

West Edmonton Raiders Football Club

Coaches Handbook

2020

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See Also:

Environmental Policy

West Edmonton Raiders 3-year Strategic Plan

**WELCOME TO RAIDER FOOTBALL!**

The West Edmonton Raider Football club is one with a proud and diverse history. The 2019 season marks our Club’s 52nd year of football in Edmonton. We are pleased to welcome you into our Raider Huddle and we ask that regardless of being new, or being a returning Raider, that you familiarize yourself with the expectations of our organization so that we may continue the proud Raider tradition of good sportsmanship, teamwork and community.

**2019 West Edmonton Raiders Directory**

**Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT:** Linda Pederson

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Erin Attwell

**SECRETARY:** Brenda Galbraith

**DIRECTOR OF FOOTALL OPS:** Michelle McKay

**TREASURER:** Troy Hilliker

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:** Ray Menard

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:** Kristy Skwaruk

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:** Amanda Abrantes

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**  2 Vacant positions

West Edmonton Raiders Website: [www.westedmontonraiders.com](http://www.westedmontonraiders.com)

Use this site to keep up to date on Events, our Calendar, forms and more.

[www.facebook.com/westedmontonraiders](http://www.facebook.com/westedmontonraiders)

@edmonton\_west

Capital District Minor Football Association (CDMFA) – [www.cdmfa.ca](http://www.cdmfa.ca)

This is our governing League. Team standings, rules, schedules, scores and field information can be found here.

**Communication**

The Ramp Interactive App is our primary method of communication. It is sync’d with our website and will automatically upload rosters, practices, events and games. Email invitations to join the app are sent out when our Admin team officially adds players to a roster. NOTE: We must manually add EACH email address to the Player for access to the app (i.e. Mom & Dad cannot share an email). To add email addresses to a player, just email the Club the Players’ name, team and the email(s) to add.

**HUDL**

Hudl is the program that our Teams use for game and practice footage. Film will be shared with the Team, and at times, Coaches may request that players review certain plays, games, etc. Once you have been uploaded onto the Roster, you will receive an invitation to join HUDL. If you have used the program before, you should simply need to login and select your team or season.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Our goal is to provide a quality football program that teaches the fundamentals of the game while emphasizing fitness, cooperation, self-discipline, and camaraderie. Our program compliments and enriches skill development for young athletes aged 6 to 15. Our coaches concentrate on player/team development, an appreciation of the game of football including the necessities of good sportsmanship.

**PHILOSOPHY**

OUR GOAL is to develop both the mind and body of each player so that he/she is a contributing member of our team as well as an honourable citizen.

OUR PROGRAM is based on respect, integrity and strength of character

OUR PHILOSOPHY focuses on development and is built on the following principles:

*Sportsmanship*: The game of football will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one’s competitors.

*Tradition*: “Once a Raider, Always a Raider”. Our organization is very welcoming of new players, their parents and volunteers. Raiders are always welcome back.

*Safety First*: The safety of your child is paramount and all measures will be taken to protect from injury.

*Fitness:* Conditioning and training is important in our program and it is important that our players take part in regular practices so he/she is prepared for game time.

*Fun:* Football is meant to be fun! We try to ensure our players have fun playing football while developing skills. Our goal is to encourage them to continue playing the sport long after their years with the Raiders.

**CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

This Code of Conduct (Code) has been developed to protect and support the Raiders, players, coaches, parents and board members. This Code is intended to guide the behavior of all players, coaches, parents, board members and executive members in support of the Raiders Mission Statement, the rules of play, by-laws, policies and procedures and the following values:

* Teamwork
* Leadership
* Good Sportsmanship
* Coach & Player Development
* Enjoyment

