

Sherwood Youth Football Association

2011 Expectations Contract

Parents, players, coaches and board members:

- Read this document thoroughly,
- Complete and sign the signature page,
- Return completed signature page to the SYFA Registrar, and
- Keep the rest of this document for your reference.

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I. Introduction

In order to maintain a quality program, all parties involved in SYFA (including players, parents, coaches and board members) must work together, strive for excellence, and be held to the highest standards. We expect that all members of our organization will act in accordance with our mission statement and core values.

SYFA Mission Statement: The Sherwood Youth Football Association (SYFA) will provide the children of Sherwood an opportunity to play competitive tackle football in a safe, structured and enjoyable environment.

SYFA Core Values: Our organization remains committed to maintaining a no-pay-to-play structure so that we can provide children from all economic backgrounds the opportunity to participate in a youth sport. We will teach discipline, responsibility, perseverance, teamwork and sportsmanship knowing that lessons learned through youth sports will further benefit players in their everyday lives. We recognize that children learn best by example and will actively encourage all coaches and board members to model these core values.

SYFA's expectations of players, parents, coaches and board members are detailed in the sections to follow. Please read the information thoroughly. Reading and signing this document is mandatory for all members of SYFA. If you have any questions about this information, please contact an SYFA Commissioner.

II. Registration: Paperwork and Key Dates

Parents shall complete, sign and submit all required paperwork to the SYFA Registrar. No player may practice until registration is complete and all of their paperwork has been received by the Registrar.

Registration opens April 14, 2011 and closes June 15, 2011. For registration to be complete, the SYFA Registrar must receive ALL of the following (completed and signed) by June 15, 2011:

- Registration Form (online or paper form)
- \$75 Fundraising Deposit
- TVYFL Player Contract
- TVYFL Approved Medical Release
- SYFA Expectations Contract

Medical Release: Please note that in order to practice or play football with SYFA, every player must turn in a completed TVYFL Approved Medical Release form. A licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor or nurse practitioner) recognized by the State of Oregon is required to sign the form after February 1st of the current calendar year. His/her signature indicates a release for full participation in Sherwood Youth Football. Note: If your player has had a physical recently, your doctor may determine if a new physical is required.

Wait List: It is SYFA's goal to place all interested Sherwood youth on a football team. Due to circumstances beyond our control (e.g., field space, number of coaches, etc.) wait-listing may be required. Players will be prioritized based the date the registration form with payment is received. For complete registrations received by June 15th, returning players have priority over new players. If a

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player's registration is not complete by **June 15, 2011**, that player will be automatically wait-listed. The automatic wait-listing applies to all players whether returning or new.

Practice begins August 8, 2011. Players are expected to report on this day and will be behind in conditioning and hitting if they do not. **The last day to report for practice is August 15, 2011.** This is the last possible day to report to be eligible to play on a team with SYFA this season.

Players must have their official head shot taken and submitted to the SYFA Registrar by picture day (**August 27, 2011**). If the photo is not received by this date, the player's registration will be cancelled and they will not play for SYFA this season.

III. Fundraising

SYFA remains committed to maintaining a no-pay-to-play structure. This means that we give every family the opportunity to fundraise their financial obligation to SYFA. We are wholly dependant on our two main fundraisers and we need every family's support to keep the program running. Therefore, parents and players are **required** to participate in SYFA's fundraising efforts in order to help cover our program's many necessary expenses:

- Each player shall **pay for at least \$75 in car wash tickets**. This money is paid at registration and is a pre-payment for your first **15** car wash tickets. When you receive the tickets in August, they are yours to keep, give away, or sell. If you choose to sell, you will re-coup your money.
- Each player shall have **at least one parent work a one-hour shift at the car wash**. If the assigned car wash time is inconvenient, it is the parent's responsibility to find a replacement or trade times or your child will not be eligible to play the 1st game.
- Each player shall **sell at least 4 Entertainment Books @ \$25 each**.

Players will not be eligible to play in league games until both the Entertainment Book money and the Car Wash money have been received by the appropriate SYFA board member.

IV. Equipment

For each player, **parents will need to provide** athletic shoes, practice jerseys, and game socks. Shoes must have molded cleats or cleats with posts that screw internally into the shoe. The maximum allowable size of the cleat is ½ inch (measured from tip of cleat to base of shoe). No all-metal, primarily-metal, or metal-tipped cleats may be worn.

SYFA will provide at no cost: a helmet, shoulder pads, game jersey, practice and game pants with pads and belts, a girdle with pads, and a mouth guard. Players have the *option* to purchase a helmet and/or shoulder pads. This equipment must be ordered in the spring (in April) well before the season begins. If interested in purchasing equipment, contact the Equipment Manager ASAP.

Parents and players shall check-out and turn-in gear on the advertised days. We expect the equipment to be properly cared for, and returned clean and in good condition. A parent must sign for the equipment with the promise to pay for its replacement if it is not returned, or if it is returned in unacceptable condition.

All gear shall be returned by November 13, 2011. If gear is not returned in acceptable condition by this date, the player may be ineligible to play for SYFA the following season.

