the chain of command to the directors unless the coach and site coordinator have been asked (realize that the directors will be dealing with the entire club, so give them time to address the issue). We instruct our coaches not to discuss "coaching decisions", which include, among other things, specific game decisions (who played when, who was "subbed out" and when, etc.). Unless the matter absolutely requires immediate attention, refrain from voicing your concerns on a game day. Violations of this guideline will be dealt with most severely because this can result in the most emotional of confrontations. If you are not sure whether an issue requires immediate attention, ask a staff member not directly involved.

MEFC will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontation between a parent and any official, a parent and any coach, a parent and any athlete, an athlete and another athlete, or a parent and any other parent, regardless of whether the coach, athlete, or other parent is a member of MEFC or not. Violation of this

policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from the club. It is not appropriate for an athlete or parent to complain to any other MEFC members. Asking un-involved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to those third parties and MEFC.

*Chain of Command:* If an issue has not been resolved to your satisfaction after discussing it with the athlete then assistant coach and finally the head coach, then the issue can be discussed with a Site Coordinator(s) or ultimately with a club director(s).

### **Parent Spectators**

We ask that your role from the sidelines and stands match that which we are developing through our program. Thanks for being part of MEFC by conducting yourself within these guidelines:

Keep POSITIVE support, encouragement, cheering and general hollering and yelling to a MAXIMUM on the sidelines. When players are working hard, they need and deserve everyone's best POSITIVE encouragement and support. They need to know you are there and that you support them. Just one word on criticizing players, coaches or referees. DON'T. Public criticism of players on your team hurts morale.

This rule applies to situations involving your son as well. Let the coach be the "bad guy", you be there to listen and support. Criticizing the referee only hurts your team and the class organization that you are a part of. Do not break any tournament rules, by smoking in the undesignated areas, leaving a mess or drinking where it is not permitted. Any spectator who persists in inappropriate behaviors may be asked to leave the facility.

### **Missed Practices and Tournaments**

Two (2) unexcused absences ('no call, no show") for practice/tournaments can result in dismissal without refund.

### **Payment**

All fees WILL be paid before the athlete starts practice or receives his uniform. (\*Unless other payment arrangements have been made or agreed upon with MEFC). All fees are non-refundable. Failure to pay team fees by the specified date can result in dismissal without refund. If you are removed from MEFC due to violation of policy or choose to quit, all fees are forfeited!

### **Player Movement and Team Formation**

We may occasionally put together impromptu teams from a variety of players in the club. We may also have players substitute for a team for a tournament for a variety of reasons including (a) enabling a team to have enough players to (b) adding a player at a certain position that the team needs, to (c) adding a stronger player to a team to enable it to compete at a higher level. Other reasons could arise. We reserve the right to make decisions to move players among teams to do what we think is best for the greatest number of individuals and MEFC. This includes excluding players from select competition completely.

*We reserve the right to move players from one team to another without choice given to the original team or players.*

**Playing/Practicing with Other 7v7 Teams**

*This is strictly prohibited. Any player found in violation is subject to disciplinary action or immediate dismissal without refund, video footage, or recommendations.*

**Recruiting**

Although we maintain communication with many colleges, coaches and recruiting services around the country to expose our players to all feasible options. We are under no obligation to assist in the recruiting process nor can we guarantee that a player will be recruited. Please take the initiative and review the NCAA website. Look into registering your son through the NCAA clearing house.

MEFC coaches shall not request or accept any special consideration, favors, or gifts from; or lobby on the behalf of any interscholastic or collegiate institution. This include favors , or gifts from its employees, alumni, donors, sponsors, volunteers, coaches, or administrators, in efforts to persuade an athlete to attend a specific or any other interscholastic or collegiate institution.

**Player Highlight Videos**

Practices and tournaments are often video recorded by MEFC. These videos are the sole possession of MEFC. MEFC is under no obligation to share video or create highlights videos for any player or outside organization. Any player seeking a highlight video will be charged for the production of the video.