**PLAYERS:**

***As a Player, I will:***

1. Remember that Coaches and Officials are there to help me and I will show them respect and I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
2. Not make or communicate (through email or any other social media) offensive, abusive or insulting remarks toward any other player, official or parent. I understand that by wearing a West Edmonton Raiders Jersey, I am an ambassador of the Club.
3. Show good sportsmanship, remembering that winning isn’t everything and I will acknowledge all good plays / performance (those of my team and of my opponents).
4. Not use illegal substances, tobacco or alcohol products.
5. Control my temper and recognize that fighting & “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everyone.
6. Act in a respectful manner and not use vulgar verbal or body language.
7. I will do my best to be a true team player and consistently display high standard of behavior.
8. Attend all practices and games and will communicate any absences or issues to my Coaches and / or Team Manager.
9. Not use any personal or social media communication channels to communicate any conflicts, debates or confidential issues, recognizing that mass communication methods (including email) can detract from the West Edmonton Raiders ability to resolve issues and disputes in a timely, equitable and professional fashion.

**PARENTS:**

A parent’s expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child’s attitude toward other players, officials, managers, coaches and other parents.

***As a Parent I will:***

1. Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, never condone violations of the rules of the game, or exhibit behavior contrary to the spirit and rules of the game.
2. Place the well-being and safety of each player above all considerations.
3. Not make abusive remarks to any official, player, coaches, volunteer or league administrative personnel.
4. Respect and show appreciation for the trained volunteers, coaches, officials, managers and trainers and will remember that children learn best by example; and,
5. Be responsible in ensuring attending guests also abide by the Code of Conduct
6. Whereas it is a player’s responsibility to attend all practices and games and where they are not able to attend, it is their responsibility to communicate this to their coach or team manager. If unable to do so, it will become a Parent’s responsibility.
7. Not use any personal or social media communication channels to communicate any conflicts, debates or confidential issues, recognizing that mass communication methods (including email) can detract from the West Edmonton Raiders ability to resolve issues and disputes in a timely, equitable and professional fashion.
8. Understand that Game time is at a Coaches discretion. The West Edmonton Raiders offer equal opportunity to all players during practice, however, game time is at the discretion of the Coach. Concerns should be addressed via your Team Parent Rep, or directly to the Board of Directors (Football Operations).
9. Respect the 24 hour rule as described in this manual before bringing forward any issues or concerns to the Parent Liaison or Director of Football Operations.

**COACHES:**

As a Coach you are in a position of great responsibility in the development of children. The attitudes and behaviours that you exhibit will set the tone for the players and parents you work with.

***As a Coach I will:***

1. Treat other coaches, players, referees and parents with respect and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
2. Place the well-being and safety of each player above all considerations.
3. Abide by the rules of the game and exhibit appropriate behaviours both on and off the field.
4. Respect and show appreciation for the trained volunteers, officials, managers and trainers and will remember that children learn best by example.
5. Strive to take advantage of additional opportunities for training and education to maintain and enhance my skills as a Minor Football Coach.
6. Not use any personal or social media communication channels to communicate any conflicts, debates or confidential issues, recognizing that mass communication methods (including email) can detract from the West Edmonton Raiders ability to resolve issues and disputes in a timely, equitable and professional fashion.
7. Respect the rules set forth by the Board of Directors in respect to practice times, schedule of practice days, special guests and formal requests.
8. Comply with, at all times, the bylaws, policies and regulations of the West Edmonton Raiders as adopted and amended. (Staff will be notified of changes as required).
9. All deviations from the schedule, including Film Days, Guest Coaches and extra activities must be submit to the Board of Directors in writing (either email or hand written) with enough notice for deliberation and consideration of liability coverage. Please note that NO other form of notice will be considered.
10. Remember that I am an Ambassador for the Club and will conduct myself as such.
11. Distinguish myself as a Coach by wearing Raiders Gear when on the field.

**RAIDERS BOARD MEMBERS:**

As a Board Member I commit to not only representing my association but also respecting and advancing the League’s mandate and maintain the principles, integrity and dignity of the Capital District Minor Football Association.