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Basic equipment cleaning guidelines: Clean gear as needed using the instructions below.

- Pads/Shoulder Pads: Wipe with soapy sponge. Towel dry excess water. Lightly spray with Febreze (*not* Lysol) if needed. Air dry overnight.
- Helmet: Wash with soapy sponge inside and out to remove dirt. Remove the cheek pads and chinstrap and softly scrub. Towel dry everything. Air dry overnight.
- Game Jersey: Machine wash on gentle cycle. Hang up to air dry overnight. *Jerseys should never be machine-dried.*
- Pants/Belt: Machine wash. Dry (dryer ok).
- All-in-One Pants: Machine wash. Hang up to air dry overnight (all-in-ones should not be machine dried).

V. Attendance

Practices begin in early August. Each player must have at least 10 hours of conditioning before they can practice in full pads. This conditioning occurs during the first five nights of SYFA practice (no other practices, camps or workouts count towards conditioning requirements). If players miss all or part of conditioning for any reason, upon their return, they will have to come to practice and earn conditioning requirements prior to putting on full gear. According to TVYFL bylaws, teams may practice up to 10 hours per week before Labor Day. After Labor Day, teams can practice only 6 hours per week. All games are held on Saturday.

Players and parents shall abide by the practice and game policies:

- Players shall attend and participate in practices and games.
- Players shall be dropped off and picked up on time for practices and games. On game days, players shall arrive at the field at least 60 minutes prior to the game. Players must make weigh-in 30 minutes prior to each game or they will be ineligible to play.
- After Labor Day, if a player has one unexcused practice or two excused practices during the week, he/she will not be able to play in that week's game.
 - Excused practices include illness, injury, required school functions, family emergencies, and religious commitments. A player must call the coach prior to practice for a missed practice to be excused.
 - During the season, one exception may be granted for a missed practice that does not meet the criteria for an excused absence (i.e., once during a season, a player may miss a practice for any reason and it can be counted as excused). The player's coach must be notified 24 hours in advance of the missed practice or it will be unexcused.

VI. Academics

According to SYFA policies, all players are student-athletes and shall make schoolwork a priority. To prepare 7th and 8th graders for high school athletics, SYFA works with the local middle schools to check students' grades. Any 7th or 8th grader with one F or more than one D for the school week will be ineligible to play in the upcoming league game on Saturday. In addition, all players may be ineligible for games if they incur serious disciplinary actions at school, during practices, or at home. In early September, a more detailed explanation of this year's grade check process will be communicated to the JV and Varsity players and parents.

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VII. Behavior

All members of SYFA are expected to show excellent sportsmanship and represent SYFA and the City of Sherwood with the highest standards. In promoting the ethics, safety, and spirit of youth football, SYFA has adopted the following Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is binding upon all SYFA participants: players, parents, coaches and board members. Violations of this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action.

A. General Code of Conduct

SYFA's mission statement is to provide the children of Sherwood an opportunity to play competitive tackle football in a safe, structured and enjoyable environment. We believe that a "safe, enjoyable environment" is one that affirms and fosters respect for human dignity and diversity.

SYFA will not tolerate harassment, disruptive behavior, or discriminatory behavior, and expects everyone in our organization to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our mission and core values. All members of our organization are expected to use appropriate behavior and act in a sportsmanlike manner when in the presence of and in contact with players, opponents, parents, spectators, cheerleaders, coaches, board members and officials.

What is considered unsportsmanlike conduct (including harassment, disruptive behavior, and discriminatory behavior):

- ✓ Saying words, jokes, or comments based on an individual's sex, race, ethnicity, age, religion, weight, or any other legally protected characteristics
- ✓ Taunting, baiting, or using 'trash talk'
- ✓ Using inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment
- ✓ Threatening to harm a person or property directly or indirectly, with or without a weapon
- ✓ Being hostile and uncooperative after a reasonable request
- ✓ Throwing, kicking, or abusing equipment or other objects
- ✓ Fighting
- ✓ Using intimidating actions (bullying)
- ✓ Causing a person to fear for their safety
- ✓ Swearing or using profanity
- ✓ Using obscene gestures
- ✓ Showing excessive celebration during a game or at the immediate conclusion of a game

B. Player Conduct

In addition to adhering to the General Code of Conduct detailed in Section VII, Part A (above), players will not:

- ✓ Leave the team-designated area(s), unless excused to leave, by a coach, parent or guardian.
- ✓ Instigate flagrant or violent fouls on the practice or game field.
- ✓ Harass, bait or show objectionable demonstration or dissent regarding any official's or coach's decision.
- ✓ Refuse to abide by an official's or coach's decision.

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- ✓ Disobey or attempt to circumvent SYFA or TVYFL rules and regulations or the intent thereof.
- ✓ Use illegal substances or act in any way that is detrimental to themselves, their team, SYFA, or TVYFL.

This Player Code of Conduct applies to players during practices, games, team-sponsored events, SYFA-sponsored events, or any time the player is wearing an SYFA jersey.

