

2023

NORTHERN LEBANON MIDGET FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK



www.nlmfa.com



As your child becomes involved in the NLMFA, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. It is also important to understand there will also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times to take a step back and remember our code of conduct. We ask all parents/guardians and football players/cheerleaders to read the following code of conduct prior to the season beginning. We require a signed code of conduct from every parent/guardian and football player/cheerleader. Failure to do so will prohibit your child from playing in this organization.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

I therefore agree:

1. I will remember that kids participate to have fun, compete, develop their skills, and that the game is for the football players/cheerleaders, not the adults.
2. I will inform the coaches of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
3. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the team.
4. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game and practice.
5. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, football player/cheerleader, or parent such as booing, taunting, or using profane language or gestures on or off the field during games and practices.
6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes, coaches, officials, and officers.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will demand that my child treat other football players, cheerleaders, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
9. I will teach my child that giving their best effort is the most important thing.

10. I will never publicly ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition/game.
11. I will emphasize skill development and how they benefit my child.
12. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
13. I will respect the officials and their authority during games.
14. I will not talk negatively about coaches, football players/cheerleaders or the NLMFA during practices, games, and/or on social media.
15. I will refrain from coaching my child or other football players/cheerleaders during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
16. I will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game or practice field, and will follow NLMFA procedure when talking to a coach about my child.
17. I will not use any tobacco products during NLMFA functions whether the function is on school property or not.
18. I will not drop my child off or pick my child up along the roads for any practices or games. I will drop them off in the lane or grass parking area of the Park.
19. I will not deface, destroy, or steal any team, park, or school property. Any equipment returned in poor condition due to neglect (other than normal use) will be replaced at my expense.
20. If I am a Smurf parent, I will be present at all practices and games, or have a responsible adult present in my absence.
21. All participants (football & cheerleading) will attend all football games. If a participant has 3 unexcused absences from games, the participant could lose their place on the team or squad.

There are appropriate topics for discussion and parents are encouraged to seek help if:

- Your child has been physically harmed by a coach.
- You are seeking ways to help your child improve.
- You have concerns about your child's behavior.
- You want to know how you can help the organization.

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with the coaches are:

- Team Strategy
- Play calling
- Other players/cheerleaders.

It is sometimes very difficult to accept your child's amount of playing time. Our coaches are very qualified and they make judgment decisions based on what they feel is best for all the football players or cheerleaders along with the team as a whole.

The NLMFA coaches will not discuss playing time with any parent unless the following procedures are followed. If these procedures are not followed your child could be suspended for the entire or part of the next game. If it happens a second time he/she could be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season with no refund. There should be another coach or an officer present during any meetings/conversations.

- First, Have the player talk to the coach. This is a great way to teach the child a life lesson. Have them deal with the coach one on one. Have them ask why there playing time is the way it is. Discuss your child's talk with the coach and encourage them to work on the things the coach said.
- Second, If that is unsuccessful, you may request a meeting with the coach, via email or phone call. You should never confront a coach at a game or during practice.
- Finally, If that does not resolve your issue, you may call NLMFA President Phil Shirk at (717)304-0293, Head Football Coach Ron Copenhaver at (717)383-3284, or Head Cheer Coach Christina Ludwig at (717)926-4889 to have a meeting with the coach.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the above-mentioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of organization.
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization involved.
- Parental season suspension.

In addition to these rules, the NLMFA supports and enforces the CFA Zero Tolerance Policy which is as follows:

CFA Football League

“Zero Tolerance Spectator Rules of Conduct”

Youth football is for the development and participation of young children. Football games are contests that allow our children to learn to honor the game of football. On the field officials penalize players and coaches when rules are violated and behavior is unsportsmanlike. Off the field, there are no officials to penalize spectators whose behavior becomes unacceptable due to stress and emotions.