***As a Board Member, I will:***

1. Prepare in advance of meeting and be familiar with issues on the agenda.
2. Fully participate in meetings while demonstrating respect, kindness, consideration and courtesy to others.
3. Excuse myself from my position if my circumstances change and I am unable to manage my duties.
4. Respect and adhere to the rules, policies, procedures and bylaws of the CDMFA.
5. Not use any personal or social media communication channels to communicate any conflicts, debates or confidential issues, recognizing that mass communication methods (including email) can detract from the CDMFA’s ability to resolve issues and disputes in a timely, equitable and professional fashion.
6. Not use my status or position with the Raiders to influence or gain a benefit or advantage for myself, my family or others with whom I have a significant personal or business relationship.
7. Board members should not, unless absolutely necessary, provide services or be compensated for services provided to the club on a long term, or continuous basis. One time circumstances are to be reviewed and voted on by the board.
8. Treat coaches, players, officials, parents and colleagues with respect and will exhibit good behavior and sportsmanship at games.
9. Make decisions based on the best interests of our Players and Program.

**POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING**

**ATOM / PEEWEE / BANTAM**

1. **OVERVIEW:**

Not every child is created equally. We understand that children will demonstrate different abilities both physically and mentally. You will strive to be very objective and to place kids in positions that will not affect them negatively, both physically and mentally. Everyone’s “READY” time is different. Parents should respect the experience of the Coaches and allow you to make that call. The worst that parents can do is to “play through their children”, but remember that you need the support of the parents.

1. **IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICE:**

Football is a game that best exemplifies “practice makes perfect”. One cannot stress the importance of practice enough. It is one of the only sports in the world where if you don’t know where your are supposed to be, or what you are supposed to be doing, or where your team mates are supposed to be and what they are supposed to be doing at any given time, in any given play, then the machine breaks down. If players are lost, so are their team mates, and so is the game. Football is a physical game of CHESS. Physical fitness and mental toughness are acquired through practice and repetition. Coaches will reward attendance, attitude and work ethic with game time.

1. **SCHOOL VS. FOOTBALL:**

Sports are a privilege. Our Coaches understand the importance of education and they aim to help everyone achieve academic excellence. Our Coaches will advocate and assist our players in achievements both on, and off, the field. “John, I hear that you have had some problems with homework… you know I can’t let you come to practice until your homework, so what can I do to help you…” etc. Our Coaches understand the “work before play” mentality and they promote the value of school. Our Coaches will use their influence to influence your child’s education in a positive manner.

1. **OTHER SPORTS (Finish what you start):**

As a club, we are quite cognizant that kids play other sports, and we endorse that they do… we have only one rule: FINISH WHAT YOU START. Simply put, a playoff soccer game is by far more important than our practice but, a hockey practice is not as important as our Game. Families are asked to use their best judgment and to communicate with the Coaches. (Availability is as easy as entering a checkmark, or an “x” next to each name in Team Snap).

1. **POSITIONS:**

The West Edmonton Raiders are a developmental club. We provide instruction and knowledge in the fundamentals of football. The goal of our Coaches is to impart as much information about a variety of positions to each player. Please be aware that Players that commit themselves to only being “a quarterback” will limit their play time and their opportunity to develop fully. Until players reach physical maturity, it is difficult to know what position(s) they are best suited for. We do NOT believe in limiting a player to one position. Coaches are tasked with selecting the role(s) that each player is best suited for. This could change year over year, and even throughout the season.

1. **PLAY TIME:**

The Raiders pride themselves on being a developmental club. This does NOT mean that we don’t want to win. It means that we will NOT put winning ahead of providing instruction, opportunity and experience to our players. It is expected that ALL players will receive the opportunity to learn through practice. During pre-season and regular season play, players that have demonstrated good attendance, a positive attitude and a strong work ethic will receive preferential playing time. It does NOT mean that we make promises of the amount of field time that players will receive. Coaches must balance player safety, experience, physicality, knowledge, confidence and the strength of the competition when determining their lines. Although we recognize that it is extremely difficult for Coaches to potentially concede a win so that ALL players receive game time, it is mandated during the pre-season and regular season, that Coaches will reward attendance, attitude and work ethic with game time.

