

The Carolina Bears

Game Day & Sideline Conduct Policy

Purpose

Game days are an opportunity to demonstrate the values of the Carolina Bears through sportsmanship, respect, and teamwork. Every athlete, parent, coach, volunteer, and spectator plays a role in creating a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment.

Participation in the Carolina Bears requires adherence to the following expectations.

Sideline Access

For the safety of our athletes and to ensure an organized game environment, sideline access is restricted.

Only the following individuals are permitted inside the team sideline area:

- Rostered athletes
- Certified coaches
- Approved Team Moms
- Approved medical personnel
- Game officials
- Authorized Board Members
- League-approved personnel

Parents, family members, friends, photographers, and spectators are not permitted on the team sideline unless specifically authorized by the organization.

Parent & Spectator Expectations

Parents and spectators are expected to:

- Cheer positively for all Carolina Bears athletes.
- Encourage effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
- Respect coaches, officials, volunteers, opponents, and other spectators.
- Allow coaches to coach.

- Remain in designated spectator areas.
- Follow all facility and league rules.
- Help create a family-friendly atmosphere.

Parents should remember that children learn as much from watching adults as they do from participating in the game.

Unacceptable Behavior

The following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- Entering the sideline or playing field without authorization.
- Coaching athletes from the stands.
- Arguing with coaches during games.
- Confronting officials.
- Profanity or abusive language.
- Fighting or threatening behavior.
- Taunting athletes, coaches, or spectators.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Intoxication or possession of illegal substances.
- Disruptive behavior that interferes with the game or team operations.

Athlete Expectations

Athletes are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and spectators.
- Encourage teammates.
- Display good sportsmanship in both victory and defeat.
- Remain with their team unless released by a coach.
- Listen to coaches and Team Moms.
- Keep the sideline clean and organized.
- Represent the Carolina Bears with pride both on and off the field.

Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in disciplinary action in accordance with league rules and Carolina Bears policies.

Parent Communication During Games

Game day is not the appropriate time to discuss:

- Playing time
- Coaching decisions
- Positions
- Strategy
- Discipline

Parents should allow coaches to focus on the athletes and the game.

If concerns remain after the game, families are encouraged to contact the Director requesting a meeting. Please allow 24 hours from game day for communication.

Photography & Social Media

Families are welcome to capture memories from designated spectator areas.

However:

- Do not interfere with the game or coaching staff.
- Do not enter the sideline or playing field for photos or videos.
- Respect the privacy of all athletes.
- Avoid posting content that embarrasses, criticizes, or targets players, coaches, officials, or families.

Sportsmanship

Winning with humility and losing with dignity are core values of the Carolina Bears.

We expect everyone associated with our organization to:

- Shake hands respectfully after competition.
- Congratulate opponents.
- Respect officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate integrity at all times.
- Represent the Carolina Bears with class.

Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in one or more of the following:

1. Verbal reminder or warning.
2. Removal from the sideline or spectator area.
3. Removal from the facility.
4. Suspension from future practices or games.

5. Dismissal from the Carolina Bears organization for repeated or serious violations.

The Executive Board reserves the right to determine appropriate disciplinary action based on the severity of the behavior.

Our Commitment

Every game is an opportunity to demonstrate who we are as an organization. Our goal is not simply to compete—we strive to model respect, integrity, accountability, and excellence. By working together, we create an environment where every athlete can compete with confidence, every family feels welcome, and every Carolina Bear is proud to represent our organization.

This is The Bears Way.

