



TOP DOG ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

2024-2025

Top Dog Baseball Top Dog Softball



#BeTheTopDog

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Top Dog Baseball

Top Dog Athletics
#BeTheTopDog

Top Dog Softball

Thank you for your interest in the **TOP DOG FAMILY!**

Since 2015 Top Dog Athletics has helped turn the pipe dream of being a collegiate student-athlete into an attainable goal by helping the youth in Central California develop into *Top Dog* people, leaders, and athletes. Over the past 9 years we have helped over 100 student-athletes earn a college scholarship. As of January 1, 2024 the Top Dog family has been represented at 53 different colleges/universities in 21 different states, and participating in 7 different sports.

We have been represented at USA Western “A” Nationals, PGF Premier and Platinum Nationals, the Triple Crown World Series, Alliance Nationals, Perfect Game, Five Tool events, and Cooperstown events with Top 25 finishes. We have also helped athletes prepare for their collegiate seasons over Summer and Winter vacations.

To help us sustain our success and continue to grow the **TOP DOG FAMILY**, we are *ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER*. In order for our youth to succeed they need to be challenged and supported by a strong village, and inside that village every individual must be supported by everyone that makes up that village. The **TOP DOG FAMILY** is one that brings care, leadership, respect, dedication, commitment, and support to every member that makes up our family.

The **TOP DOG FAMILY** strives to provide all of our athletes environments and opportunities to be challenged, to learn, grow, and develop on and off the field. We create environments to push our athletes to their limits and put them in positions to have a solid understanding for who they are as a person, and what they can contribute to society, as they enter adulthood. We are here for our athletes from the second they become a part of our program and throughout the rest of their lives.

The journey we embark on together is not an easy one, but we travel the path together. Through all of the ups and downs the **TOP DOG FAMILY** will be there to support everyone, every step of the way. From our alumni to our newest members (you) we are here for each other. We appreciate your interest in the **TOP DOG FAMILY** and you entrusting us to develop your athlete. We are here to do everything we can to make sure he/she becomes the best individual he/she can be, on and off the field.

Once again, thank you for your interest in the **TOP DOG FAMILY!** We are excited for your athlete and your family to join our family!

Sincerely,

Bryce Kamimoto
Founder

CULTURE & EXPECTATIONS

Top Dog Athletics and the Top Dog Family is all about FAMILY; everything we do, we do TOGETHER. Since 2015 our teams have worked in a manor where no one of our teams function as an individual. We have always had all of our teams working together; our athletes are building relationships with Top Dog Athletes of all ages and Top Dog Families are familiar with one another (no matter their child's age). Through our commitment to FAMILY we have built a culture that is **ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER**.

No one gets better by themselves. No one athlete or family is bigger or more important than another, and no one athlete or family is exempt from following Top Dog standards, expectations, and the Top Dog Culture.

The Top Dog Culture is committed to the fundamentals of athletics and personal characteristics that create long lasting habits that ultimately lead to life long success. The Top Dog Culture creates an environment that fosters the growth in academics, athletics, and personal characteristics. This culture is all about teaching our youth to give everything they have to help raise and better others.

The Top Dog Staff will instill a deep level of respect for tradition and what it will take to achieve excellence on and off the field. The Top Dog Staff and Families lead by example in showing respect for the game, respect for themselves, and every individual apart of helping our athletes become the best they can possibly be.

As a member of the Top Dog family we are energy givers, maintaining a positive attitude and outlook. We bring maximum effort every day. We make no excuses for bad days. Our athletes learn athletics is about failure and in the small umbrella of things they can control their attitude and effort will always remain in their control. We expect our athletes, families, and coaches to maintain a positive attitude and give all of their efforts to be **ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER**. There is no room for negativity, drama, and individualization.

The Top Dog family will maintain community involvement. The Top Dog family contributes to numerous community service events throughout the year including (but not limited to): food drives, clothing drives, school supply drives, and hours at the Poverello House. We encourage our athletes, families, and staff to be leaders in their community and example for others to follow. We encourage our parents and staff to be examples for our youth to follow in demonstrating the importance of giving back, and helping provide opportunities for our youth to gain a better understanding for the world around them.

The Top Dog program embodies principles of hard work and being the best version of yourself, you can possibly be, to help better others. This passion expresses itself as

personal growth and success, and team growth and success on and off the field. The Top Dog family is all in for our country's youth and helping build a stronger society for all!

VISION

The Top Dog vision is to guide and aide young athletes as they develop into young MEN and WOMEN: academically, athletically, socially, emotionally, and professionally. We are here for athletics, college, career, and (most importantly) life. We are going to utilize athletics as a vehicle to provide valuable experiences that will place every individual in environments where they are pushed to get the best out of themselves every day. By the time our athletes are ready to leave our program and begin their lives as young adults they will be able to attack life with confidence and a sound understanding of who they are and what they can contribute to better the world around them.

STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS

ATHLETES

1. In the Top Dog Family everything is **EARNED**. Top Dog Athletes are not given freebies. Everything Top Dog Athletes accomplish is earned. Top Dog Athletes are not looking for the easy way out or for something to be handed to them. Top Dog Athletes work and they work with the intent to better themselves which ultimately betters others.
2. Top Dog is about **FAMILY**. Top Dog Athletes work with a selfless mindset. We are **ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER**. Together we maximize our potential. Together we achieve great things. Together we become great people. Together we make a positive impact on society.
 - a. In order to maintain a selfless mindset Top Dog Athletes are committed and loyal to the Top Dog Family. Top Dog Athletes do not “guest play” or team hop with teams outside of the Top Dog Family.
 - b. Top Dog Athletes are to greet each other at all Top Dog Events (practices, games, workouts, academy sessions, etc.). When Top Dog Athletes arrive they are to greet every athlete participating, whether they are a Top Dog Athlete, an athlete trying out, or an athlete attending an academy session at Top Dog Performance Center.
3. Top Dog Athletes attend **ALL** workouts, practices, games, and team events. If a Top Dog Athlete misses a workout or practice leading into a game/tournament they understand their playing time will be impacted due to not attending practice.
 - a. There are cases where an athlete has to miss and will have an excused absence. When a Top Dog Athlete has to miss they are expected to communicate **BEFORE** the start of event why they will not be able to attend.
4. Top Dog Athletes are **ON TIME**. In the Top Dog Family “On Time” means we are

starting at the given start time. That means we are fully stretched and ready to begin at the set start time.

a. Top Dog Athletes are expected to be dressed and have team equipment set up for practice 15 minutes before the start of the session.

