



YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER

ISLAND MADE • ISLAND TOUGH

JI LIL TROJANS

PARENT & PLAYER HANDBOOK

2026 EDITION

THE FAMILY STANDARD

Protect the athlete. Respect the game. Strengthen the program.

www.jilliltrojans.com | jilliltrojansbooster@gmail.com

HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook establishes the expectations that protect every JI Lil Trojans athlete and create a consistent experience for families. It applies to parents, guardians, players, spectators, and family guests at practices, games, meetings, travel, fundraisers, digital team spaces, and every other program-related activity.

NON-NEGOTIABLE FAMILY RULE

The welfare, dignity, and development of every athlete come before game results, convenience, ego, or personal conflict.

Order of Authority

Families must follow applicable JI Lil Trojans policies, facility rules, City of Charleston Recreation requirements, and the current written rules of the governing league. When a requirement changes or conflicts, the current written rule or official program notice controls. Families should ask before acting when the correct rule is unclear.

Effective Date & Version Control

This Parent & Player Handbook is issued for the 2026 season and remains in effect until amended or replaced. Material changes will be communicated in writing. A new or stricter athlete-safety requirement may take effect immediately when required by law, a governing body, a facility, or qualified medical guidance.

What This Handbook Does Not Promise

Registration does not guarantee a particular team assignment, position, uniform number, amount of playing time, starting role, postseason opportunity, or access to a specific facility. Coaches make sport decisions within program and league rules, with athlete safety and readiness first.

Policy Definitions

- **Athlete** — Any registered football player or cheer participant.
- **Exceptional Misconduct** — Severe family, spectator, or player conduct that may require immediate restriction, suspension, or removal without first using ordinary corrective steps.
- **Family Member** — A parent, guardian, caregiver, relative, or guest connected to an athlete.
- **Immediate Safety Concern** — A condition involving suspected abuse, serious injury, threat, violence, missing child, weapon, severe weather, or another danger requiring prompt action.
- **Material Disruption** — Conduct that causes an activity to stop or be delayed, requires staff, security, or emergency intervention, removes attention from athlete supervision, causes participants to be relocated, or creates a reasonable safety concern. Ordinary disappointment, respectful criticism, or a brief non-threatening disagreement is not a Material Disruption.
- **Official Program Notice** — A message issued through the program's designated email, scheduling platform, website, team channel, or authorized program leader.
- **Program-Related Activity** — Any practice, game, meeting, team activity, travel activity, fundraiser, facility use, digital team activity, or other event connected to JI Lil Trojans.

Family Responsibility

Parents and guardians are responsible for reviewing official notices, keeping contact and medical information current, communicating attendance changes promptly, supervising their guests, and ensuring the athlete understands the player standards in this handbook.

Contents

Section	Purpose
1. Program Foundation	Mission, mentors, pathway and leadership
2. Participation Standards	Registration, attendance, attire and equipment
3. Family Conduct	Player, parent and spectator expectations
4. Safety & Athlete Welfare	Heat, lightning, concussion and emergency response
5. Team & Game-Day Operations	Communication, facilities, volunteers and fundraising
6. Accountability & Resolution	Concerns, consequences and exceptional misconduct
7. Quick Reference & Acknowledgment	Contacts, checklists and signatures



01

PROGRAM FOUNDATION

One Island. One standard. One athletic pathway.

WELCOME TO JI LIL TROJANS

Welcome to the JI Lil Trojans Youth Football & Cheer program! Our purpose is much larger than a scoreboard: we are building a safe, competitive, family-centered environment where young athletes learn skill, discipline, teamwork, accountability, and pride in James Island.

Who We Are

In 2022, three individual James Island youth football programs connected through the City of Charleston Recreation Department and came together to build a unified feeder program for James Island Charter High School. JI Lil Trojans continues community-centered work through football, cheer, mentorship, and a visible pathway toward high-school football and cheer participation.

Vision

To nurture the talent and potential of young athletes on James Island through a safe, competitive, and family-centered program.

Mission

To build the culture of football and cheer while prioritizing athlete safety, age-appropriate development, academic responsibility, sportsmanship, and community connection.

Core Values

- Safety before schedule or score.
- Respect for teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, families, and facilities.
- Accountability for preparation, communication, conduct, and equipment.
- Development through consistent teaching, effort, and age-appropriate challenge.
- Community through service, mentorship, and one-program unity.

THE MENTORS BEHIND THE MISSION



COACH JOSEPH "LABOY" MATTHEWS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • YOUTH SPORTS MENTOR

With over 45 years of coaching experience (1980–present), Coach Joseph "Laboy" Matthews is a dedicated athletic director and coach, well-known for his commitment to youth sports and community engagement. After playing semi-pro football for 2 years, Coach Matthews dedicated his life to the youth in the community, giving his time to teach kids the games of sports at the local community park, Thomas Johnson Park (Westchester). Currently, he serves as the Athletic Director for the JI Lil Trojans, where he oversees the youth athletic football programs and plays a vital role in developing young athletes.

After successfully leading the Westchester Bengals Youth Sports Organization for more than 40 years, Coach Matthews partnered with JI Rec and Coach McKoy in 2022 to establish the first youth feeder program for football, now known as the JI Lil Trojans. Alongside his responsibilities as athletic director, Coach Matthews is actively involved in coaching, emphasizing skill development and fostering sportsmanship. His mentorship has been instrumental in creating a nurturing environment for young athletes.

