



## *Estero Mustangs Football* *2020 Code of Conduct*

The Estero Mustangs expects all football players to conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship. Certain behaviors will NOT be tolerated by the Association. The first is any participant who engages in **intimidation, bullying, attempting to intentionally harm another player (i.e. intentionally leading with the helmet repeatedly, intentional helmet to helmet contact, etc.), or disrespect for authority during practices, games, or off the field.** These activities, when witnessed by Mustang staff, shall be disciplined. The first offense is punishable by up to and including a suspension from a game by the head coach (The timing of this suspension shall be at the sole discretion of the head coach). A second offense will result in a one week suspension from the team and shall be at the discretion of the Athletic Director. A third offense will result in suspension from the team for the balance of the season at the discretion of the Vice President. In addition to the above, the Association does not tolerate **fighting**. A fight is defined as a single punch or kick by one individual to another person (a second party). If the second party does not retaliate, they will not be disciplined unless it is determined that they provoked the fight in any manner. If a fight is witnessed by a member of the Mustangs staff, both parties shall immediately be suspended for the following game. Parents shall report any incidents with another player, coach or parent directly to the **head coach only**. This is so that one individual understands all that is occurring with the team and can determine if any trends are occurring that need to be addressed.

## General Rules:

1. This is a Pop Warner Association. Board Members, Team Moms and Coaches are volunteers who donate many hours to this organization. Parents, children, family members and guests are expected to communicate and interact with Board Members, Team Moms and Coaches in a respectful manner as more fully set forth in the Code of Conduct.
2. The Pop Warner season runs from August 1 to December 31. (For those teams on competitive levels only).
3. Football is a commitment and a team effort. The Coaches need each parent to cooperate with them at all times. Parents are expected to have their child at all practices, games and events dressed, on time, and ready to participate.
4. Each child is required to furnish the Association with a completed and signed current physical/medical form, Code of Conduct form, Equipment Requirements form, Age and Weight Requirements form, photo authorization form, a copy of last year's final report card, the original and one photocopy of the child's birth certificate (original to be returned upon verification), absentee form (Pop Warner Form) and any other paperwork required by National Pop Warner. ***YOUR CHILD CANNOT PRACTICE UNTIL ALL PAPERWORK IS SIGNED AND TURNED IN.***
5. Parents are encouraged to be present at all practices or make arrangements with another parent to be present. **Tiny Mites and Mitey Mites are REQUIRED** to have a parent present or make arrangements with another parent to be present at ALL practices. Parents must be prompt in picking up their children from practices/games especially during threatening or inclement weather where practices may be ended early. Continued tardiness for pick up will result in disciplinary action.
6. The use of bad language, smoking, alcohol, drugs, or criminal behavior will not be tolerated on or off the field. Any of these infractions will lead to disciplinary actions including game suspensions and/or dismissal from the team. Each football player should always work toward being a good example for others. Be proud to wear your uniform and make us proud to have you wear it.
7. It is the parents' responsibility to provide/arrange transportation for his/her child to and from all practices and games. Football players should always be on time and present for all games and practices. Other activities, with the exception of illness, scholastics, religion and emergency family obligations should not interfere with the football schedule
8. Parents are not to leave their child unattended if unable to locate your team's coach during practice and games.

