

SFC Parent/Guardian & Player Handbook Code of Conduct & Ethics

Welcome

Welcome to the Scarborough Football Club (SFC). This handbook was developed to help our adult and youth members understand how our organization operates and what is expected of all parents/guardian, players and volunteers. While we cannot cover every contingency in this handbook, you are asked to follow the spirit of what is outlined here, and allow common sense to prevail. SFC is organized and operated by volunteer members- your input is always welcome.

Mission:

Our mission is to teach football to youths between the ages of 7 and 14, which will help them meet their individual goals. The training will take place in an environment based on the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, courage, loyalty and respect for oneself and others. We strive to give our players the opportunity to be successful in each and every game we play. While we reject a “win at all costs” approach, we recognize the need to instill confidence and a “can-do” attitude in our players so that by the time they confront the competition of Maine Class A high school football, they are both mentally and physically prepared to meet the challenge. We stress the following bedrock principles:

Safety: *Through proper conditioning, physical and mental preparation and the requirement that all players be properly equipped at all times;*

Fun: *By fostering comradeship and a sense of teamwork in working toward common goals while at the same time recognizing the natural enthusiasm and playfulness of our young student athletes; and*

Success: *By striving for accomplishment at every practice and honorable victory in every game.*

Organization:

SFC is a non-profit Maine Corporation, governed by By-Laws. We are affiliated with the Maine Sportsmanship League (Youth Level) and the Southern Maine Youth Football League (SMYFL) (Junior Level). We have divisions of teams at each level based on policies established by the respective leagues.

Rules and Policies:

Every parent/guardian & player is required to read this handbook and abide by the policies outlined here. All parents/guardians & players are required to return a signed parent/guardian & player contract signed by both parents/guardians & players certifying that they have read and understand this document.

Roles and Responsibilities:

SFC is operated entirely by volunteers- every activity that is a part of our program occurs through the efforts of volunteers. Board members and coaches donate approximately 200 hours or more per person, each season, to ensure we can offer the highest quality program to our student athletes. It is critical that every volunteer be treated with courtesy and respect at all times.

There are a variety of levels of involvement within our program such as but not limited to:

Board of Directors: *These volunteers are elected to a two-year term by the general membership. They are responsible for the management of all operations in the program, including oversight of all volunteer committees.*

Coaches: *These volunteers manage all practices and games for SFC. Coaches are the primary instructors for the players. They are responsible for the supervision, teaching of plays, running drills, discipline on the field as well as management of parent/guardian relations and communications. All issues should be directed at the head coach or one of their assistants for resolution.*

Parent/Guardian Volunteers: *We need volunteers for each home game to set up, staff, and close up the concession stand, 50/50 sales, chain gang, and field crew. Every parent/guardian is required to volunteer in some way shape or form. Volunteer assignments can be obtained from your respective level committees. Documentation of volunteer hours will be kept to assure compliance.*

Football Players: *Every student athlete is expected to put forth their best effort, both on and off the field, and to abide by the rules and regulations in this handbook and the players code of ethics.*

Citizenship:

SFC is known for pride and respect- to each other, any other participating league program, their leadership to coaches, parents/guardians, teachers and fellow classmates. Any derogatory comments, mocking of others, gossip, or criticism that is not constructive in nature will not be tolerated.

Required Adult Conduct:

The support of parents/guardians is essential to the success of any youth program. This support should, however, be of the on/off field variety in such activities as fundraising, promotion, equipment maintenance, team sponsorship, and other volunteer activities. On occasion, well-meaning parents/guardians can become overzealous and cause unwarranted problems. For the safety and well being of everyone involved SFC provides these rules concerning parent/guardian conduct.