In recognition of his contributions, former Mayor of Charleston John Tecklenburg declared November 19 as "Coach Joseph 'Laboy' Matthews Day," honoring him for his impactful role in the community.

Coach Matthews' unwavering dedication to youth sports continues to inspire and positively influence the Charleston community.



COACH JAMAR MCKOY

PROGRAM MENTOR • JICHS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

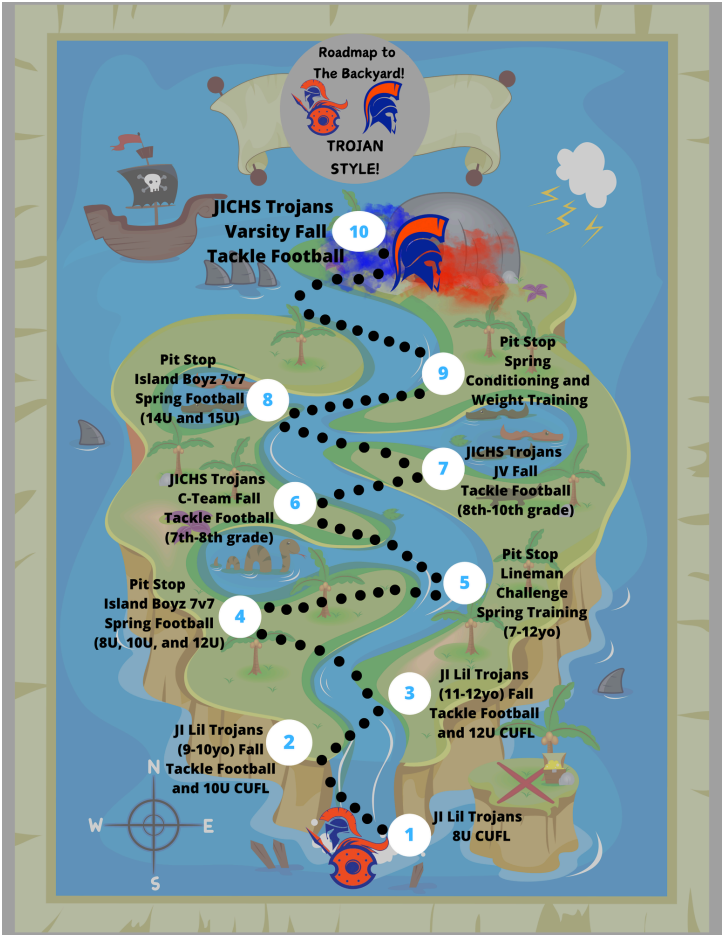
Coach Jamar McKoy is a prominent figure in high school football coaching, celebrated for his leadership and dedication to athlete development. Hailing from Gastonia, North Carolina, he attended Hunter Huss High School before pursuing higher education at North Carolina Central University.

During his time at Hunter Huss High School, McKoy held the position of head football coach for 6 years from 2014–2019, achieving an impressive 40–13 record over six amazing seasons. His outstanding contributions earned him the 2016 Gazette Coach of the Year award from the Gaston Gazette.

In February 2020, McKoy made a significant move to James Island Charter High School in South Carolina, becoming the first African-American head football coach in the school's history. He made an immediate impact, guiding the Trojans to success in the highly competitive Class 4A and 5A regular season, achieving an overall record of 42–16 from 2020 to 2024, with a regional record of 19–6 that led the Trojans to the state playoffs.

Beyond his coaching successes, McKoy is also recognized for his unwavering dedication to his players and the surrounding community. His leadership inspires young athletes, promoting both personal development and athletic excellence. He takes immense pride in providing guidance not only to JICHS but also to the JI Lil Trojans Youth Sports Organization.

ROADMAP TO THE BACKYARD



The JI Lil Trojans athlete-development pathway—from youth football to Friday night lights.

The roadmap is a development vision, not a guarantee of future placement, selection, roster status, or playing time. Each organization, team, and season applies its own eligibility, safety, and participation requirements.

WHO FAMILIES CONTACT

USE THE CORRECT PATHWAY

Football and coaching-related concerns must follow the coaching chain of command. Program-related concerns must be sent directly to a JI Lil Trojans Admin through Telegram or email. Using the wrong pathway may delay a response.

Contact	Use This Contact For
Team Head Coach	First contact for football or coaching-related concerns involving the athlete's effort, attendance, readiness, safety, development, behavior, practices, games, or routine team matters.
Coaches' Coordinator	Second contact when a football or coaching-related concern remains unresolved after discussion with the Team Head Coach, or when the concern involves the Head Coach.
Athletic Director	Final contact in the football and coaching-related chain of command after review by the Coaches Coordinator.
JI Lil Trojans Admins	Direct contact for program-related concerns or matters, including registration, program operations, conduct, volunteers, fundraising, payments, and organization-wide needs. Contact through Telegram or email JiLilTrojansBooster@gmail.com .

CONCERN & MATTER PATHWAYS

Football & Coaching-Related Concerns or Matters

1. Team Head Coach — first contact after the required cooling-off period.
2. Coaches' Coordinator — second contact if unresolved or if the concern involves the Head Coach.
3. Athletic Director — final contact after review by the Coaches' Coordinator.

