

# CHESTERFIELD CHARGERS

## OFFICIAL FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING RULES - 2024

---



### ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITION

1. Team (also referred to as a unit): One of the three Tackle units, a Flag unit, or one of the four Cheerleading units of the Chesterfield Chargers.
2. Executive Board: The officers of the Franchise as elected by majority vote of the current/outgoing Executive Board. These positions include; President, Vice President, Football GM, Registrar, Secretary, Concessions and Volunteer Coordinator, Equipment Manager, Cheer GM, Special Events and Sponsorship Coordinator and Treasurer. (Removed Communications)
3. Coach: An authorized instructor as elected by the Executive Board who has acknowledged and understands the provisions of the CYFC and OMYFA Code of Conducts for Coaches & has submitted signed copies to the Franchise & League and whose name appears on the official roster submitted to the League. He / She must also complete Heads-Up Concussion training and turn in an earned certificate to Football & Cheer GM's and must accept a background check before taking the field as a Coach.
4. Participant: A registered member who meets eligibility and is in good standing.
5. Eligible Participant: A registered/unregistered/rostered participant who meets the criteria as set forth hereinafter.
6. In-eligible Participant: A registered/unregistered/rostered participant who does not meet the criteria as set forth hereinafter.

### ARTICLE 2 – REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY RULES

#### 1. AGE REQUIREMENTS

- a) The league age of a player, Six (6) thru Thirteen (13) years of age, is that age attained prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the playing year. For example, a player whose 12<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> has a league age of 12 years. For 5 year olds, the league age date is August 1<sup>st</sup> (must be 5 years old by August 1<sup>st</sup>).

#### b) Football Ages

All players must provide a certificate of birth to the CYFC Executive Board to be kept on file with the Franchise and the OMYFA.

- i. Flag – 5, 6 & 7 years of age.
- ii. Freshman – 8 & 9 years of age.
- iii. Junior Varsity – 10 & 11 years of age.
- iv. Varsity – 12 & 13 years of age. No High School students.

#### c) Cheer ages

All cheerleaders must provide a certificate of birth to the CYFC Executive Board to be kept on file with the Franchise and the OMYFA.

- i. Flag: (1st & 2nd graders) – 5, 6, 7 years
- ii. Freshman: (3rd & 4th graders) – 8, 9 years
- iii. JV: (5th & 6th graders) - 10-11 years

iv. Varsity: (7th & 8th graders) - 12-14 years

2. WEIGHT: FOOTBALL

- a) All New Players must be below the maximum weight at the time of registration for inclusion on that year's roster. If a player does not meet the weight requirements of their unit then they shall be placed in the Players Pool. The player will be added to his team once they are eligible and there is room on the roster. If rosters are closed at that time then the player will remain in the Player Pool for opening spots up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the season.
- i. Flag – No weight limit
  - ii. Freshman - Maximum Weight for 8-9 year olds is 130lbs (with pads).
  - iii. Junior Varsity - Maximum Weight for 10-11 year olds is 150lbs (with pads).
  - iv. Varsity – Maximum weight for 12-13 year olds is 180lbs (with pads).

3. DOCUMENTATION

- a) **Athletic Physical** – A document, signed by authorized medical personnel after **April 15<sup>th</sup>** of the current calendar year, certifying that a given participant is in good health and able to participate in all activities related to cheerleading or football.
- b) **Birth Certificate** – A legally recognized document, signed by authorized medical personnel, which would demonstrate the player's physical age.
- c) **Parent/Guardian Consent** – A document, approved by the OMYFA Board of Directors provided by the League Registrar, that describes the OMYFA's requirements for acceptable parent's / guardian's behavior. (Acknowledgement done during registration)
- d) **Participant Code of Conduct Policy** – A document, approved by the OMYFA Board of Directors provided by the League Registrar, that describes the OMYFA's requirements for acceptable participant behavior. (Acknowledgement done during registration)
- e) **Heads Up Concussion Waiver** - A document required of all parents to be read, signed, and turned in to Chargers Registrar. (Acknowledgement done during registration)
- f) **OMYFA Franchise Release Form** – A document, approved by the OMYFA Board of Directors provided by the OMYFA Registrar, that documents the transfer of a participant from one OMYFA franchise to another OMYFA franchise.
- g) **Athlete Picture** – Must be a clear headshot of an athlete without sunglasses, helmet, hat, etc...
- h) **Required Participant Documentation** – The Registrar for CYFC is required to obtain and keep on file, and available for inspection at all times, the following completed documents from each registered participant:
- i. *“OMYFA Registration Form”* (signed copy)
  - ii. *“Athletic Physical”* (signed by authorized medical personnel)
  - iii. *“Birth Certificate”* (copy)
  - iv. *“Parent Guardian Consent”* (Acknowledgement done during registration)
  - v. *“Participant Code of Conduct Policy”* (Acknowledgement done during registration)
  - vi. *“Heads Up Concussion Waiver”* (Acknowledgement done during registration)
  - vii. *“OMYFA Franchise Release Form”* (when necessary)
  - viii. *“Athlete Picture”*

