



“Hard Work and Dedication”

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## COLORADO SPRINGS VIKINGS FOOTBALL & CHEER ASSOCIATION

### CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT

#### A Letter to the Families

Welcome to Colorado Springs Vikings Youth Football and Cheerleading. The CS-Vikings 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 daily. 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

The Viking organization has grown rapidly in both youth membership and in the adult leadership whom support our programs. All Vikings coaches adhere to the following coaching philosophy:

- Keep focused on our main objective which is 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 Viking’s 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.



## Vikings 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 them 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. Practices are mandatory, at the Head Coach's discretion he can choose not to play any athlete who misses a minimum of 2 practices prior to a game, without notifying the Head Coach or making some sort of arrangement with the President, Vice President, and/or Football Commissioner.
4. 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 is okay to disagree but it is inappropriate to disparage.
5. Accept the decisions of game officials as being fair and being called to the best of their ability.
6. 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 CS-Vikings Organization.
7. Do your best to ensure that all participants will have an enjoyable experience in their days with the CS-Vikings organization. Parents should volunteer their services whenever possible. This shows the participants the value of being a team player.
8. Non-certified adults may not enter the playing field for any reason.



## *Vikings Parents Code of Ethics continued...*

9. 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 CS-Vikings, 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:

- a. Speak to the coach privately. This step resolves most disagreements or misunderstandings.
- b. If you are not satisfied with the coach's response or would not feel comfortable speaking with the coaches, speak with the Athletic Director or Cheer Coordinator.
- c. If the dispute remains unresolved, bring your issues to the Vice President or President.
- d. If your issue remains unresolved, or you do not feel comfortable speaking with those staff, bring your issue to the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.
- e. These steps are part of the CS-Vikings Organization protocol. Not following the proper channels will only delay in issues being addressed. If matters need to be heard by PIKES PEAK POP Warner LEAGUE, the CS-Vikings Organization representative will take them to the league. The PPPW League will not entertain emails, phone calls or visits when not followed by this protocol.

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

## **Vikings Parent and Participant code of conduct Agreement**

The purpose of the Colorado Springs Vikings Code of Conduct agreement is to ensure that the Vikings main objective to provide a positive experience to our players, family members, coaches, and staff is met. The Vikings goals are to teach through positive reinforcement, be competitive but fair, involve parents as much as possible, and win or lose, keep it fun and help explain lessons along the way.

I understand the terms of the Colorado Springs Vikings Association Code of Conduct as follows:

1. Refrain from "sideline coaching". It is inappropriate for parents to coach players from the sideline.
2. The staff make the decision as to which team your player will be assigned; those decisions are final.
3. Do not criticize our volunteers or athletes on our teams, or athletes on the opposing team in any form.
4. Accept the decisions of game officials.



## *Vikings Parent and Participant code of conduct Agreement continued...*

5. Abstain from the consumption of alcohol, drugs, or the use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, “vaping” on and near practice and game fields.
6. Non-certified adults may not enter the practice or playing field for any reason.
7. See a staff member to address your concerns, and do not participate in sideline gossip.
8. Practice is not daycare and coaches should be informed if you leave practice and who will provide your child a ride home. Coaches should also know if an athlete will miss or have leave practice early.

### **Social Media Policy**

Please follow the guidelines and policies in this document, when you contribute and participate in any social media activity as it pertains to the Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association (CS Vikings). Not only does it protect both you and organization, but you can have confidence knowing you are representing organization in a responsible manner. While we respect your privacy, conduct that has, or has the potential to have a negative effect on our organization is subject to disciplinary action, upto and including expulsion from organization. Remember we are all in this together.... One Team, One Dream. Please, review the guidelines, take accountability for your actions, and remember to use good judgment.

#### **What is Social Media?**

Social media is generally Internet based tools for sharing and discussing information. The term “Social Media” most often refers to activities that integrate technology, social interaction and the sharing of words, pictures, videos and audio, such as, but not limited to the following:

- Multimedia and social networking sites, liker, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.
- Blogs, wikis, message boards, micro-blogs and other community-based sites or collaboration tools
- Social commerce postings, like product or experience reviews
- Any other sites where information – like text, images, video, sound or other files – can be uploaded or posted

#### **So you want to post? Read this first.**

***Character Clause - Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association reserves the right to dismiss a participant, parent/guardian for any act of misconduct including (but not limited to) an act of dishonesty, theft or misappropriation of association property, moral turpitude, insubordination, or any act injuring, abusing, or endangering others, or any act that could bring Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavorably on Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association***

Remember we are accountable for how we talk about our business, whether in person, on the phone, in print or online. Before you post information online that relates in any way to the CS Vikings organization start by being thoughtful about what you share and how you share it.

The six guidelines below explain our policies as they apply to social media:



*Social Media Policy continued...*

1. **Keep confidential information confidential.** Any statement, whether made online or offline or through images, videos or sound files, related to or referencing Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. business, participants, product, or volunteers, regardless of the media or forum used, must strictly comply with said policies and procedures. Keep any Internet-based conversation about the CS Vikings Association focused on publicly-known information. ***If you are not sure whether something is appropriate to post, don't post it.***
2. **Be accurate, truthful and considerate in your posts.** Be constructive, provide appropriate context, and think about the impact of your comments. Words matter...and remember that anyone, including parents, student athletes or any volunteers can find and see postings. So be responsible about what you share and how you share it – just as you would at work or at home.
3. **Take responsibility for your words.** Remember that individuals (i.e. coaching staff, participants, parents/guardians, or family members) can be held accountable for comments deemed to be defamatory, obscene, proprietary or libelous, whether they pertain to CS Vikings Association or another person. Personal attacks directed toward board members, coaching staffs, participants, parents/guardians, officials, or family members will not be tolerated as indicated above.
4. **Assume that anyone can see what you post.** The internet is a fully discoverable, which means that anyone with an Internet connection – including our participants – can find even the most obscure information.
5. **Identify yourself.** Use a personal email address, not a Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association's email address as your primary means of identification. Under no circumstances are you permitted to identify yourself as a spokesperson for Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association
6. **Pass on any press inquiries.** Social media postings occasionally generate media coverage. If you are ever asked to make a comment regarding Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association by media, please direct those individuals to the Colorado Springs Vikings Football and Cheer Association web site. There they will be able to contact the entire Association Board.

**By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement listed above can forfeit my family's participation in the Vikings Association. I acknowledge that I have read and understand these terms.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to uphold the terms outlined on this contract.  
(Print Participants' Name)

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to uphold the terms outlined on this contract.  
(Print Parent/Guardian's Name)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

