

# THE CHIEFS WAY

TACKLE COACHING STANDARDS



Football





# THE CHIEFS WAY

## Tackle Division Coaching Standards

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Use this guide as the foundation for consistent leadership across every Lake Country Chiefs tackle football team.

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# Welcome Letter

Dear Coaches,

Every season, hundreds of young athletes put on a Lake Country Chiefs helmet for the first time.

Most will never remember the score of their first game.

They will remember their coaches.

They will remember who believed in them when they lacked confidence. They will remember who challenged them to work harder, encouraged them through adversity, and taught them what it means to be a teammate. Long after football ends, those lessons remain.

That is why coaching matters.

The Lake Country Chiefs have built a proud tradition by developing athletes, teammates, and leaders. Our success has never been defined solely by wins and losses, but by the positive impact our coaches have on the young people entrusted to our program.

This handbook serves as the foundation of The Chiefs Way. It establishes the standards, expectations, and leadership principles that create consistency across every team within our organization. While each coaching staff brings its own personality and style, every player should experience the same commitment to safety, development, accountability, sportsmanship, and respect.

Our mission is simple:

## **We are developing young men through football.**

Football provides an incredible platform to teach discipline, resilience, teamwork, accountability, and leadership. Every practice, meeting, and game presents an opportunity to positively influence a young person's future.

Thank you for your willingness to serve, lead, and invest in our players. We are grateful for your commitment to the Lake Country Chiefs and look forward to building another successful season together.

Go Chiefs!

Lake Country Chiefs Board of Directors



# The Chiefs Way

## What We Believe

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Every player deserves to be coached.</li><li>● Safety comes first.</li><li>● Effort matters.</li><li>● Discipline is respect.</li><li>● Character matters.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Team before self.</li><li>● Leadership by example.</li><li>● Growth over outcomes.</li><li>● Consistency builds culture.</li><li>● We are developing young men through football.</li></ul> |
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## Our Mission

We are developing young men through football.

The Lake Country Chiefs exist to provide a safe, competitive, and development-focused environment where athletes learn discipline, accountability, teamwork, resilience, leadership, and sportsmanship.

Winning matters. Development matters more.

Every decision should support the growth of our athletes as football players, teammates, students, and future leaders.

## Our Purpose

Football is the vehicle. Development is the destination.

Every practice, meeting, and game provides an opportunity to teach lessons that extend far beyond the football field.

The Chiefs Way establishes the standards, expectations, and leadership principles that create consistency throughout the organization.

Every player deserves the same commitment to safety, development, accountability, sportsmanship, and respect.

Regardless of team assignment, every athlete should experience The Chiefs Way.

## From Philosophy to Execution

**The standards outlined in this handbook exist to create a consistent experience for every athlete and family within the Lake Country Chiefs program. While coaching styles may vary, the expectations for leadership, safety, communication, and player development remain consistent throughout the organization.**

# Leadership Standards

## Head Coach

### Leadership Responsibility

The Head Coach serves as the leader of the team and is responsible for establishing the culture, standards, and expectations that define the player experience. Every aspect of the team - including player development, safety, communication, discipline, sportsmanship, and program representation - falls under the leadership of the Head Coach.

The Head Coach is the primary authority on the field during practices and games and serves as an extension of the Lake Country Chiefs Board of Directors. While Assistant Coaches provide valuable support and expertise, the Head Coach is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all team activities are conducted in accordance with Chiefs and AAYFL standards.

### The Chiefs Way

The most successful youth football programs are built on consistency. Players should know what is expected of them. Parents should know what they can expect from the coaching staff. Coaches should hold themselves and one another accountable to a common standard.

The Head Coach is responsible for creating an environment that reflects The Chiefs Way:

- Put players first.
- Prioritize safety above all else.
- Teach effort, discipline, accountability, and teamwork.
- Develop athletes and young people.
- Represent the Lake Country Chiefs with professionalism and integrity.