Program-Related Concerns or Matters

Contact a JI Lil Trojans Admin directly through Telegram or by email at JiLilTrojansBooster@gmail.com. Include the athlete's name, team, specific facts, relevant dates, and the requested resolution.



02

PARTICIPATION STANDARDS

Prepared athletes. Reliable families. Consistent teams.

REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY & CERTIFICATION

An athlete may participate only after completing the current season's registration process and satisfying the current written requirements of JI Lil Trojans, the City of Charleston Recreation Department, the governing league, and any applicable facility or insurer as required.

- Provide accurate athlete, guardian, age, identity, residency, medical, emergency-contact, and consent information requested through the official registration process.
- Submit required documents by the published deadlines. Do not alter, borrow, or misrepresent any records.
- Keep contact information, allergies, medications, medical restrictions, and authorized-pickup information current.
- Complete any physical, waiver, acknowledgment, payment, uniform, or certification requirement included in the current season's registration instructions.
- Understand that age divisions, roster eligibility, identification procedures, and certification rules may change by season; the current written rule controls.

NO DOCUMENTATION EXCEPTIONS

A coach, team parent, or volunteer cannot, under any circumstances, waive registration, safety, roster, payment, or eligibility requirements. Only an authorized written decision from JI Lil Trojans Administration can approve an exception.

Financial Concerns

Families should raise payment or assistance questions privately with the JI Lil Trojans Admins before a deadline. Financial matters must never be argued in front of athletes, teams, or spectators.

Fees, Refunds & Account Balances

Registration fees, payment deadlines, payment-plan terms, refunds, credits, fundraising obligations, and outstanding balances are governed by the written terms issued for the applicable season or activity. This handbook does not create a refund or credit that is not stated in those terms. A family requesting review must contact the JI Lil Trojans Admins in writing and provide the relevant payment information.

PRACTICE & ATTENDANCE STANDARD

Consistent attendance protects athlete development, team preparation, and safety. Parents must report an absence or late arrival through the designated team channel as soon as reasonably possible and, when practical, before practice begins. Failure to report an absence will be marked unexcused.

Excused Absences

- Illness, injury, or a medical restriction.
- School, academic, religious, or family obligation that is communicated in advance whenever practical.
- Emergency, bereavement, custody-related transition, or transportation failure outside the family's reasonable control.
- A conflict approved in writing by the Team Head Coach or JI Lil Trojans Admins.

Unexcused or Repeated Attendance Problems

A missed or late activity without timely communication or a reasonable basis may be treated as unexcused. The response is documented and applied consistently:

1. First occurrence: coach-parent discussion and expectation reset.
2. Second occurrence: the athlete may sit the opening quarter or comparable opening portion of the next event.
3. Third or later occurrence: the athlete may sit up to one-half of the next event and the family may be placed on a written attendance plan.

NO EXERCISE PUNISHMENT

Running, conditioning, push-ups, or other physical activity will not be assigned as punishment for attendance, lateness, or behavior. Safety and readiness restrictions may still limit participation when an athlete has missed essential instruction or acclimatization.

Readiness Is Not Punishment

A coach may limit an athlete to instruction, review, or non-contact activity when missed training creates a genuine safety or readiness concern. The limit must relate to what the athlete missed and may not be used to disguise punishment or evade the attendance process.

PRACTICE READINESS & ATTIRE

Athletes should arrive at the time announced by the team, ready to participate, with required equipment, water, and weather-appropriate clothing. A parent or authorized adult must remain until the athlete is accepted by an authorized staff member when instructed by the team.

Football

- Wear the equipment and practice clothing specified for that phase of the season; changes to standard practice attire will be communicated through Telegram or email.
- Bring a clearly labeled water bottle every day.
- Do not modify helmets, pads, mouthguards, cleats, or other protective equipment.
- Report damaged, missing, poorly fitting, or uncomfortable equipment immediately.

Cheer

- Wear fitted athletic clothing, approved athletic shoes, and hair secured away from the face.
- Remove jewelry and follow team instructions for nails, accessories, and hair devices.
- Bring a clearly labeled water bottle every day.
- Do not attempt tumbling, stunts, or skills outside authorized instruction and spotting.

ILLNESS & RETURN TO PARTICIPATION

JI Lil Trojans follows the current Charleston County School District illness and return-to-school guidance as the minimum standard for returning to practices, games, meetings, and team activities. Families must keep an athlete home when the athlete has a fever greater than 100.5°F, vomiting, persistent diarrhea, or a persistent cough or sneezing unrelated to seasonal allergies.

An athlete may return when symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours and the athlete has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. A healthcare provider's instructions, a disease-specific exclusion requirement, or a stricter public-health, school, league, or program directive controls when it requires a longer absence or written clearance.

Parent Responsibilities

- Notify the Team Head Coach as soon as possible when illness will affect attendance.
- Do not use medication to mask fever or symptoms so an athlete can participate.
- Tell the Team Head Coach about any temporary medical or activity restriction before the athlete returns.
- Contact a healthcare provider when symptoms are severe, worsening, prolonged, or raise concern about safe return.
- Understand that a coach may stop participation and require pickup when an athlete appears ill, injured, dehydrated, contagious, or unable to participate safely.

UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT & PROPERTY

Program-issued uniforms, helmets, shoulder pads, practice gear, bags, and other equipment remain program property unless the written purchase terms state otherwise. Families are responsible for reasonable care and timely return.