5. Top Dog Athletes understand they are expected to put in work outside of practice. The work athletes put in outside of practice makes sure they are prepared for all practices and games. What we do in practice is not enough. In order to maximize our potential Top Dog Athletes have to put in work outside of practice.

a. Top Dog Athletes have the ability to seek work/guidance from any private instructor they want. If Top Dog Athletes are seeing an instructor for private work it is their responsibility to communicate with Top Dog Coaches so the private instructor and Top Dog Coaches are on the same page.

6. Top Dog Athletes are held to high academic standards. Top Dog Athletes that are not meeting the academic standards will have required tutoring sessions to support their academic needs. In the event a Top Dog Athlete cannot maintain a 2.0 GPA he/she will be held out of practicing and playing until their GPA gets above a 2.0.

7. Top Dog Athletes will respect all teammates, parents, coaches, umpires, opposing parents, and event staff.

a. Top Dog has a zero tolerance stance on speaking negatively on any individual in the Top Dog Family. Talking negatively about an opponent, teammate, Top Dog Family, umpire, event staff, etc. may result in removal from the Top Dog Program.

b. Top Dog athletes are expected to say “Hi”/greet all athletes workout out at Top Dog Performance Center, attending Top Dog events, participating in Top Dog practices/workouts, or playing on Top Dog teams.

8. Top Dog Athletes will respect all facilities, equipment, and Top Dog Apparel.

a. The actions attitude, social media posts, and everything Top Dog Athletes do is a direct reflection of the Top Dog Family. Top Dog Athletes represent the Top Dog Family with the utmost respect and pride.

9. Top Dog Athletes understand the importance of giving back. Top Dog Athletes will participate in 3 to 4 community service events throughout the year.

10. Top Dog Athletes are challenged on a constant basis. Top Dog Teams will play against competition that pushes them to be their best every day. As Top Dog Athletes are challenged they will face failure. It is that failure that will propel us to new heights.

TEAMS

1. Top Dog Teams will create organized and structured environments for athletes to develop in.
2. Top Dog Teams will have a strength and conditioning program to maximize the physical development of athletes and promote injury prevention through healthy lifestyle habits.
3. Top Dog Teams will have an evaluation system for athletes to monitor themselves and for coaches to evaluate the team and athletes (individually).
4. Top Dog Teams will provide athletes and families with printed material for athletes to study and for families to work with their athletes while using the same terminology as Top Dog Coaches.
5. Top Dog Teams will monitor the workloads of pitchers and catchers to make sure they are not being overused. Development and athlete care will override winning.
6. Top Dog Teams will have an Off-Season and In-Season portion of their program, with the Off-Season setting the stage for athletes to thrive during the In-Season phase of the year.
7. Top Dog Teams will guide athletes through the recruiting process while staying up to date on recruiting calendars and recruiting rules.
8. Top Dog Teams will promote, uphold, represent, and teach the Top Dog Culture that has been established by Top Dog Alumni.

COACHES

1. Top Dog Coaches are expected to **HAVE A PLAN**. Top Dog Coaches will follow a development plan that focuses on team and individual growth. Top Dog Coaches will have a practice plan for every team practice and workout. Top Dog Coaches will have a plan for playing to help monitor workloads and evaluate athlete opportunities.
2. Top Dog Coaches will be **TEACHERS** of the game and life. Top Dog Coaches are expected to teach concepts of the game that translate to moving athletes on to the next level of play, no matter what that next level may be. Top Dog Coaches will also be able to identify critical moments to teach life lessons that can make a positive impact on the direction of growth the team and individuals take.
3. Top Dog Coaches are **LIFE LONG LEARNERS OF THE GAME**. Top Dog Coaches will be given resources, and will be expected to research on their own, to be continuous

learners of the game or aspects that make up the success of the team and the Top Dog program.

4. Top Dog Coaches will create a **SAFE ENVIRONMENT** for all athletes.

a. Physically Safe Environment minimizing risk of injury from poor field conditions, improper use of equipment, proper distancing, proper grouping, etc.

b. Emotionally Safe Environment where athletes can learn from their mistakes and can be free to make mistakes.

c. Inclusive Environment that is accepting of all.

d. The Top Dog Family has a zero tolerance stance on coaches speaking negatively on any athlete, family, coach, or staff member in the Top Dog program.

5. Top Dog Coaches will work with **CONFIDENTIALITY** in everything they do. Top Dog Coaches will have access to sensitive personal information and there is zero tolerance in sharing or discussing sensitive/classified personal information with anyone other than the athlete and their parents/guardians. Top Dog Coaches will also work extreme **CONFIDENTIALITY** when new athletes come in for a tryout or are attending sessions held at Top Dog Performance Center.

6. Top Dog Coaches will be constant **EVALUATORS** of team growth and development, and individual growth and developments. While **EVALUATING** the team and individuals Top Dog Coaches will be able to make proper adjustments to maximize the team and individual growth.

7. Top Dog Coaches are **FIRST RESPONDERS**. Top Dog Coaches may be placed in situations of emergency. During these times Top Dog Coaches are **FIRST RESPONDERS** and are expected to respond in a manner that puts the safety and well-being as the main priority for all Top Dog Athletes, Families, Opponents, and Staff Members.

