

Family/Volunteer Code of Conduct

The Dover Patriots organization was organized to sponsor and promote youth sports activities for children in the surrounding community. Currently, our organization provides the opportunity for boys and girls to participate in a well- organized and highly structured football and cheerleading program. Our goal is to develop and teach our youth the American principles of community and personal loyalty, teamwork and constructive effort, the spirit of competition, principles of fair play, and physical and mental discipline. It is for the welfare of all the children involved with our organization that we have implemented the Family/Volunteer Rules of Conduct. We ask that you please read and inform everyone in your family concerning these Rules of Conduct because when you sign, you will be signing for everyone in your family, not just yourself.

1. As a part of the Dover Patriots organization, you will be required to actively participate in all league fundraisers.
2. The use of any banned substances as defined by law, tobacco, vape or alcoholic beverage or any evidence of while attending any Tri County Youth Football and Cheerleading Conference (TCYFCC) and Dover Patriots function is strictly prohibited.
3. Inappropriate physical confrontations or threats of physical confrontation (including but not limited to posturing, antagonizing, intimidating & fighting) will not be tolerated by ANYONE.
4. Inappropriate verbal comments, racial slurs, profanity towards; coaches, athletes, officials, directors and/or other parents are STRICTLY PROHIBITED!
5. Any parent/family member volunteering as team parent, coach or board of director etc. shall be subject to a Hillsborough County background check and must complete a certification course through Hillsborough County or NAYS. In addition, you must show completion of a course in Heat Illness, Concussion and CPR Training (links are provided through our website).
6. Please be mindful of video posting on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. This is just a precaution as we would hate for other leagues to have an advantage by viewing our practices, plays in football or cheerleading routines.
1. Parents/family members MUST be respectful to game officials and shall refrain from questioning their decisions, especially in a disrespectful or abusive manner. This includes on and off the field. Any violation of this rule will result in dismissal from the field/park during the event. Additional consequences may be added as deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee including possible dismissal from the organization.

7. Complaints

1. There will be a 24-hour post game/competition cooling off period. No parent/family member shall approach a coach or his/her staff about a complaint after a game or competition until the 24-hour cooling off period has passed. The cooling off period is designed to allow all parties time to think through the events or action and then discuss the complaint when they are less emotionally charged. Reminder that at no time will a public discussion of a problem be conducted. Concerns and problems are to be discussed in private with the head coach and/or Cheer Trustee, not in the presence of uninvolved parties and NEVER in the presence of any child.
2. No parent/family member shall approach a coach or his/her staff about a complaint during practice or games.
3. If there are any complaints not resolved by the coaching staff or trustee, then the complaint shall be submitted in writing to dovertroops0@gmail.com disciplinary committee review. Please follow the proper chain of command as not doing so will likely delay your response from the board as everyone on the disciplinary committee will need to be informed of the complaint to reach a decision.
 - a. Chain of command: Discuss with your head coach first to try and resolve the complaint. If the problem is not resolved, then discuss with the Football or Cheerleading Trustee. If the problem is still not resolved, send your complaint to the email noted above.

Coaches/Coaching Staff/Trainers

Coaches and training staff are volunteers therefore you are expected to follow all the rules stated in this document and:

1. Know the rules and abide by them.
2. Always instruct players in the rules and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules.
3. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
4. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
5. Ensure that all building rules and regulations are followed by the players and spectators.
6. Always ensure that fans of his/her team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity while in attendance at game sites and assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during the games.
7. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.

8. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
9. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating. Take a 24-hour cooling off period.
10. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.
11. Must always display badge during practices, games, competitions, and any event sanctioned by the Dover Patriots or TCYFCC.
12. No practicing or organizing any activities outside of designated practice times and locations without approval from the league trustees. This may be misconstrued as an illegal practice and subject the organization to TCYFCC penalties up to and including season forfeit.

Board of Directors

Board of Directors are volunteers and oversee the Dover Patriots organization. They are vital to establishing ethics and enforcing safety in youth football and cheer. In their capacity as representatives of TCYFCC and Dover Patriots they must always show proper respect to all and will be held to the highest standards of moral conduct and character both on and off the field. They must additionally always be aware that their behavior, decisions, and choices of action have ethical, moral, and physical implications relating to youth participants. Directors are expected to follow all the rules stated in this document and make sure that the rules are followed by everyone. Additionally, they should:

1. Do their best to ensure that teams participate in a safe and healthy environment.
2. Review and be familiar with the Rules, Regulations, By-Laws, and Codes of Conduct of both the TCYFCC and Dover Patriots.
3. Shall not act in any way that is detrimental to themselves, their team, the TCYFCC or Dover Patriots.
4. Must always display badge during practices, games, competitions, and any event sanctioned by the Dover Patriots or TCYFCC.

Reminder that these rules apply to any volunteer and/or family member whether they have a child/relative participating within the Dover Patriots organization. Violation of any rules may result in a verbal reprimand or suspension and/or dismissal of volunteer/parent/relative AND CHILD from the Dover patriots football league with a forfeiture of all registration fees.

Player Name _____

Team _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____