9. Parents of a football player must notify via email or phone the head coach or team mom in advance if they will be absent from practice.
10. A football player may not be permitted to play if the coach feels that he is not prepared due to missed practices and/or games. This will be solely at the coach's discretion.
11. Repeated absences from practice/games may result in dismissal from the team.
12. Parents are NOT permitted on the field or practice areas at any times. You may observe practice from the east side of the practice field. This is for the safety of the children. All Board Members and members of the coaching staff have undergone a background check and have been cleared by Peace River Pop Warner.
13. While in attendance at practices, games or other events on public property, all parties shall be expected to abide by all Lee School Board and the Lee County Parks and Recreation rules and regulations.
14. Parents are responsible for understanding the age and weight requirements. It should be noted that your child does not fall within a particular weight he/she will not be allowed to participate in practice. These rules are effective August 1st of each season.
15. Rules are for everyone. Each parent and child must follow all of the rules in order to make this a successful program for everyone. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgment of having received and read these rules. Your child will not be able to participate unless this acknowledgment has been signed by both parent and football player, and received by the Association.
16. If you have any questions during the season regarding actions that have been taken toward your child, please follow the proper chain of command. We encourage you to first speak with your head coach to resolve any questions or conflict. Should you be unable to do so, please communicate with the Athletic Director. We invite any questions or suggestions that you might have. The coaches are volunteering their time for the program. All volunteers involved in the program are open to your comments and suggestions; however, please remember that we must always look out for the best interest of your child and the TEAM.
17. Generally, players are required to be at the field 1.5 hrs. prior to game time. This time will be spent for practice/warm- up/weigh-in. Your team parent will provide you with exact time before each game.
18. We respectfully ask that parents not attempt to talk to their players during the game or halftime. The coaches need your player's full attention and your full support on this issue.

19. As parents if you are not pleased with the way the game is going or are frustrated with your player's participation, please do not approach the coaches during or after the game. Please hold your comments and speak to the Head Coach on the following **MONDAY** to discuss your concerns. The same holds true with regards to practices. If there is a concern, please speak to the Head Coach after or before practice begins.
20. Access to the playing field during games is limited. Only those adults with a current Peace River issued badge will be allowed on the playing field. Exceptions to this rule would be any parent serving in the volunteer positions of the chain gang. In addition, only those players that are currently playing or are warming up are permitted on the playing field or the surrounding area.
21. Rain or shine, we play! All football players must report to the field unless notified by the coaching staff. Players will only be released from a game if the referees call the game.
22. Important note: Saturday games are held during the day in the HEAT. Children need to be aware that it is very hot during these games and proper hydration precautions should be followed both during and before the games begin. Likewise, football players should have breakfast or lunch before arriving at the field to avoid illness.
23. At the end of each game, football players must remain with their coach until they are dismissed into the custody of their parent. If someone other than the parent is picking up the child, the coach or team mom must be notified in advance. A child may only leave with a parent unless advance arrangements have been made.
24. It is the responsibility of each player to maintain the football equipment issued to him and return all equipment at the last game. Failure to return equipment will result in your child becoming ineligible to play the following season and the parents will be responsible for replacement.

***EACH PLAYER UNDERSTANDS THAT ALL EQUIPMENT ISSUED TO HIM (THIS INCLUDES HELMET, SHOULDER PADS, THIGH PADS, KNEE PADS, GAME JERSEY, PRACTICE JERSEY, GAME PANTS, PRACTICE PANTS) IS THE PROPERTY OF ESTERO MUSTANGS AND IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT, OR AGREE TO REIMBURSE THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT BASED ON THE COST PER YOUR EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT LIST.***

## **Adult Code of Conduct in Accordance with National Pop Warner Rules:**

In order to uphold the goals of Pop Warner and ensure that all participants have the benefit of a safe and fun learning environment, all parents, guardians and other adults and attendees of Pop Warner events, including but not limited to practices, competitions, and banquets, must behave in a respectful, courteous and sportsmanlike manner at all times.