1. **PLAYOFFS:**

While we are a developmental club during the pre-season and the regular season, you, as a Raiders Coach, are invited to reward improvement, skill, dedication and talent with game time during the play off season. The goal of our regular season is to provide depth to our play off season, however, coaches are allowed the opportunity to take the win during playoffs. This means that ALL players will have the chance to work hard, improve and develop through our season, and at practice, but they are not promised any field time during the playoff season. It is expected that our Coaches will be able to use their discretion to give opportunities to developmental players in a Playoff game, when a significant lead has been achieved.

1. **PARENTAL CONDUCT:**

Parents are expected to be exemplary to their children. We teach players that one leads best through example. If Parents have any issues, thoughts or just want to talk, they are asked to please choose their arena wisely. There is always a time and a place but this time and place is not in front of the children, nor during a game or practice. We ask that Parents, Coaches and Players respect our 24 hour rule. If anyone has an issue or concern to address, they are welcome to bring it forward after this period has lapsed. After the 24 hours, Parents and Players should contact the Parent Liaison who will make themselves available. Coaches should contact the Director of Football Operations.

**Above all, HAVE FUN, ENJOY FOOTBALL AND SUPPORT THESE PLAYERS WITH KNOWLEDGE, ENCOURAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY.**

**These players look up to their Coaches, so be a Role Model that they can mimic proudly.**

**CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PROCESS**

If anyone has a complaint, the following process must be followed. Note, that you MUST wait a minimum of 24 hours before following these steps. Complaints that do not follow these steps will NOT be addressed:

1. Serious complaints MUST be submit in writing. Complaint should be submit to the Team Parent Representative / Liaison. Email is considered an acceptable form of a written complaint. Complaint Forms are also available by request.
2. Each complaint MUST include:
   1. Full Name of Complainant
   2. Date of issue
   3. Names of Witnesses
   4. Detailed description of issue / incident
3. The Parent Liaison will attain as much information as possible pertaining to the incident and will submit it to the Director of Football Operations.
4. The completion of a Formal Complaint Form and / or Incident Report by all parties involved may be requested.
5. A full investigation will commence.
6. If a Complaint is deemed severe, or involves child safety, it is possible that suspensions will be assessed while the investigation proceeds.

**Any member, including but not limited to, Board Members, On-Field Staff (Coaches, trainers, etc.), Parents and Players whom are found to be in breach of policy or the bylaws are subject to reprimand**. A report will be completed by the Director of Football Operations for any offense. In the event that it is a conflict of interest for the Director of Football to commence the investigation, the President or Vice President will take the lead.

Upon Board review, discipline may include demotion, probation, or removal from the Club.

For complaints and/or incidents that involve another Club, the Raiders Complaint Form and/or the CDMFA Complaint forms should be completed. These forms should be submit directly to the Club President for review and further action. The Club President will:

1. Review situation
2. Attain additional information
3. Determine if situation can be handled internally or between Clubs; or if the CDMFA should be involved.
4. The disciplinary process will proceed as outlined in the Raiders Policies & Procedures.

**EQUIPMENT LIST**

Our Players have been provided with an extensive, and expensive, list of equipment. This equipment is the responsibility of the Player. All players are responsible for returning their equipment clean, in good repair, and ON TIME. The following is a list of equipment that was issued to each player, along with a general replacement value.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MUST BE RETURNED** | Helmet | $ 400 |
| Chin Strap | $ 20 |
| Shoulder Pads | $ 250 |
| Home Game Jersey | $ 90 |
| Away Game Jersey | $ 90 |
| Practice Jersey | $ 40 |
| Game Pants | $ 60 |
| Knee Pads | $ 10 |
| Belt | $ 10 |
|  | **TOTAL VALUE** | **$ 970.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **NON-RETURNABLE** | Girdle | $ 40 |
| Mouth Guard | $ 5 |
| Socks | $ 10 |
|  | **TOTAL VALUE** | **$ 55** |

Coaches are NOT authorized to provide ANY replacement equipment to Players without prior, written authorization by the Club Registrar. A note must be made on the Player file so that the club may recoup any replacement costs.

Equipment that is not cleaned, or laundered will be subject to a cleaning fee of $100.

Equipment must be returned on the date indicated. Players do NOT need to be in attendance for equipment drop-off. Equipment that is returned late will be subject to a $50 fee. Coaches are NOT authorized to collect player equipment. Players must return equipment as outlined.