- A. Parents/guardians should clearly understand that the purpose of this program is to teach children teamwork, good sportsmanship, fair play and the love of the game.*
- B. Alcohol, smoking, and drugs will not be permitted at the practices or games.*
- C. Parents/guardians must stay in the areas designated by the local programs during all practices and games. Parents/guardians are also reminded that they are not to approach the coaches or officials on game day.*
- D. Parents/guardians are expected to cheer loudly for your team, but always in good taste and never in a way that is disparaging to the opposing team. Un-sportsmanlike conduct is prohibited at all times, and can result in penalties to the team on the field.*
- E. Derogatory statements toward game officials or the opposing team is prohibited and can result in the forfeiture of the game.*
- F. An ever present, "on and off" the field positive mental attitude, is an important ingredient for the success of any youth program. Adults will refrain from open criticisms, especially in the presence of our student athletes, coaches, or any personnel connected with the program.*
- G. Parents/guardians should encourage attendance at all practice sessions. Absences impede progress for the rest of the team as well as for the student athlete who is absent. Missing practice will lead to limited playing time during the game. Student athletes with minor injuries or mild illness can still benefit from observing at a practice session. You must notify your coach if you will not attend practice.*
- H. Parents/guardians are responsible for getting all players to and from all games and practices on time. Please have players arrive by the times designated by their respective head coaches. Parents/guardians are required to arrive 9 minutes prior to the end of practice. It is not the responsibility of the coaching staff to wait for parents/guardians to show up to pick up their children.*
- I. SFC cannot be held responsible for the health and welfare of unattended children. (Siblings of players) should not be left unattended.*

*The SFC board of directors has established a **NO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR IMPROPER ADULT BEHAVIOR**. Each adult will be required to sign an Adult Code of Ethics. Violation of the Adult Code of Ethics will result in the removal from any practice, game or function of SFC for the entire season.*

Required Youth Conduct

- A. *Hard work and dedication will be required before you can wear the uniform of the team. Being a member of the team requires much more than just learning about playing the game of Football.*
- B. *Vulgarity, temper tantrums, taunting and fighting are absolutely prohibited. Any player observed displaying improper conduct below the acceptable standards of SFC will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.*
- C. *If you are going to miss a practice or a game, you must notify one of your coaches. You are expected to arrive at games and practices on time, or to alert your coach if you are going to be late or have to leave early.*
- D. *Report all problems to your coaches immediately. It is your responsibility, not your parents/guardians to keep your uniform and equipment clean and in good repair. Football uniforms must be clean before every game.*
- E. *Players are expected to maintain a passing grade in all subjects.*
- F. *Players must adhere to the zero tolerance policy regarding detentions and attentions.*

Communications:

*Parental understanding, acceptance and support of these principles are essential to our ability as coaches and administrators to achieve success and forge a sense of teamwork among our players. We welcome your ideas, concerns and input at all times. If you have a question or an insight to share, you should begin with the players head coach. If you do not feel that the situation is resolved, you must speak with the Player Representative. If after you still are not satisfied with your result, you can schedule a time to meet with the President or Vice President of SFC. **Please remember, if you have a complaint, you must be part of the solution.***

Youth Levels:

The non-varsity youth levels area purely instructional and introductory phases of the football experience. Consistent with safety concerns, all children are to be accorded roughly equivalent playing time. The emphasis is on having fun and learning the fundamentals of the game. The Varsity youth level stresses the same fundamentals; however, at this level we begin to emphasize the importance of teamwork and execution in working toward the common goal of success on the playing field. More is expected of the players by way of physical preparation, effort and concentration.

Middle School:

The Middle School Junior Varsity program is for those players who are not yet fully prepared to participate competitively in the Varsity program. At this level, play becomes slightly more complex and demanding and we find that the players are instinctively becoming more competitive. They have begun to identify players on opposing teams against whom they will compete throughout high school. Also, physical strength and athletic ability becomes a more important ingredient for success. We will strive to give every Junior Varsity player considerable playing time during our Sunday league contests. However, in some hotly contested games we may be unable to afford all players as much playing time as we might like. Therefore, we have developed a supplemental schedule of fully officiated mid-week games to give priority to those youngsters who saw less action during the Sunday league games. This program has

been a tremendous success, and has virtually eliminated any concern that Junior Varsity players are not getting sufficient playing time.

At the Varsity level, we increase the emphasis on meeting the competitive challenge. Winning, self-control and sportsmanship become important objectives. Consistent with our desire to be competitive, we attempt to give all of our Varsity players playing time during our Sunday league games. We are usually successful in giving all players some playing time on Sunday. However, those players who fail to get adequate playing time in Varsity play are invited and encouraged to participate in the Sunday Junior Varsity game.

By following these general guidelines, we have been able to ensure that each and every child participating in the youth and middle school football programs enjoys a favorable football experience.

Handouts:

As a player, you are sometimes given handouts at practice. It is your responsibility to bring them home to your parents/guardians and make sure that they read them. If there is an announcement at practice please be sure to pass it along to your parents/guardians.