8. Top Dog Coaches will be able to have educated conversations, and be able to explain information to athletes and families. In a time where a mass amount of information is shared on Social Media, Top Dog Coaches will be able to debunk or confirm information athletes and families may see, and how that information can best be utilized for athlete growth.

9. Top Dog Coaches are expected to **COLLABORATE** with other Top Dog Coaches and staff members. In the Top Dog Family we are **ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER**. There is no Top Dog Coaching Staff that will act on their own and do their own thing. Top Dog Coaches of all age groups will be asked to assist with the teaching of younger and older athletes. Top Dog Coaches are expected to bring their knowledge, experiences, education, and ideas to the table in a manner that can benefit **EVERY TOP DOG ATHLETE** not just some Top Dog Athletes.

10. Top Dog Coaches are expected to learn, teach, uphold, and continue growing the Top Dog Culture. In the Top Dog Family we take pride in the work our Alumni have put in to create the opportunities our athletes have today. The culture they have established has built a positive reputation and a reputation we look to continue building on.

PARENTS

1. We understand it is your child that brings you into the Top Dog Family but in the Top Dog Family we are **ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER**. We are supportive of each other. We do whatever it takes to help EVERY individual rise. No matter the age, from our youngest (8u) to our oldest (18u) we are supportive of them all.

a. 8u success is 18u success :: 18u success is 8u success and every level in between.

b. The Top Dog Family is not a series of teams that just happen to wear the same name. The Top Dog Family is **ALL IN FOR EACH OTHER** for every team, in every age group.

c. Be encouraging and create a positive environment for **EVERY** athlete in the Top Dog Family.

2. Allow your child to be COACHED. The Top Dog Staff is here to share their experience and knowledge to help your child and every individual in the program maximize their potential. In order for your child to be taught by the Top Dog Staff you must allow for your child to be coached by the Top Dog Staff.

a. No matter what the situation is, your voice (as a parent/guardian) will overpower the voice of a coach. As soon as you start talking to your child their ears will keen in on your voice and tune out the voice of anyone else giving them instruction.

b. During games stay away from the dugout. If you are giving your child advice/tips or having side conversations with them when their attention should be on the game, you have just taken your child out of the environment of being coached. Unless it is a medical emergency, stay away from the dugout.

3. Allow your child to FAIL. In order for your child to maximize their potential they have to be pushed, they have to be challenged, and ultimately they have to fail. It is OKAY for them to experience failure.

a. In the Top Dog Family we will not keep our athletes in an environment where they can become comfortable, complacent, and only experiencing success. It is all a piece to our puzzle of development.

4. Make sure your child is prepared. Preparation comes in many different forms.

a. Make sure your child is coming to practices/games/workouts in a positive mindset that is productive to contributing to an environment of growth, focus, effort, and enabling others to grow.

b. Make sure your child is well hydrated and properly nourished. The body has a

minimal work capacity without proper food and in a state of dehydration. Know the activity your athlete will perform will be physically and mentally draining. They have to have the proper energy source to perform at a consistent level.

c. Make sure your child is working away from practice. In order for us to progress through our development plan our athletes have to be working at home. If athletes are not working at home every day we will be starting back at square one. For the expectations you have of your child's coaches and the Top Dog program we need you to put in the extra work to allow the expectations to be experienced. If you are not willing to work with your child or get your child extra work you are putting the Top Dog program in a position to fail.

d. Make sure your child is on time and in the correct uniform. There is nothing more disruptive to a child's ability to enter an environment and find success than if they are late or they know they are not matching their teammates. Being late and/or not being in uniform is a mental setback athletes have to overcome as they are trying to get into the flow of the practice/game/workout.

5. Be a communicator. Top Dog will go above and beyond in communicating with every individual and every family, but we expect the same line of communication from our families to us.

a. We need to know when an athlete will be absent **AS SOON AS YOU KNOW THEY WILL BE ABSENT**. (Example: if you know 2 weeks in advance an athlete will miss, we need to know 2 weeks in advance not 2 hours in advance).

b. We need to know when an athlete is struggling academically. When an athlete is struggling academically it is not something we will hold against them; it is something we will support them and help them work through.

c. We need to know when an athlete is facing a setback (physical injury, mental lapse, social/emotional abnormal behavior, etc.).

6. Stay up to date on all things Top Dog. Top Dog Teams/Programs will send out weekly emails with information for the upcoming week and important information. Read all emails to their entirety. Failing to read emails could result in missed information, missed events, or lead to asking questions that have already been answered.

7. BE AN EXAMPLE. Help the Top Dog Staff in helping set the example for what we expect from Top Dog Athletes.

a. Be the example for how to act in victory and defeat. Top Dog Teams have always carried themselves and acted with respect, humility, grace, and kindness towards any team we play. Our athletes cannot grow without opposing teams. Opposing teams are an extension of the Top Dog Family and we expect for our parents to act in a manner that upholds this expectation.

b. Be the example for how to properly communicate. Help us in teaching our athletes how to properly communicate when practices will be missed; how to ask the right questions to help guide their own development; and the timing of communication.

c. Be the example in helping our athletes live a selfless lifestyle. Help us in showing our athletes the importance of giving back to our community and standing for something that is bigger than any individual.

8. BE THE BEST ASSISTANT COACH FOR THE TOP DOG FAMILY. We are not expecting every parent to be an expert in the sport their child participates in. We are not expecting every parent to step up and coach. However, we are expecting our parents to do anything and everything possible to make the team and the Top Dog Family successful.

a. Make sure your athlete is getting extra work when needed, especially when they are struggling.

b. Help in establishing a weekly routine for/with your athlete. 20 to 30 minutes of work every day can go a long way in their development.

c. Help with extra team duties to take tasks off our coaching staff (team ice chest, score keeping, planning team bonding events, planning team meals, etc.).