Charges for equipment will be communicated via Team Snap (email or alert). Players will be provided 72 hours to respond. If no response is received, these fees will become payable.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PARENTS & PLAYERS:**

1. **If I am sick or cannot attend a practice or game, who do I call?**

Please make note in Team Snap under “availability”. Once you’ve done that, feel free to also send a message to the team with the “Team Chat” function.

1. **If the weather is bad, do we still practice or play games?**

Practice is determined by two factors. Our Environmental Policy (attached), and the condition of the City of Edmonton Fields. We do not practice in air quality that is worse than a 7, in lightning, or in temperatures less than -23 degrees Celsius. See our environmental policy for more details.

Changes to our practice schedule will be determined no later than 2 hours before our scheduled start time and are communicated via Team Snap.

Games are determined by the CDMFA and will be announced as soon as they are received via Team Snap.

1. **What if I lose my equipment?**

Your equipment deposit will be cashed, and you may be responsible for additional replacement fees as per the values outlined in this handbook.

1. **What if I decide to quit football? Do I get a refund?**

If you decide to quit football, you must return your equipment immediately. Refunds will be issued as per our Refund Policy (see attached)

1. **Are mouthguards provided?**

Yes, you will receive one when you receive your equipment. The club will ONLY provide you with one mouthguard. Replacements are available in the Clubhouse for $5.

1. **If I have some concerns or issues, who do I contact?**

You should speak with your Parent Liaison / Team Manager. They will relay your concerns to the appropriate individual(s). Our process of communication is also outlined and hanging on the bulletin board in the Clubhouse.

1. **Who looks after me if I am injured?**

Each team has their own first aid certified Trainer who will assess and assist you. Parents should NEVER enter the field unless asked to by a Coach or Trainer.

1. **How can I earn my Volunteer Credits?**

You must complete your mandatory Eskimo booth date(s), Casino dates and any other requirements for the season as outlined in the Volunteer Guide for the season.

1. **When do we practice?**

The Raiders practice from 6pm to 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

1. **Where do we practice?**

Our home practice fields are just west of the FX Recreation Center and just north of the Johnny Bright Bowl. The Atoms practice to the far west, the Peewees in the center and the Bantams in the East closest to the FX gyms. You will also have practices that are scheduled in the Jasper Place (Johnny Bright Bowl). Check our website, or Team Snap for each practice location.

1. **When do we play our games?**

Atoms typically play Sundays from August to the end of October.

Peewees and Bantams play either Saturday or Sunday.

1. **Where is our Clubhouse?**

Our clubhouse is located in the brown, brick building next to the tennis courts and the Johnny Bright Bowl. The clubhouse is open during practices and home games only. You can tell that the Clubhouse is open when the sandwich board sign is displayed outside.

1. **What’s in the Clubhouse?**

We have a washroom for use by Raider members. We also have great Raider Wear and some tasty snacks for sale… along with cold beverages for those warm practices, and hot beverages for those chilly nights.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – COACHES:**

1. **If I need support or have questions, who do I ask?**

Your direct contact is the Director of Football Operations. This Board Member will be your main point of contact and will communicate concerns, questions and comments to the rest of the Club.

1. **If I need to purchase something, what is the process?**

You MUST provide a description, reason and approximate cost to the Director of Football Operations for approval. If the expense if approved, you may purchase the item(s) and complete an Expense Reimbursement form. This form is available from the Director of Football Operations and must be sent to them for signature. Cheques are issued once monthly at the end of the month.

1. **I lost my Equipment Room Key… what do I do?**

You must advise the Director of Football Ops immediately so that the City can be notified and locks changed. You will be charged a fee of $100 or the replacement cost, whichever is less.

1. **I am having problems with a player or a parent. What should I do?**

Speak to your Director of Football Ops or to your Parent Liaison / Team Manager for assistance in handling the matter. We’d prefer that you stick to what you do best and that’s on the field.

