

CAHABA VALLEY LIONS

1. All playing time will be earned. This league does not mandate playing time therefore all playing time will be earned and the players who perform the best and follow the rules of the team will play. We will take time with every player and our desire is that all players learn to be better football players and more importantly better prepared to grow up to be the men that God has called them to be. My desire is to have as few players playing both ways as possible however we will put each player at the position that will give the team the best chance to win.
2. I do not believe in winning at all costs because that is sinful however I do not believe the Bible teaches us that the desire to win and to be excellent in everything we do is sinful. We are to do all things as if we are working for the Lord. Effort and hustle requires no expertise or athletic ability and on this team anything less will not be tolerated.
3. Each player will respect every adult on the field by answering with yes sir and no sir. If this is not practiced in your home you can deprogram them after the season. On the field all players abide by my rules. They are yours in your home they are mine and fall under my authority on the field.
4. Players will be put in positions that best serve the team, not themselves. I have certain schemes I believe in and the players will be placed where they best serve those schemes and give the team the best chance to win. All decisions on positions and playing time are discussed but ultimately, it is my decision. We are not a democracy, it's a dictatorship. I will be responsible for the product on the field, when we do well the players and assistant coaches will get the credit and when we do poorly I will be responsible and held accountable.
5. No parent should ever be on the field during practice. Parents should not come past the sideline in front of the bleachers. If you are needed on the field we will come and get you.
6. Your son should never leave the field and sit in the stands with his parents. He can only come to the stands if we bring him to you.
7. Your son cannot be late for practice or games. He cannot drive so this is on you the parents. If your child is late he will be punished and will do up downs and run. Traffic happens everyday prepare for it. We all have school and other children and have to deal with the same hoops you are jumping through. It's a must to be on time. Your son should be buckled up and ready to go at the time of the practice.

8. If your son misses a practice that is determined as unexcused he will be docked playing time. I consider excused to be

- A. A death in the family or family emergency
- B. Your son is sick (throwing up, running a fever) please don't bring a sick player to practice
- C. Dr says your son is injured and cannot practice

That's it, I do not consider homework (we all have it), other sports or activities (learn the phrase, my son can't he has football practice), B'day parties, trips to the lake, concerts, disney on ice, the circus etc to be excused.

9. I will not stay after practice or a game to discuss anything with a parent. If you have something to discuss with me, call me on my cell or email me to make an appointment to talk face to face. I do not respond to complaints in email, they cause too much confusion. Bottom line I don't do unexpected meetings. I only respond to appointments away from practice or games. Trust me this is always best.

10. I want us all to lose the term "Daddy Ball", I am sick and tired of this phrase. If you are creating factions in the stands with your concerns about daddy ball and you don't like who is playing where, have you ever thought that wanting your son to play somewhere is just another version of "Daddy Ball"? It happens in the stands as much, if not more than it does on the field. The coaches son's will play where they best serve the team. Bottom line.

In closing

I am a Christian and claim to follow Christ in every phase of my life. I will be hard but I will always be fair. I will do everything I can to teach your son to work hard, to respect authority and to put the needs of his team mates ahead of his own. Football is a great game but it's a lousy god. Football can teach us a lot about the Christian walk, however at the end of the day if I am not representing Christ I beg you to hold me accountable. You must make the case Biblically not emotionally but I crave accountability in my walk with Christ and will do everything I can not to compromise my Savior. The same goes for every coach on the field however with this or any issue with the team, you should talk to only me. Do not approach assistant coaches with issues. All issues come through the head coach.

Rick Burgess