



**2023**

**Official Rules and Operations  
for  
Clermont County Youth  
Football League**

**[www.ccyfl.org](http://www.ccyfl.org)**

*Updated MAY 2023*

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**League website: [www.ccyfl.org](http://www.ccyfl.org)**

## ALL SPECIFIC SIDELINE CHEER RULES AND COMPETITION CHEER RULES ARE PROVIDED IN SEPERATE CHEERS RULE BOOKLET

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\*The CCYFL Cheer Exhibition will be held on **9/10/2023** at \_\_\_\_\_  
High School Gym. .

An exhibition participation award will be presented as well as other awards which may be given to all cheerleaders.

\*The CCYFL Cheer Competition will be held indoors on **10/29/2023** at a site to be determined by the CCYFL-EB and the Cheerleading Coordinator.

### Football / Cheer Districts:

Football / Cheer districts are composed of public elementary school districts as composed by the CCYFL- EB. Cheerleaders/Players will **ONLY** play in the football districts so designated by the CCYFL-EB and based on where they reside. Cheerleaders/Players in private, home or 'Open Enrolled' in other schools are classified according to the public school district in which they reside. The County Auditors website will be used to determine school district lines and residency.

### Clermont County Youth Football Board (hereinafter "CCYFL"):

League board will consist of the following:

- (1) Executive Board- President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer & 5 Trustees
- (1) Representative from each organization (League Rep)
- (1) Cheerleading Coordinator

The CCYFL Board will be set in place by the following during the December meetings:

#### December Meeting –

- Nomination(s) of an individual(s) from one of the member organizations
- Individuals nominated must accept the nomination

#### January Meeting –

- A review of the nominations
- Additional nominations (if any) will be accepted after a review of the nominations made at the December meeting
- Individuals nominated must accept the nomination
- A vote (cast by ballot) by the League Representatives, and the sitting CCYFL Board. In case of any ties, the President will vote to determine the incoming Executive Board for the following year.

### CCYFL President Responsibilities:

The President shall preside over CCYFL & the Executive Board. The President shall appoint the heads of committees. The President will be able to do everything in his/her power to run the league with honesty and to promote youth football and cheerleading.

The President shall have the authority to: Remove, Fine, or Suspend: any players, coaches, parents, spectators and officials if the President deems it necessary for the betterment of CCYFL

The President shall appoint a Secretary for the League.

### CCYFL Executive Board Responsibilities:

The CCYFL Board will support the President and will do everything in the best interest of the CCYFL to assist in running the League and to promote youth football and cheerleading. The CCYFL Board, along with the League Reps will handle all the rules, rule changes, rule violation(s), scheduling of games and officials for the League.

**Pre-Season – Start of Practice**

Organizations may begin practicing for the 2023 football season as follows:

- Conditioning Practice- Must follow Ohio HS Rules
  - **July 17, 2023 – All players must have 5 days conditioning**  
**Prior to beginning full contact practice Only helmets are permitted on the first and second days of practice. Shoulder pads may be added on days three and four. Full pads may be worn on the fifth day. Full contact is permitted on the sixth day**
- Full Contact Practice-provided players have acquired their conditioning
  - **Beginning July 24, 2023**
  - Only 30 minutes of ‘Full Contact’ permitted per day
  - Only 60 minutes of ‘Full Contact’ permitted per week

**REGISTRATION & ALL LEAGUE PAPERWORK DUE**

- **WEEK OF AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 @ STILL TBD**

**Regular Season Starts**

- **August 19, 2023**

**Post-Season**

- Playoffs
  - Round # 1- October 21 & 22 @ -----
  - Round # 2- October 28 & 29 @ -----
- Super Bowl
  - November 4, 2023 @ -----

**PLAYOFFS and SUPER BOWL**

**Playoffs: North Division + South Division**

Teams finishing in the top three (3) in Division standings will advance to the playoffs.

