



## Parent Code of Conduct

### (Standards & Expectations for Parents & Guardians)

Welcome to our new football and cheerleading season. As an organization, we are committed to achieving the goals of Pop Warner and to honor the sports of football and cheerleading. We seek to teach these sports in a safe and fun environment. Children should come away from the program with elevated levels of fitness, teamwork, self-discipline, sportsmanship, friendship, and leadership.

The organization provides the first real football or cheerleading experience for the children. Remember how important that experience is for them- both now and long into the future. Personally setting examples necessary to instill positive character traits in our children is of vital importance to our organization.

This organization is built upon a foundation of volunteers who dedicate their own time and energy to make this experience the best they can for those who participate. As volunteers, it can become very difficult to manage expectations of children, parents, spectators, coaches and board members. We consider each and every parent who registers their child a volunteer who will be an active member and facilitator of the organization.

Parents are the key to cultivating an optimal program, and are vital to the development of youth athletes. Therefore, this organization sets high expectations regarding modeling good sportsmanship and leading by example on and off the field and hereby set a PREAMBLE to our Parent Code of Conduct as follows:

*The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and 6 core principles:*

#### **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Good Citizenship**

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects all 6 pillars of character. Below are our guidelines to help ensure a safe, enjoyable, competitive, and character-building season:

**All parents/guardians with children participating must abide by this Code of Conduct. Please read, sign and deliver to administration office prior to the first day of practice.**

#### **I Hereby Agree To:**

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
3. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
4. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
5. I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other event.
6. I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will teach my child to treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
9. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or of his/her performance.
10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
11. I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
12. I will support the decisions of the coaching staff in determining talent levels and positions and know they make decisions in order to contribute the most to the team while developing individual skills.
13. I will respect the officials and their authority during the games and I will never question or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
14. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from the use of all of the above at all Pop Warner functions.
15. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
16. I agree to be called upon for volunteer duties such as gate attendant, restroom monitor, sideline volunteer, novelties station and/or other duties requested by the Association. **NEW: I understand there is an "OPT-OUT" charge should I choose not to volunteer or fail to volunteer the minimum required hours during the season.**

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17. I acknowledge that a certain level of individual, group and team discipline is required for the safety of individual participants as well as for all others on the team.
18. I acknowledge that these sports take a high degree of teamwork and require all participants to be at events such as but not limited to scheduled practices, games, scrimmages or meetings at which the coach or organization sets, unless an excused absence has been granted by head coach. Any absence must be brought to the attention of the head coach in *advance* to be considered an excused absence.
19. I agree not to use abusive or profane language at ANY time at Pop Warner functions, which includes practices and games.
20. I agree to accept all decisions of the game officials, judges or Conference Officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
21. I agree to take responsibility for any actions that violate this Code of Conduct by a guest or relative of attending parent/guardian.
22. I agree to be financially responsible for Pop Warner equipment issued to participant other than normal wear and breakage during games and practice and will reimburse Pop Warner for the loss and/or damage to said equipment.
23. I agree my child will be properly equipped at all times with required equipment and clothing during all practices and games.
24. I have read and understand the most recent Pop Warner Rule changes that have been posted at:  
<http://www.popwarner.com/football/footballsafety.htm>
25. I understand the Pop Warner season starts on August 1, and all participants are required to attend the mandatory practices. All family vacations and/or summer programs shall be taken and completed prior to August 1.
26. I understand that each player is only guaranteed a set number of plays per game. The Pop Warner League Mandatory Play Rule requires the following minimum number of plays per game for each player:

Mitey Mites	team size	#of plays	/ All other:	team size	#of plays
	<b>31-35</b>	<b>8</b>	/ Jr.PW	<b>31-35</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>26-30</b>	<b>10</b>	/ PeeWee	<b>26-30</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>16-25</b>	<b>12</b>	/ Jr. Varsity/Varsity	<b>16-25</b>	<b>10</b>

27. I agree to follow proper Chain of Command when filing a complaint or voicing my opinion regarding any possible rule infraction or concern.

**The Chain of Command is as follows in the exact order shown:**

- A. Head Coach or Head Cheer Coach of the team.
- B. If your complaint is regarding the Head Coach, first speak with that coach, if possible.
- C. Our Football Athletic Director or Cheer Director.
- D. President of the Organization.
- E. Write a letter to the Board of Directors

**\*\*\*If you go directly to Conference, Regional or National Pop Warner without permission or without first attempting proper chain of command, you and your participant(s) will be considered for removal from this organization\*\*\***

28. I agree not to criticize, belittle, antagonize, berate or otherwise incite the board, volunteers, coaches, players, cheerleaders, fans and/or opposing team, coaches, cheerleaders or fans verbally or by gesture. Action will be taken as follows for any verbal abuse, physical altercations, intimidation, and/or any other "unsportsmanlike" conduct:

**First Offense:** Parent/Guardian/Child(ren) will be removed from the game or practice.

**Second Offense:** Parent/Guardian/Child(ren) will be removed for the season.

**Third Offense:** Parent/Guardian/Child(ren) will be banned from any Pop Warner Program for the current and following seasons.

**NOTE:** the above offenses are considered *minimum* offenses and can be accelerated and/or modified by the board appointed committee for such offenses. \*\*\*\*\*It should also be noted that if a particular code of conduct is broken in the presence of a Pop Warner representative outside of the Sarasota Junior Football Association, the Pop Warner League, Region, or National Organization may have the authority to supersede our penalty, and/or impose their own penalty.\*\*\*\*\*

29. **Image Release:** In consideration of my children named below being allowed to participate in any way, in Sarasota Sun Devils Pop Warner Youth Football & Cheerleading national championships and any other official Pop Warner events and activities, as well as any Sarasota Sun Devils games and activities, do hereby grant to Pop Warner and the Sarasota Sun Devils, the unrestricted and exclusive right and permission, free from approval or review, to copyright and/or use my likeness in any and all media now or hereafter known, including but not limited to, pictures and videos of which my children may be included intact or in part for promotion or other commercial use.

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### REFUND POLICY:

- A. There will be NO refunds of football/cheer package fees and fundraiser fees after AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. There will be NO refunds of Registration AND/OR Package fees after AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup>.
- C. All refunds will be mailed within 30 days of request to registered parent/guardian. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

**By my signature below as a parent/guardian of a child participating in the Program, I confirm I have received a copy of, read and agree to abide by this Parent Code of Conduct.**

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Print Name of Player(s)/Cheerleader(s)</b>	<b>Division – Circle One</b>	<b>Program – Circle One</b>
	<b>TM MM JPW PW JV V</b>	<b>CHEER or FOOTBALL</b>
	<b>TM MM JPW PW JV V</b>	<b>CHEER or FOOTBALL</b>
	<b>TM MM JPW PW JV V</b>	<b>CHEER or FOOTBALL</b>
	<b>TM MM JPW PW JV V</b>	<b>CHEER or FOOTBALL</b>
	<b>TM MM JPW PW JV V</b>	<b>CHEER or FOOTBALL</b>
	<b>TM MM JPW PW JV V</b>	<b>CHEER or FOOTBALL</b>