

July 17, 2013

RE: SPAR Youth Football League Policies

All SPAR Youth Football Coaches and Parents:

Listed below are new SPAR Youth Football League policies that have been adopted and approved by SPAR Administration and Risk Management, effective immediately. The new policies are for the overall health, safety and development of every SPAR youth football participant.

The following new policies are as follows:

Reduction of Full Contact Practices (All Tackle Teams)

In an effort to prevent and/or reduce injuries and concussions, coaches shall only be allowed to have full-speed hitting, including one-on-one blocking / tackling and scrimmages two days per week. Effective first day of official practice, through end of season.

Limiting Football Practice Time

To improve safety and ensure practices are not disrupting academic activities for our youth during football season, all week day team practices held Monday – Thursday shall be limited to one hour and thirty minutes. Exception: Caddo Parish School Board or private school official school closing days.

Supervised Practices

All league practices shall be conducted under the supervision of a certified SPAR coach. Volunteers that have not gone through the approved SPAR youth coach certification program and passed official background check are not allowed to conduct practices and/or participate in practices.

CPR / First Aid Certified Coaches

Two (2) coaches per team shall be required to hold current CPR and First Aid certifications. For teams who may have only one coach, a registered volunteer parent may serve in this capacity.

CPR / First Aid Certified Coach(s) Attending Official Practices and Games

All official practices and games shall be attended by the designated team coach(s) holding current CPR and First Aid certifications.

Mandatory Pre-Season Coaching Clinic(s) for First Year Coaches

All first year coaches shall be required to attend a pre-season coaching clinic to become better educated in the following areas:

- Expectations and responsibilities of a youth coach;
- How to conduct a youth football practice; and
- Teaching the fundamentals and techniques of blocking / tackling.

External Fundraising

SPAR Athletics shall not be associated with any external team fundraising activities provided by youth league coaches, teams and/or respective parents. **Parent(s)**- external fundraising activities (purpose, goals, fundraising efforts, etc.) shall be discussed and clarified with head coach or fundraising designee prior to allowing your child to register and participate with team. If parent(s) are not in agreement with selected fundraisers or have specific concerns, parent(s) should immediately direct those concerns to the head coach or responsible party.

Anti-Gambling

SPAR does not condone and/or tolerate any form of gambling as it relates to SPAR Youth Sport Leagues. Any coach, program participant, parent or fan found guilty will be expelled from all league participation and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Gambling shall be defined, but not limited to the following:

- Payment or transaction of monetary value upon the outcome of a contest;
- Payment of players to affect the outcome of a contest;
- Payment of players (parents) to play or be recruited to play for a specific team; and
- Payment of players to bounty hunt or intentionally injure opposing player(s) during competition.

Please forward this communication to all youth participants, coaches and respective parents. Thank you again for making this youth league one of the largest municipal youth football leagues in the state of Louisiana. If further clarification is needed concerning new league policies, feel free to contact me at jerod.jones@shreveportla.gov.

Jerod Jones, Superintendent-SPAR Athletics Division

cc: Shelly Ragle, SPAR Director Patrick Wesley, Assistant Director Evelyn Kelly, Risk Management