Teams will play each other as follows:

**Round # 1**

**Division Winners will receive Bye’s**

- South 2 vs. North 3
- North 2 vs. South 3
- 8 GAMES WILL BE PLAYED ON SATURDAY AND 4 ON SUNDAY

**Round # 2**

- North Division winner will play winner of South 2 –vs –North 3
- South Division winner will play winner of North 2 –vs –South 3
- 8 GAMES WILL BE PLAYED ON SATURDAY AND 4 ON SUNDAY

**Super Bowl:**

The winners of Round # 2 will advance to the Super Bowl which will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

**Football / Cheer Districts:**

Football / Cheer districts are composed of public elementary school districts as composed by the CCYFL- EB. **Cheerleaders/Players will ONLY play in the football districts so designated by the CCYFL-EB and based on where they reside.** Cheerleaders/Players in private, home or ‘Open Enrolled’ in other schools are classified according to the public school district in which they reside. The County Auditors website will be used to determine school district lines and residency. **CCYFL defines residency by the following criteria** including but not limited to, where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, where mail is received, where meals are prepared and eaten, where the parents are registered to vote, and where important family activities take place a significant part of each day. In the event of joint custody, residency will be determined by the parent whom the court has given primary custody.

Any Cheerleader / Player residing in an area that is **NOT** within a member designated district may play for any member organization they choose. Any Cheerleader / Player residing in an area that is not within a member designated district, **BUT** has cheered or played for an established member organization, cannot change organizations without sitting out one (1) year.

Any Cheerleader/Player playing with an established organization who then physically changes address and moves out of the district designated for that organization may stay with that organization, if the Cheerleader/Player uses their ONE time “Free Choice” stating they desire to stay. This decision must be made at the time of the change of the Cheerleaders/Players change of circumstance.

If they wish to change in any of the following years and play with the organization they now reside. They have made their ONE time “Free Choice” and then would be required to sit out one (1) year. This decision must be made at the time of the change of the Cheerleaders/Players change of circumstance.

If the Cheerleader/Player chooses to cheer/play for the new organization, they may do so without sitting out one (1) year. This is a ONE time “Free Choice”. They then can’t choose to move back to their previous, or any other organization without sitting out one (1) year.

**THERE WILL BE NO RELEASE BY A CCYFL MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF ANY CHEERLEADER OR PLAYER TO ANOTHER CCYFL MEMBER ORGANIZATION.**

**Failure to Play:**

If for any reason a CCYFL organization will not be able to field a team to play that week (NO TEAM @ THAT AGE, too many sick players, etc.) they must give a minimum of 72 hour notice to the opposing organization to allow time to adjust their scheduling. If they fail to give the 72 hour notice, they will be required to pay the \$200.00 referee game fee and fined \$150.00 per team per game. The fine will be assessed during the current season and the game will be forfeited. All subsequent games will be forfeited until the assessed fines have been paid.

**GAME RULES – ALL AGE DIVISIONS**

This league will play under the Ohio High School Athletic Association Football (OHSAA) rules, with the exception of the additional game rules for the Instructional Age Divisions. Violation of these rules or any of the CCYFL's rules can result in an unsportsmanlike penalty and ejection. Teams will have thirty-five (35) seconds to put the ball in play after the ball is blown ready for play. The second violation will result in an unsportsmanlike penalty.

**Legal Team:** No less than fourteen (14) players shall constitute a legal football team. If the team roster falls below fourteen (14) players after league Registration, the legality of the team is not affected providing no other rule applies. CCYFL-EB has the right to alter the definition of legal team(s) size. **If a team falls below 14, they may have players from the previous age “play-up”, but may only play the max of 6 quarters per day. 1 PLAY = 1 QUARTER**

**Personnel on the Playing Field:**

Only Coaches with a signed “Code of Ethics” on file with CCYFL, Players, Cheerleaders and Chain Crew will be allowed on the player's benches or on the playing field during the progress of an officially scheduled CCYFL game.