### Chain of Command

The Lake Country Chiefs operate within the framework established by the All American Youth Football League (AAYFL). While the organization is governed by its Board of Directors, the Head Coach is responsible for establishing a clear chain of command within the team structure.

Questions, concerns, and communication should be handled professionally and through appropriate channels whenever possible.

### Team Selection (Draft)

The player draft is one of the most important responsibilities of a Head Coach and plays a critical role in maintaining competitive balance throughout the Lake Country Chiefs program.

Head Coaches are expected to approach the draft process with professionalism, objectivity, and the best interests of all players and teams in mind.

Prior to the draft, a Head Coach may select up to three Assistant Coaches. The Head Coach's athlete and the athletes of those selected Assistant Coaches will be assigned to that team in accordance with program procedures and Board-approved draft policies.

During the draft process, coaches should:

- Evaluate athletes based on observed ability, effort, attitude, and potential.



- Respect all established draft procedures and guidelines.
- Conduct themselves professionally and collaboratively.
- Support the goal of creating balanced and competitive teams.
- Avoid actions that undermine the integrity of the draft process.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding player evaluations and draft discussions.

The draft is intended to provide every athlete with an opportunity to develop, compete, and enjoy a positive football experience. Coaches should remember that player development remains the primary objective of youth football.

Following the draft, coaches are expected to fully support their roster and focus their efforts on developing every athlete entrusted to their team.

### **Coaching Staff Selection**

One of the most important responsibilities of the Head Coach is selecting and developing a coaching staff that reflects the values and standards of The Chiefs Way.

A Head Coach may select up to three Assistant Coaches prior to the player draft. The Head Coach's athlete and the athletes of those selected Assistant Coaches will remain with that team throughout their participation in the tackle program unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.

Head Coaches are encouraged to build a staff that complements their leadership style and provides players with a positive, development-focused experience.

Once selected, the Head Coach is responsible for ensuring all coaches:

- Complete required certifications and background checks.
- Understand program expectations.
- Follow safety protocols.
- Support organizational standards.
- Present a united and professional leadership approach.

### **Roles & Responsibilities**

Head Coaches are responsible for:

- Planning and organizing practices.
- Directing team and individual development activities.
- Managing game-day operations.
- Teaching proper football fundamentals.
- Promoting sportsmanship and character development.
- Establishing communication with players and families.
- Creating a positive and disciplined team environment.
- Ensuring compliance with all Chiefs and AAYFL requirements.

The Head Coach sets the tone for the entire season. Players and families should consistently experience professionalism, accountability, preparation, and respect.

## Staff Accountability

Leadership includes accountability.

The Head Coach is responsible for addressing performance concerns, conduct issues, and behavior that fails to meet organizational expectations. When necessary, corrective action may include verbal counseling, written warnings, suspension of coaching responsibilities, or removal from the coaching staff in consultation with the Board of Directors.

Strong programs are built by strong leaders who are willing to hold themselves and others accountable to a common standard.

## Assistant Coach Standards

### Role of the Assistant Coach

Assistant Coaches play a critical role in the success of the team and the development of every athlete within the program.

While the Head Coach establishes the vision and direction of the team, Assistant Coaches are responsible for helping bring that vision to life through instruction, mentorship, encouragement, and daily leadership.

Players often spend as much time interacting with Assistant Coaches as they do with the Head Coach. For that reason, Assistant Coaches are expected to model the same standards of professionalism, sportsmanship, accountability, and respect.

### Conduct & Expectations

Assistant Coaches are expected to:

- Read and understand the Chiefs Safety Action Plan.
- Read and understand the Coaches Handbook.
- Read and understand applicable AAYFL rules and policies.
- Treat every player fairly and impartially.
- Avoid favoritism toward any athlete, including their own child.
- Support decisions made by the Head Coach.
- Communicate professionally with players, parents, and fellow coaches.