Parents and other adults are expected to follow all rules and regulations:

1. Any adult who is using alcohol, smoking, non-prescription drugs and/or appears intoxicated at a Pop Warner event, and/or who is flagrantly rude, attempts to intimidate, verbally abuses, is consistently negative/disrespectful, gossips, heckles, taunts, ridicules, boos, throws objects and/or uses vulgarity or profane language/gestures with an official, coach, volunteer, staff member, participant or other event attendee, will be removed from a Pop Warner event. The member organization may issue a written warning to the individual regarding the misbehavior and the adult's children may also be removed from the event. Any adult who commits one or more of the above-stated offenses a second time will be banned from any and all Pop Warner events for a minimum period of one year from the date of the second offense, and their children may also be removed from the program for that time period.
2. Any adult who physically or verbally assaults an official, coach, volunteer, staff member or participant or threatens grave bodily harm may be banned immediately from any and all Pop Warner events at a minimum for one year from the date of the offense, and their children may also be removed from any and all Pop Warner programs for that same period of time. After the ban has expired, if the individual commits another offense of the adult code of conduct, the individual will be permanently banned from any and all Pop Warner events and the individual's children may also be permanently removed from any and all Pop Warner programs.
3. Pop Warner, including the Estero Mustangs, reserves the right to suspend and/or remove any individuals from the program or its events in order to ensure the safety of its members and uphold its mission.

In closing, all Mustang football players are:

- Expected to follow all rules and regulations as more fully set forth above.
- Use foul language or in any way demonstrate disrespect for fellow team members or coaching staff.
- Expected to demonstrate a winning attitude and foster team spirit through cohesion and commitment to common goals.

- Expected to conduct themselves at games and team events in a manner that demonstrates team pride, positive attitude, and gracious behavior towards competitor teams. This behavior is EXPECTED AT ALL TIMES.
  - Prohibited from intimidating a fellow team member, or participating in negative behavior by word and/or physical deed. ***This also applies to the use of social media and other online presence.*** Any such behavior will result in mandatory removal from the team per official Pop Warner Rule Book. While in a Estero Mustangs uniform, pride pack or other apparel, the football player is prohibited from the use of social media, photography or live demonstrations that use inappropriate signs, gestures, behaviors, and displays of affection or other actions unbecoming to the Estero Mustangs image. Any such behavior may result in disciplinary action and/or removal from the team.
4. Any disciplinary actions taken by the administration of the school where the football player attends that results in out-of- school suspension or otherwise prohibits the child from being on school property will also result in the suspension of the child from the Estero Mustangs program for this same duration.
  5. Likewise, any other disciplinary actions taken by the school administration and brought to the attention of the Athletic Director shall be addressed and may result in the suspension of the child from the Estero Mustangs program.
  6. It is understood that these rules and regulations cannot possibly anticipate all circumstances. Therefore, any adjustments to the above repercussions shall be at the sole discretion of the Athletic Director.

**LET'S HAVE A GREAT SEASON AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST OF THE BEST!!!**

We want playing football to be a rewarding experience for your child. In order to achieve this goal, we must insist on your cooperation, as well as your kids. Pop Warner football is a 4 to 5 month commitment, requiring exercise, hard work, time and dedication. Football Players should want to be there for themselves not because their parents want them there. **Be prepared & fully committed to attend every practice and every game.**

Playing football is a rewarding experience that teaches many life skills. The Estero Mustangs has made every effort to make this a successful season. With cooperation, hard work and dedication, everyone will be a WINNER!!

Good Luck Estero Mustangs! Let's have a GREAT season!

# **ESTERO MUSTANGS 2020 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FOOTBALL ACCEPTANCE FORM**

The undersigned player, parent or guardian acknowledges that Estero Mustangs has adopted a Code of Conduct, Rules & Regulations for players, parents and guardians and that each of the undersigned has individually read, understands, and has agreed to adhere to such currently issued Code of Conduct, Rules & Regulations for Football.

The undersigned state that they clearly understand that violating the Code of Conduct, Rules & Regulations may cause the player to be suspended for a specified or indefinite period of time based on a review and ruling by the Estero Mustangs Executive Committee and that no refunds will be given.

## **Player:**

I have read, understand, and agree to be held accountable for behavior contrary to the Code of Conduct, Rules & Regulations of the Estero Mustangs.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parent or Guardian:**

I/we have read, understand, and agree to be held accountable for behavior contrary to the Code of Conduct, Rules & Regulations of the Estero Mustangs.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_