**All Chain Crews must be staffed by personnel, from the team, on the side in which they are operated. NO ONE OTHER THAN THE CHAIN GANG WILL BE ALLOWED OUTSIDE THE COACHES BOX**

**Fighting/ Unacceptable Behavior:**

Fighting by Players will result in a TWO GAME suspension per OHSAA. Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, other team personnel, parents and/or spectators will result in one game suspension of the participants and may result in a minimum one (1) “calendar” year suspension or permanent expulsion from the CCYFL.

**Unacceptable Spectator Behavior** will now also be applied to the offending parent's child. The football player or cheerleader will now be suspended along with the parent.

**Unacceptable Spectator Behavior** will now also be applied to the offending parent's HEAD COACH. The HEAD COACH could possibly be suspended along with the parent. The Head Coach must make a “Good Faith Effort” to control the parent as soon as he/she is made aware of the issue.

Any striking or aggressive contact not in the normal course of a football game by a Player, Head Coach, Assistant Coach, other team personnel, parent and / or spectator of a REFEREE before, during or after a football game shall result in an automatic one (1) “calendar” year suspension and / or an optional permanent expulsion from the CCYFL.

**REGISTRATION (Football & Cheer)**

There is a **MANDATORY** registration of all players (Football and Cheer). All players **MUST** play on their “AGE APPROPRIATE TEAMS”

All teams/players must “Register” at the appointed time and place as determined by CCYFL and will make every effort to do so. All teams/players will be “Checked In” by a CCYFL Board Members not associated with the team AND the Head Coach of the team. (NO SPECTATORS)

Any player not in attendance at their teams appointed time **MUST** provide adequate documentation for their reason of absence. The CCYFL is responsible for checking ALL THE REQUIRED PAPERWORK.

**REQUIRED PAPERWORK at TEAM REGISTRATION**

Player Agreement (signed by Player, Parent/Guardian and Head Coach)

Copy of Player Birth Certificate

Current Player Picture in Uniform

**Official CCYFL Team Roster Sheet**

CCYFL Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches NYSCA of USA Card (Football/Cheer & Concussion Training)

Ohio Dept. of Health Concussion Sign Off Sheet (Player & Coaches)

Ohio Dept. of Health Lindsay's Law Sign Off Sheet (Player & Coaches)

**COACHES / COACHES AGREEMENTS (Football +Cheer)**

The CCYFL requires that all Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches have NYSCA or USA Certification in their specific sport AND Concussion Training, Lyndsay's Law Signature Form and a Ohio Dept. of Health Concussion Education Course Certificate. CCYFL reserves the right to ask for an updated Back Ground Check upon request from the CCYFL-EB. The CCYFL- EB will require all Head Coaches and all Assistant Coaches to sign a Coaches Code of Ethics Agreement before the beginning of the season. The use of alcoholic beverages, any tobacco product, profane language, or improper conduct will not be permitted at any football field while a youth football game or practice is in progress. Violation will result in immediate ejection from the field and further disciplinary action by the CCYFL- EB. No game shall continue until the offender or offenders have left, or all persons shall be cleared from the field and the game will continue with the spectators removed. **If a coach is removed from a game, he is suspended for ONE additional game immediately and the organization will be fined. That coach will not be permitted to coach any CCYFL game until the fine has been paid to CCYFL.**

ON GAME DAYS: Head Coach is responsible for the following:

**Football In numerical order! Cheer in Alphabetical Order !**

- Correct eligibility information, including: birth date and permanent address being shown on all player contracts
- Copy of player's birth certificate
- **Current** picture of all players in their jersey
- ODH Concussion & Lindsay's Law Sign Off Sheets
- Copy of CCYFL Stamped Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches NYSCA or USA Certification and a Concussion Education Course Certificate
- Having a CCYFL stamped copy of all players' birth certificate and a CCYFL stamped picture of each player in their jersey with them at all CCYFL games
- To provide "**TEAM BOOK**" as proof of player's eligibility if so requested by Officials or League Representatives
- Conduct of the team's Assistant Coaches, Cheerleaders / Players and spectators / fans