- Use equipment only for its intended team purpose.
- Do not paint, cut, drill, remove labels from, or permanently alter issued equipment.
- Clean and store equipment according to program and manufacturer instructions.
- Report loss, theft, damage, poor fit, or suspected defect immediately.
- Return all required items by the published deadline, even if the athlete leaves the team early.
- A family may be responsible for replacement cost when equipment is lost, intentionally damaged, improperly altered, or not returned, subject to the program's written determination.

JI Lil Trojans Equipment Closet

The JI Lil Trojans Equipment Closet is the program's designated collection and inventory for donated items. The program may announce voluntary donation or recycling drives for clean, serviceable equipment. Donations are accepted only at times and locations designated by JI Lil Trojans Admins and becomes program property upon acceptance. Donation does not guarantee reuse, team placement, roster status, credit, refund, or tax treatment. The program may inspect, recondition, redistribute, recycle, or discard items based on safety, fit, certification, condition, storage, and program need. Helmets and other protective equipment will not be issued unless they satisfy current manufacturer, certification, reconditioning, league, and program requirements. Families must not leave donated items with coaches or at facilities unless an authorized collection has been announced.

Helmet and Protective Equipment Safety

Football helmets and protective equipment must comply with the current equipment, manufacturer, certification, reconditioning, and league requirements. NOCSAE establishes performance standards; certification and recertification are handled through applicable certification and reconditioning processes. Families must not rely on a blanket "age" rule or attempt home repairs.

Playing Time & Roles

Coaches determine positions, units, routines, assignments, and playing opportunities based on safety, readiness, attendance, effort, skill development, team needs, and current league rules. No family may demand a position, starting role, uniform number, play call, stunt placement, or equal participation beyond what the current written rules require.



03

FAMILY CONDUCT

Your athlete is watching how you represent the team.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Every athlete is expected to learn, compete, and represent JI Lil Trojans with discipline. Age and maturity will be considered, but the following standards apply to every player and cheer participant:

- Listen when a coach or authorized adult is giving instruction.
- Use respectful language; no taunting, bullying, hazing, slurs, threats, or humiliating conduct.
- Keep hands, feet, equipment, and personal belongings under control except during authorized sport activity.
- Respect teammates, opponents, officials, coaches, families, facilities, and property.
- Report an injury, unsafe condition, bullying concern, or inappropriate conduct promptly.
- Do not bring weapons, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal drugs, or unauthorized medication to a program activity.
- Follow digital conduct expectations in team chats, texts, social media, photos, video, and game-film platforms.
- Accept correction without arguing, retaliation, or disruption; use the proper process to address concerns after the activity.

ATHLETE DIGNITY

Corrective action must teach, protect, and restore. Coaches may pause participation, change an assignment, require a conversation, or use a behavior plan. Humiliation, exercise punishment, retaliation, and unsafe discipline are prohibited.

Age-Appropriate Athlete Response

Athlete conduct is evaluated in light of age, maturity, disability, known support needs, intent, safety impact, and prior coaching. A child's ordinary mistake, frustration, or developmentally expected behavior is not treated the same as bullying, threats, fighting, hazing, deliberate dishonesty, retaliation, or repeated refusal to follow a safety instruction.

PARENT & GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

- Support all athletes without coaching from the spectator area.
- Treat coaches, officials, opponents, facility staff, volunteers, families, and children with respect.
- Do not confront any coach, official, athlete, or another family during or immediately after an activity.
- Keep disagreements away from athletes and spectators. Use the communication pathway after the cooling-off period.
- Do not enter the field, sideline, bench, locker room, practice area, skybox, concessions work area, or other restricted space without authorization.
- Supervise family guests and accept responsibility for their conduct.
- Do not post, forward, or distribute confidential team information, athlete information, disciplinary matters, or restricted game film.
- Do not use alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, or vaping products in violation of facility or program rules, and never attend in a condition that creates a safety or conduct concern.
- Follow all parking, admission, security, weather, pickup, and facility instructions promptly.

The 48-Hour Rule

Playing time, positions, strategy, play calls, lineups, substitutions, and other coaching judgments are not subjects for family negotiation. Families may raise permitted questions about their own athlete's effort, attendance, readiness, safety, development, behavior, or expectations. For a permitted non-urgent concern, wait at least 48 hours after the activity before contacting the Team Head Coach. Safety, injury, abuse, threat, missing-child, and medical concerns must be reported immediately and are never subject to a cooling-off period.

SIDELINE BOUNDARY

Cheer loudly. Encourage broadly. Leave instruction, substitutions, play calls, stunts, corrections, and officiating to authorized personnel. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in immediate dismissal from the activity.

COMMUNICATION THAT SOLVES PROBLEMS

Appropriate Topics for a Coach

- Your athlete's effort, attendance, readiness, safety, development, and behavior.
- What your athlete can practice or improve upon.
- A medical, academic, family, custody, transportation, or scheduling circumstance affecting participation.
- A concern about bullying, hazing, inappropriate conduct, or an unsafe condition.

Topics a Coach Will Not Discuss

- Your athlete's playing time.
- Another athlete's role, discipline, medical status, family circumstances, or playing time.
- Confidential personnel or complaint information.
- In-game officiating, strategy, play calling, lineups, or substitutions immediately after an event.
- Rumors, anonymous social-media claims, or demands made in front of athletes or spectators.