Assistant Coaches should make every effort to attend practices and games. If attendance issues arise, the Head Coach should be notified as soon as possible.

### Active Coaching

Players deserve active instruction.

Active coaching means teaching, demonstrating, correcting, encouraging, and engaging with players throughout practices and games.

Passive coaching occurs when a coach is present but not actively contributing to player development. Standing on the field without participating in instruction is not consistent with the expectations of The Chiefs Way.

Every coach should be actively involved in helping players learn and improve.



## **Assignments & Responsibilities**

Assistant Coaches are expected to take ownership of responsibilities assigned by the Head Coach.

This may include:

- Position-specific instruction.
- Drill development and execution.
- Film review.
- Equipment management.
- Practice organization.
- Game-day responsibilities.
- Player development initiatives.

Questions regarding assignments should be addressed directly with the Head Coach to ensure alignment and consistency.

## **Playbook Execution**

The Head Coach serves as the final authority regarding the team's offensive, defensive, and special teams systems.

Assistant Coaches are encouraged to provide ideas and feedback; however, implementation decisions remain the responsibility of the Head Coach. Maintaining consistency in instruction and execution is critical to player development and team success.

## **Conditions of Service**

All coaches must successfully complete required background checks and certification requirements before participating in team activities.

Failure to maintain required certifications or comply with organizational standards may result in suspension or removal from coaching responsibilities.

The Lake Country Chiefs are committed to providing every athlete with a safe, positive, and development-focused environment. Every coach shares responsibility for protecting and advancing that mission.

# Coaching Philosophy & Player Development

## Our Purpose

Football is the vehicle. Development is the destination.

The Lake Country Chiefs exist to provide young athletes with an opportunity to compete, grow, and develop in a positive and challenging environment. While success on the scoreboard is important, our ultimate responsibility is to help players develop the skills and character traits that will serve them throughout their lives.

Every practice, meeting, and game presents an opportunity to teach lessons that extend far beyond football.

As coaches, we are responsible for making those lessons meaningful.

## The Influence of a Coach

A coach has a profound influence on the players they serve.

Young athletes pay attention to far more than football instruction. They observe how coaches communicate, handle adversity, treat others, respond to mistakes, and represent themselves. Whether we realize it or not, we are constantly teaching.

For many players, their coaches become some of the most influential adults in their lives. That responsibility should never be taken lightly.

Chiefs coaches are expected to model:

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Respect
- Self-discipline
- Sportsmanship
- Emotional control
- Commitment to excellence

Players should consistently see these qualities demonstrated by every member of the coaching staff.

## Building Better Athletes and Better People

Our goal is not simply to create football players.

Our goal is to develop confident, resilient, accountable young people who understand the value of hard work, preparation, teamwork, and perseverance.

Success should be measured not only by wins and losses, but by the growth and development of every athlete in the program.

Chiefs coaches should strive to:

- Develop sound football fundamentals.



- Build confidence through preparation and instruction.
- Encourage effort and perseverance.
- Foster teamwork and selflessness.
- Teach accountability and responsibility.
- Promote sportsmanship and respect.
- Create an environment where athletes enjoy participating in football.

When these objectives are achieved consistently, competitive success often follows.

## Every Player Matters

Every athlete deserves to be coached.

Players develop at different rates physically, emotionally, and athletically. Coaches must remain committed to teaching, encouraging, and supporting every member of the team regardless of skill level or experience.

The strongest programs are those in which every player feels valued, respected, and connected to the team.

Chiefs coaches should never allow a player's current ability level to determine the amount of coaching, encouragement, or attention they receive.

## Teaching Through Adversity

Football provides valuable opportunities to teach resilience.

Players will experience mistakes, setbacks, difficult practices, disappointing performances, and losses. These moments often present the greatest opportunities for growth.

Chiefs coaches should use adversity as a teaching tool by helping players:

- Learn from mistakes.
- Maintain perspective.
- Respond positively to challenges.
- Support teammates during difficult moments.
- Continue working toward improvement.