COMMUNITY SERVICE STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS

In the Top Dog Athletics program Community Service is a requirement of all Top Dog athletes. In The Top Dog Family we believe in the importance of providing our athletes with opportunities to learn and understand the importance of giving back. To have the opportunity to play travel sports is not an opportunity every youth in America has; our athletes are fortunate to have the opportunities and resources they do. Community Service helps us stay humble and rooted to the servant leadership that helped establish the foundation for the Top Dog culture.

Throughout the year Top Dog athletes will be presented with opportunities to give back to their communities or help those in need. Community Service opportunities may include but are not limited to:

a. Donation Drives (ex: canned food, clothes, hygiene products, blankets, school supplies, etc.)

b. Community Service Work Hours (ex: Food Distribution, Serving Food, Trash Pick Up, Field Clean Up, etc.)

c. Top Dog Service Hours (ex: helping teach younger athletes)

Community Service event participation and service hours will be accumulated throughout the year and will be factored into end of the year awards.

COMMUNICATION

There is purpose and intent in everything we do in the Top Dog Family, and that also goes for the forms of communication we use with our athletes and families. We utilize our forms of communication as ways to build valuable lifeskill with our athletes.

WEEKLY EMAIL

1. Top Dog teams will send weekly emails with the schedule for the upcoming week, and important information for the team and the Top Dog Family. Weekly emails will include, but are not limited to:

- a. Practice and Tournament Schedule
- b. Academy/Extra Work Opportunities
- c. Uniforms for the week
- d. Fundraising information
- e. Tournament reviews
- f. Community Service Information
- g. Player Homework/Assignments to be completed

2. Top Dog Athletes in 7th to 12th grade will be required to have a GMAIL ACCOUNT and will be added to the weekly email list.

a. As athletes progress through Middle School and into High School the expectation is for them to become more accountable for their time management and understanding their weekly schedule.

b. Athletes will need their own personal email; a school email will not work. Emails that are set up by a school district have limitations on who they can receive communications from. This could limit opportunities for athletes to be contacted by College Coaches or Scouts.

c. As athletes are added to the email list they will be taught how to properly send an email and how to utilize professional language when sending an email.

GAMECHANGER

Top Dog Teams will utilize the new GameChanger App (green icon) to post the team's game schedule, results, and to help monitor athlete stats. The GameChanger App will be a secondary form of scheduling to support Google Calendar events.

ATHLETE MISSING PRACTICES, GAMES, TEAM EVENTS, ETC.

All Top Dog Events are MANDATORY unless otherwise stated. Attendance and punctuality will reflect in an athlete's playing time. Coaches must be notified as soon as it is known an athlete cannot attend an event.

a. Failing to notify a coach of an athlete's absence BEFORE the event will result in an unexcused absence.

b. Notifying a coach an athlete will be missing an event within 24-hours of the start of the event will result in an unexcused absence.

PROBLEM SOLVING

In the event a situation arises that you are not happy with please give 24 HOURS before addressing the issue. When addressing issues the following procedures will be utilized:

1. Talk to your athlete's coach FIRST
 - a. If the athlete is in middle school or high school we would like the communication to come from them, as best as possible and as much as possible.

2. If the conversation with Coach does not rectify the situation please send an email to **TopDogSoftball@gmail.com** to set up a meeting with ALL COACHES for your athlete's team and a Top Dog Staff Member.

Please know sending threatening/harassing emails, text messages, or saying threats or harassing other individuals will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Speaking negatively about Top Dog Athletes will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE & EXPECTATIONS

Top Dog Athletics and the Top Dog Family focus on the total development of every member of our program. Academics are paramount and academic standing will supersede any athletic related activities. If an athlete is academically ineligible they will be withheld from all athletic related activities until they can get their grades up.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

1. **3.5 to 4.0+ GPA: GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING**

2. **2.8 to 3.4 GPA: GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING WITH MONITORING**
 - a. We need to help our athletes identify class(es) they are struggling in and come up with a plan as to how they can best be supported to raise that grade.
 - Missing Assignments?
 - Missing class time?
 - Low test scores?
 - b. Coaches will monitor the identified class(es) once every **TWO WEEKS**

3. **2.0 to 2.7 GPA: ACADEMIC PROBATION**
 - a. Playing time and practice time may be impacted
 - b. Athletes will be required to attend ONE tutoring session per week
 - c. Coaches will monitor the identified classes once every **TWO WEEKS**

- Grade reports will be required to be turned in once every **TWO WEEKS**

4. BELOW 2.0 GPA: **ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE**

- a. Players will be asked to turn in their uniforms and will not be allowed to practice or play until their GPA gets above a 2.0.
- b. During practice time players will be required to attend all practice sessions and complete their homework during the practice time.
- c. Athletes will be required to attend TWO tutoring sessions per week
- d. Coaches will monitor the identified classes **WEEKLY**.
 - Grade reports and missing assignment logs will be required to be turned in EVERY WEEK.

It is the responsibility of ONE coach on every coaching staff to monitor the grades of their team.

- a. If all members of the coaching staff are parents, a non-parent Top Dog Athletics Staff Member will be assigned to monitor the academics for the team.
- b. Academic information is needed to complete player recruiting profiles.

The academic structure we have in place mirrors one for all CIF sanctioned schools, in terms of athletic eligibility, and sets an academic expectation that would clear an athlete to participate in their sport Fall semester of their Freshmen year of college.

Participating in athletics is a privilege not a right. If our athletes cannot do their job in the classroom they should not be rewarded with the opportunities to play sports away from their school.

- a. Athletes with low GPAs limits the credibility and marketability of the TEAM when athletes get to recruiting ages.

The expectation for coaches is to be fully invested in the lives of their athletes, not just what they do on the field. Our goal is to help individuals develop into role model citizens who can leave high school and be college, career, and life ready - whether they choose to continue playing their sport or not.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Athletes will be required to submit grade reports throughout the year. Failure to submit grade reports will result in an athlete being held from participating in practice, until a grade report is turned in.