Concern Process

1. Write down the specific facts: who, what, when, where, witnesses, and the requested resolution.
2. For a football or coaching-related matter, follow the chain: Team Head Coach, Coaches' Coordinator, then Athletic Director.
3. For a program-related matter, contact a JI Lil Trojans Admin through Telegram or email JiLilTrojansBooster@gmail.com.
4. The appropriate member of the Program Leadership will communicate the response or decision for the matter reviewed.

No Retaliation

Good-faith reporting of a safety or conduct concern will not be used against an athlete. Knowingly reporting false information, intimidation, witness coaching, retaliation, or repeated disruption of the review process may result in consequences.

SPECTATORS, OFFICIALS & DIGITAL CONDUCT

Officials and Opponents

Only authorized coaches communicate with officials about game administration. Families and spectators may not pursue, threaten, insult, touch, block, or follow an official, opponent, coach, or family member. Disagreement with a referee's call is never permissible to disrupt the event and will not be tolerated.

Social Media & Team Channels

- Use team channels only for team information, and never for personal attacks, rumors, discipline debates, or public pressure.
- Do not impersonate the program or create an "official" account, fundraiser, logo product, livestream, or team announcement without authorization.
- Do not post an athlete's private medical, academic, disciplinary, or family information.
- Do not record or distribute restricted meetings, private conversations, sideline communication, game film, access codes, or scouting material without permission.
- A parent controls only the permissions available for their own child; they may not authorize use of another athlete's identity or image.

HUDL and Game Film

Any HUDL or game-film access is a limited team privilege. Credentials and film may not be shared, downloaded, reposted, sold, used to target athletes, or distributed outside the authorized team purpose. Access may be revoked at any time.



04

SAFETY & ATHLETE WELFARE

Stop first. Protect the athlete. Communicate clearly.

IMMEDIATE SAFETY RULES

EMERGENCY RULE

Call 911 for a life-threatening emergency. Follow on-site emergency directions first; notify the program after emergency action is underway.

Supervision & Release

- Do not leave an athlete before the team's announced check-in or supervision process is active.
- Pick up promptly at the announced end time.
- Notify the team before another adult will pick up the athlete when required by the release procedure.
- If a court order, custody arrangement, or no-contact restriction affects who may pick up or contact an athlete, a parent or legal guardian must confidentially provide current documentation to a JI Lil Trojans Admin. The program will give coaches the instructions they must follow. Coaches do not interpret custody disputes or enforce undocumented private requests.
- Athletes may not leave the activity area without authorization from the supervising party.

Medical Information

Parents must disclose information reasonably necessary for safe participation, including allergies, emergency medication, activity restrictions, and relevant medical instructions. Medication administration is governed by the program's written procedure and applicable law; never hand medication to a coach without authorization and documentation.

Injury Reporting

Athletes and families must report pain, injury, suspected concussion, breathing difficulty, heat symptoms, or other medical concerns immediately. Concealing symptoms to remain in play creates unacceptable risk.

Safe Environment & Athlete Protection Policy

JI Lil Trojans has zero tolerance for sexual abuse, grooming, exploitation, harassment, hazing, or boundary violations involving an athlete.

Required Adult Boundaries

Program-related adult-athlete contact must serve a legitimate purpose and remain observable and interruptible. Adults may not engage in sexualized conduct or communication; request secrecy; exchange inappropriate images; use private or disappearing-message channels contrary to program rules; photograph or record an athlete in a restroom, changing, or other private area; or isolate, transport, or lodge with an athlete one-on-one unless specifically authorized for a documented program or emergency need.

Reporting & Protective Response

If a child is in immediate danger, call 911. Suspected abuse must be reported promptly to the appropriate law-enforcement or child-protection authority and to a JI Lil Trojans Admin. An internal report does not replace any report required by law. Do not confront the accused, conduct a private investigation, promise confidentiality, or delete messages or other evidence. The program may restrict access, separate involved persons, notify appropriate guardians or authorities, and take other protective action while facts are reviewed. Good-faith reporting is protected; retaliation is prohibited.

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION & RETURN

When a concussion is suspected, the athlete will be removed from activity immediately. The athlete may not return to play on the same day and may return only after the evaluation, written clearance, and gradual return process required by South Carolina law, current league rules, and qualified healthcare guidance.

Family Responsibilities

- Tell a coach immediately when a hit, fall, collision, symptom, or diagnosis may involve suspected or confirmed concussion.
- Follow the healthcare provider's school, screen-time, sleep, activity, and return instructions.
- Provide required written clearance through the designated program process.
- Do not pressure an athlete, coach, or medical professional to accelerate return.
- Report symptoms that return during activity; the athlete must stop and be reassessed.

Gradual Return to Sport

The CDC's Return-to-Sports Progression uses six steps under healthcare-provider approval and supervision. Each step generally takes at least 24 hours. If symptoms return, the athlete stops and the healthcare provider is contacted before progressing again.

NO SAME-DAY RETURN

An athlete removed with a suspected concussion does not return to practice or competition that day—even if the athlete says they feel better.

