

AMERICAN CANYON PATRIOTS YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

Our vision, philosophy and ultimate goal is to build the finest youth football association in the state of California. The success of which is not judged solely on wins and losses but also on the positive impact we have on our participants and our community. That we may project a positive image through our actions and attitudes upon the youth of American Canyon. That we may also introduce structure, discipline and life lessons through our coaches and their staffs. It is essential that any prospective coach embrace and adopt this philosophy.

One of the responsibilities of the American Canyon Patriots board of directors is to provide our participants with the best coaching staffs that can be assembled.

While there are no blueprints for what makes the perfect football coach, there are certainly a great number of behavioral guidelines, commitment requirements and ethical responsibilities. All of which are necessary in becoming or remaining a coach with the American Canyon Patriots Youth Football Association.

Time Commitment

- ❖ Attendance at all American Canyon Patriot functions, fundraisers, ceremony's etc. during the on or off season.
- ❖ Attendance at all required conference coaching clinics. (Fees may apply)
- ❖ Attendance and participation in all coaches meetings during the on or off season. (Minimum of one monthly)
- ❖ A Patriot coach must be willing to make a commitment to uphold the ideals and philosophy of the association. Coaches are expected to promote program values at all times and maintain a positive attitude towards recruiting. Coaches will recruit participants for the association as a whole and should never promise a roster spot at any particular level of play.
- ❖ Practice: Attendance of 2 hours per day 5 days per week is required for first month of practice beginning August 1st. Then 2 hours per day 3 days per week for the remainder of the season (September – November).
- ❖ Game Day: Attendance at all scheduled games.
- ❖ Before you commit yourself to coaching please make sure you can spare ample time to cover your responsibilities.

Communication

- ❖ Coaches must schedule and complete required parent meeting before the season begins. Coaches must adequately communicate his/her goals and expectations. The Patriots recommend that every parent be provided a written list of team requirements, coaches contact info, player attendance guidelines and punishments (attendance policy will be established for the entire association and punishment for attendance issues will be the same at every level). It is the coaches responsibility to ensure that there team and parents know the association rules and requirements. No participant can be suspended by a coach without approval by the Athletic / Cheer Director.
- ❖ Coaches must be politely responsive to questions or concerns brought to their attention by parent or participant. If a Patriot coach is approached with parental questions, comments or concern, these steps should be followed.
 - 1.) Attempt to answer or otherwise personally resolve the issue.
 - 2.) Notify the Athletic / Cheer Director if unable to resolve.
 - 3.) Follow-up with parent to ensure resolution.
- ❖ Coaches must show the ability to maintain discipline and control of participants and assistant coaching staff at all times.
- ❖ Coaches must never use inappropriate language on the practice or game field.
- ❖ Coaches should never publicly engage in negative comment about another coaching staff, board member or the association as a whole. The community's positive perception of our association is essential to our success. There are appropriate channels established for addressing questions, concerns or complaints.
- ❖ Any football related inter-squad issue or disagreement will be privately brought to the attention of the Athletic Director for resolution.

General Behavior

Coaches will always, without exception, perform their duties for the American Canyon Patriots with the utmost integrity. Coaches will show respect on and off the field for game and conference officials, opposing coaches, participants and parents. Coaches must be aware that they are solely responsible for the lasting example of behavior that our participants take with them as they move on from our organization. Any behavior by any coach deemed inappropriate or detrimental to our program will result in practice and game suspensions. Head coaches can and will be held accountable for the behavior of their staff!

Background Check

Every American Canyon coach will be subject to a DVYFC background check and fingerprinting by the city of American Canyon

Winning Is Not Everything

Keep in mind that you are a role model for the kids. Approaching every game with the right outlook is very important. Remember that not every team can win and teaching kids how to deal with losing is a very valuable lesson. If you think winning is the only thing that matters, you probably should not be coaching. Youth sports should instill attitudes and character that will be beneficial to the kids in their future.

It's About the Kids!

Young athletes must be made to feel good about themselves. A Patriot coach will not belittle, degrade or otherwise reject any participant for any reason. A coach must establish and maintain proper discipline and attitude at all times with the same rules and expectations applying to every participant regardless of their ability. Coaches must make every effort to ensure that each participant believes that he/she is as important to the team as any other.

General Information

- ❖ Rosters will be assembled by the Athletic Director and his assistant. The basic placement criteria being age, weight and level of experience. Rosters will be made available one week prior to conditioning. Completed rosters are final and will not be disputed.
- ❖ Completed registration – No player will be allowed to begin practice until all registration requirements have been met. No exceptions.
- ❖ Player Evaluations – At seasons end, each head coach will be required to complete a player evaluation form (provided) on each participant. These forms will promote positive communication between coaching staffs and assist the Athletic Director in placement of participants the following season.
- ❖ Acceptance of and compliance with a pre-established...
 - Base offense and a minimum number of plays to be taught and ran at every level.
 - Base defense to be taught and run at every level.
 - Minimum required conditioning drills.
 - Minimum required fundamental drills (blocking, tackling, etc.)
 - Minimum required stretching routine at every level.

Every level will have a required set of skills that will be taught and practiced as is appropriate for their particular level of play. The system will be progressively taught at a more advanced level as players move through our program.