In the past adult behavior that was entirely unacceptable resulted in the expulsion of organizations, adults and guilty persons from the CFA. Think about that for a moment. Children were denied the privileges of participating in CFA youth football because of some adult's inappropriate behavior. We cannot have this unfortunate situation because it is unfair to our children.

Accordingly, effective August 1, 2011, the CFA, in order to protect the reputation and the participation of our children, hereby adopts the following to be enforced by all CFA Associations.

ZERO TOLERANCE SPECTATOR RULES OF CONDUCT

No Profanity is allowed

No intimidating language or actions shall be directed toward players, coaches, spectators, guests or anyone else

No heckling of game officials, coaches or players

Absolutely no spectators shall be allowed inside the fence during practices or on game days

Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted during practice or games

The unacceptable behavior of a single spectator could endanger the continued participation of our entire group of children in this league. Consequently, any person who violates any one or all of the “Zero Tolerance Spectator Rules of Conduct” will cause themselves and possibly their participating child/children to be immediately expelled from the CFA Football League.

Player Code of Conduct

Each member of the NLMFA is required to make a commitment to the team. That commitment involves making every effort to be at every scheduled practice and game throughout the season. Unexcused absence from scheduled practice/games will result in disciplinary action by the head coach.

1. Be on time.
2. Be a great teammate.
3. Compete! Be the best player you can be. Make your teammates better.
4. Always display good sportsmanship in victory and defeat.
5. Respect your coaches and teammates.
6. Never argue with officials.
7. Hustle! Sprint on and off the field no matter what the situation.
8. Come to every practice and game prepared and have your complete uniform.
9. Leave the bench and sideline area cleaner than you found it.
10. Always respect the facilities you are playing at.
11. Never throw equipment.
12. Never use profanity or obscene gestures
13. Never taunt or yell at opposing football players/cheerleaders no matter what they do to you.
14. Strictly follow any additional rules of the Head Coach.
15. Never bully anyone on any social network.

FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT

Our football equipment and uniforms are an investment for our organization. The proper care and laundering of these uniforms is the only way we can ensure that we protect our investment and keep them looking new and in good condition for years to come. Please help us to be good stewards of these resources by observing the guidelines when you launder your uniforms.

In order to receive football equipment the following items must be taken care of.

1. Parent's signature on registration form allowing child to play.
2. Physician's signature on registration form clearing child to play.
3. The NLMFA must have a copy of player's Birth Certificate. (The NLMFA should be in possession of returning player's birth certificate)

Registration Fees for 2023 Season

Cheerleading

Registration per participant - \$75

Early registration discount if registered on or before July 1, 2023 is \$60

Midget cheerleading (Grades 6, 7, & 8) is only \$25 this year!!!

There will be an additional \$40 fee for any cheerleaders who are on the Competition Squad.

Football:

Itty Bitty Football - \$50 per player (Fundraising for Itty Bitty participants is voluntary)

Contact Football - \$100 per participant

Early registration discounts if registered on or before July 1, 2023:

\$85 - one participant

\$150 - two sibling participants

\$200 - three or more sibling participants

MIDGET FOOTBALL PLAYERS (AGES 12 & 13 AS OF 4/30/2023) ARE ONLY \$25 THIS YEAR!!!

Registration refunds will only be considered for medical reasons after Roster Night which is the Monday before the first regular season game for all participants. Registration refunds will only be given after all equipment and fundraising items are returned.

There will be a \$25 restocking fee for any participant that quits after receiving equipment.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraisers are a very important part of NLMFA football and cheerleading program. Your elected officers are responsible for all fundraisers and try extremely hard to find the most profitable, most liked items to sell. Many people ask each year where does the money go? Below you will find a list of some of the expenses.