HEAT, HYDRATION & ACCLIMATIZATION

JI Lil Trojans uses the current South Carolina High School League heat and acclimatization guidance as a safety baseline, together with applicable league, facility, medical, and City of Charleston requirements. On-site WBGT conditions—not the ordinary heat index alone—guide activity modification.

Parent & Athlete Responsibilities

- Arrive hydrated with a filled and labeled water bottle.
- Eat, sleep, and recover appropriately for the day's activity.
- Report illness, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, medication changes, recent inactivity, or prior heat illness that may increase risk.
- Never use sweat suits, trash bags, fluid restriction, or unauthorized rapid weight-loss methods.
- Recognize warning signs: unusual fatigue, headache, dizziness, nausea, cramps, confusion, collapse, altered behavior, or hot skin.
- Tell a coach immediately; never hide symptoms or shame another athlete for requesting water or rest.

Program Response

Coaches and Program Leadership may use a variety of methods in response to heat, including shortening, modifying, rescheduling, or canceling activity; reducing equipment; increasing rest and shade; or stopping an athlete from participating based on current conditions and observed risk. Families may not direct a coach to ignore a heat restriction.

HEAT SAFETY IS NOT OPTIONAL

Families must follow every hydration, equipment, rest, modification, and cancellation instruction. A parent may report a credible heat-safety concern immediately to the Team Head Coach or JI Lil Trojans Admins.

SEVERE WEATHER

Lightning

When thunder is heard or lightning creates a threat, activity stops and participants move to a substantial enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle. Tents, dugouts, open shelters, trees, fences, and open fields are not safe lightning shelters. Activity does not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard, and the waiting period restarts with each new thunder.

JICHS Campus Alerts

When activities are held on James Island Charter High School property, JI Lil Trojans Admins have access to the JICHS campus alert system and will communicate applicable alerts and instructions, as needed and when appropriate, to parents, coaches, players, families, and cheerleaders. Any audible or visual campus weather alert, public-address announcement, or direction from school, facility staff, or JI Lil Trojans Admins is an immediate stop-and-shelter instruction. School and facility personnel control campus use and the official all-clear. All participants and spectators must follow communicated safety directions. Families must not rely on a personal weather app or the absence of an alert to remain outside or resume activity.

Family Action During a Weather Hold

- Follow staff directions promptly and keep access routes clear.
- Do not gather under trees, tents, small shelters, or metal structures.
- Do not remove an athlete without completing the team's release/accountability process.
- Monitor the official team channel for relocation, delay, cancellation, or pickup instructions.
- Do not pressure staff to restart early.

Other Conditions

The program may modify or cancel activities because of heavy rain, flooding, wind, severe storms, unsafe field conditions, poor air quality, extreme cold, facility closure, or other hazards. Schedule inconvenience does not override safety.



05

TEAM & GAME-DAY OPERATIONS

Arrive prepared. Follow the plan. Protect the environment.

FACILITIES & FIELD ACCESS

Practices, games, meetings, and program activities may use City, school, league, or partner facilities. Access is a privilege controlled by the facility owner and the current event assignment. A prior practice, game, or volunteer assignment does not create permanent access.

Family Facility Standard

- Use the official, designated entrances, parking areas, seating areas, restrooms, and pickup location announced for the activity.
- Remain in public or assigned spectator areas unless an authorized person directs an individual otherwise.
- Do not enter sidelines, fields, team rooms, offices, storage areas, press or skybox areas, concessions workspaces, or other controlled spaces without authorization.
- Follow school, City, league, security, food-service, cleanup, and severe-weather instructions promptly.
- Understand that a facility may relocate, limit, delay, cancel, or revoke access at any time.

PRIVILEGE, NOT ENTITLEMENT

Facility rules and the current event assignment controls. A family disagreement about access must be addressed after the activity with the JI Lil Trojans Admins—not at an entrance, sideline, or restricted area.

GAME-DAY FAMILY STANDARD

Before Leaving Home

- Confirm the official location, arrival time, uniform, equipment, weather, parking, admission, and identification instructions.
- Bring only items permitted by the venue.
- Ensure the athlete has eaten appropriately, is hydrated, and has reported any illness or injury.
- Arrange prompt pickup and communicate any authorized-pickup change.

At the Venue

- Check in through the team's announced process.
- Stay in spectator areas and keep emergency, team, and official access routes clear.
- Never park or idle/ wait in designated emergency access areas.
- Do not deliver food, equipment, instruction, or messages to the sideline unless a coach requests it.
- Follow security, weather, concessions, parking, and facility staff directions immediately.
- Leave the area clean and report damage or unsafe conditions.

After the Event

- Allow the team to complete its post-event routine.
- Complete the release or pickup process.
- Use the 48-hour rule for non-urgent concerns.
- Report immediate safety, injury, threat, or missing-item concerns through the designated channel.

VOLUNTEERS, FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIPS

Volunteers

Family participation helps operate home events and community activities. Families may be assigned or asked to select volunteer duties such as concessions, chains, gate support, field setup, cleanup, or team support. The current written volunteer schedule and instructions control.

- Report for duty on time and remain at the assigned post until released.
- Ask questions if you are unsure about what needs to be done.
- Complete any screening, training, food-safety, cash-handling, or facility requirement.
- Do not use a volunteer assignment to enter restricted team or athlete areas.
- Keep program funds, inventory, credentials, keys, and records secure.
- Immediately report shortages, damage, injury, conflict, or a safety issue to Program Leadership.

