

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ!

You are held responsible for the content in this agreement.

Sherrills Ford Optimist

Participation and Hold Harmless Agreement

This Participation and Hold Harmless Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered on the day of this activity registration with Sherrills Ford Optimist’s electronic registration system by the person registering either for themselves or for a participating minor (“Participant”) with Sherrills Ford Optimist for the following program: Sherrills Ford Fall Sports 2025 (“Program”).

Risk Acknowledgement

Participant acknowledges the importance of obtaining advice from a medical professional prior to initiating training for physical fitness, an exercise program, or sports participation. Participant consents to and understands the risks associated with participation in the Program. Participants have consulted with a medical professional as to the advisability of participating in such programs.

Hold Harmless

Sherrills Ford Optimist, its owners, officers, employees, agents or assignees shall not be liable for any damage, personal injury, or property loss sustained by Participant arising as a result of Participant’s participation in the Program. By signing below, Participant acknowledges Participant’s understanding of the risks associated with training for physical fitness, an exercise program, nutrition program, or sport and hereby individually, unconditionally, and irrevocably releases and forever discharges and holds harmless Sherrills Ford Optimist, its owners, officers, employees, agents, or assignees from any and all claims, causes of action, rights, demands, debts, expenses, costs, attorneys’ fees or damages of whatever nature, whether known or unknown, arising from or relating in any way from participation in the Program. This hold harmless is binding on the Participant, Participant’s heirs, personal representatives, executors, assignees, successors, and agents.

Parent Acknowledgments

No participation during illness / Compromised Immune System

Participant agrees that they will not participate in any activities related to Sherrills Ford Optimist Soccer while exhibiting the signs of any sickness. Examples are fever, sore throat, coughing, runny nose, etc. Activities include practices, games, spectating, and being on Sherrills Ford Optimist property.

Photo Release

I hereby grant permission to Sherrills Ford Optimist to use photographs and/or video of me or my minor Participant during the Program. Images may be used in publications, social media, news releases, online, and in other communications related to the mission of Sherrills Ford Optimist.

Playing Time Rules

Sherrills Ford Optimist and league rules govern the amount of playing time for each individual sport.

Soccer: rules dictate that each player plays at least 50% of the game. Based on a coach's discretion certain players may play up to 100% of a game.

Football: In tackle football, players are guaranteed the equivalent of 4 series per half unless the game is shortened by weather or injury. In flag football, players are rotated constantly.

Volleyball: Playing time is based on the coach's discretion. With player rotation, playing time will naturally vary.

Baseball and Softball: Players are guaranteed two full innings of play and at least one at-bat. In the event that this is not possible due to a timed game, player that weren't able to play two full innings or have an at-bat will be moved to the top of the roster for the next game.

Playing time may only be curtailed for the following reasons:

Poor Practice Attendance: Players who consistently do not attend practices may not be given the same amount of playing time as those who do attend and give effort to improve their game. However, the playing times above will still be followed. **However, parents should do all within their power to bring their children to practices. Having a player on a team that only shows up for games is not fair to those who have put in the practice**

time with their team.

Player Discipline Problem: Players who exhibit discipline issues (whether in practice or in games) including defiance, arguing, dangerous game play, or poor sportsmanship may not be given the same amount of playing time as others. They may be pulled from a game and not sent back in. The specific issue will be discussed with a parent or guardian. ***Fighting will absolutely not be tolerated.***

Behavior

Players, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and polite and courteous behavior to all. Encouragement of all players is expected. Failure to be respectful to Park personnel, sports officials, and our volunteer coaches may result in the loss of the privilege of playing on an SFO Team or being banned from SFO property.

Registration

Paying your registration fee only grants a player the privilege of being on a team. As stated in the section on Playing Time Rules, playing time is not 100% guaranteed and may be curtailed for a variety of reason. There is no guarantee of a player playing a specific position. Those who do not pay the registration fee will not be issued a jersey and will not be able to participate.

Team Composition

Teams are compiled by multiple methods. Some are created after evaluations, some by age groups, and some teams stay together over multiple seasons at a sports director's discretion.

Procedure to Address Athletic Issues

If a situation occurs where there might be conflict between coaches and parents, SFO Sports will follow the “next day rule”. ***At no time should the parent approach a coach after a practice or game to discuss concerns or issues.*** A meeting should be scheduled to professionally and calmly discuss the circumstances in a private setting away from other parents, players, and spectators. The SFO Athletic Director may be invited to the meeting if necessary. If a parent or spectator approaches a coach after practice or game to discuss concerns or issues, then the action shall result in the loss of privilege of attending future practices of games. The “next day rule” applies to coaches, players, and parents.

If a parent or guardian has questions about any athletic issue, please follow the sequence of contacts below to get all issues resolved.

1. Contact the coach following the “next day rule” described above.
2. Contact the Sports Director (soccer@sfoptimist.org, football@sfoptimist.org, volleyball@sfoptimist.org, cheer@sfoptimist.org, baseball@sfoptimist.org, softball@sfoptimist.org)
3. Contact the Athletic Director (info@sfoptimist.org)
4. Contact the SFO Board

Refund Policy

We only offer full refunds to those players who register and then make a fall sports team at their middle school and who let us know that information AHEAD OF TIME. An option to indicate that is on the registration. If your child decides not to play prior to the first games, we will offer a refund of the registration fee minus the cost of the uniform. **No refunds are provided after games have begun.**

Our coaches work **VERY** hard to establish talent-balanced teams and when someone quits after teams are picked, it makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to re-balance teams. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.