- a. FALL GRADES PROGRESS REPORT 1: October
- b. FALL GRADES PROGRESS REPORT 2: November
- c. FALL FINAL GRADES REPORT: December
- d. SPRING GRADES PROGRESS REPORT 1: February
- e. SPRING GRADES PROGRESS REPORT 2: April

f. SPRING FINAL GRADES REPORT: June

Progress Reports will be accepted in the form of a screenshot of the student portal. Final Grade reports will be only accepted in the form of a copy of the official report from the school.

a. The Final Grade Reports will only be accepted as copies of the official report as they are official grades and directly impact the overall GPA that is utilized for college admissions.

Top Dog Athletes that are in High School are required to have yearly meetings with their school's counselor to make sure they are taking necessary classes to graduate from High School and all classes meet NCAA eligibility requirements.

TEAM SELECTION & ROSTER INFORMATION

The world of youth sports has changed drastically over the last decade, with Recreational Leagues losing their strength and a new "travel" team being created every day the question becomes: where do the beginners start? In the Top Dog Family we bring focus to development and growing the game. We will do everything we possibly can to have a space for beginners, but as athletes get older or hold more advanced skillsets our teams become more competitive.

TRYOUTS

In **AUGUST** we will have sign ups and tryouts to build our rosters for that year, which will take us from August to the next July.

In **NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, and JANUARY** we will have a second round of sign ups and tryouts. This wave of sign ups and tryouts will only be utilized to add depth to our rosters or fill new teams. These tryouts will not be utilized to cut/replace athletes already on one of our rosters.

ACADEMY TEAMS

We will offer ACADEMY TEAMS at the age groups of: 8u, 9u (baseball), 10u, 12u (softball only), and 14u (softball only).

These teams will be **NO-CUT TEAMS!** This is where we start to lay the foundation and allow beginners the opportunity to learn the game.

a. Academy teams will have a roster size of: 12 to 14 athletes but carry open enrollment all year, with no tryout required.

b. Academy teams will play: 40 to 50 games/year

c. Academy teams will be PARENT COACHED with NON-PARENT advisors/managers

COMPETITIVE TEAMS

Top Dog **COMPETITIVE** teams are for our athletes with an advanced skillset or who are progressing in age. **COMPETITIVE** teams **WILL HAVE CUTS!** **COMPETITIVE** teams will be offered for the age groups of: 10u, 11u (baseball), 12u, 13u (baseball), and 14u.

- a. Competitive teams will have a roster size of: 14 Athletes MAX (10u, 11u, 12u)
16 Athletes MAX (13u, 14u)
- b. Competitive teams will play: 60 to 70 games/year
- c. Competitive teams will go through their year with the **BIG GOAL** being to win the major tournament on their Summer Schedule.
 - Triple Crown World Series, PGF Nationals, Alliance Nationals, etc.
 - Perfect Game World Series, Cooperstown, USSSA World Series, etc.
- d. Competitive teams will have required tryouts for all players. No athlete will be added to a Competitive roster without a tryout.

RECRUITING TEAMS

Once athletes get into high school our focus is on helping them maximize their opportunities to play at the next level, while making sure they can find a home that fits them educationally and athletically. **RECRUITING** teams will attend college showcases and college camps instead of attending regular weekend tournaments.

- a. Recruiting teams will have a roster size of: 20 Athletes MAX
- b. Recruiting teams will play: 40 to 50 games/year
- c. Recruiting teams will go through their year with the **BIG GOAL** being to win the major tournament on their Summer Schedule and get in front of as many coaches/scouts as possible.
 - Triple Crown World Series, PGF Nationals, Alliance Nationals, etc.
 - Perfect Game World Series, FiveTool Events, USSSA World Series, etc.

PLAYING TIME & COMMITMENT

We understand every family wants to watch their child play. Playing time will **NEVER** be equal. Playing time and how playing time is **EARNED** will vary depending on the level an athlete is playing at and the type of event the team is attending. In games Top Dog Coaches are looking to place athletes in environments where they can be challenged, where they can find success, and in situations that limit risks of injury as much as possible.

ACADEMY TEAMS

Playing time for **ACADEMY TEAMS** will be determined is as follows:

- a. Playing time will be rotational allowing for all athletes to get reps at multiple positions.

- b. Playing time will be determined on practice attendance
- c. Playing time will be determined on punctuality. Athletes that are late will see a decrease in playing time.
- d. Playing time will be determined by attitude, effort, and focus. Athletes who are not giving full effort, have a bad attitude, or are not focused in the dugout will see a decrease in playing time.
- e. During **BRACKET PLAY** playing time will be determined on player performance during Pool Play.

COMPETITIVE TEAMS

Playing time for **COMPETITIVE TEAMS** will vary depending on the type of event the team is participating in.

REGULAR WEEKEND TOURNAMENT/FRIENDLIES

- a. Playing time will be rotational during POOL PLAY allowing for athletes to get their reps in and to help build depth on the roster.
- b. Playing time will be determined on practice attendance. Athletes that live more than 60 miles from the team practice site will be required to do virtual workouts if they cannot attend a mid-week team practice.
- c. Playing time will be determined on punctuality. Athletes that are late will see a decrease in playing time.
- d. Playing time will be determined by attitude, effort, and focus. Athletes who are not giving full effort, have a bad attitude, or are not focused in the dugout will see a decrease in playing time.
- e. During BRACKET PLAY playing time will be determined on player performance during Pool Play.