Fundraising

Only authorized campaigns may use the program's name, logo, athlete roster, contact list, facilities, payment accounts, or team channels. Each campaign's written terms—including dates, goals, collection method, required participation, opt-out terms, and product delivery—control for that campaign. All funds raised, either through direct fundraising activities, or from concession sales, gate admissions, or by other means, go directly to the program.

Sponsorships

Sponsors must be approved before a family promises recognition, logo placement, tax treatment, signage, announcements, uniforms, digital promotion, or access to athletes. Families may not sign agreements or collect money on behalf of JI Lil Trojans without written authority.



06

ACCOUNTABILITY & RESOLUTION

Clear standards. Proportionate action. No loopholes.

CORRECTIVE PROCESS FOR ATHLETES & FAMILIES

Ordinary conduct or participation problems are addressed with the least restrictive response that protects athletes, restores order, and corrects the issue. These are the available responses—they are not mandatory progressive steps. The JI Lil Trojans Program Leadership is not required to repeat or exhaust a lesser action when conduct is serious, recurring, intentional, dishonest, retaliatory, or materially disruptive.

Athlete Corrective Actions

1. Immediate safety direction or a temporary pause in participation.
2. Private, age-appropriate coaching conversation with a clear expectation.
3. Parent/guardian conference and a written behavior, attendance, or return plan.
4. Loss of a specific team privilege or temporary practice/game suspension.
5. Removal from the team when continued participation cannot be maintained safely or consistently.

PARENT, GUARDIAN & SPECTATOR CONSEQUENCES

Adult conduct is handled separately from age-appropriate athlete correction. A consequence applies to the adult or spectator responsible for the conduct unless an athlete restriction is independently necessary for safety, supervision, or continued team participation.

1. Immediate direction to stop the conduct, move to an assigned area, or leave the activity.
2. Documented expectation or written conduct agreement.
3. Loss of a volunteer, digital, sideline, facility, or event-access privilege.
4. Restriction from one or more practices, games, meetings, or program activities.
5. Season-long or permanent exclusion when necessary to protect athletes, preserve order, or respond to Exceptional Misconduct.

How Decisions Are Made

The JI Lil Trojans Program Leadership shall consider credible facts, safety risk, impact on athletes, severity, intent, history, cooperation, retaliation, and whether the conduct continued after a direction to stop. Program Leadership may impose a temporary protective restriction while facts are reviewed and will communicate any formal restriction, suspension, removal, or return condition in writing.

NO ENTITLEMENT TO WARNINGS

A prior verbal or written warning is not required before restriction, suspension, removal, or referral when the conduct or risk justifies stronger action.

EXCEPTIONAL MISCONDUCT

Exceptional Misconduct is separate from the ordinary corrective process. It may result in immediate removal, temporary protective restriction, suspension, permanent exclusion, law-enforcement contact, facility action, or other necessary response.

Definition: Material Disruption

For this handbook, Material Disruption means conduct that stops or substantially interferes with an activity; requires athletes to be moved or staff, facility personnel, security, or law enforcement to intervene; blocks safe supervision or access; or reasonably causes athletes, families, coaches, officials, or staff to fear for safety. Physical injury or cancellation is not required, and a single act may qualify.

Exceptional Misconduct Includes:

- Any physical or verbal altercation in front of athletes, families, spectators, officials, coaches, or staff that causes or foreseeably risks a Material Disruption at a practice, game, meeting, fundraiser, travel activity, or other program event.
- Threatening, abusive, intimidating, or physically aggressive conduct—including advancing on, cornering, following, touching, striking, attempting to fight, or encouraging others to confront someone.
- Any adult or spectator act that causes a Material Disruption in front of parents or players, including conduct requiring the activity to stop, athletes to be moved, staff or security to intervene, or families to reasonably fear for their own safety.
- Entering a field, sideline, team room, restricted area, or officials' area to confront, interfere with, or challenge another person.
- Bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, sexual misconduct, exploitation, stalking, retaliation, or targeted online harassment.
- Possession or use of a weapon; credible threat of violence; fighting; theft; intentional property damage; or attendance while impaired in a manner that creates risk.
- Knowingly falsifying eligibility records, falsifying medical clearance, concealment of a serious safety concern or threat, or interference with an investigation.

What Is Not Automatically Exceptional Misconduct

A calm, brief, non-threatening disagreement, respectful criticism, or a child's ordinary age-appropriate frustration does not automatically become Exceptional Misconduct. Adult or spectator conduct qualifies when it causes a Material Disruption in front of parents or players. Any person's conduct may qualify when it becomes threatening, abusive, physically aggressive, materially disruptive, or continues after a direction to disengage—regardless of how the incident began.

RESTRICTIONS, SUSPENSION & REMOVAL

Parent or Spectator Restriction

A restricted adult may be prohibited from practices, games, team areas, facilities, volunteer roles, digital team spaces, or direct contact with staff and families for the stated period. Observing from another location is allowed only when the written decision expressly permits it. A restricted person may not coach, signal, relay instructions, confront spectators, recruit others to communicate, or make negative comments that may disrupt the activity.

Responsibility for Guests & Workarounds

A parent or guardian is responsible for communicating restrictions to family members and guests connected to the athlete. Using another adult, athlete, account, phone, seating area, or volunteer assignment to evade a restriction is a separate violation and may extend the restriction.

