

# **Appendix A - Saco Junior Trojans Youth Football Program Code of Conduct**

## **Player Code of Conduct**

- Show respect to coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and yourself.
- Arrive on time, prepared, and ready to give your best effort at all practices and games.
- Follow team rules and listen to your coaches.
- Represent the Trojans with pride - no taunting, cheap shots, or fighting.
- Accept referee decisions without argument.
- Always use appropriate language.
- Report injuries or concerns to your coach right away.
- Put academics first - being a good teammate includes being a good student.

## **Off-Field Conduct**

- Trojan pride extends beyond the football field. Players are expected to demonstrate respect for teachers, classmates, and school staff.
- Conduct in school and in the community should reflect positively on the program - this includes social media activity.
- Bullying, disrespect, or poor sportsmanship outside of football may result in team consequences.
- Players are expected to maintain good academic standards and communicate with coaches or the Player Agent if academic concerns arise.

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## **Coach Code of Conduct**

- Lead by example with professionalism, fairness, and consistency.
- Prioritize player safety by adhering to USA Football guidelines and enforcing any league-specific weight restrictions applicable to the team.
- Treat all players with respect - no favoritism, intimidation, or personal attacks.
- Be organized, communicate clearly, and come prepared to teach fundamentals and teamwork.
- Support league and program rules without exception.
- Handle disputes or conflicts calmly and privately - never in front of players.
- Encourage sportsmanship and respect, regardless of the score.
- Communicate with parents and Player Agent if behavioral or eligibility concerns arise.

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## **Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

- Support your child with positive encouragement - avoid coaching from the sideline.
- Respect all players, coaches, officials, and fellow parents.
- Allow the coaches to coach. If you have concerns, bring them to the Player Agent or Head Coach calmly and privately.
- Never argue with referees during or after the game.
- Ensure your player arrives to practices and games on time and communicates if they will be absent.

- Focus on effort, growth, and enjoyment - not just wins and losses.
  - Promote respect for the rules, officials, and program leadership.
  - Remember, this is youth football, and it's about the kids.
  - Follow the 24-Hour Rule: Concerns related to playing time, strategy, or coaching decisions should not be discussed with coaches until at least 24 hours after a game or practice.
  - Understand that playing time is earned, not equal. Every player will play each game, but the amount of playing time may vary based on effort, attendance, and attitude.
  - Recognize that all coaches are volunteers and are dedicating time to helping your child grow - support them with encouragement and trust.
  - Communicate unavoidable absences or injuries to your head coach as early as possible.
  - Remember that our league emphasizes sportsmanship over standings - this is developmental football first.
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### **Violation Policy**

- Minor Violations (e.g., repeated tardiness, inappropriate language, disrespectful sideline behavior):
    - 1st Violation: Verbal warning and documented notice.
    - 2nd Violation: Parent/guardian or coach conference with Player Agent.
    - 3rd Violation: Possible suspension or removal from the team or activity, pending board review.
  - Major Violations (e.g., physical aggression, bullying, threats, blatant disrespect of officials or coaches):
    - Immediate review by the board and potential removal from the program.
  - The board reserves the right to escalate or adjust disciplinary action based on severity or repeated behaviors.
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### **Acknowledgment**

- By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understand the Saco Junior Trojans Code of Conduct. I agree to uphold the expectations listed for my role and will do my part to maintain a positive experience for everyone involved.
- Print Name (Player): \_\_\_\_\_
- Print Name (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_
- Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_