NATIONALS QUALIFIERS / NATIONALS & WORLD SERIES EVENTS

- a. Playing time will be determined on practice attendance. Athletes that live more than 60 miles from the team practice site will be required to do virtual workouts if they cannot attend a mid-week team practice.
- b. Playing time will be determined on punctuality. Athletes that are late will see a decrease in playing time.
- c. Playing time will be determined by attitude, effort, and focus. Athletes who are not giving full effort, have a bad attitude, or are not focused in the dugout will see a decrease in playing time.
- d. Playing time will be determined on player performance during the event and overall throughout the year.

RECRUITING TEAMS

Playing time for RECRUITING TEAMS will vary depending on the type of event the team is participating in.

REGULAR SHOWCASE

- a. Playing time will be rotational BUT dependent on player performance during Showcase events without a Championship bracket.
- b. Playing will be rotational for POOL PLAY events, but also dependent on player performance. When the team gets into CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY playing time will be dependent on player performance for the event and overall throughout the year.
- c. Playing time will be determined on punctuality. Athletes that are late will see a decrease in playing time.
- d. Playing time will be determined by attitude, effort, and focus. Athletes who are not giving full effort, have a bad attitude, or are not focused in the dugout will see a decrease in playing time.
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- d. Playing time will be determined on player performance during the event and overall throughout the year.

FOR ALL TEAMS (ACADEMY, COMPETITIVE, RECRUITING): ATHLETES WILL SEE A DECREASE OR NO PLAYING TIME IF THEY DO NOT MEET OUR ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS!

COMMITMENT

The Top Dog Athletics program is a program that is committed to doing things at an elite level. In order to be great we have to do what greatness requires. We have to be obsessed with greatness. We have to step away from excuses and continue to find new limits. We do not get better by accident or by doing the minimum. Top Dog athletes are expected to:

- a. Practice outside of Top Dog team practices, whether that be with a private instructor or working out at home. Practicing outside of team activities is a requirement.
- b. Top Dog Athletes will be tasked with recording their individual workouts on a time lapse and sending them to coaches.

c. Top Dog athletes at the 14u, 16u, and 18u age groups will be tasked with recording their individual workouts and using the video for their social media accounts and player profile accounts.

The Top Dog Athletics program is committed to all of our athletes and families, and works relentlessly to provide the best for our athletes; the same effort is expected from our athletes and their families.

a. Top Dog Athletes are NOT allowed to “guest play” for teams outside of the Top Dog Family. All situations and conflicts will be reviewed by the Top Dog staff and may result in the removal from the program.

b. As Top Dog will not allow athletes to play for outside team, Top Dog teams will not look outside of Top Dog rosters when looking to add players to their rosters for weekend events. We will pull from within Top Dog rosters FIRST!

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

The cost of youth sports has increased significantly over the last decade and shows no sign of slowing down. There is a financial obligation that comes with participating in the Top Dog Athletics program. The goal for Top Dog Athletics is to provide cost effective opportunities that keep opportunities to learn and love sports available to any individual/family that is interested. There are many factors involved that we do not control and are continuously working to keep everything affordable for all.

Top Dog Athletics program budgets provide the ability for families to pay on a payment schedule that is broken up over the course of 12-months, with each individual balance being an equal share in the overall team expenses for the year. It is the responsibility of each athlete to pay their share in fees. Failure to pay fees may result in the suspension or removal from the Top Dog Athletics program until fees are made current.

a. If an athlete falls more than 1 month behind on fees they will be held from all practices and games until fees are made current.

b. If an athlete leaves with an outstanding balance Top Dog will take necessary action through Small Claims Court to have the balance paid in full.

All fees are non-refundable. The financial obligation is for the given budget per the team the athlete is rostered on. This budget is effective from AUGUST 1, 2024 to JULY 31, 2025.

For any questions regarding player fees please contact TopDog.Finances@gmail.com

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

If a family chooses to utilize our monthly payment plan athlete accounts must be paid on or before the **10th of every month.**

- a. If the monthly payment is not received on or before the 10th of every month, the athlete will be held from team practices and games.
- b. If the monthly payment is not received on or before the 10th of every month, the athlete will be charged a \$20 late fee.

Payment can be made via:

- a. Venmo (@TopDogAthletics)
- b. Cash
- c. Check (Top Dog Athletics)
- d. Automatic Payments via our website

We understand the Top Dog Athletics program is a large investment for families. If a family is having trouble making payments please let us know. If there are certain payment arrangements or options that can help with the Top Dog fees we are open to discussing them with you. If you fail to make a payment and do not communicate with us as to why, we will not allow your athlete to participate in team practices or games.

Athletes and families that choose to leave the program before the end of the season (July 31, 2025) are still responsible for paying their overall remaining balance. Athletes will not be released from Top Dog rosters until their account is paid in full.

WHAT DO MY FEES COVER?

All Top Dog Athletics team budgets cover the following items:

- a. Team Registration and Insurance
- b. Tournament Registrations
- c. Team Equipment
- d. Team practices at Top Dog Performance Center
- e. Top Dog Athletics Business Expenses
- f. Coaches Travel (Non-Parent Coaches)
- g. Coaches Stipend (Non-Parent Coaches)
- h. Player accounts on PERCH, HitTrax, NCSA, FUTURES APP, BLAST, ETC.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD DOES NOT FINISH THE SEASON?

If an athlete does not complete the season for any reason (hurt, quit, removed from the team for a violation of the standards and expectations, etc.) they are still responsible for the remaining balance on their account (through July 2025). Athletes will not be refunded any portion of fees paid or fundraised. When leaving a Top Dog team families understand they will not be released from a roster if they have an outstanding balance. If a player has an outstanding balance for the budget of August 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025 the remainder of their fees will be sent to small claims court or collections.

FUNDRAISING

To help families cover costs for the year the Top Dog Athletics program will set up fundraisers throughout the year. Fundraisers include but are not limited to:

a. BUSINESS DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS

- The Top Dog Athletics program is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations and sponsorships are Tax Deductible.