We teach players how to win with humility and how to lose with character.

## Safety and Development

Player safety is the foundation of everything we do.

No game, drill, practice segment, or competitive objective is more important than the health and well-being of our athletes.

Coaches are expected to:

- Teach proper tackling and blocking techniques.
- Emphasize safe football fundamentals.
- Monitor hydration and weather conditions.



- Inspect equipment regularly.
- Follow all safety protocols and emergency procedures.
- Prioritize player welfare in every decision.

When safety and development remain the primary focus, athletes are positioned to enjoy long-term success both on and off the field.

## Coaching Requirements & Professional Standards

All Lake Country Chiefs coaches must:

- Successfully complete required background checks.
- Read and understand the Chiefs Safety Action Plan.
- Read and understand this Coaches Handbook.
- Read and understand applicable AAYFL rules and policies.
- Maintain familiarity with annual league rule changes and updates.
- Adhere to the AAYFL Coaches Code of Ethics.
- Remain free from alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances during all Chiefs activities.

Coaches are responsible for understanding and complying with all league and organizational expectations regarding player safety, participation, conduct, and competition.

## Four Goals of a Successful Coaching Experience

Every coach should strive to provide an experience that:

- 1 Develops a lifelong appreciation for sports, competition, and teamwork.
- 2 Helps every athlete recognize their individual value and contribution to the team.
- 3 Teaches principles and habits that benefit players in athletics, academics, and life.
- 4 Encourages players to continue participating, developing, and growing within the program.

When coaches remain focused on these goals, they create an experience that players remember long after the season ends.

# Coaching Conduct & Practice Standards

## Representing the Program

Every coach serves as a representative of the Lake Country Chiefs, the Arrowhead Football community, and the game of football itself.

Players, parents, officials, opponents, and community members form opinions about our program based on the conduct and professionalism of our coaching staff. For that reason, coaches are expected to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship, integrity, and personal accountability.

The way we conduct ourselves matters.

## Professional Conduct

Chiefs coaches are expected to:

- Treat players, parents, officials, opponents, and fellow coaches with respect.
- Demonstrate emotional control in all situations.
- Communicate professionally and constructively.
- Model the behavior and standards expected of our players.
- Resolve conflicts respectfully and appropriately.
- Uphold the values and reputation of the Lake Country Chiefs.

The use of profane, abusive, threatening, discriminatory, or inappropriate language is strictly prohibited at all Chiefs activities.

Derogatory remarks directed toward players, coaches, officials, spectators, or opponents will not be tolerated.

## Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is not situational.

Coaches are expected to demonstrate respect regardless of the score, circumstances, or outcome of a game.

Chiefs coaches should:

- Compete with intensity and integrity.
- Respect officials and their decisions.
- Teach players to respond appropriately to adversity.
- Demonstrate humility in victory.
- Demonstrate character in defeat.

The example set by coaches directly influences player behavior and team culture.

## Accountability

All coaches are expected to understand and comply with Chiefs and AAYFL standards.

Conduct detrimental to the program may result in disciplinary action, including verbal counseling, written warnings, suspension, or removal from coaching responsibilities as determined by the Head Coach and/or Board of Directors.

Accountability is not punitive. It is essential to maintaining a positive and safe environment for our athletes.

## Practice Standards

### Purpose of Practice

Practice is where development occurs.

Games provide opportunities to showcase improvement, but practices are where players build the skills, habits, and confidence necessary for long-term success.

Every practice should be organized, intentional, and focused on player development.

### Expectations for Coaches

Coaches are expected to arrive prepared with a plan for each practice session.

Practices should:

- Maximize instructional time.
- Prioritize player safety.
- Emphasize fundamentals.
- Maintain a positive and energetic environment.
- Keep players actively engaged.
- Provide age-appropriate instruction.
- Reinforce accountability and discipline.

The most effective practices combine structure, enthusiasm, and purposeful repetition.

### Expectations for Players

Players are expected to:

- Arrive on time and prepared.
- Demonstrate effort and attention.
- Show respect for coaches, teammates, and facilities.
- Follow team expectations and safety requirements.
- Participate fully in drills and activities.

Attendance and preparation are important components of player development and team success.

### Attendance Standards

To remain in good standing, players are expected to attend all scheduled practices and games whenever possible.

Excused absences may include:

- Illness



- School activities
- Religious commitments
- Family obligations

Players who miss significant practice time may experience modified participation based on safety considerations, readiness, and team requirements.

Any participation decisions should be communicated clearly and professionally with players and families.

### **Equipment & Facility Care**

Players are expected to care for all team-issued equipment and use it appropriately.

Helmets and protective equipment should never be thrown, misused, or intentionally damaged.

Coaches should routinely inspect equipment and immediately address concerns involving safety or functionality.

Every team is expected to leave practice facilities in better condition than they found them.

Respect for facilities reflects respect for the program.

### **End of Practice Responsibilities**

The Head Coach is responsible for the team until the final player has been picked up or released in accordance with program procedures.

No coach should leave a practice site until appropriate supervision responsibilities have been fulfilled.

Player safety remains the priority from the beginning of practice until the final athlete departs.



# Player Safety, Inclement Weather & Game Day Standards

## Player Safety

Player safety is the highest priority of the Lake Country Chiefs Youth Football Program.

Every decision made by a coach should begin with one question:

**"Is this in the best interest of player safety?"**

No drill, practice segment, game situation, or competitive objective is more important than the health and well-being of our athletes.

Chiefs coaches are expected to:

- Teach proper tackling, blocking, and contact techniques.
- Emphasize heads-up football at all times.
- Monitor player hydration and recovery.
- Ensure players are using properly fitted equipment.
- Recognize signs of injury, illness, dehydration, or heat-related distress.
- Follow all procedures outlined in the Chiefs Safety Action Plan.
- Immediately remove any player whose safety may be at risk.

Coaches should never place a player in a situation that unnecessarily compromises their physical or emotional well-being.

## Equipment Safety

Player equipment is an important component of injury prevention.

Coaches should routinely inspect equipment and promptly report any concerns involving:

- Helmets
- Shoulder pads
- Game pants and pads
- Mouth guards
- Practice equipment

Only equipment approved by the Lake Country Chiefs may be used during team activities.

## Injury Response

In the event of an injury, coaches should immediately follow the procedures outlined in the Chiefs Safety Action Plan.

When in doubt, err on the side of caution.

The long-term health of the athlete is always more important than short-term participation.



## Inclement Weather Standards

### Weather Communication

All weather-related updates, cancellations, delays, and schedule modifications will be communicated through the Crossbar app and other approved Chiefs communication channels.

Head Coaches are expected to communicate any relevant updates to their teams in a timely manner.

### Practice Weather Procedures

If severe weather develops before or during practice, coaches must immediately follow established safety procedures.

This includes situations involving:

- Lightning
- Thunder
- Heavy rain
- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Dangerous field conditions

When directed, players and coaches should immediately move to designated shelter areas identified within the Chiefs Safety Action Plan.

### Coach Responsibility

Coaches are expected to exercise sound judgment during adverse weather conditions.

No coach should knowingly expose players to unnecessary risk.

Any situation involving questionable weather conditions should be approached conservatively and with player safety as the primary consideration.

### Game Weather Procedures

During games, officials have authority regarding weather-related delays, suspensions, and cancellations.

Coaches are expected to:

- Follow all instructions provided by officials.
- Ensure players move safely to designated shelter areas when required.
- Maintain communication with players and families.
- Assist in creating an orderly and safe environment during delays.

If a game is declared complete under AAYFL rules, the result will stand as determined by league policy.

## Game Day Standards

### Coaching Responsibilities on Game Day

Game day provides an opportunity to demonstrate the values of The Chiefs Way.

Coaches are expected to:



- Arrive prepared and organized.
- Ensure players are ready to compete safely.
- Maintain sideline discipline and organization.
- Manage substitutions appropriately.
- Monitor player safety throughout the game.
- Support and encourage players regardless of circumstances.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship at all times.
- Represent the Lake Country Chiefs and Arrowhead Football positively.

Players should never feel unsupported because of mistakes made during competition.

Game day should be an extension of the teaching environment established during practice.

### **Sideline Expectations**

Only authorized coaches, players, and approved game personnel are permitted within designated sideline areas.

Coaches and players are expected to:

- Remain within designated coaching areas.
- Stay clear of officials whenever possible.
- Maintain sideline organization.
- Keep equipment and personal belongings orderly.
- Create an environment that allows players to focus and compete.

### **Communication with Officials**

Only one designated coach should communicate directly with game officials.

Interactions with officials should always remain respectful and professional.

Disagreements may occur, but they must be handled appropriately and without hostility.

Coaches are expected to model the same behavior they expect from their players and parents.

### **Sportsmanship & Program Representation**

Chiefs coaches represent more than their individual team.

They represent:

- Their players
- Their families
- The Lake Country Chiefs
- Arrowhead Football
- The game of football

Coaches are expected to demonstrate professionalism and sportsmanship before, during, and after every contest.



## **Facility Stewardship**

Every team is expected to leave facilities in better condition than they found them.

Coaches should ensure that players assist with:

- Trash collection
- Equipment cleanup
- Sideline organization
- Respect for school and community property

How we leave a facility reflects how we represent our program.

## **Spectator Conduct**

Parents and spectators are important members of the Chiefs community.

Coaches should support officials and event staff in maintaining a positive environment for all participants.

Behavior that is disruptive, abusive, threatening, or unsafe may result in removal from the facility in accordance with league and organizational policies.

Creating a positive game-day experience is a shared responsibility.

# Parent Communication & Expectations

## Building Strong Partnerships

Successful teams are built on strong relationships between coaches, players, and families.

Parents invest significant time, energy, and emotion into their children's experience. Coaches should recognize and respect that investment while maintaining the leadership role entrusted to them by the organization.

The most successful seasons occur when coaches and parents work together toward a common objective:

### **Developing young athletes and outstanding young people.**

When communication is clear, expectations are consistent, and relationships are built on mutual respect, players benefit.

## The Coach's Responsibility

Coaches are responsible for creating an environment that encourages positive communication and partnership with families.

Chiefs coaches should:

- Communicate expectations early and clearly.
- Be approachable and professional.
- Listen respectfully to concerns.
- Address issues directly and constructively.
- Maintain consistency in decision-making.
- Keep the focus on player development.
- Treat every family with fairness and respect.

Strong communication builds trust. Trust strengthens teams.

## Setting Expectations Early

Many challenges can be avoided by establishing expectations at the beginning of the season.

Parents should understand:

- Team standards and expectations.
- Attendance expectations.
- Communication procedures.
- Playing time requirements and league rules.
- Practice schedules.
- Team goals and priorities.
- Appropriate channels for addressing concerns.

Clear expectations create consistency and reduce misunderstandings throughout the season.

## Managing Concerns Professionally

Disagreements and questions are a natural part of coaching.

When concerns arise, coaches should:

- Listen first.
- Seek understanding before responding.
- Address issues calmly and professionally.
- Focus on facts rather than emotions.
- Meet privately whenever possible.
- Maintain confidentiality.

Public disagreements rarely produce positive outcomes.

Whenever possible, concerns should be discussed face-to-face rather than through email, text messages, or social media.

## Consistency Builds Credibility

Players and parents should experience the same standards throughout the season.

Coaches should avoid changing rules, expectations, or disciplinary standards without communicating those changes clearly.

Consistency demonstrates fairness and builds confidence in leadership.