- Uniforms and necessary safety equipment for football players and cheerleaders
- Liability insurance and Year round insurance to cover stored equipment
- League fees for football players and Competition fees for cheerleaders
- Referee fees
- Field markers
- field facility usage
- Ambulance fees and first aid supplies
- Helmet reconditioning
- Copying fees and supplies to run the organization

The minimum fundraiser sale requirements for each child have been determined based upon the NLMFA budget needs. By entering into this program you are asked to meet these requirements. If there is a financial hardship that prevents you from doing so, you MUST see an officer within the first two weeks of any fundraiser. Each situation will be determined on an individual basis and will be kept confidential.

Fundraiser Buyout: These will be enforced this year with percentages for families who don't meet the requirements.

One participant - \$100

Family - \$150

Fundraiser Sale Requirements:

Family with one participant - 15 raffle tickets

Family with more than one participant - 20 raffle tickets

Itty Bitty player's are not obligated to sell raffle tickets but may do so if they wish and are eligible for the incentives and top seller awards.

FUNDRAISING INCENTIVES

*Any football player or cheerleader who sells 30 or more raffle tickets will get 10 raffle tickets entered in the drawing with their name on them.

Top Seller Awards-

The families that sell the most raffle tickets will win the following awards!

1st Prize: \$200

2nd Prize: \$100

3rd Prize: \$75

Although the NLMFA likes to keep fundraising to a minimum, the NLMFA may conduct additional fundraisers to help raise money for the organization. Your participation in these additional fundraisers is greatly appreciated and needed to keep our program strong but are not mandatory.

NLMFA AWARD POLICY

We award our midget, pony, and pee-wee football players awards based upon their regular season record and or their playoff performance at the end of season. Our cheerleaders receive awards based on participation at each level. The smurf football squad will receive a participation award.

NLMFA SEASON SPIRIT WEAR PROGRAM

All coaches and officers of the NLMFA feel as though the children involved in the program should be rewarded for staying with the association through their final year of eligibility. Therefore, all participants participating in their final year of eligibility and have completed 3 or more seasons in the NLMFA, will receive a Spirit Jacket or sweatshirt at no cost. If the participant has completed 2 seasons the NLMFA will cover 2/3 the cost. If the participant is in their first season the NLMFA will cover 1/3 the cost.

Each year all participants will receive a preseason spirit T-shirt.

*If at anytime the organization is financially unable to fund any of these awards, this program may be withdrawn. Also, because of availability, rewards may be changed if necessary.

2023 IMPORTANT TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1 - Flag Football Registration Begins
March 12 - End of Flag Football Registration
April 1 - Early Cheer and Football Registration Begins
April 2 - First Flag Football Games
May 21 - End of Season Flag Football Tournament
June 12-14 — NLMFA Preseason Football & Cheer Camps
June 26-28 — Cheerleading Competition Squad Tryouts
July 1 - End of Early Cheer and Football Registration Discounts
July ?- Football Equipment Handout
July 11- First and Cheer Practices
July 31 - First Football Practice
August 12 - Possible Scrimmage
August 19 - Pre-season Game
August ?- Picture Day
August 27 - First Game of Season
September 22 - Youth Night at the HS Football Game
October 7 - NLMFA Raffle Drawing and Community Bonfire
October 14 - Itty Bitty Bowl
October 14 - 8th Grade Recognition Game
October 23 - Final Regular Season Game
October 28- Smurf Bowl
October 28-29 - 1st Round of Playoffs
November 4-5 - Playoff Semifinals
November 11-12 - Superbowls
November 18-19 - Cribari Classic Games and CFA League Award Ceremonies
November 19 - Red Land Cheer Classic
November 20 - CFA Banquet (coaches and officers)
December ? - NLMFA Award Ceremonies

We are in need of volunteers for our different committees. If you are interested in volunteering on the Banquet, Concession, Fundraising, or Homecoming/Charity Games committees please contact Phil Shirk at 304-0293 or any other officer.

Donations are needed for all of our home games and practices: sodas, bottle water, Gatorade, baked goods, hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, boxes of candy, mini bags of chips, paper products, coffee and hot chocolate.

Returned Check Fee: There will be a \$30.00 fee for any checks that are returned.