1. **I have a talented player that doesn’t attend practices often. How much game time can I provide to them?**

Remember, football is more about teamwork and systems than about an all-star athlete. If your talented player isn’t knowledgeable in your systems, playbooks and timing, they will hinder your progress on the field. Players with less athletic skill but more football knowledge and attendance will have better results on game day. We understand that with injuries, schedules and life, practices will be missed. The policy of the Raiders is that a player like this would NOT be placed in a starting position but could replace injuries and required rest coverage.

1. **I have concerns about the Officiating at our Games…**

The Raiders provide each team with a HUDL account for game film. It is the responsibility of the Team to insure that a volunteer films each game. If you have concerns they should be addressed to the Director of Football Operations in writing (i.e. email) and if you have evidence of the complaint or concern on film, forward this also. These concerns are sent to the CDMFA to be addressed with our Officials.

1. **One of my players was seriously injured and had to leave practice / a game. When can I allow them back?**

We follow similar protocol with serious injuries as we do with concussions. If an injury was serious enough to warrant further medical attention, we require a medical release (Doctor’s Note) allowing the player to return to football. If the doctor notes any stipulations, it is up to the Coach to insure that those parameters are followed.

1. **I’m really interested in attending a Coaching Clinic. Does the Club cover the cost of these?**

The Raiders value the time and dedication of its Coaches and we want to invest in them. If you are interested in any training, please send the details, including the cost and location, to the Director of Football Operations for review. The Board of Directors may approve full or partial reimbursement and may even consider additional cost reimbursement.

1. **Are there any rules or stipulations about recruiting players from other areas of the city or rural areas?**

We are a community league and should not be recruiting from other areas. If players from other areas want to play for us, we must get a release approved from their catchment zone. We are also mandated by the league on how many “out of zone” players each team can have. You should be focused on recruiting players in our zone only.

1. **What resources are available to help me stay organized?**

The Raiders provide each team with a Team Snap account. This tool allows you, or your Team Manager, to track attendance, see availability, send out messages, assign tasks or jobs to players, upload playbooks, share photos and more. The club pre-loads your roster for you. Once you are given access to this, you, or your Team Manager should administrate changes (but the Club still has access and may also update). The Club will upload schedules and locations for Practices, Games and Club events. Team specific events are to be entered by the Manager/Coach.

1. **Do Coaches have to participate in any other Events?**

Coaches will be called upon to participate at our Fun Day in June, at our Team Building Club event in the fall and to participate at our Year End Banquet and Awards ceremony. There may be other occasions where your participation is requested as well.

1. **Are Coaches expected to participate for other Volunteering positions?**

Coaches are encouraged to contribute to Fundraising initiatives. It is suggested that they work the Eskimos booth at a Home Game, or a shift at the Casino. This contributes to our Club, but it also gives our Coaches the chance to meet parents on a different level. As parents get to know the Coaches, the tendency to complain tends to diminish, so we encourage Coach involvement as much as possible.

**REGISTRATION:**

Full payment of all fees, completion of all registration forms, acceptance of all Handbooks, and forms including copies of Alberta Health Care cards and a copy of Bantam report cards, including name and grades, must be received by the Registrar BEFORE any player will be allowed on the field. Coaches MUST ensure that all players on their practice field are identified on their roster. ALL players must be fully registered in advance of their toes touching the turf.

THIS IS A LIABILITY ISSUE… NO EXCEPTIONS EVER!

**REQUIREMENTS OF ALL COACHES:**

**COACHES:**

* Must provide NCCP # to Club
* Must provide bi-annual Background Check to Club
* Completion of Making Headway, Safe Contact & other mandated courses
* Must develop athletes in a safe and non-threatening environment
* Must provide equal opportunity for athletic & football skill development
* Must endeavor to keep players safe at all times
* Must communicate with Director of Football Operations as required
* Must follow Club Policies, Goals and Procedures

**Thank you for choosing to Coach!**

A picture containing indoor, person

Description generated with high confidenceOnce a Raider, Always a Raider.

