

North Paulding Youth Football and Cheer Code of Conduct



We are extremely excited about our Football Season. The coaches are working hard in preparation for this year. We expect a true commitment from every player and parent in every aspect of life. This commitment includes character, academics, and football/cheer, in that order. Football and Cheer is a "Laboratory for Life". This commitment is not easy. It requires discipline and sacrifice. We also recognize that the success of these young men and women and this program requires the commitment of the parents.

There are many things that can compromise the integrity of our student- athletes. Making negative choices can impact the TEAM and the player's position on the TEAM. We intend to educate the players about the consequences of negative choices. Our goal is to make sure that everyone understands that the TEAM comes before self. This structure that places TEAM first is the pillar of our program.

Parents, we must work together to make this a positive experience for your sons. Your involvement and support in the Wolfpack program is crucial to our overall success.

The purpose of this information is to familiarize you with the philosophy, guidelines, and policies of the North Paulding Youth Program. It is every coach, player, and parent's responsibility to read and understand the policies of this material. Our policies have been put in this booklet as a reference, so that you may refer to them throughout the year when you feel it necessary. Parents and players are expected to read and sign the back page. After the page has been signed, it should be turned in to the player's Head Coach to be kept on file. This information was made to assure that everyone understands the expectations of the program. It is the sincerest attempt to avoid any misunderstanding. It is our hope that you will read and use it as a guideline for your benefit. Be assured that our staff is in the business of helping students-athletes as they attempt to navigate through obstacles that may arise in their lives. We take our position as a privilege and feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with young men of the highest caliber.

LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION

The North Paulding Youth Program is a member of the Cobb Football League. The Participation Rules are as follows: Each player shall play a minimum of eight plays in each game. If a player is put on discipline his play time can be reduced. Play reduction can be a result of multiple missed practices, disrespecting the coaches or teammates, or being ejected from a game. Game ejection will result in missing the following game as well.

TEAM CREATION

The Cobb Football league has very specific rules we have to follow concerning team creation. The first rule states we are a grade based league meaning each player will play on the team matching his grade. There are also rules stating maximum team numbers. K-1 through 4th can have a maximum of 24 players per team. 5th can go as high as 28 players per team.

If too many players sign up, the players are divided by skill level and then drafted by the coaches. The player skill levels are determined through a series of drills which are graded by the head coaches and a set of volunteer high school coaches from a neighboring high school. All grades are turned into the Cobb Football league and a grading rubric is used to assign grades to each player from A through D. The grades divide the players with equal numbers of A's, B's, C's and D's. At that point the two head coaches meet at the CFL office for a draft. The league president oversees the draft process. Each coach can freeze 3 players and must include their son. After the freezes are set, each coach picks players one at a time starting with the A players. This gives us the best ability to equally divide the two teams as fairly as possible.

Only the three frozen players are guaranteed which team they will be on. Once a player is assigned to a team during the draft, he is locked onto that team for the season. A player signs up to play for North Paulding Youth Program, not a specific coach. If a player chooses not to play due to draft results, there are no refunds.

Cheerleading squads will be chosen by grade level. All cheerleaders must sign up for the appropriate grade. If a team is full, registrants will be given the option to cheer on another grade level IF that team is not full. Our intention is to keep most teams as close to their appropriate age as possible.

The following information details even more specific guidelines for the North Paulding Youth program:

It is the mission of the North Paulding Youth program to organize, administer, and promote highly competitive teams while preparing each player to be the finest school athlete, student, and citizen possible. To achieve these goals, we will focus on the following:

- Teach the fundamentals of football and cheer
- Encourage and reward excellence in the classroom
- Hold each player, coach and parent to a high level of character by promoting skill, integrity, and responsibility in all aspects of the program.
- Instill a sense of pride that comes from having a strong work ethic
- Promote the program throughout the community

The following information includes items expected from coaches, players, and parents.

Common Expectations

Coaches

1. To be honest
2. To be leaders
3. To be loyal to the TEAM
4. To help players reach their goals
5. To help players mature and become a better person
6. To be fair to players
7. To work hard and instruct to the best of your ability
8. To communicate with all players about Team and Individual development goals
9. To be 100% committed to North Paulding Youth Program
10. To make all decisions based on what is best for the TEAM, and then what is best for the individual

Players

1. To be honest
2. To be a leader
3. To be loyal to the TEAM
4. To respect history and tradition
5. To always be at practice, even if injured
6. To always be on time to practices and meetings
7. To give your best in the classroom
8. To give your best in practice and games
9. To conduct yourself in a manner that will make your family, school, teammates, and coaches proud of you at all times.
10. To never post anything on social media that is negative in nature about your school, teammates, opponents, or coaches. Player policy is explained in more detail later in this handbook.