C. Parent Conduct

In addition to adhering to the General Code of Conduct detailed in Section VII, Part A (above), parents will not:

- ✓ Harass, bait or show objectionable dissent towards any official, board member, coach, player, cheerleader, spectator or other(s).
- ✓ Interfere with coaches or players during a game or practice.
- ✓ Be in the coaching box, player's area, or on the game field/area prior to, during, or at the conclusion of a game, unless the Commissioner, Field Greeter, or Head Coach has given permission to do so.
- ✓ Use tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics in front of players or cheerleaders during practices, games, team-sponsored events or SYFA-sponsored events.
- ✓ Be present during practices, games, team-sponsored events or SYFA-sponsored events while under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics.
- ✓ Act in any way that is detrimental to themselves, their team, their community, SYFA or TVYFL.

Further, parents are strongly encouraged to stay in the bleachers and away from the players during game time to let coaches coach and to let the players focus on the game, their teammates, and their coaches.

D. Coach and Board Member Conduct

In addition to adhering to the General Code of Conduct detailed in Section VII, Part A (above), coaches and board members will not:

- ✓ Harass or bait or show objectionable dissent towards any official, player, coach, cheerleader, spectator or other(s).
- ✓ Use tobacco, alcohol or illegal narcotics in front of players or cheerleaders during practices, games, team-sponsored events or SYFA-sponsored events.
- ✓ Be present during practices, games, team-sponsored events or SYFA-sponsored events while under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics.
- ✓ Act in any way that is detrimental to themselves, their team, and their community, SYFA or TVYFL.

Coaches and board members will:

- ✓ Show the proper respect to all and be held to the highest standards of moral conduct and character both on and off the field.

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- ✓ Report any Code of Conduct or rule violation to an appropriate SYFA board member. This includes violations made by players, parents, coaches, board members, or other parties.

VIII. Incident Reporting and Management

If you have witnessed a player violating the SYFA Code of Conduct or have been subject to a player's unsportsmanlike conduct, contact the player's head coach immediately. If the head coach is unavailable or if you believe it would be inappropriate to contact the head coach, contact an SYFA Coach of Coaches. If the unsportsmanlike conduct is exhibited by a parent, coach or board member, contact an appropriate board member.

Upon receiving a report of unsportsmanlike conduct, the head coach will immediately report the incident to the SYFA Coach of Coaches. The Coach of Coaches will inform an SYFA Commissioner. Depending on the severity of the incident, the Commissioner may inform the full SYFA board of directors.

All parties are encouraged to raise concerns, in good faith, without fear of reprisal or retaliation. SYFA will not tolerate retaliation against anyone who reports a concern in good faith. Anyone who engages in retaliation is subject to disciplinary action.

IX. Disciplinary Actions

At least one SYFA board member (more if necessary and appropriate) will thoroughly investigate all incidents or reported concerns. Any player, parent, coach, or board member who violates the TVYFL Bylaws, SYFA Bylaws, SYFA Policies, or the SYFA Expectations Contract, will be subject to appropriate corrective action. Disciplinary action can range from a verbal or written reprimand to suspension from practices, suspension from games, and removal from the Sherwood Youth Football Association. The decision to suspend or remove someone from the program will be determined by a vote of at least two-thirds of the SYFA board of directors after thorough review of the situation.

Anyone who does not abide by the TVYFL Bylaws, SYFA Bylaws, SYFA Policies, or the SYFA Expectations Contract, can and will be asked to leave the game or event, and may be barred from attending any other SYFA-sponsored game or event.

Any coach, player, parent, board member, spectator, or anyone else – whether associated or not associated with SYFA or TVYFL – who is ejected (removed) from a game or practice is automatically suspended from attending and/or participating in the next scheduled game or practices for a week. Anyone ejected from a game or practice must leave the premises immediately. While on suspension, the affected person (player, parent, coach or other) may not attend any practices or games in which any SYFA team participates.

If a parent or guardian is ejected from a game or practice or is removed from SYFA, their player may also be suspended from games, practices or removed from the program pending SYFA board recommendation.

The SYFA board of directors shall reserve the right to impose any penalties or disciplinary actions it deems necessary and appropriate for violations of the TVYFL Bylaws, SYFA Bylaws, SYFA Policies, or the SYFA Expectations Contract.

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X. Expectations Contract Signature Page

Please read, sign, and return this page only. Keep the rest of the contract for your reference.

Player:

I have read the Sherwood Youth Football Association (SYFA) Expectations Contract, or have had it read to me. I understand the rules and responsibilities that come with being a player in SYFA. I understand that it is a privilege to play football for SYFA, and that privilege can be revoked if I do not abide by the expectations detailed in this contract.

Player Name (Please Print)

Player Signature

Date

Parent/Coach/Board Member:

I have read the Sherwood Youth Football Association (SYFA) Expectations Contract. I understand the rules and responsibilities that come with being a member of SYFA. I understand that it is a privilege to be associated with SYFA, and that privilege can be revoked if I do not abide by the expectations detailed in this contract. I hereby release SYFA from any and all liability should I not comply with all requirements necessary for myself and/or my son/daughter to be associated with SYFA.

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date