**INDIVIDUAL CHEERLEADER / PLAYER AGREEMENTS**

**Individual Agreements (contracts):**

Player agreements are for the 2023 playing season, which starts when the player signs the agreement and ends on the last day of November 2022. Players may not play on any other football team. It is recommended that all players have a physical examination and have a doctor's permission to participate in the football program.

**Contracts:**

All players must have a copy of their Birth Certificate or Record of Birth. Each football player and cheerleader will be provided with a player agreement (hereafter known as a "Contract"). Each participant must have the contract stamped by the CCYFL- EB to be eligible to participate in the CCYFL. A completed contract must be on file with the CCYFL- EB by end of the league's Registration Event before any player / cheerleader will be allowed to participate in any CCYFL function.

Organizations may petition the CCYFL EB for a football player signing extension. **Request must be made in writing @ the Registration.** If an extension is granted, the petitioning organization may continue to sign player(s) past the league's Registration date. All players signed after the Registration date must be added to the official roster for that team by the CCYFL- EB. No players may be added to any roster after the Friday prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the CCYFL schedule.

New player(s) relocating into an established football organization may sign-up after the league weigh-in date, but no later than the Friday prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the CCYFL schedule.

**Relocating player(s) must be able to provide CCYFL EB with documentation confirming their new resident status.**

**Officials: Referee Fees will be \$ 65.00 per Referee per Game**

Officials will be scheduled for each game by the CCYFL and the League Official Representative. A minimum of two (2) sanctioned or approved OHSAA officials must be present. **Games will not start until a minimum of two (2) officials are present.** A delay of one (1) hour for start of a game is only acceptable due to an official being late. Three "Game Radios" have been provided by CCYFL. One Game Official will have "Radio Contact" with the Clock Operator and the home team League Representative. **No Game Official should have direct ties to an Organization they are officiating.**

**Scheduling of Games:**

Dates will be set by the CCYFL-EB. All games will be scheduled as early in the pre-season as possible. All age groups will play on the same day at the same field.

**Game Start Times: (League Notification is required for exceptions)**

Start times for all games are as follows:

<b><u>AGE GROUP</u></b>	<b><u>EARLY START TIME</u></b>	<b><u>LATE START TIME</u></b>
5 & 6	10:00 AM	1:00 PM
7	11:15 AM	2:15 PM
8	12:30 PM	3:30 PM
9	1:45 PM	4:45 PM
10	3:00 PM	6:00 PM
11	4:15 PM	7:15 PM

The CCYFL President must be notified of any deviation from the above listed times. ***It is imperative that the first game begins on time!***

**Incomplete Games:**

Any scheduled game stopped because of rain or darkness shall be considered an incomplete game and must be completed as soon as possible. **CCYFL MUST BE MADE AWARE OF ANY STOPPAGE IMMEDIATELY** Games stopped for reasons relating to weather or darkness, will be played from the time the game was stopped until the game is officially competed.

If an official stops a game due to reasons other than weather or darkness and the game cannot be resumed within a reasonable time, then the team leading at the time the game was stopped will be declared the winner.

**Ties: Overtime Process**

All games that end in a tie at the end of regulation play will result in overtime. This first overtime will consist of each team attempting to score from the ten (10) yard line. First possession will be determined by a coin toss. If the game remains tied at the end of the first overtime period, there will be a second overtime beginning on the five (5) yard line. If there remains a tie at the end of the second overtime, the ball will be moved to the three (3) yard line.

