

Youth Sports Participation & Behavior Agreement

Youth Cougar Club

Purpose: To ensure a safe, respectful, and productive environment. This agreement is a collaborative commitment between the Athlete, the Parents/Guardians, and the Coaching Staff. Participation in this program is a privilege, contingent upon the respectful conduct of both the athlete and their support system.

I. The Athlete's Commitment

I agree to:

Follow Instructions: I will stop and listen when the coach calls for attention.

Safe Play: I will keep my hands and feet to myself and avoid physical aggression.

Respectful Language: I will not use profanity, name-calling, or "trash talk."

The "Cool-Down" Rule: I will go to the designated "cool-down" spot if requested to reset my focus.

II. The Parents/Guardians' Commitment (Conduct & Harassment)

We recognize that our behavior sets the standard for our child. We agree to:

Zero-Tolerance for Harassment: We will not engage in "Harassment" as defined by SafeSport standards, including yelling at, following, or intimidating coaches, officials, or other parents.

The 24-Hour Rule: We will wait 24 hours after a game or practice before contacting a coach regarding playing time or tactical grievances. All communication will be conducted calmly and privately.

Sideline Decorum: We will refrain from "coaching from the sidelines" or shouting instructions that contradict the coach.

Immediate Intervention: If the coach determines our child needs to leave the field for a safety violation, we will remove them immediately and quietly.

No Retaliation: We will not engage in social media "shaming" or external harassment of volunteer staff.

III. The Coach's Commitment

I agree to:

Consistent Expectations: I will use the same "Warning → Cool-Down → Home" system for all players.

Professionalism: I will address concerns with parents privately and maintain a neutral, instructional tone with athletes.

Safety First: I will prioritize the physical and emotional safety of the entire team over winning.

IV. Accountability & Resolution Process

This organization follows the **Preponderance of the Evidence** standard. If it is "more likely than not" that a violation occurred, the following responses will apply:

Level 1: Documented Warning. A verbal warning for minor athlete or parent misconduct. The coach or coordinator will log the incident.

Level 2: Session Removal. If a second violation occurs, or if a parent engages in verbal harassment or intimidation, the athlete and parent will be asked to leave the facility immediately.

Level 3: Board Review. In cases of physical misconduct, severe bullying, or repeated parental harassment of staff, a formal Board Review will occur.

Consequence of Parent Misconduct: Per Board policy, an athlete may be suspended or removed from the program due to the persistent or severe harassment of coaches or officials by their parent/guardian.

SafeSport Alignment: This agreement aligns with the **2026 SafeSport Code** regarding **Harassment** (Section VIII.H) and **Emotional Misconduct** (Section VIII.F). Bullying, stalking, or any behavior intended to intimidate a volunteer is strictly prohibited and subject to immediate Level 3 review.

Signatures:

Athlete: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Coach: _____ **Date:** _____

Coordinator/Board Rep: _____ **Date:** _____