- Top Dog Athletes will receive 100% of the amount donated/sponsored credited to their account.

b. RAFFLES

- The Top Dog Athletics program will NOT do “booze basket” types of raffles.

- Every raffle event will broken up with 75% of funds collected being credited to the athlete’s account and 25% of the funds collected being utilized to cover the expense of the raffle.

Athletes can utilize fundraising to help cover the following items:

a. All budgeted items

b. Individual travel expenses

In the event an athlete fundraises more than their individual account balance the remaining funds can be utilized for the following:

a. Individual travel expenses

b. Purchasing equipment, apparel, accessories, or footwear through Top Dog Performance Center

c. Can be applied to Top Dog Athletics to help cover expenses for families that are in need of financial assistance.

If an athlete does not complete the season with their team all fundraised funds will be forfeited and will not be refunded to the athlete.

HOTELS & TRAVEL

In the Top Dog Family our focus is for our athletes to break the mold of thinking it's okay to just be what we call "CENTRAL VALLEY GOOD." We prepare our athletes to compete (on and off the field) against competition from across the United States and in some cases around the world. With this we want to help them in gaining an understanding of the importance of competition and how it can be an influential piece for their success in life adventures.

Top Dog Teams will have events on their schedule that will require the team to travel. It is important to understand that there are many factors in traveling that are now out of our control. The days of a team representative going out and finding group rates are coming to an end. Tournaments are progressing into utilizing third party businesses that focus on obtaining group blocks at hotels for youth sporting events. With these businesses we are required to meet a certain amount of room nights or we are hit with a penalty for each room requirement that is not met.

As of August 1, 2023 the Top Dog Family implemented the following procedures to make sure our families incur as minimal penalty fees as possible:

- a. Top Dog will secure room block reservations through the 3rd party businesses for every tournament. If the tournament is not utilizing the 3rd party business Top Dog will obtain a group block request for families to book.
- b. Top Dog will send a reservation link to all families with the deadline for booking.
- c. Families will be required to book their hotel and send their confirmation number to Top Dog by the date the reservation booking window closes.
- d. If a family chooses to not stay at the team hotel they will be required to pay Top Dog a \$75 FEE via Cash or Venmo prior to the start of the event.

TOP DOG PERFORMANCE CENTER

Top Dog Performance Center (5721 W. Barstow Fresno, CA 93722) is the home of Top Dog Athletics. Top Dog Performance Center provides our athletes with a state of the art facility that provides our athletes opportunities to maximize their development. In order for Top Dog Performance Center to continue providing quality opportunities for our athletes we need your help in doing the following:

- a. Please pick up and throw away all of your trash and throw your recyclables in the recycling container.
- b. Athletes need to wipe down and put away all of their equipment before leaving the facility.
- c. Register and check-in for all sessions booked with Top Dog Performance Center. Due to the volume of athletes we service drop-ins/walk-ins will not be accepted.
- d. For our younger siblings that are not participating in sessions please have them seated and monitored. Younger siblings wondering around during workouts is not

safe for them or our athletes working out.

e. Remember Top Dog Performance Center is a place for our athletes to get better. Top Dog Performance Center is not a zoo or jungle gym. Our equipment is expensive, so unless you would like to pay for broken items please respect the facility and all of the equipment inside of it.

Top Dog Performance Center will be our home training facility for all team indoor practices. Top Dog Performance Center will also offer individual and small group training sessions. To schedule individual or small group training sessions please visit **TopDogPerformanceCenter.com** for more information.

Top Dog Performance Center is our home. Please help us take care of it!

DISCOUNTS

Top Dog Performance Center offers our athletes so much and our athletes get it all for a discount! All Top Dog Athletes receive the following discounts:

- a. **50% Off** Academies and all events held at Top Dog Performance Center
- b. **10-20% Off** Equipment, Footwear, and Accessories
- c. **20-50% Off** Apparel Items
- d. **10-20% Off** Oakley Items via TCATeamStore.Com

All items can be purchased through the online store at **TopDogPerformanceCenter.com** and can be picked up at Top Dog Performance Center.

TOP DOG APPAREL ITEMS

Top Dog will have select apparel items available at **TopDogPerformanceCenter.com** and at Top Dog Performance Center. Items will be originally ordered through “pre-order” events on the website and we will order a small selection of excess items. Once the excess items are sold they will not be available again until another “pre-order” is done. Some items may not be re-ordered.

To help support and protect Top Dog Performance Center and the Top Dog Family Top Dog logos have been trademarked. We ask that families refrain from taking Top Dog logos and using them to create their own apparel designs or apparel items.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Top Dog on Social Media!

- Facebook: Top Dog Performance Center | Top Dog Softball | Top Dog Baseball
- Instagram: Top Dog Performance Center | Top Dog Softball | Top Dog Baseball | RepTopDog | Top Dog MM | TopDog_Kamimoto
- X: TD_Athletics

Top Dog Athletics

Top Dog Baseball

Top Dog Performance Center

Top Dog Softball

TOP DOG LETTER OF COMMITMENT

2024-2025

Do not sign until you have read the Top Dog Athletics Player/Parent Handbook

Please Select Your Team For The 2024-2025 Year

SOFTBALL ACADEMY		SOFTBALL COMPETITIVE		BASEBALL	
<input type="radio"/>	8u	<input type="radio"/>	10u	<input type="radio"/>	9u / 10u
<input type="radio"/>	10u	<input type="radio"/>	12u	<input type="radio"/>	11u / 12u
<input type="radio"/>	12u	<input type="radio"/>	14u	<input type="radio"/>	13u / 14u
<input type="radio"/>	14u	<input type="radio"/>	16u	<input type="radio"/>	15u / 16u
		<input type="radio"/>	18u	<input type="radio"/>	Showcase

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

It is important to read this entire document and the Top Dog Athletics Player/Parent Handbook before signing. One copy is to be retained by you and the other copy is to be returned to Top Dog Athletics Staff which will file a copy to be kept for the 2024-2025 year. The Top Dog Letter of Commitment is a voluntary program with regard to both Top Dog Athletics and prospective Top Dog athlete.