Coaches requests to move up or down to a different level of play

There is much to consider when trying to effectively put coaching staffs in place. Each level of play requires coaches that have the proper demeanor and attitude appropriate for that level. A great coach at the Midget level may not possess the appropriate skills needed to coach a Junior Pee Wee squad and vice versa. As an association we are responsible for finding and retaining coaches at each level that have the proper understanding of the age group they are responsible for coaching. It is our belief that the older level coaching staffs need be well versed in the more advanced level of football instruction. (eg. Blocking schemes, blitz packages, line stunts, etc.) The lower level coaching staff must possess both the acute knowledge of fundamentals and the inherent ability and patience to instruct the younger participants in a way that ensures they grasp the information.

Therefore, a coach's request to move levels will be considered on a case by case basis and must address the following considerations.

1. Reason for coach's request to move levels?
2. Is this coach and his staff a good fit for the level requested?
3. Is the existing staff at level requested in agreement to move up or down?
4. Is this staff an appropriate staff for that level?
5. Is this requested move in the best interest of the American Canyon Patriots Association?
6. If yes, to what benefit?

Only when and if these six considerations are answered positively will the coaching staff be granted their request to move levels.

Practice

The American Canyon Patriots practice philosophy will center primarily on proper conditioning, discipline and the mastering of fundamentals.

We will put an emphasis on controlling the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. This will require the teaching of offensive and defensive line technique that will anchor our squads and make us more competitive.

It is imperative that we impress upon our players the significance of dominating the line of scrimmage and that the line positions, although unsung are as important as any skill position on the team. We must aspire to create in them the desire to play those positions. The American Canyon Patriots philosophy and subsequent success depends upon it.

Head coaches are expected to have a daily practice plan that is organized, timed and disciplined. These practice plans should emphasize the mastering of fundamentals (tackling, blocking, body positioning, pad height, etc.) The practice plan should also provide a sufficient amount of time and repetitions for the development of lesser skilled players.

Head coaches should display complete control of his players and assistant coaching staff at all times. Coaches are encouraged to maintain the following simple disciplines at every level.

- ❖ Players will never walk while on the practice or game field. They will always jog in and out of the huddle.
- ❖ Players will not talk while coaches are giving instruction or otherwise addressing the team.
- ❖ Practice attendance will be documented and excessive unexcused tardy or no-show (twice in one week) will result in physical training penalties and or loss of game playing time. (1 quarter of play for each excessive occurrence).

Game day

Coaches will be solely responsible for parental communication regarding transportation of participants to the game field. Coaches and players should arrive at least one hour prior to their scheduled weigh-in times.

Coaches will have complete control of their players at the game field. All participants are expected to assemble and remain together as a team. Players will be made aware that they represent their team, the association and our community. Each participant will be expected to behave accordingly. Any negative or otherwise inappropriate behavior toward opposing players, staff or spectators should be harshly discouraged by the coaching staff. There will be zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior and these incidents will result in practice or game day suspensions for the guilty player(s).

Patriot coaches must refrain from any personal action or display of poor attitude which may arouse players, team followers or spectators to unsportsmanlike behavior. Bad attitudes or displays of inappropriate conduct become a direct reflection on the program as well as the coach and will not be tolerated. Such actions will be dealt with by the Patriots and could result in suspension of coaching duties.

Any Patriots coach ejected from a game is suspended from the next scheduled game by the conference. The Patriots reserve the right to impose further sanctions if deemed necessary. Further ejections will result in further suspensions or termination. If a coach engages in a physical altercation during a Patriots activity, the coach is automatically suspended from coaching. Reinstatement may be granted after review by the Board of Directors

Dress Code

Coaches – Coaches are expected to wear the coach's jerseys provided by the American Canyon Patriots. In addition it will be required that we wear the same hats, jackets, pants, etc. Therefore American Canyon Patriots will establish several choices for acceptable clothing and make these items available for purchase. Each coaching staff is free to choose which clothing option they prefer as long as each member of that staff is similarly dressed.

Players, Pre-game – Players will be required to wear khaki pants and white polo shirts for arrival at the game field. American Canyon Patriots will make arrangements to have shirts available for purchase by parents at a discounted rate. Khaki pants will be the parent's responsibility.

Players, Uniform – All players will be required to wear exactly the same game uniform, including socks. Every player will be identically dressed with the exception of cleats. No Exceptions!

National Anthem

Every coach and participant will recognize our national anthem by removing their hats/helmets and remaining silent during its play.

Game Day Paperwork

The American Canyon Patriots will provide a “coaches only” pop-up tent at all home and away games. This portable facility will be used for pre-game paperwork completion and provide an area for on-deck coaches to discuss last minute strategy, etc. This area will also provide the facility for completion of post-game required conference reports and referee evaluations. Paperwork required by the Athletic Director will be deposited in the file box provided for that purpose before the coaching staff leaves the field.

Game Day Oversight

Every game at every level will be watched by either the Athletic Director or the assistant Athletic Director. A general note taking will occur and comment added for each game. This information will be used in the end of year coaching evaluations. This oversight is not in any way designed as a negative or in the interest of punishment but to have a record of staff performance in a continued effort to improve our level of coaching.

Words for Thought

- ❖ Desire – The spark necessary to take the first step and each successive step to achieve an objective.
- ❖ Belief – The unyielding understanding that one can overcome both self doubt and external skepticism.
- ❖ Character – The strong personal constitution to perform, work hard and do the right thing, the height of honesty.
- ❖ Determination – The willingness to face failure, to learn and then try again in the face of adversity.
- ❖ Pride – The satisfaction that comes from staying true to ones core values and beliefs. The feeling inspired by achieving ones goals.
- ❖ Heart – The passion, drive and courage to play the whole game without ever giving up or ever giving in.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS ARE BUILT NOT BORN!