Parents

1. To not undermine the coaching staff to your kids or other parents
2. To be supportive of players, coaches, and officials
3. To not approach a coach about playing time. The player should discuss ways to improve with his position coach.
4. To be a positive support system for your child. Monitor their academic progress and make sure their diet and rest are appropriate
5. To never post anything on social media that is negative in nature about our school, team, players, coaches or opponents. Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a positive self-image. Parents who violate social media usage may be banned from practice, games, and program activities. Players will be held accountable with this same policy.
6. To participate in the program and to get involved. The best thing you can do costs nothing.
7. To show sportsmanship at all times
8. No parents are allowed on the field during practice or game times. Parents must sit in a designated area determined by the Youth Director.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Parents are considered spectators and should refrain from coaching or voicing their opinions from the sidelines during practices or games.

When expressing the occasional concern with a coach, remember the following guidelines:

1. Approach the head coach at the appropriate time, not before or after a game. The starting point for addressing all issues is your son's head coach. Never approach an assistant coach with a concern.
2. Call the following day and make an appointment, which is convenient for both.
3. Raise your concern in a calm and civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is totally unacceptable and will immediately end the meeting.
4. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a sport-parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand any explanation that is given.
5. Your priority is your student-athlete. The coaches' priority is every student-athlete on the team, so understand there may be disagreement because of your priorities. Both you and the coach may be right, but not agree. That is Okay. Both must be willing to accept that possibility.

- ◆ Note: Coaches will not discuss player issues or concerns with parents via text, e-mail, or phone. Much can be misinterpreted in a text or an e-mail. Text or e-mail may be used to set up a meeting where the issue can be resolved.

Additional Expectations for Parents

1. Be positive with your child. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing. Encourage them to work hard and do their best. Players that love to play like to go to practice and will want to play in any game. The football lesson and the life lesson is to encourage them to keep trying to better themselves each day.
3. Encourage athletes to follow the rules both on the playing field and in the classroom.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer your head off, but don't become belligerent with other fans, players, coaches or game officials. North Paulding holds sportsmanship in the highest regard and you will be held responsible for your actions.
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.

6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
8. Remember that the coaches are volunteers and enjoy the game of football and working with these young men.
9. Encourage the athlete to follow his commitment to the team including:

- Maintaining good academic standing
- Being on time to practices and games
- Not missing practice
- Being a TEAM player
- Having a positive attitude
- Working Hard
- Be Coachable

North Paulding Youth Program Team Rules **Academics and Character Lead the way to our:**

CORE VALUES

TEAM FIRST- No one is more important than the TEAM

TOUGHNESS- Comfortable with being uncomfortable.

FAMILY/RELATIONSHIPS- Value others above ourselves. Build others up. Power of the unit.

ENERGY / TEMPO- Wear opponents down physically and mentally w/ relentless effort.

COMMITMENT/SACRIFICE- Do what you're supposed to be doing, when you are supposed to do it, the way it is supposed to be done.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE- Control what you can control.

North Paulding Youth Program ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each North Paulding player is expected to attend all practices, meetings, run-throughs, and games. If we cannot practice at full strength, we cannot play at full strength. Trust in a player's commitment to the success of the team starts with showing up. We hope that each player understands the important role he plays in our journey to be an elite program. However, we feel it is important to have an attendance policy in place to ensure that our team collectively takes that daily step towards success.

Attendance Rules

Late to Practice or Games: Punishment is up to the coach's discretion.

Missing Practice or Games: Punishment is up to the coach's discretion and punishment will include extra conditioning and/or loss of playing time.

Social Media Policy

Players....Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The on-line social network sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a positive self-image. Players and/or parents of players who violate social media usage may lose playing time, face suspension, or dismissal from the team.

The Positive Pledge for Players and Coaches

BY Jon Gordon

The Positive Pledge

I pledge to be a positive person and positive influence on my family, friends, co-workers and community.

I promise to be positively contagious and share more smiles, laughter, encouragement and joy with those around me.

I vow to stay positive in the face of negativity.

When I am surrounded by pessimism I will choose optimism. When

I feel fear I will choose faith.

When I want to hate I will choose love.

When I want to be bitter I will choose to get better.

When I experience a challenge I will look for opportunity to learn and grow. When faced with adversity I will find strength.

When I experience a set-back I will be resilient.

When I meet failure I will fail forward towards future success.

With vision, hope, and faith, I will never give up and will always move forward towards my destiny.

I believe my best days are ahead of me, not behind me.

I believe I'm here for a reason and my purpose is greater than my challenges.

I believe that being positive not only makes me better, it makes everyone around me better.

So today and every day I will be positive and strive to make a positive impact on the world.

Player/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

I, _____ (player),
and _____ (parent/guardian),

have read the North Paulding Youth Football Player and Parent Expectations Handbook . By signing below, we acknowledge that we understand its contents and agree to the terms of the handbook. We understand the guidelines for attendance, punctuality, procedures, etc. We will do our best to work together to provide a positive experience. We are aware of the commitment it takes to be a part of the North Paulding Youth Football Program and are aware that all decisions that are made are for the betterment of the TEAM.

(Athlete)

(Date)

(Parent/Guardian)

(Date)