Safety:

Your Child's Safety is our highest priority. The following measures will be followed at all times:

Food and water:

It is your responsibility to bring adequate sized water jugs to each practice. Coaches will supply water on game days. Water breaks will be taken as needed, and all players are responsible for picking up their own empty containers.

Conditioning:

Conditioning exercises will be a part of each practice and game to ensure that the player is able to keep up with the rigors of the sport.

Equipment:

It is your responsibility to be sure that all of the equipment that you provide to your child has been evaluated as to its efficacy for safety and quality as SFC does not provide this service. The head coaches inspect all equipment prior to the start of the season in order to get a proper fit. You may be told to obtain different equipment in order to achieve the goal of a proper fit.

Players are to wear a complete SFC approved uniform for games. Current year game jerseys or pants are not to be worn during practices. Each player is responsible for their equipment, keep track of it. The cost of maintaining and replacing football equipment is the largest expense for the SFC. Each player is responsible for the equipment issued to them. All practice jerseys must be returned to the SFC at the end of the season. Treat your equipment in a responsible manner. Equipment maintained properly and in good condition is critical for your safety. If a player separates from their team before the end of the

season, it is the player and parents/guardians responsibility to return all equipment issued after it has been cleaned.

Certification:

All coaches hold or are in the process of working toward USA Football Certifications.

Registration:

A player will not be permitted to play or attend practice without the proper registration forms filled out and returned to the league. A copy of the player's birth certificate, physical form, medical release form, registration form and signed parent/guardian & player contract, are all mandatory to complete the registration process. All forms must be in before the first scheduled practice.

Parent/Guardian Meeting:

A mandatory parent/guardian meeting will be held at the beginning of the season. All players' parents/guardians new and returning are required to attend. There will be 3 meetings for each program level. They will be held on 2 registration dates at the Scarborough High School Cafeteria and it is imperative that all parents/guardians attend. The meeting will give you a chance to hear from the coaches, board members and to get vital information regarding the program and schedule.

Board Meeting:

Board meetings are held monthly. Notification will be sent out 7 days prior to meetings and all are encouraged to attend.

Thank you,
2009 SFC Board of Directors

**Scarborough Football Club
Adult Code of Ethics**

Scarborough Football Club is a non-profit organization, with the sole purpose of promoting youth tackle football, instructional, competitive and academic excellence. These goals cannot be attained without the active participation and cooperation of parents/guardians and other adult volunteers.

_ I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child and other children participating in this program by following this Code of Ethics:

_ I will encourage and demonstrate by example the importance of good sportsmanship and positive support for all players, coaches and officials at all practices and games.

_ I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child above my personal desire to win.

_ I will assist in an Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug free environment.

_ I will assist in teaching my child that rules are important and must be followed.

_ I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

_ I understand that verbal and physical abuse are not to be tolerated against anyone in this organization including profanity and foul language.

_ I understand that racial epithets or negative innuendo related to a person/players race, religion or ethnicity will not be tolerated.

_ I will show respect for all officials, coaches and volunteers.

_ I will not create conflict by slander, malicious rumors or threats, nor will I entice others to do so.

By signing below, I acknowledge the receipt of the SFC Parent/Guardian & Player Handbook Code of Conduct & Ethics.

By signing below, I understand that the SFC had adopted a NO TOLERANCE POLICY. If I violate any of the Code of Ethics it will result in my child's and my/our participation from any SFC activity for not less than the balance of the current season, or as determined by the SFC Executive Board.

Parent/Guardian Signing for family unit: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Player(s) Name: _____

**Scarborough Football Club
Code of Conduct Parent/Guardian & Player Contract**

_I/we have read the Participation Handbook, understand and agree, as parents/guardians of the below named child to abide by the role of parent/guardian and player's code of conduct and assume absolute obligation for my/our child to participate in this your program.

_The child named below has read, understands and agrees to abide by the player code of conduct.

_As the parent/guardian of the below named child, do hereby give my/our permission for my/our child to participate in the SFC activities for the current season.

_I/We assume all risks and hazards to this participation for any claims arising out of injury to the below named child, including, but not limited to, transportation to and from such activities.

_I/We hereby waive, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the SFC, organizers, coaches, board members, players, person providing transportation and any organization with which this youth football program may be affiliated.

_I/we as parents/guardians agree to fulfill our volunteer obligation during the course of the season as asked by the respective level's committee.

_I/We have read and fully understand the provisions of the consent/release authorization, and I/ we voluntarily sign it.

Player's name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signing for the family unit: _____ Date: _____