



TAFT FOOTBALL PRESEASON PARENTS MEETING

PLAYER / TEAM RULES

1. **Be ON TIME** (For everything you do)
2. **BE POSITIVE** (Especially in times of ADVERSITY)
3. **Never fail a "SELF-TEST"**
(If my actions or the decisions I make, would be on the front page of the news, would I be proud or embarrassed?)

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Enforcement of team and school rules while attending or being transported to or from an athletic event come under the jurisdiction of the regular school disciplinary procedures at TAFT High School. The head coach may add to the punishment from the school but will not bypass ordinary procedures. Since discipline is a vital ingredient in our team's success, athletes can be disciplined for many reasons, all of which tie back into our BIG 3 listed above. These can include the following:

- Unexcused absence from team meetings, practices or games
- Tardiness to practice or CLASS
- Lack of sportsmanship, disrespectful, or indignant behavior
- Failure to turn in fees or equipment on time
- CIF violations or breaking training rules
- Unsatisfactory participation in the off-season program
- Failure to support the program
- Ejection from a contest

We will treat each athlete and each situation based on the incident itself. We don't take a "cookie cutter" approach to every situation. There are a variety of disciplinary procedures we can take depending on the situation the athlete finds himself in.

Possible Disciplinary procedures include but are not limited to the following:

- Suspension or expulsion from the team
- Benching or dismissal from game or practice
- Extra conditioning (i.e., running, rolling, etc.)
- Performance of community service

Athletes facing any type of last resort disciplinary procedure will be placed on a "contract" with the Head Coach, which will be signed by the athlete and the parent. Any further infraction when on contract, will result in the athlete's removal from the Taft Football Team, and possibly dismissal from Taft High School.



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PARENT EXPECTATIONS

1. KEEP ATHLETICS IN PERSPECTIVE

- Emphasize the right priorities: Family, Academics, and Athletics
- Place value in participation and giving your best effort, not the winning or losing of a contest. (*We play for Championships here at Taft, and we want to win, but making sure a player gives his best effort is our primary focus.*)
- Remember you as a parent at Taft represent the school, the staff, and alumni. Be involved, be vocal, but do your best to be positive. At the end of the day, its still just a game, and a high school game at that.
- Do not publicly demean participants in an athletic contest
(*Players, officials, coaches, other parents or spectators, etc.*)

2. SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETE

- Talk to your child about how things are going with his/her sport
- Come to as many of your child's games as possible
- Stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol
- Do not support "quitting" as the best way to solve problems, but rather perseverance, and how to deal with adversity

3. SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

- Be supportive of the coaching staff and respect their professional judgment, they are here to help your child grow as an athlete and as a person.
(We're not always right, we will make mistakes, but we are doing OUR BEST to make decisions with THE TEAM'S best interest in mind)
- Follow the communication procedure with coaches as outlined on next page
- Understand the time commitment and needs of the particular sports as many of them involve significant commitments of time and resources
- Be willing to help in fundraising efforts, or work events that will benefit the athletes within the Taft Football program (*i.e., Sell Team Apparel at Home Games, Team Moms organizing events, Team Meals, etc.*)

COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES

The entire coaching staff is encouraged to keep the lines of communication open with our athletes and their families. We will always do our best to supply you with all of the essential information that you will need to manage your time and commitment to the football program successfully. Many times, parents will have questions and feel the need to meet with their sons coach. Our coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what is best for the entire team, taking into account every member of the team. The coaches work extremely hard for little or sometimes no financial benefit. They coach because they love working with kids and realize the positive benefit of participation in football. The following are some guidelines and policies to help facilitate the most productive and efficient relationship with the coaching staff.

Parents are encouraged to discuss:

- Their child's progress and ways to help their student improve
- Concerns regarding their child's behavior
- The philosophy of the coach
- The expectations of coaches and role for their child on the team
- Team rules and policies
- Disciplinary action incurred by their child
- The college recruiting process
- Ways in which they can help the team (team parent, pasta nights etc.)

Parents are NOT encouraged to discuss:

- Placement on teams (Frosh/Soph, Varsity)
- Playing time
- Coaching strategies used during practice or contests
- Other student-athletes

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

If a problem should arise please make every effort to follow the steps below for a productive resolution:

1. Student-athlete contacts the coach to discuss the issue
2. If a resolution is not reached, the student-athlete should contact an athletic director to discuss the issue
3. If a resolution is not reached, the parent should contact the coach and arrange for a meeting
4. In the rare instance that there is still no resolution, the parent should contact an athletic director and arrange for a meeting.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION

Communication with coaches is most productive when an appointment can be made to talk about the issue. **Parents should never try to talk to a coach before or after a contest on a game day.** This is the most emotional time for all parties involved and is not the time for a meeting about specific issues with your student-athlete. Please respect the coaches and their need to be focused on the task at hand.

- We have a "48 Hour Rule" within the Taft Football Program. Please give coaches 48 hours after a game before asking us directly about the game, decisions made, or your son's role in it. Emotions run high in wins and losses, and immediately following a game is the WORST time to discuss things with a coach. We know we need to see the gamefilm and digest what happened to be able to offer any real answers to any possible questions a parent might have. Please respect that and keep it in mind when feeling the need to discuss anything with ANY COACH. Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to come to tonight's meeting and for reading through our preseason parent's packet. We hope it was informative and also lets you know what we as coaches expect from the players. Parents are always the backbone of any high school athletic program, and we appreciate any and all support you provide.

TEAM MEALS

We are setting up our team meals again this season for the Varsity. We will have a pasta dinner the night before the game (Thursday's), and a team meal on gamedays (Friday's). We have these meals set up at the following:

\$5/player - Thursday Pasta Dinner

\$7/player – Friday Chicken dinner w/ salad, potatoes, breadsticks from Chicks Grill.

This would total \$12/week. In these times of paying \$6 for a value meal from any fast food place, we're not asking that the kids pay that much for a quality meal. We're feeding them foods that help in optimum performance. We do however need to make sure that they pay. Trying to collect money every Thursday and Friday makes things very difficult on players, coaches, and parents. So we ask that **ALL PARENTS** please pay up front for these meals for the season. At \$12/week for 10 regular season games, and the 1st + 2nd Rounds of playoffs, that would be \$140/player.

Checks can be made payable to Taft Football.

** We know times are tough right now for many financially. If you want to break that into some type of payment plan, please contact Coach Kerstetter to discuss ways to make this easier on your budget.*

Reminder:

We will not give out football equipment (helmets, shoulder pads, etc.) to any athlete until they have turned in their athletic packet (physicals, emergency card, insurance, etc.), fundraising money and the signed form below. Please be sure to sign it and return it to the Head Football Coach ASAP to prevent any delays in this process. Thank You.

Matt Kerstetter
Head Football Coach
TAFT HIGH SCHOOL



2010 PRESEASON PARENTS MEETING

I have read and understand the rules and expectations of the Taft Football team and expectations for Parents of all football players. I am signing off that I will be respectful of these rules and do my best to support my child and the TAFT FOOTBALL PROGRAM.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____