2026 WEST MICHIGAN JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE - EXPECTATIONS

- **2026 LEAGUE DIRECTORS**
  - It is the responsibility of each community director to make sure that their respective program is involved and aware of all things within the organization and implementation of the WMJFL. This includes the following…
    - The distribution, explanation, and enforcement of league rules, guidelines, and expectations to coaches, players, parents, and fans
    - Attend all league meetings and/or assign a designee from said community if they cannot attend
    - Make sure all coaches are properly vetted through their respective background check process
    - If more than one team in either division of play, the teams are to be constructed featuring a balance of 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade players
    - Pay any league fees that have been approved by the league directors
    - Any other duties that may come up before, during, and/or after each respective season
- **2026 COACHES**
  - Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches
    - It is impossible to overstate the importance of adults who accept primary responsibility for your team's football playing experience. Each community strives to engage qualified adults who possess the ability to model the philosophy of our league and who have the commitment to instill these values in each player. Training young football players in the fundamentals of teamwork, good sportsmanship and discipline are our primary objectives
    - The purpose of the football coaching commitment is to increase the quality of each player's football experience. As in everything else, the more you put into the coaching, the better coach you will become. Coaching is a wonderful opportunity to have a positive impact on your child and their friends. Thank you for volunteering and good luck this season
    - Each community may ask each head coach to sign a "code of conduct" which sets forth their responsibilities and the level of commitment expected of them.
    - A Good Head Coach:
      - Will be a positive role model to players, fellow coaches and fans
      - Will coordinate a field and schedule practice while also doing your best to ensure a safe practice environment. Keep medical emergency forms and first aid kit available at practices and games

            - Communicate with players and parents your expectations as a coach and make yourself available to each player and parent to address any concerns they might have regarding your team
            - Have a working knowledge of the rules, which pertain to the division you are coaching
            - Assure that each player is in full uniform for each game
            - Responsible for substitutions
            - Will attend all the community and/or league meetings
            - Will make reasonable disciplinary rules and stick with them
            - Will make sure that injuries are reported
            - Will establish a communication tree so all players can be notified of game delays, schedule changes or other important matters
        - A Good Assistant Coach:
            - Will be selected by the director or head coach
            - May attend league meetings in place of the head coach
            - May fill in for the Head Coach during games
            - Will help carry out practices
            - Will be a positive role model to players, fellow coaches and fans
- **2026 PLAYERS**
    - They are the reason we are all here. Please speak with your football players to make sure each player understands and abides by the following expectations:
        - <u>Commitment…Players are expected to:</u>
            - Participate in team practices, scrimmages, games and tournament games
            - Arrive on time
            - Bring necessary equipment
            - Pay attention to and follow directions of the coaches of your team
            - Learn and follow the rules of the game
            - Always try their best
            - Learn from your mistakes
            - Spend time at home playing catch, kicking and other tasks which utilize and improve football skills
            - Staying active and involved in other activities outside of football which could include family, school, church, recreation activities, etc.
        - <u>Expected Behavior: As a player, I will make every effort to:</u>
            - Follow the discipline rules developed by the coach
            - Hustle on and off the field

- Stay with my teammates on the sidelines during games
- Cheer on and support my teammates
- Obey the referees on the field
- Maintain my cool when I make a mistake
- Always be a good sport
- Show respect for the referees, other players, spectators and coaches
- Win or lose gracefully
- Develop self-control
- Take responsibility for myself
- Learn from losing as well as from winning
- Show respect for the equipment and fields provided for my use
- Wear and maintain my uniform with pride
- You will be a role model showing positive participation and will help the quality of the team

- **2026 PARENTS**
  - What makes the difference in your child's football experience starts at home. The WMJFL, like all extra-curricular events, is not about finding an after-hours baby-sitting service. The values of teamwork (developing a sense of working together toward a common goal) and sportsmanship (learning to perform with grace while being challenged) start and end when they see and hear good examples from their families and the closest people to them in their lives. If we work together, the WMJFL can provide a child with a learning experience while playing at the same time. For example…
    - Be a positive role model at home and at games. Support them whether the player or the team succeeds or fails. Don't criticize the coach, players or other parents. Model for them the best ways to accomplish teamwork and sportsmanship
    - Make sure that your players and teammates get to practice and games, all the time and on time
    - Play football with them. That's the surest way to help them improve as a player and its QUALITY time
    - Help with team organization. Share the burden of communicating with players and parents when it needs to be done even the scheduling of the after game "treats"
    - Ask the coach if he could use more help at practices
    - Volunteer your time, your skills and your resources to make sure we have enough people to fill all the jobs that need to get done
    - Provide creative suggestions for improvement – don't just complain. We are constantly looking for new solutions and for people to help improve our league. If you notice a weakness, there are usually others who do as well. If it hasn't been addressed, ask how

you can help to address it. Remember…if you aren't part of the solution, you may be part of the problem

- Bring your concerns to the right people. If you have questions or concerns, don't wait. Bring it to the director of your league, IMMEDIATELY. We (players, parents, coaches, referees and league organizers) are all interested in the quality of the experience for the teams, family and fans, not just the quality of play on the field
- Voice your concerns in the right way. Yelling not only raises tension for the team but also sets a poor example for your child. Find the right time and place to have an intelligent discussion. Behavior that affects the play, the integrity, or anyone associated with West Michigan Junior Football, WILL NOT BE TOLERATED