



Parents Handbook

Notes:

The Tri-County Titans Youth Sports Association

501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



Parents Handbook

www.tctitans.org

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Welcome to another year of exciting Tri-County Titans Football and Cheerleading. This meeting will address how our season will run and what we expect from players, cheerleaders and parents.

We will address your questions and give some general information about our league and our team. This handout contains some valuable information about practices, coaches' contacts, and team policies and rules.

We are proud members of the Texas Youth Football Association (TYFA). For information about TYFA visit their website at www.tyfa.com.

Our program is competitive and we compete in the most competitive league in the State of Texas. We will ask a lot of your kids, but we will not ask anything of them that we would not do ourselves. We will expect their best at all times and in turn we will pass along the knowledge that we have accumulated about the game of football.

We are not just building football players and cheerleaders, but young men and women. Football players and cheerleaders will learn discipline, respect, academic excellence and pride.

We thank you and look forward to a great season!!!

Brian Morgan

Titans President/Founder



- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
- 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.

Titan Board Members

Executive Board:

- President/Founder: Brian Morgan
- Founder/Web Mistress: Jeanette Morgan
- Commissioner: Clifford Crews
- Asst. Commissioner: Tony Smith
- Athletic Director: Mike Garrett
- Asst. Athletic Director: Rich King
- Booster Director: Ethel Willard-Crews
- General Board Member: Angela White-Smith



the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide satisfactory resolution?

- Email or call the Titan Athletic Director to set up a meeting with the AD, coach, and parent present.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Parents Code of Conduct

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will not approach the Coach after a game or practice when I am upset, but will wait the 48 Cool down period before approaching the issue.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) 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 sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.



Introduction

The primary purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the rules and policies of the Tri-County Titans Football Program. As a Parent/Guardian of a player or cheerleader, you are responsible to read, know, and understand the contents of this handbook.

In the event that there is something in this book you do not understand, please bring it to our attention as soon as possible. We firmly believe that parents and players have a great desire to be successful and are willing to work very hard in order to accomplish the goals of the program. If we did not believe this thoroughly, neither of us would be here.

Our policies have been put in this booklet so you (the parent) could refer to them from time to time during the course of the season.

This handbook was not made to disrupt the lines of communication between you the coaches or the organization, but to encourage it. You have signed up with the Titans because you wish to be a part of a great program and a proud tradition. This can only be accomplished when you know what is expected of you and your player.

In the event you disagree with any of the policies in this handbook, contact us at your earliest convenience. We want the same thing as you, and that is a successful program that everyone can be proud to be part of.

Vision Statement

To develop well disciplined student athletes who strive for athletic and educational excellence.



Team Core Values

- **Commitment:** Be committed to personal excellence. Our goals must be a priority.
- **Integrity:** Do what is right. Be honest and loyal to parent’s coaches’ teachers, classmates, and ourselves.
- **Pride:** It is a personal commitment; it is an attitude, which separates excellence from mediocrity.
- **Teamwork:** Teamwork is achieved when individuals make personal sacrifices to work together for the success of the group.
- **Discipline:** Means being mentally and physically tough, to continually improve and become the best athlete you can be.
- **Effort:** Give everything we have in everything we do.

Practice & Attendance Policy

Attendance at practice is required in order to play football for the Tri-County Titans. It is important that players and parents understand the level of commitment that is necessary to make a team successful. Absences jeopardize the entire team and hinder the success of the team.

The first 2 to 3 weeks of practice is what we call the “CONDITIONING” period. We will practice Monday thru Friday from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. The league mandates that we have 7 days of conditioning before we have full contact. After the conditioning period we will go to our school practice schedules which will 2 days a week for flag and 3 days a week for tackle.



not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- What your child needs to do to improve.
- Concerns about your child’s behavior.
- How you can help your young athlete.

Certain things can and should be discussed with your child’s coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues **NOT** appropriate for discussion with your child’s coach:

- How much playing time your child is getting.
- Team strategy or Play calling
- Any situation that deals with other athletes outside of your own.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others’ position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- Call the Head Coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Titan Athletic Director or Commissioner and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
- Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
- Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
- Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or game. These can be emotional times for both



Parent /Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone involved.

Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

- The Coach's philosophy.
- Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
- Locations and times of practices and games.
- Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.
- Team rules and conduct

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
- Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance of practice or games.

As your child becomes involved in sports, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do



Attendance Policy:

- **If you are late for practice, the following will occur:**
 - Coaches discretion – coach will decide if any consequence is necessary.
- **If you miss one practice, the consequences are as follows:**
 - Unexcused- Player must sit the 1st quarter of next game
- **If you miss two practices, the consequences are as follows:**
 - Unexcused or excused- Player must sit the 2 quarters of next game
- **Miss three practices** – Player will not be allowed to participate in that weeks game.

Practice Attire

- ❑ Athletic Shorts (no jean shorts)
- ❑ Athletic Socks
- ❑ Football Cleats
- ❑ White T-shirt (name printed on front and rear with a sharpie or magic marker)
- ❑ When we begin full pad practice the teams are separated by different color jerseys.
 - Midgets – White Jersey
 - Rookies – Red Jersey
 - Juniors – Navy Blue
 - Seniors – White Jersey
 - Pant color does not matter

In order for a missed practice or tardy to be considered excused, you must personally contact a coach through one of the following methods:



- ❑ **By Phone:** Call or speak to your respective teams Head coach or leave a message on the voice mail.
- ❑ **By Email:** Email your respective coach informing him that you will be late or that you will miss practice.

NOTE: The coaching staff must accept your excuse as a valid excuse. For example, telling the coaching staff you want a day off is not a valid excuse. It is at the sole discretion of the coaches to determine the validity of the excuse.