**GAME TIME GUIDELINES FOR COACHES**

**2019**

**GENERAL RAIDERS PHILOSOPHY**: Players that demonstrate attendance, a positive attitude and a strong ethic will be provided equal opportunity to learn, progress and participate at every practice. Players that routinely meet the above criteria will be provided the opportunity to earn game time according to the following Club philosophies:

**ATOM FOOTBALL (ages 7 to 10 years)**

Atom football is designed to be 100% developmental. Players that have met the above criteria are expected to receive a minimum of 33% game time at every game that they attend. The only exceptions to this are in the very rare circumstance that a player’s safety comes into question.

Coaches are expected to develop skills, knowledge and a love of the game at this level. While we all love to win, and though it’s more fun to win, winning at the Atom level is not our goal. Often, in order to win, Coaches will play the strongest players for the majority of the game. This is not conducive to learning and development and is not considered acceptable at the Atom level.

**PEEWEE FOOTBALL (ages 11 & 12 years)**

Peewee football is designed to be a 50 / 50 mix of development and competitiveness. Players that have met the above criteria are expected to receive game time at every pre-season and regular season game that they attend. There is no guarantee of equal play time at each game, however it is expected that ALL players that have met the above criteria will receive the opportunity to develop game skills.

During Playoff games, the Peewee focus becomes strongly competitive. Players that meet the above criteria should each have the opportunity to see game time in playoff conditions, however Coaches have the ability to play the Players that they choose, in order to win the game.

The Raiders are not a Club that will exploit, or run up, Game Scores. We expect that our Raiders Coaches will be able to use their discretion to give opportunities to developmental players when a significant lead has been attained.

**BANTAM FOOTBALL (ages 13 & 14 years)**

Bantam football is designed to prepare players to play competitive football, or to play high school football. There is continued opportunity for every player to participate, progress and learn at every practice, however, our Bantam program has a stronger focus on winning and being competitive. Players that have met the above criteria are expected to receive a minimum of one drive of Game time per game so that they can develop game skills.

During Playoff games, Players that meet the above criteria may not be provided the opportunity for game time as our Coaches have been mandated to win. Players at the Bantam level that receive playoff game time can view this game time as a reward for the progress, hard work and development that they fostered during the season. Only the strong survive and will play.

The Raiders are not a Club that will exploit, or run up Game Scores at the expense of its players. During the regular season, Coaches may choose to develop a strong lead (In case of a standings tie - points for and against will matter for playoffs), however, we expect that our Coaches will be able to use their discretion to give opportunities to developmental players when a significant lead has been attained.

**Remember Coaches** – you are only as strong as your weakest link. The success of a coach can be measured by the success, or failure, of its greenest player. Did you do everything that you could to develop these players into stronger ones?

**![A drawing of a face

Description generated with high confidence]()**

**COACHING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, reviewed and understand the Coaches Handbook as presented by the West Edmonton Raiders Football Club. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that all Field Staff (Coaches, Trainers and Managers) are aware of the information contained in this manual.

I understand that my Coaches, Colleagues, Guest Coaches and Parents must be in compliance with the philosophies contained herein.

I agree, that by signing below, I will provide the West Edmonton Raiders with any and all requested paperwork, including, but not limited to, Background Checks, NCCP Coaching Information and Contact Information. Further, I understand that my Coaches, Colleagues and Guest Coaches must also provide this information if requested.

I also understand that non-compliance of these mandates will result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to: demotion, suspension and in extreme cases, expulsion. Such disciplinary action will be at the directive of an accepted motion by the West Edmonton Raiders Board of Directors.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FULL NAME:** | | | |
| **ADDRESS:** | | | |
| **CITY:** | **PROV:** | | **POSTAL CODE:** |
| **BEST PHONE:** | | **ALT. PHONE:** | |
| **EMAIL:** | | | |
| **ALT. EMAIL:** | | | |

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**SIGNATURE DATE**

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NCCP NUMBER:** |  |
| **MAKING HEADWAY COMPLETED** |  |
| **SAFE CONTACT COMPLETED** |  |
| **NCCP COACHING CERT. COMPLETED** |  |
| **BACKGROUND CHECK RECEIVED** |  |
| **OTHER (DESCRIBE)** |  |