1. Initial Enrollment in the Top Dog Athletics Program. This Letter of Commitment applies only to prospective Top Dog Athletes who will be accepting a roster spot on a Top Dog Athletics team for the 2024-2025 year.

2. Financial Obligation. At the time the Top Dog Letter of Commitment is signed the prospective Top Dog Athlete and their family understand and accept the financial obligation that comes with participating on a Top Dog Athletics roster for the 2024-2025 year. The prospective Top Dog Athlete and their family understand and agree to that the financial obligation must be fulfilled with no refunds, and the financial obligation must be fulfilled even if the athlete does not finish the year in the Top Dog Athletics program.

(a) I understand that if I utilize a monthly payment plan and my payment is not received by the **10th of every month** I will incur a \$20 late fee penalty.

3. One Year Commitment. The terms of this Letter of Commitment acknowledge the commitment to the Top Dog Athletics program for the term of August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025. I understand that if I do not complete the full year with the Top Dog Athletics program and I sign this Letter of Commitment I am responsible to fulfill my financial obligation.

4. Release Request and Approval Process. In the event I wish to be released from my Letter of Commitment obligation I must follow the following process.

a. My balance for the 2024-2025 year must be paid in full

Follow Us On Social Media
@TopDogPerformanceCenter
@TopDogSoftball @TopDogBaseball

Top Dog Athletics
7395 N. Bain Fresno, CA 93722
(559) 494-2552

TopDogPerformanceCenter.com
TopDogPerformanceCenter@gmail.com

b. I must email TopDog.Finances@gmail.com for proof of a **\$0.00** balance.

c. I must email TopDogSoftball@gmail.com or BaseballTopDog@gmail.com with proof of a \$0.00 balance and request my release from the Top Dog Athletics program.

5. Academic Responsibility. It is my obligation to meet all Top Dog Athletics' Academic requirements. I understand that failure to meet the Top Dog Athletics' Academic requirements will result in me being held from practice and/or team games and tournaments.

6. Hotels and Traveling. I understand that Top Dog Athletics' teams participate in events that require traveling. It is my responsibility to provide my own transportation to and from all team practices and events. I also understand Top Dog Athletics will have hotel room blocks to be used by all families. If I choose to not use the team hotel I must pay a **\$75 fee** prior to the start of the event.

(a) It is my obligation to send Top Dog Athletics a copy of my hotel room reservation confirmations prior to the start of the event.

7. Character and Conduct. I understand myself and my family are a direct reflection of the Top Dog Athletics program. All of our actions, words, and conduct represent every Top Dog Athlete past, present, and future. Failure to represent the Top Dog Athletics program in a positive manner may result in my dismissal from the Top Dog Athletics program.

8. Coaching Changes. I understand that I am making a commitment to the Top Dog Athletics program and not a specific coach. In the event a coaching change has to be made I remain bound to my Letter of Commitment to the Top Dog Athletics program.

9. Commitment. I understand that I am making a commitment to the Top Dog Athletics program. With my commitment I understand that "guest playing" for another team, outside of the Top Dog Athletics program, is a violation of my commitment to the Top Dog Athletics program. I also understand it is my obligation to put in work outside of team practices and events to make sure I am mentally and physically prepared for all team practices and events.

10. Playing Time. I understand that my playing time is earned. I am entitled to no playing time; if I want to play I have to earn it. I will get opportunities to perform. I will get opportunities to develop. I will get opportunities to play. Playing time will never be equal. It is on myself and my work ethic to maximize my opportunities and to be the best for my team and the Top Dog Athletics Program.

11. Community Service. I understand that Community Service is an important piece in joining the Top Dog Athletics program. Community Service will help me grow as a person and an athlete. It is my obligation to help Top Dog Athletics in Community Service events and to be a participant in Community Service events.

12. Communication. I understand Top Dog Athletics teams will communicate on a regular basis. It is my obligation to check my email and read all emails in full. It is my obligation to make sure my coaches are notified if I have to miss an event as soon as I know I will be missing the event. I understand communication is a two-way-street and I have to communicate with Top Dog Athletics as much as I expect them to communicate with me.

13. Social Media Rights. I understand the Top Dog Athletics has the right to use my image on Top Dog Social Media accounts to promote the Top Dog Athletics program.

I am ready to #BeTheTopDog!

TOP DOG LETTER OF COMMITMENT

Follow Us On Social Media
@TopDogPerformanceCenter
@TopDogSoftball @TopDogBaseball

Top Dog Athletics
7395 N. Bain Fresno, CA 93722
(559) 494-2552

TopDogPerformanceCenter.com
TopDogPerformanceCenter@gmail.com

Name of Prospective Top Dog Athlete _____
Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Prospective Top Dog Athlete Date of Birth _____

Permanent Address _____
City State Zip Code

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Last Name First Name

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Last Name First Name

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Phone _____ Parent/Guardian Phone _____

Prospective Top Dog Athlete Email _____

Prospective Top Dog Athlete Phone _____

I certify that I have read the Top Dog Athletics Player/Parent Handbook. I fully accept, understand, and agree to be bound by the terms within them. My signature on this Letter of Commitment accepts my place on a Top Dog Athletics roster and agrees to uphold all Top Dog Athletics standards and expectations. If I fail to sign and return this Letter of Commitment and choose to participate on a Top Dog Athletics team I am agreeing to, accept, and understand the terms within the Player/Parent Handbook.

Prospective Top Dog Athlete Signature _____

Signature Date: _____ Signature Time: _____ (A.M. or P.M.)

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Signature Date: _____ Signature Time: _____ (A.M. or P.M.)

#BeTheTopDog

Please return a copy to Top Dog Athletics Staff and keep a copy for yourself