Refund Policy

From time to time kids drop from our program due to various reasons. But unfortunately we cannot offer any refunds after **July 15** as we have already allocated funds to cover fields, uniforms, equipment etc....

Uniform & Equipment

Football

- **Game Day Uniform:** Must be clean and neat, very professional in uniform at all times.
- Everyone will wear their uniform in the same manner. We are a team. We will furnish the equipment, so you do not need to bring your own equipment.
- All players must be in team colors at practice and in games.
- Jewelry is not to be worn in practice or games at anytime.
- When temperatures start getting colder and undergarments are being worn they also must be in the team colors. (White, Navy Blue, Col. Blue or Grey)
- **Equipment** – The organization will issue all players a helmet, shoulder pads, and game uniform,
- Take care of your equipment. You have the best that money can buy.



Playing Time

Playing time is important, but The Texas Youth Football Association does not mandate a mandatory play policy or minimum play rule and **neither do we**. Our policy around this is very simple...Playing time will be awarded to those players that attend practice and are productive.

“Playing time is earned not given”.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches’ make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all players participating and the success of the program.

Dangers of Athletic Participation

- Athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers.
- Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.
- TYFA encourages athletes in all sports, and their parents, to discuss risks and risk minimization with coaches and organizational administrators.
- It is not required, but we recommend that all players and cheerleaders have a sports physical before they become involved in any sporting activity.



out of the fundraiser and pay the amount that would have been raised by your player or cheerleader’s participation in the fundraiser. The **“Opt Out” amount is \$75.00 for this season’s fundraiser.**

Please understand that the proceeds from this fundraiser go to pay for the end of year banquet, team trophies, and help offset the rising cost associated with running a youth football/cheer program.

Your support is greatly appreciated!!!!

Note: If you are going to Opt Out, your opt out fee is due before you leave the meeting, so please notify the ladies at the front so they can mark you down before you leave.

Volunteers

Our organization cannot function without volunteers. Throughout the year we will require the assistance of our parents to help the organization in a variety of ways. We ask that you be an active participant in our organization and make our program stronger.

We have various ways in which you can be a participant in our organization. We will require parents’ assistance to work the home game admission gate on game days or man the Titans concession stand.

Your respective team manager will distribute a signup sheet during the first couple of weeks of practice to organize the work schedule etc...Please keep in mind that we will not ask you to volunteer your time during the time that your child is playing or cheering.

With the amount of parents in our program you should only be asked to volunteer your time to work once during the season.



Special Note: The equipment is the property of the Tri-County Titans and must be returned at the conclusion of the season. *(The helmet, Shoulder Pads, Game Pants and 7 piece pad set (if issued), must be returned. Players will keep the game jersey at the conclusion of the season.*

Cheer Uniform

- Must be clean and neat, very professional in uniform at all times.
- Jewelry is not to be worn in practice or games.
- Cheerleaders will dress according to the instruction of their respective cheer coach or Director.

Note: Consult the cheer coach or coordinator for specific uniform guidelines for competition and game day.

Communication

Good lines of communication are vital to the success of any program. The Titan organization uses various mediums in order to disseminate information to the parents. These methods are:

- **The Titan Newsletter/Email List** - The newsletter is published every Wednesday on-line and emailed to all who have registered for it. The newsletter will have info about that week’s game and important news and updates that you as parents need to know. Please make sure you are registered for the newsletter as soon as possible, because it makes the dissemination of information so convenient. Your email address will also be given to your child’s team parent/head coach so they communicate information concerning their respective team.



Scan the QR code now to register for the newsletter



- **Mass Notification Service** – This is a mass call/text system that allows us to make one phone call or send one Text message to our entire organization about cancelled practices, game updates, changes or any special information at a moments notice with one call. Please provide us the best phone # (preferably your mobile) to call you at.

Player/Cheer Certification

All players/cheerleaders that participate in the Texas Youth Football Association are required to be certified by the league annually. This certification is done prior to the season and verifies that a child is the correct age and is playing with the appropriate age group.

It is vital that all of our players and cheerleaders are present on the day of our certification and have the proper documentation. For certification we will need the "**Original Birth Certificate (BC)**", your child's final report card (not needed for flag & midget players) and \$10 cash for the certification fee. We will not keep the BC, it will be returned the day of certification. If you do not have the original BC, then the following Alternate forms of "Proof of Birth" will be accepted:

1. Valid Military Dependent ID Card
2. Valid Passport
3. State issued ID card

*Player/Cheer certification is **MANDATORY**. If a child is not certified they will not be eligible to play, so please make sure that you have your child present on the day of our certification and make sure you do not make plans for that day.*



Conduct

Players - All players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not negatively affect the team or program during practice, games or league events. Any player that does not follow the rules will be subject to disciplinary action by the program or league and possible removal from the program.

Discipline: Our form of discipline is some type of physical activity (laps, sit-ups, push-ups, etc...) Players will be disciplined individually or in the team manner. Discipline will be fair and never excessive. If we have a player or cheerleader that does not want to participate or continually demonstrate poor conduct, that child will be removed from the program until we can have a conference with the parents.

Parents - The organization expects parents and fans to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate and does not negatively affect the team or the Titans program during practice, games or league events. For this reason, we have our parents read the Parental Code of conduct.

Fundraiser

As with any youth sports organization funding is crucial to the success and survival of the organization. With that said, we conduct one major fundraiser prior to the season beginning. This fundraiser is **MANDATORY** and we require 100% participation for the fundraiser.

We understand that there are some parents that do not like fundraisers or having their kids sell things door to door etc., so If you choose not to participate in the fundraiser, you can opt