

Crusader Youth Football

CODE OF CONDUCT

for Players and Parents

Introduction: The mission of the Crusader Youth Football club is to foster a love of the game of football and cheer in our youth, while building character, encouraging sportsmanship and teamwork, and learning the benefits of hard work and perseverance. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club's mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all players, parents, and coaches. These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These codes express our core values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following principles:

- 1. Demonstrating a positive attitude.** Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive and respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of Crusader Football.
- 2. Setting a good example.** Each person associated with the Club is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example – it is up to the adults to set good examples. Such conduct includes: vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse; threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a game; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents.
- 3. Maintaining good relationships.** Officials: The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform a board member about blatant officiating problems. Referees have the authority to suspend play if actions of a coach, player, and/or parent/supporter becomes inappropriate.
- 4. Opponents:** Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect and any coach, player, or parent/supporter not showing the opposing team respect will be asked to leave the field and may be banned from future club events.
- 5. Our Own Team:** In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coaches' authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

Player's Code:

It is a privilege to play on a Crusader football team or cheer on one the squads and as a Crusader Youth Club participant, I will:

1. Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
3. Play the game fairly.
4. Work for the good of my team and give my best effort at all times.
5. Show respect for the authority of the referee, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that football and cheerleading is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
7. Treat the other players on my team, especially those who are learning the game for the first time. Build them up rather than tear them down and they will be a better teammate because of it.
8. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat the other players as I would like to be treated.
9. Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.

Parent's Code:

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

1. **Support your child.** Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are more important than victory.
2. **Always be positive.** Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be graceful in victory and defeat.
3. **Don't coach from the sidelines.** Refrain from being a sideline coach or ref. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field of play.
4. **Respect the officials.** Officials work for the love of the game, and they are doing their best. They sacrifice their Saturdays (and often their Fridays for HS games). They are not perfect. Please refrain from vocal criticism of the officials before, during, or after the game.
5. **Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families.** Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent our club in a positive way when visiting other clubs. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. Those not able to do so will be asked to leave the field whether home or away and will have to gain approval from the club Board of Directors before they are allowed to return to another event.
6. **Remember that your child wants to have fun.** Your child is the one playing football or participating in cheerleading, not you. Children must establish their own goals – to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children be children, by having fun with their friends and learning the joys and pain of winning and losing without the undue stress of needing to please you.

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his/her football and cheerleading development by adhering at all times to the following:

1. We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after the game. Any criticism shall be done in writing and given to a board member.
2. We will give only positive feedback to the players.
3. We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in a "lopsided" game where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
4. We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
5. We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.
6. We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
7. We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
8. We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee, coach or board member.
9. We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
10. We understand that the team can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
11. We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.

CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

We acknowledge that we have received and read a copy of the Crusader Youth Football Club Parent & Player Code of Conduct. We understand that each team parent and player is responsible for adhering to the principles and standards of the code, and we confirm that we have and will conduct ourselves in accord with the principles and standards of this code.

**Concerns regarding the Code of Conduct may be brought to the attention of the Crusader Youth Club Board of Directors.*

Acknowledgment and Agreement:

Printed Name of Athlete

Signature of Athlete

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Today's Date

~~~~~

**CONCUSSION INFORMATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

If an athlete has a concussion, his/her brain needs time to heal. While an athlete's brain is still healing, he/she is much more likely to have another concussion. Repeat concussions can increase the time it takes to recover. In rare cases, repeat concussions in young athletes can result in brain swelling or permanent damage to their brain. They can even be fatal.

We acknowledge that we have received and read a copy of the Parent & Athlete Concussion Information Sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Name

***Please read this document over carefully. Sign and date this sheet only and return with your registration. Keep the rest of the document for future reference. Thank You!***