

A Letter to Families

Welcome to Conestoga Generals Football and Cheerleading. The Conestoga Generals are a member of the Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. youth football and cheerleading organization. The Pop Warner philosophy is that academics and athletics go hand-in-hand. We seek to develop well-rounded young people who not only learn the fundamentals of football and cheerleading, but also the importance of an education. Our general objective is to inspire the youth, regardless of race, creed or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship and physical fitness. This program provides the opportunity for these children to learn lifetime values such as: self-discipline, teamwork, concentration, friendship and good sportsmanship. Along with having some fun!

We are a non-profit organization run totally by dedicated volunteers. The Board of Directors and coaches that are involved give freely of their time. When a child registers to join our organization, each family also becomes members of our Parent Auxiliary. During practice and games there are duties with which we require each family to help.

Our Coaching Philosophy

Conestoga has grown rapidly in both youth membership and in the adult leadership who support our programs. Conestoga Generals coaches adhere to the following coaching philosophy:

- Keep focused on our main objective: To provide our children with a positive experience in football.
- Teach through positive reinforcement.
- Encourage that through hard work and the desire of not giving up, anything can be achieved.
- Motivate and challenge all of the children on a team.
- Involve parents of the children as much as possible.
- Teach football fundamentals through Conestoga Generals systems to enable a good foundation for future years.
- Be competitive but fair, be aggressive but respectful, be tough but compassionate and maintain balance in your coaching.
- Win or lose, keep it fun and help explain the lessons along the way

TACKLE FOOTBALL PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS

We as adults set an example that the children participating in the program will follow. The following code of ethics is to be adhered to by all adults. Please sign below stating that you have read and understand this code.

1. Refrain from "sideline coaching". It is inappropriate for parents to coach players from the sideline. Not only does it devalue the coaching staff but it also confuses the player. Let the coaching staff that has been approved by the board of directors, do their job. Don't be a coach - be a parent. Offer encouragement and positive reinforcement. A sure way to dampen a child's enthusiasm is with constant criticism. Parents should not embarrass their child by calling attention to themselves through loud, obnoxious or rude behavior.
2. The coaches and VP's of football make the decision as to which team your son will be assigned, and those decisions are final. We will not honor ANY request to place your son on a team. These decisions are made in the context of what is best for the organization, the teams at that given weight class, and that individual child. Again, these decisions are final.
3. Do not criticize coaches, players or cheerleaders on our own or opposing teams by word of mouth or gesture. Remember that your child learns more from your actions than your words. Practice good sportsmanship by being respectful to other players, parents and coaches on both teams. Cheer for our team rather than against our opponents. Parents should respect the officials and their calls. It's okay to disagree but inappropriate to disparage.
4. Accept the decisions of game officials as being fair and being called to the best of their ability.
5. Abstain from consumption of alcohol or the use of tobacco products on the playing and practice fields. This is a National Pop Warner rule. Failure to abide by these rules could jeopardize the future of the Conestoga Generals.
6. Do your best to insure that all participants will have an enjoyable experience in their days with the Conestoga Generals. Parents should volunteer their services whenever possible. This shows the participants the value of being a team player.
7. Non-certified adults may not enter the playing field for any reason.

8. Occasionally, you may disagree with the way the organization is managed or the way your child's team is coached. As a member of the Conestoga Generals, your opinion is important. If you have suggestions for improvements, let them be known at a board of directors meeting. Sideline gossip does nothing constructive for the children in the program. If you disagree with the way your child's coach is handling the team or your child, you should take the following steps:

1. Speak to the coach privately. This step resolves most disagreements.
2. If you are not satisfied with the coach's response or would not feel comfortable speaking with the coaches, speak with the Vice President of Football / Cheerleading.
3. If the dispute remains unresolved, bring your issues to the next regularly scheduled board of directors meeting.
4. These steps are part of the Conestoga Generals and Bux-Mont League protocol. Not following the proper channels will only delay in issues being addressed. If matters need to be heard by Bux-Mont, the Conestoga Generals league representative will take them to the league. Bux-Mont will not entertain emails, phone calls or visits when not followed by this protocol.

If your disagreement involves what position your son is playing, please save yourself time and embarrassment. That is a coaching decision and the Conestoga Generals' organization and Board of Directors will not entertain second guessing a coaching decision, unless there is a legitimate safety concern.

Players Name

Parent Acknowledgement