

Parents,

Included in this packet are the instructions for completing all the required Pop Warner Paperwork. We know that this is much more intensive than any other sport, but it also helps ensure that all players are the appropriate age, weight, are in proper health, and have the appropriate academic standards. This paperwork is foundational to the Pop Warner League

Through the years, we have often seen the below common mistakes. Before submitting your paperwork, please check that each item is correct in the paperwork. **DO NOT TURN IN INCOMPLETE, PARTIAL OR INCORRECT PAPERWORK...it will get rejected and returned**

**PLAYERS CANNOT RECEIVE EQUIPMENT OR BEGIN PRACTICE UNTIL ALL PAPERWORK IS COMPLETED.** Please make sure the following items are accurate:

- o Ensuring that all forms are completed and included in packet (7-9 Pages Total)
- o Player Contract (2 Pages)
- o Physical Form (2 Pages)
- o Copy of Birth Certificate (1 Page)
- o Copy of Report Card (1-2 Pages)
- o Code of Ethics (1 Page)
- o Parent/Coach Communication Plan (1 Pages)
- o Mother's month and day of birth is filled out on Player contract
- o **Both player and parent actually sign the player contract**
- o Date of Physical is in **2024 Calendar Year**. Actual Physical can **NOT** have occurred in 2023, even if the medical professional re-signs in 2024
- o Report Card is for entire school year, and not from 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter
- o We know report cards are not available until school ends, so submit paperwork after school year is completed o Birth certificate is a COPY and not original

**Please re-read the above list and check off each item when completed**

Please complete all paperwork as soon as possible to help us reduce the administrative burden.

Paperwork is officially due July 21 2024, but can be submitted as soon as you are registered, paid, and have completed the school year (for the report card piece)

PLEASE REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH A COPY  
OF YOUR FINAL 2023/2024 REPORT CARD

(When school year is complete)

(NO PARTIAL YEAR REPORT CARDS CAN BE  
ACCEPTED)

**PLEASE REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH A COPY OF  
YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

**(DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS)**

# MARA FOOTBALL - CODE OF ETHICS

**Parents** - I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating with the MARA FOOTBALL teams by following this code of ethics.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and referees at every game, practice, or tournament.
- I will refrain from making derogatory remarks while on MARA property.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will remember that the game is for the children and not for the adults.
- I will make sure my child treats other players, coaches, fans, and referees with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will promise to help my child enjoy the FOOTBALL experience by being supportive of the coaches and referees/referees, being a respectful fan, and assisting in whatever manner I am able.
- I will promise to share in the responsibilities of performing player monitor duties for my team during games.
- I will promise to share in the responsibilities of closing the field down whenever my team plays the last game of the night at MARA.
- I will assist the coaching staff by refraining from “coaching” my child from the stands/sidelines during a game. Instead, I will be encouraging and affirming whenever possible.
- I will do my best to make FOOTBALL fun for my child.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol, and smoke-free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all games and practices.
- I will not use profanity anywhere on the practice/playing field
- I will not be alone with or be placed in charge of a player that is not my own unless the coach has verbal confirmation from that player’s parent.
- I will refrain from allowing my child to participate in other activities that will prevent the child from making practice/games on a regular basis.
  
- I understand that I may be asked to assist the coach with practice, this is especially true with younger children, however, I understand that if I have not been asked to help with practice by the coach, then I am not permitted to be on the practice field.
  
- I understand that it is now considered a Felony (in NC) to verbally abuse or touch a referee.

\* I understand that if a Referee/Umpire/Game Official ejects me from a game for improper actions, I will be asked to leave the park that day and will also be suspended for the next scheduled game. I realize that my failure to abide by this code of ethics may directly affect my child’s status on the team.

**Players** - I hereby pledge to be positive about my MARA FOOTBALL experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this code of ethics.

- I will abide by the rules from Pop Warner and MARA local rules.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, referees, and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat all coaches, players, referees, and parents with respect and I will expect to be treated that way.
- I will remember that FOOTBALL is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to have fun during my FOOTBALL experience and I will alert parents and coaches if it stops being fun.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will expect to receive a fair amount of playing time.

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Parent Signature

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Player Signature

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Date

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Date

# **Matthews Athletic & Recreation Association (MARA)**

**Parent / Coach Communication Plan -**

**Home of the **Colts****

### ***Parent / Coach Relationship***

Parents and coaches are important role models for children; they both provide necessary guidance to young people in their development and in their understanding of the world in which they will live and work as adults. When your children become involved with the football program at Matthews Athletic & Recreation Association (MARA), you as parents, have a right to understand the expectations that will be placed upon them.

The following information is intended to be used as guidelines to establish an environment in which open communication and mutual respect are fostered.

### ***Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach***

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests
3. Explanation of MARA Colts Football Program rules and regulations
4. Team requirements (i.e., special equipment, fees, behavior expectations, conditioning recommendations)
5. Procedures if your child is injured during participation
6. Explanation of excused and unexcused absences from practice / contests and their consequences
7. Discipline that results in denying your child a participation opportunity

### ***Communication Coaches Expect from Parents***

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance of the conflict
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the MARA Colts Football Program, they will experience some very rewarding moments. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your children wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### ***Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches***

1. The treatment of your child – mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept that your child may not play as much as you would like. Although the coaches are volunteers, they are also professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best.

### ***Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches***

1. Playing time (immediately following game)
2. Play calling
3. Other children

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

### ***Procedure to Follow When You Discuss a Concern with a Coach***

1. Contact coach to set appointment
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Football Commissioner - A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please **do not** confront a coach before or after a contest or practice without setting up an appointment. These can be emotional times. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

### ***What Can a Parent Do If the Meeting with The Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?***

1. Contact and set up an appointment with the Football Commissioner to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance of success in adulthood, the football program was established to teach competition and other life skills. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

**Rules & Regulations** - By my signature below, I hereby stipulate that I have read, fully understand, and voluntarily agree to all of the steps, processes, procedures, rules, and regulations of the parent/coach communication plan:

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Print Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Print Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_