Athlete Suspension

An athlete suspension may prohibit practice, competition, sideline participation, team travel, meetings, or other activities for the stated period. The written decision will identify permitted observation, return conditions, and whether missed participation counts toward any attendance or readiness requirement.

Permanent Exclusion

Permanent exclusion ends the person's authorization to participate in or attend JI Lil Trojans activities, subject to the boundaries stated in the written decision and any controlling facility or league action. Attempting to evade an exclusion through another child, team, account, volunteer role, or family member is a separate violation.

Facility and League Authority

A school, City department, league, venue, security provider, or law-enforcement agency may impose its own restrictions. JI Lil Trojans cannot promise access or participation when another authority has jurisdiction.

REPORTING, REVIEW & RESOLUTION

How to Report

- For an emergency or immediate danger, call 911 and follow on-site directions.
- For a current athlete-safety concern, notify the nearest authorized staff member immediately.
- For a non-urgent football or coaching-related concern, follow the chain: Team Head Coach, Coaches' Coordinator, then Athletic Director. The chain stops with the Athletic Director.
- For a program-related concern, contact a JI Lil Trojans Admin through Telegram or email JiLilTrojansBooster@gmail.com.
- Preserve relevant messages, photos, video, names of witnesses, dates, and locations. Do not edit or publicly distribute evidence.

Review Standards

Program Leadership may speak with involved persons, review records and video, consult governing authorities, and impose a temporary restriction while collecting information. Privacy will be protected as reasonably possible, but absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed when facts must be shared to protect athletes or complete a fair review.

Decision Notice

When formal action is taken, the affected family will receive notice of the decision, effective period, restrictions, return conditions, and issuing authority to the extent appropriate. Information about another athlete, family, coach, or staff member will not be disclosed merely to satisfy curiosity or confirm rumors.

Decision and Limited Reconsideration

A written decision from Program Leadership is final unless the notice provides a review process. A request to reconsider may only be reviewed if there has been newly identified information, a mistaken identity, or a clear factual error; disagreement with the consequence alone is not a basis for repeated review. Any external league, facility, City, or legal process remains separate.



07

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Know the standard. Sign the commitment. Live it together.

FAMILY QUICK REFERENCE

Situation	Required Action
Emergency or life threat	Call 911; follow on-site emergency directions.
Suspected concussion	Stop participation; notify coach; no same-day return.
Heat illness symptoms	Stop; notify coach immediately; begin emergency response as directed.
Thunder or lightning	Move to enclosed building/hard-topped vehicle; wait for official all-clear.
Football/coaching concern	Head Coach → Coaches' Coordinator → Athletic Director. The chain stops with the Athletic Director.
Program-related concern	Telegram or JililTrojansBooster@gmail.com to a JI Lil Trojans Admin.
Program decision	Follow the stated review and written decision process.
Absence or lateness	Notify the appropriate team channel as soon as possible.
Equipment problem	Stop using it and report it immediately.
Facility instruction	Comply promptly with current venue directions.

SOURCES & GOVERNING STANDARDS

This handbook distinguishes program policy from external requirements. Safety language was checked against the following official sources. Current written law, rules, and official updates control when they change.

- **South Carolina High School League — Heat and Acclimatization Guidelines**
<https://schsl.org/archives/11549>
- **South Carolina Code, Title 59, Chapter 63 — Student Athlete Concussions**
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c063.php>
- **CDC HEADS UP — Returning to Sports**
<https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/guidelines/returning-to-sports.html>
- **CDC HEADS UP — Recovery from Concussion**
<https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/guidelines/recovery-from-concussion.html>
- **National Weather Service — Lightning Safety for Organized Sports**
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-sports>
- **NOCSAE — Recertification**
<https://nocsae.org/recertification/>
- **City of Charleston Recreation**
<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/recreation>
- **Charleston County School District — Clinic Guidance: When to Keep a Student Home and Return to Class**
<https://amhs.ccsdschools.com/about-us/clinic-nurses>
- **JI Lil Trojans Official Website**
<https://www.jililtrojans.com/>
- [South Carolina Code, Title 63, Chapter 7 — Child Protection and Permanency](#)

League-Specific Rules

No authoritative public CUFL rulebook was available for verification during this revision. Therefore, this handbook does not include age, roster, identification, uniform, eligibility, or playing-time requirements. The current official league instructions, registration portal, and written program notice control those items.

PARENT/GUARDIAN & PLAYER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, we, the parent and the athlete, confirm that we received and reviewed the JI Lil Trojans 2026 Parent & Player Handbook. We understand that participation is conditioned on compliance with current program, league, facility, City, and safety requirements; that the handbook may be updated and we will be provided with written notice; and that serious or exceptional misconduct may result in immediate restriction, suspension, or removal without repeated warnings.

- We will protect athlete welfare and report injuries, concussion symptoms, heat symptoms, threats, bullying, and unsafe conditions promptly.
- We will follow the communication pathway and 48-hour rule for non-urgent concerns.
- We understand that team assignment, position, role, uniform number, facility access, and playing time are not guaranteed.
- We accept responsibility for the conduct of our family members and guests at program-related activities.
- We will follow communicated program decisions and any review process stated in writing.

ATHLETE NAME (PRINT)

ATHLETE SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PRINT)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

TEAM / AGE DIVISION

DATE