**Cochrane Lions Peewee Football 2024**

**Player/Parent Team Commitment Agreement**

The Cochrane Minor Football Association (Lions) recognizes and supports athletes who participate in multiple activities during the year, and also recognizes that unforeseen circumstances sometimes happen; both of which may affect a player’s attendance. However, the Lions organization also acknowledges that football by nature is unique even among other team sports in that the **safety AND success** of the team depends on every single player knowing their position and being confidently able to carry it out in game-time situations. Also, unlike other sports at this age level, there are no “A” and “B” teams- there’s just *one* league and *one* level of competition. The organizations in this league are highly competitive. Therefore, we must communicate AND emphasize the commitment that is required of those players and parents who are invited and choose to play for the Lions organization in the 2024 Pewee season. This letter acknowledges these commitments and makes the organizational expectations explicit:

* **Importance of practice and expectations for attendance: 80-100%:** *Players rely on their teammates* to commit and participate fully during the season for the betterment of their own skill AND the advancement of progress for the entire team as a whole; football is truly a team sport made up of many moving parts! Besides the obvious skill development aspect, practices also provide opportunities to build up teammates’ rapport, learn to work together and trust each other, and improve game-time communication. The Cochrane Lions Peewee Football team has 3 practices per week (possibly a fourth for film review). Every practice will include warm-up exercises, general conditioning and drills, position-specific skills training, special teams practice, group work, development and enactment of offensive/defensive plays, and game preparation. As such, it is essential for all players to be present and give their coaches (and teammates) the respect of their full attention and positive attitudes.
* **Practices run in ALL types of weather**- rain, snow, sleet, and heat! ONLY ACTIVE LIGHTENING in the area will halt practices/games. In the last few years, we have also run into some air quality issues. If the air quality health index (AQHI) is a 7 or above, we will do our best to move to an indoor location so as to still be able to do film review and game prep. If necessary, games would be rescheduled by the league. Players are expected to be punctual and prepared, dressed for the weather, ready to work hard and give the team their best efforts! Coaches/managers will have plenty of suggestions on how to dress for weather; inclement weather is not an excuse to be absent.
* **Direct \*and timely\* communication with coaches** is required to inform them of any absences- such as for illness, injury, a major and unavoidable family event, etc. Obviously, illness can happen at any time, but please communicate any planned absences for practices and games as soon as possible. \*Especially for games, as coaches will need as much time as possible to prepare. TeamSnap will be the means of communication between parents and coaches. In the case of an injury that prevents players’ full participation, coaches ask that players *still be present at practice* but will modify their activity accordingly.
* **The head coach will have the final decision as to each player’s designated position, and whether a player is adequately prepared and therefore able to safely participate in games.** All players will have the opportunity to evaluate for all positions; but ultimately, coaches put players in the position(s) they are best suited to, based on their skill set and their build/abilities. Parents and players are not to criticize or argue with coaches about field positions. Furthermore, a large part of game preparation in football requires players to learn and understand their team’s offensive/defensive plays. Playbooks will be sent home, and coaches expect that players study and memorize their respective plays (in due time). They may also recommend that players watch game film from the previous week to see where adjustments and/or improvements could be made.
* Game playing time may be negatively affected by absences from practice, a lack of understanding the offensive/defensive plays, or an overall lack of confidence/skill in their position. When coaches see extra effort, exemplary attitude, increased skill, and comprehensive preparation by a player ahead of a game, they will be likely to “start” or increase playing time of that player. As such, not all players will receive equal playing time. By signing this letter, we are agreeing to respect the decision of the coaches to adjust my/my players’ play time according to the statements above.
* **Players are expected to participate in all team events; games and otherwise:** Football has a relatively short active season; we aim to make the most of it!
* There will be a MANDATORY parent meeting the day of the first tryout (Thursday, August 1st, 2024). This meeting will include introductions and cover a lot of valuable information about the rest of the season. Attendance will be taken; please communicate with the team managers if you require an excused absence so that we can get the necessary information to you.

The Lions Peewee football team runs a **3- session spring camp from June 13-15th**. These are non-contact; just skills and drills, and an opportunity for coaches to get to know prospective players. **Tryouts begin** **Thursday, August 1st**. There will be three tryouts per week for the following two weeks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings for a total of **7** tryout dates. There \*may\* be an extra Saturday tryout in the first two weeks of August, with player participation requested by the head coach, if required to make final decisions on the team roster. The final team roster will have a maximum of 40 players. There may be a few players who will be given the option to stay on with the Lions on a “practice” roster. Any player who doesn’t have a spot on the final roster will be given a release to go play for another football organization if they choose to do so.

**The season schedule is dictated by the Calgary Peewee Football Association.** It will be posted on TeamSnap as soon as we have it. That is where you will find the location and times of all games and any extra practices/events (like our team kickoff BBQ) that we will have throughout the season. Any revisions or cancellations to the practice or game schedule will be communicated in advance through TeamSnap and/or email. Parents and players are responsible to know all information pertinent to the team and where to find it!

There will be (minimum) three practices per week, every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6-8:30 pm. There will be one league game per week, typically Saturdays at 10 am or 12 pm. The first game is scheduled for the 3rd week of August. Seven league games are standard in a season, along with pre-season exhibition games (ie. Jamboree on August 17th). There will be 2-3 playoff games towards the end of October and early November; it is likely that the coaches will have an extra practice for film review/game preparation in the week leading up to the 3 playoff games.

**So, in summary,** **it would be fair to say we will run 42-45 practices, plus the Jamboree, 10 games, and 2-3 extra team events in a season of approximately 14 weeks.** This is what the player and parent are committing to for the duration of the 2024 football season. We ask that you *carefully review this commitment agreement and sign and return it by the final day of spring camp.*  Players will need to have this completed before they are allowed on the field for tryouts on August 1st.

The directors, coaches, and team managers of the Cochrane Football Association would like to reiterate that these commitments are essential for players to be competent and confident in their game-time play. Every team that plays in the CPFA holds their players to similar (and sometimes even more stringent) standards. It is the Cochrane Football Association’s desire to have a competitive team, for all of its players to be as safe as possible on the field, and for each player and parent’s commitment, alongside of that of the coaches and team managers, to collectively combine to create a tight-knit football community with exemplary teamwork and morale. Every role on the Cochrane Peewee Lions team is a volunteer one, with coaches and parents giving their time and energy to make this season a success.

**Thank you for your understanding and commitment to Cochrane Lions Peewee Football!**

**PROSPECTIVE PLAYERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TRY OUT WITHOUT A SIGNED**

**TEAM COMMITMENT AGREEMENT.**

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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