4. PLAYER POOL & CHEER WAITING LIST

The CYFC Maximum for Tackle Football is 33 players per unit, for Flag it is 25 players. The CYFC maximum for freshman, JV, and Varsity cheer teams is 24. Flag cheer team maximum will be 14. The maximum limits may be exceeded if the number of returning players is more than the maximum. Returning players get priority for spots the following season (provided they have completed all required commitments) with the rest of the roster filled at an Open Registration (should one be needed). Prospective Tackle and Flag players will be placed in the Player Pool. Prospective Cheerleaders will be placed on a Waiting List. Players are chosen from the Player Pool at the Head Coach's discretion. Cheerleaders are chosen from the Waiting List by order of inclusion and will have 48 hours to respond before moving to the next cheerleader on the list.

## ARTICLE 3 - PRACTICE/PLAYING TIME RULES & REGULATIONS

### 1. Practice Schedule

Practice will not begin prior to four (4) weeks before the first regularly scheduled game (traditionally the final Sunday in August). The first 4 days of Training Camp are intended for conditioning only per OMYFA Regulations. Each player must complete 4 days of conditioning before they will be allowed to participate in hitting drills during Training Camp. NEEDS TO BE UPDATED PER MHSAA RULES

### 2. Practice Time/Playing Time Rule

Due to the complexity of teaching Tackle Football and Competitive Cheer and in order to assure safety, practice time is at a premium. It is inherently important that every player/cheerleader attend as many days of Training Camp as they can. **Unexcused absences WILL affect a player/cheerleader's participation in regular season or post season games.** Unexcused absences are those absences that fall short of injury, sickness, family emergency, or a religious or school function/commitment. Other absences such as spontaneous vacations, obligations to other sports, or scheduling conflicts with parents constitute an unexcused absences. Tardiness is at each coach's discretion. There is a 30 minute allotment for tardiness. Anything beyond 30 minutes is considered an unexcused absence. One unexcused absence constitutes sitting out one quarter of football/cheer. Two unexcused absences results in the player/cheerleader sitting out a half of football/cheer. Anything beyond two unexcused absences will result in a meeting between parent, coach and the GM. This is not done to punish the player/cheerleader but rather to assure his/her safety and be fair to the other participants who achieve perfect attendance. The Practice/Playing Time Rule is also in affect during the regular season.

- a. Cheerleaders must be at (2 of 3) or (3 of 4) practices per week in order to cheer in the game that week. Coaches will make final decisions on game participation due to absence.
- b. All absences should be reported to your head coach or team mom via email so they are aware.

### 3. No offsite practice and/or chalk talks permitted under any circumstances without prior board approval.

4. NO Saturday practices unless a practice was missed during the week due to inclement weather or LCN event AND approved by the board.
5. Practices will not exceed 2 hours.
  - a. Practices start at 6 pm and end at 8 pm. Practice may **start** or **end** early as the season changes (gets dark earlier, inclement weather, etc.). When this happens, athletes will not be penalized if they cannot make it to practice until 6 pm.
6. Parents will be required to drop off and pick up their athletes (football & cheer) at their practice location. (this is to ensure the safety of all athletes and coaches)
  - a. Athletes will not be released without a parent or guardian present. No exceptions.
  - b. Athletes cannot leave the practice location without their parent or guardian.
  - c. Please be respectful of the coaches' time - be on time to pick up your athletes.
  - d. Coaches are not allowed to pick up or drop off athletes for practices or games. (a coach should not pick up an athlete from their home or drop them off at their home). Parents should arrange rides with other parents to practices and games.

#### ARTICLE 4 - WEATHER RULES

1. Regular/Post Season Games; The decision as to whether or not a game should be played because of inclement weather shall be in the hands of the officials of both opposing teams. They should consider the welfare of the players when making a decision. Once a decision is rendered, it shall be considered final and received in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
2. Practices; In the case of thunderstorms, the policy is for all players/cheerleaders to retreat to the dugouts and into the Fieldhouse when lightening is detected or we hear thunder. We will then wait 30 minutes (**OMYFA Rule**) after the storm has subsided to see if we can continue practice. If we cannot then practice will be canceled and any parents who dropped their kids off will be notified to come and get them. The Board members will stay at the field to assure that all players and cheerleaders are delivered safely to their parents. We will only cancel practices if there is lightening or a funnel cloud reported in the area. Outside of that, practices go on as scheduled.

