

TORO BULLS FOOTBALL & CHEER

5TH QUARTER, PLAYING/PERFORMANCE TIME PHILOSOPHY

Ahead of registering your son or daughter for our program you should have a clear understanding of how our program works and have realistic expectations to ensure your child has a successful experience.

First, playing time is NOT created equal. This is real football at a youth level, not recreation ball. It is not natural to run full speed into someone else. Our program is designed to gradually get players to the next level. If a player participates in our program from start to finish, they will have seasons where they are 5th quarter players and seasons when they potentially start every game. We do abide by a mandatory play rule (MPR). Any player who doesn't play in the game must play in the 5th quarter.

The question parents should ask first is why should my kid play more? Coaches have many things to weigh when making decisions on who plays and how much. Things such as age, experience, willingness, adjusting to new levels of play, and having players in front who are bigger, stronger, and faster are just a few. Too often, parents become so caught up in wanting their child to be the star, that they do not step back to see the larger picture.

If a player is upset about playing time, he or she should speak to the coach FIRST. Parents should not join their child in complaining about a coach as this will lead to a negative attitude around the team and will not help the athlete get more playing time. If parents are still unhappy with the playing time their child is receiving, they should ask for a private meeting with the head coach to share their concerns. Always offer support and encouragement to your child, but never fill them with false hopes that lead to disappointment.

A final factor in the equation, is the players themselves. It is important for players to understand their roles, and to be willing to ask key questions of themselves and their coach. First, players should ask their coaches what they see their roles being on the team and what they need to do to improve. This should be done early and often throughout the season. Coaches love players who ask questions and who show they are willing to work hard to improve.

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Players who are unhappy with playing time should ask the following questions:

- Am I the first one to practice and the last one to leave?
- Do I give 100% effort 100% of the time?
- Do I bring effort and energy to practice every day?
- Do I support my teammates and show it?
- Do I ask questions?
- Do I show up in the offseason?

Objectives of the Team

1. Mental— preparing athletes for competition, performing under pressure.
2. Physical — to improve strength and conditioning to play hard throughout practice and games.
3. Fundamental/Technique — to help master individual skills necessary to participate/compete at this level.
4. Tactical — help develop knowledge of the offensive and defensive patterns of the team; to be successful.
5. The development of discipline, commitment, and interpersonal relationships essential to be productive and positive contributors in the community.
6. The opportunity to realize accountability for personal actions and the consequences of those actions.

Playing time is a sensitive topic because emotions too often get the best of the parties involved. Parents and Community Members must understand the goals of the TEAM and program. We firmly believe that we must all work together to create a successful environment and community. Be positive and encouraging throughout the year.

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We recognize that you may not agree with all our decisions or those of the Coaching Staff. However, we would hope that you would support our efforts to put the best possible TEAM on the field during the season. If this becomes impossible, we suggest that you consult us as to whether your child should remain a part of this Program. Negativity simply will not be tolerated.

This philosophy applies to cheerleaders and their location in a formation for performances

By signing below, you acknowledge reading and understanding the above stated information.

Player/Cheerleader Signature

Date Signed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed