



## Player and Parent Responsibilities Waiver Form

### Prologue:

We would like to take a moment to clarify the structure of our club to avoid any confusion. **Toronto Thunderbirds FC is a privately owned and independently operated soccer club.**

While we are affiliated with our sister club for the purpose of league registration and player development pathways, **we operate entirely under our own management, policies, and decisions.** As outlined in our agreement, the sister club **has no administrative or operational involvement** in our programs.

Any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding our teams, coaches, or club operations **must be directed to Toronto Thunderbirds FC management only.** The sister club is not responsible for our decisions, and inquiries made to them cannot be addressed on our behalf.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we continue to provide the best environment for our players and families.

### Toronto Thunderbirds Club Policies:

1. The Toronto Thunderbirds are a privately owned club. There is no board of directors, there is an owner. FC Emery has no control or say over the operations of the Toronto Thunderbirds.
2. Any Parent found to be using defamatory remarks, derogatory comments, disparaging remarks, unprofessional conduct, or inappropriate communication about the Toronto Thunderbirds, the coaching staff, or other parents and players, will be released from the club without warning.
3. Any parent found to be making unauthorized phone calls or having communications with, but not limited to, schools, facilities, leagues, clubs, tournament committees,

sponsors, opposition clubs, opposition coaches, or anyone, or any entity that the Toronto Thunderbirds are involved with will be immediately released from the program.

4. **Communication Policy:** Parents are reminded that all communication with external organizations—such as leagues, facilities, or partner clubs—must go **through Toronto Thunderbirds FC management**. No parent or guardian is permitted to contact leagues, facility coordinators, or affiliated clubs directly to request or share information on behalf of the team or club. This includes inquiries about schedules, field bookings, player status, or any other club-related matters. Any parent found to be making **unauthorized contact or attempting to obtain confidential information** from these entities will be considered in violation of club policy and **may be released from the team**. All questions or concerns must be directed to the **club administration or team manager** for proper handling.
5. Toronto Thunderbirds FC is committed to maintaining a positive, respectful, and team-oriented environment for all players, parents, and staff.
6. Any parent or guardian found to be **initiating or participating in discussions intended to undermine, discredit, or organize other parents or players against the club, its coaches, or management** will be considered in serious violation of club policy. Such conduct is viewed as **detrimental to team unity and the club's values** and will result in **immediate removal from the team and termination of membership**. All concerns must be addressed directly and respectfully through the club's official communication channels.
7. **Club Departure Policy:** Toronto Thunderbirds FC respects every family's right to choose the environment that best suits their child's development. However, to maintain professionalism and team harmony, we ask that all departures be handled in a respectful and orderly manner. Any parent or guardian who chooses to leave the Toronto Thunderbirds FC program is expected to do so **without engaging in negative discussions, creating disruption among other families, or attempting to recruit players or parents to follow them**. Such actions are considered **conduct detrimental to the club and its members** and may result in **immediate removal from all club activities and ineligibility for future participation**. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a positive and respectful environment for all players and families.
8. **Fee and Financial Policy:** Toronto Thunderbirds FC is a **privately owned and independently operated soccer club**. All registration fees, seasonal fees, tournament fees, and camp fees are **set solely by club ownership** and are determined based on the club's operational standards, facility requirements, staffing, and program quality. As a private organization, Toronto Thunderbirds FC **is not obligated to align its fees** with those of other clubs or academies. Comparisons to other programs are therefore not applicable. Parents and guardians are reminded that by registering with Toronto Thunderbirds FC, they **acknowledge and accept the established fees** for participation in all programs. The club **does not provide financial statements or disclose internal financial details**, as it operates as a **private business entity**. Questions or disputes regarding fees will not be entertained. All fees are **non-negotiable and non-refundable**, except where otherwise stated in the club's official refund policy.

9. **Player Commitment Policy:** Toronto Thunderbirds FC maintains a **one-club / one-shirt participation policy**. Players registered with Toronto Thunderbirds FC are expected to train, compete, and represent the club exclusively during their period of registration. Any player found to be **participating, training, or competing with another club, academy, or team** without the **prior written consent of Toronto Thunderbirds FC management** will be considered in breach of this policy. Such actions constitute a **violation of the player's commitment agreement** and will result in **immediate release from the Toronto Thunderbirds FC program without prior notice or refund**. This policy ensures loyalty, consistency, and integrity within our teams and supports a professional development environment for all players.
10. **Sideline Conduct Policy:** Toronto Thunderbirds FC is committed to providing a positive and structured learning environment for all players. To maintain this standard, **only authorized coaches and team staff** are permitted to provide instruction or direction to players during training sessions and matches. Parents and guardians are expected to **refrain from coaching, instructing, or giving tactical directions** from the sidelines. Any parent found to be **contradicting, interfering with, or undermining the coach's instructions** during practices or games will be considered in violation of club policy. Such behaviour is **disruptive to team dynamics and player development** and will result in the **immediate release of the player from the Toronto Thunderbirds FC program without prior notice or refund**. The club appreciates the cooperation of all families in supporting our coaches and maintaining a respectful and professional sideline environment.

#### **Player Responsibilities:**

##### **Adhere to the Laws of the Game:**

- Players must understand and abide by the rules of soccer, ensuring fair play and sportsmanship.

##### **Respect Officials and Opponents:**

- Players should show respect for referees, coaches, and opposing teams, both on and off the field.

##### **Engage in Fair Play:**

- Players should strive to win, but without resorting to fouls, unsportsmanlike conduct, or intentionally causing harm to opponents.

##### **Prioritize Teamwork:**

- Players should focus on supporting their teammates and working together to achieve team goals.

##### **Maintain a Positive Attitude:**

- Players should maintain a positive attitude, even when facing challenges or setbacks. They should come to work hard at every practice and game. This is Competitive soccer.

##### **Follow Coach's Instructions:**

- Players should listen to and follow the instructions of their coach, respecting their guidance and expertise.

## **Parent Responsibilities:**

### **Promote Fair Play and Sportsmanship:**

- Parents should encourage their children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

### **Respect Officials and Coaches:**

- Parents should respect the decisions of officials and coaches, and avoid criticizing them publicly.

### **Encourage Positive Behavior:**

- Parents should model positive behavior and encourage their children to do the same, avoiding yelling, arguing, or engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct.

### **Support the Team:**

- Parents should support their child's team and all players, regardless of their individual performance.

### **Focus on Development and Enjoyment:**

- Parents should prioritize their child's enjoyment of the sport and focus on skill development rather than solely on winning.

### **Be a Positive Role Model:**

- Parents should be positive role models, demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect for others.

### **Ensure Player Safety:**

- Parents should ensure their child is properly equipped and prepared for practice and games, and should be aware of any health issues or allergies.

### **Communicate with the Coach:**

- Parents should communicate with the coach regularly, providing updates on their child's health or any concerns they may have.

In competitive youth soccer, parents should focus on being supportive and encouraging, respecting officials and coaches, and avoiding coaching from the sidelines or criticizing players or referees.

Here's a more detailed breakdown of key expectations for parents in competitive youth soccer:

### **General Expectations:**

- **Be Supportive and Encouraging:** Focus on your child's effort and participation, not just winning or losing.
- **Respect Officials and Coaches:** Accept their decisions and refrain from arguing or criticizing them.
- **Avoid Coaching from the Sidelines:** Let the coaches handle the game strategy and instruction.
- **Promote Sportsmanship:** Encourage your child to play by the rules and respect opponents.

- **Be a Positive Role Model:** Model good behavior and sportsmanship for your child and other players.
- **Prioritize Fun and Development:** Remember that the primary goal is for children to enjoy the game and develop their skills.
- **Follow Team and Club Rules:** Comply with all policies and procedures set by the team, club, and league.
- **Communicate with the Coach:** Keep the coach informed about any issues or concerns regarding your child's participation.
- **Attend Team Meetings:** Stay informed about team activities, schedules, and expectations.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time and skills to help the team and club.

Specific Actions to Avoid:

- **Criticizing Players or Coaches:** Refrain from public criticism of players, coaches, or officials.
- **Yelling at Officials:** Do not engage in verbal abuse or harassment of referees or other officials.
- **Putting Pressure on Players:** Avoid excessive pressure regarding playing time, performance, or winning.
- **Engaging in Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Refrain from any behavior that is disrespectful or harmful to other players, coaches, or officials.
- **Smoking or Alcohol:** Do not smoke or consume alcohol around the soccer fields.
- **Coaching from the Sidelines:** Let the coaches handle the game strategy and instruction

Please **DO NOT** do the following:

- Confront the coach before, during or immediately following the game or practice to discuss the concern.
- Voice your concerns in front, or to, other parents or players. They cannot resolve issues you may have, and this action negatively impacts the team unity.
- Criticize the coach and his decisions in front of your son, other players, and/or parents. This undermines the coach and the respect the players have for their decisions.
- Interfere with pre-and post-game huddles. Huddles are for coaches and players only and parents should keep their distance until the huddle is over, unless there's an emergency.

Please **DO** the following:

- If you have a concern, please use the 24-hour rule. Please take 24 hours to think about your concern before initiating the conversation.
- Have the player approach the coach with a concern first. Younger players (12 and under) may need assistance with articulating the concerns.
- BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

- Encourage your son to be positive and model that behavior. This involves not yelling at referees, opposing players, parents or coaches or using inappropriate language. The coach will not allow the players or parents to yell or argue with referees. Please set a good example.
- Be supportive. Don't talk to or yell at your daughter or any other player during games or practices. Remember these are young ladies learning to play a difficult game. They are going to make mistakes. Please do not place unnecessary pressure on them.
- Respect the Coach's decisions. Respect and enforce decisions made by the coach regarding curfews and team rules. Do not second guess coaching decisions after a game with your daughter.
- Be on time. Always try your best to have your son to pre-game on time. If there is an issue, please coordinate with other parents. If you will be later, let the coach know in advance.

#### APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- a. Ways to help your child improve
- b. Concerns about the players attitude or conduct
- c. Playing time

#### ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- a. Team strategy / system of play
- b. Other players. You can discuss your own son only.

#### COMMUNICATIONS YOU CAN EXPECT FROM COACHES

- a. Philosophy of the coach
- b. Expectations for your son, as well as team members
- c. Location and time of practices, games, and other team events
- d. Team requirements: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, tournaments, travel
- e. Rule infractions that may result in the denial of your son's participation
- f. All communication necessary that pertains to the team and any events.

## **Acknowledgment and Agreement**

**By signing below, the player and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by all rules, policies, and regulations of Toronto Thunderbirds FC, and understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the program.**

**Player Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_