

FAIR PLAY POLICY

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:

NOVICE FOOTBALL (ages 6 to 8 years)

Novice 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. Sometimes our littlest players are easily distracted, don't feel like playing or are just having an emotional day, which is to be expected at this level.

ATOM FOOTBALL (ages 8 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 preseason 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.

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

1. **PLAYING TIME AND POSITIONS** - Not every child is created equally with different abilities, both physically and mentally. As coaches we try our utmost to be very objective and place kids into positions that will not affect them negatively, both physically and mentally. Everyone's "READY" time is different. Please respect the experience of coaches and allow them to make that call. The worst thing that we can do is to "play through our children". Coaches need your support to make this work.
2. **IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICES** - 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 you are supposed to be or what you should be doing or where your team-mates are supposed to be and what they should be doing at any given time in any given play, then you are lost and so are your team-mates and team. Football is a physical game of CHESS. Physical fitness and mental toughness are acquired through practice.
3. **OTHER SPORTS** (Finish what you Start) - As coaches we are quite cognizant that kids play other sports, we therefore have only one ask, 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. So please use your best judgment and communicate with the coaches.
4. **PARENTAL CONDUCT** - Please be exemplary to your children. We teach all the players that one leads through example. If you have any issues, thoughts or just want to talk, please choose your arena wisely. There is always a time and place, not in front of your children at game time or during practice, to reach out to any Board of Director present or via email @ edmontonraiders@gmail.com after our 24-hour timeline has passed.

* If at ANY TIME you feel the safety of your child is at risk please say so to a Board Member, Team Manager or Head Coach so it can be addressed immediately. This is never anyone's intent so please show respect to our staff throughout this process.

For more information please visit CDMFA.ca for more information around the league's Fair Play Policy.