## Protecting Player Privacy

Coaches should never discuss one player with another player's family.

Every athlete deserves privacy, dignity, and respect.

Questions regarding another player's role, playing time, performance, or discipline should be redirected appropriately.

Maintaining confidentiality protects both players and the integrity of the program.

## Supporting Officials

Officials are an important part of the game and deserve respect.

Coaches should actively reinforce this expectation with players and families.

Mistakes will occasionally occur during competition. How adults respond to those situations teaches valuable lessons about sportsmanship, accountability, and emotional control.

Chiefs coaches should model the behavior they expect from everyone associated with the program.

## Encouraging Parent Involvement

Parents play a vital role in creating a successful team experience.



Coaches are encouraged to involve parents in appropriate volunteer opportunities that support the team and organization.

Examples may include:

- Team communications
- Photography and videography
- Fundraising activities
- Team events
- Game-day support roles
- End-of-season activities

A strong parent community contributes to a stronger team culture.

## **Parent Volunteers & Coaching**

Any parent wishing to serve in a coaching capacity must complete all required background checks, certifications, and organizational requirements before participating in practices or games.

There are no exceptions to this policy.

Player safety and organizational standards require consistent compliance from all coaches.

## **Respecting Differences**

Every team includes players and families from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

One of the most important responsibilities of a coach is creating an environment where every participant feels respected, valued, and welcomed.

The strongest teams are built on trust, inclusion, and mutual respect.



# Pre-Season Parent Meeting Guidelines

The Pre-Season Parent Meeting establishes the foundation for the season and provides an opportunity to align expectations between coaches and families.

Whenever possible, both parents or guardians should be encouraged to attend.

If desired, a member of the Board of Directors may attend to support the coaching staff and answer organizational questions.

## Recommended Meeting Agenda

### 1. Introductions

Introduce all coaches and team volunteers. Share coaching backgrounds, coaching philosophy, and your commitment to player development and safety.

### 2. Team Vision & The Chiefs Way

Explain the values, expectations, and leadership principles that will guide the team throughout the season. Discuss how The Chiefs Way influences player development, communication, accountability, and sportsmanship.

### 3. Team Structure

Review team organization, coaching assignments, communication channels, team expectations, and volunteer opportunities.

### 4. Safety & Player Welfare

Review equipment requirements, hydration expectations, injury procedures, emergency communication processes, and the importance of proper football technique. Reinforce that player safety remains the program's highest priority.

### 5. Practice Expectations

Discuss practice schedules, attendance expectations, preparation requirements, equipment responsibilities, and player conduct standards.

### 6. Game Day Expectations

Review arrival times, participation requirements, sideline procedures, sportsmanship expectations, and parent conduct expectations.

### 7. Communication Procedures

Explain how coaches will communicate throughout the season and how parents should address questions or concerns. Establish expectations for respectful, productive communication.

### 8. Playing Time & Development

Review applicable league requirements and explain how player development remains a primary focus of the program. Reinforce that preparation, attendance, effort, attitude, and team needs all contribute to player opportunities.



## 9. Questions & Discussion

Provide time for parents to ask questions and clarify expectations. A successful meeting creates alignment, trust, and partnership before the season begins.



# The Chiefs Way Leadership Commitment

## THE CHIEFS WAY Leadership Commitment

As coaches of the Lake Country Chiefs, we commit to the following principles:

- We teach effort before outcomes.
- Every player deserves to be coached.
- Discipline is an act of respect.
- We teach accountability through example.
- We communicate with honesty and professionalism.
- We place player safety above all else.
- We represent the Lake Country Chiefs with pride.
- We support our teammates and fellow coaches.
- We leave every field better than we found it.
- We build teammates before we build players.
- We are developing young men through football.

**Be the example.**

**Lead with purpose.**

**Coach the Chiefs Way.**



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*TOGETHER. COMPETE. BECOME.*

*THE CHIEFS WAY*

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