#### ARTICLE 5 – COMMERCIALIZATION

1. Exploitation of the Chesterfield Chargers individually, or by any individual player(s) with the benefit to an individual or business, will not be condoned. Exploitation includes using the Chesterfield Chargers name and/or logo for personal profit or exposure. Exploitation also includes using 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors to create spirit-wear with the Chesterfield Chargers name or logo without permission of the Executive Board. The sole aim of any contributor, both in time or money, should be to assist youths to learn the sport of football and cheerleading and to practice good sportsmanship. Members who persist in any type of exploitation of the players run the risk of expulsion and banishment by action of the Board of Directors of Chesterfield Youth Football & Cheer.

#### ARTICLE 6 – FORMAL COMPLAINTS & GRIEVANCES

1. If a parent should witness something on the field during a game that they are in disagreement with pertaining to their son/daughter, it is required that they wait 24 hours after said game to contact the General Manager and not try to connect with them during or immediately after the game. They may then contact the GM the next day to discuss the matter. For practices the parent may speak with the GM at the conclusion of that day's activities. If a parent is uncomfortable discussing the matter with the GM then they may contact the Executive Board through the website and it will be determined if a Grievance should be filed. The standard Grievance procedure can be found in the Official Bylaws listed on our website at [www.ctchargers.net](http://www.ctchargers.net).

## ARTICLE 7 - COMMITMENTS

1. Game Commitments – Every family in the Chargers organization is required to sign up for **4 Game Commitments per child (no more than 10 per family)**. These consist of; working concessions, 50-50 raffles, chain gang, pink game, and spotter, entrance gate. Failure to honor the Game Commitments will result in forfeiture of Returning Player/Cheerleader status for the following season. Sign-ups for Game Commitments take place at the Parents Meeting in July, equipment handouts in July/Aug and online.
2. “No Show/Missed” Commitment Penalty - No commitment changes/cancellations will be accepted less than a week (seven days) before a home game. A volunteer must find a replacement or be subject to the “no show/missed” commitment penalty.
3. If you do not show for a commitment, the CYFC will charge you \$150. You can earn your money back when you complete your volunteer commitments in full for the season. Your athlete will **NOT** be able to participate in practice or play in games until the \$150 is paid. No exceptions. This rule will be strictly enforced. ***(Cash or check will be held and returned once commitments are fulfilled. If commitments are not fulfilled, the \$150 will be forfeited and considered a donation).***

## ARTICLE 8 – EQUIPMENT

1. Football:

Players will be provided with a Helmet, Shoulder Pads, Practice Pants, Practice Jersey, Game Pants, Knee Pads, and Game Jersey. The player will get to keep the game jersey at the end of the season with all other equipment due at the scheduled equipment turn-in. Players are responsible for; five piece football girdle, mouth guard, cup, cleats (molded or screw-in, based upon OMYFA Rules), & wrist coach (when applicable). Players must turn-in all equipment to receive their Banquet ticket.

  - a. The Board will vote on (if needed) and communicate to the coaches/membership any dress codes for the season. Coaches cannot enforce a dress code of their own.
  - b. Parents must have signed up for their required commitments in order to receive their children's equipment.
  - c. Tinted visors cannot be worn without a prescription from a doctor. A Clear visor is acceptable.
2. Cheer:

Cheerleaders will be provided with a full uniform, jacket, and poms. The jacket is theirs to keep, but all other equipment is due at the scheduled equipment turn-in. Cheerleaders must turn in all equipment to receive their Banquet Ticket.

  - a. Parents must have signed up for their required commitments in order to receive their children's equipment.
  - b. Cheerleaders will need an all-white, flat bottomed, cheer shoe for the season.

**ATTESTATION OF ADOPTION:**

**ON 07/10/2024, THESE OFFICIAL RULES WERE VOTED ON AND PASSED WITH MAJORITY VOTE TAKEN BY THE CHESTERFIELD CHARGERS EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

**CYFC OFFICIAL FOOTBALL AND CHEER RULES DECLARED ADOPTED.**

***Jessica Elliott***

**Jessica Elliott**

President

Chesterfield Chargers Youth Football and Cheer

**DATE: 7/10/24**