If the game is still tied after the third overtime the ball will be placed back to the (10) yard line starting the overtime process again. There will be one time out per series with no time outs carried over from regulation play



**AGE LIMITS:**

- Five & Six (5 & 6) Year Old Division will be limited to five (5) and six (6) year olds who have not reached their seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1, 2023.
- Seven (7) Year Old Division will be limited to seven (7) year olds who have not reached their eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1, 2023.
- Eight (8) Year Old Division will be limited to eight (8) year olds who have not reached their ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1, 2023.
- Nine (9) Year Old Division will be limited to nine (9) year olds who have not reached their tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1, 2023.
- Ten (10) Year Old Division will be limited to ten (10) year olds who have not reached their eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1, 2023.
- Eleven (11) Year Old Division will be limited to eleven (11) year olds **regardless of grade**, who have not reached their twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) birthday before August 1, 2023.
- \* **Also eligible** are twelve (12) year olds who are in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, who have not reached their thirteenth (13) birthday before August 1, 2023.

**PROTESTS / LEAGUE STANDINGS:****Protests: Form located on web-site**

All protests must be filed in writing within twenty-four (24) hours from the end of the game in which the incident happened to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of CCYFL. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of CCYFL will send a copy of the protest to the other team involved. The protest must be accompanied by a twenty-five dollar (\$25) check which will be returned if the protest is allowed. The protest will be ruled on within five (5) days of the filing by the CCYFL-EB. Protests will be heard for alleged violations of rules and any misconduct that is detrimental to the league.

**No protests on official's judgment decisions will be allowed**

**Filming:** Only the two participating teams are authorized to film a game, this is limited to Coaches, Parents/Grand-Parents and team designated Game Film person. IF any person/organization is found filming an un-authorized game they be subject to; Inspection of the Filming Device, possible ejection from the field and possibly further disciplinary action by the CCYFL-EB. Disciplinary action may include; forfeiture of game, monetary fine, suspension for (1) calendar year.

EXCEPTION-Exchanging of game film between coaches is permitted.

**Player Ineligibility:**

A protest may be made at any time during the regular playing season against a team carrying an ineligible player. If the protest is allowed, the team may be penalized by forfeiture of all games that the ineligible player or players participated in, and the ineligible player or players and the Head Coach may be suspended for the remainder of the season. A player declared ineligible is in violation of CCYFL rules. This clause may not be invoked after the CCYFL-EB President has certified the regular season final standings.

**ADDITIONAL GAME RULES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AGES:**

Age Divisions: Five & Six (5 & 6), Seven (7) & Eight (8) Year Olds

- Two coaches per team are permitted on the field during play, but must remain 15 yards behind the deepest player.
- **Once huddle breaks NO communication, verbal or non-verbal from the two coaches on the field is allowed.**
- Huddle break is defined as, two (2) or more players leaving the huddle. **ONLY ONE HUDDLE IS ALLOWED**
- On fourth down, there is an optional free punt of 25 yards. Clock will be stopped and then a 10 SECOND RUN-OFF will occur. In no circumstances can the ball be placed inside the twenty (20) yard line.
- In case of a "No Huddle" The READY TO PLAY whistle will be used.
- 4 Year Old Players are Limited to the O-Line/D-Line
- 5/6 U Game- NO "A" GAP BLITZING

**ADDITIONAL GAME RULES FOR ALL AGES:**

- **Player Safety Rules**-Any Un-Sportsmanlike Foul will result in a 15 yard penalty and a PLAYER WARNING communicated to the Head Coach. A Second Un-Sportsmanlike Foul will result in EJECTION from the game for the Player and possibly the Head Coach.
- **PLAYER SAFETY FOULS INCLUDE:** Verbal Taunts and Insults. Leading with Helmet, Late Hit, Crack-Back Hit, Face Masks, and Horse Collar Tackles.
- **ALL AGES HAVE NO WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**
- 9U-10U & 11U Games: If BOTH COACHES AGREE prior to the game, Live Punting is permitted for BOTH teams.
- 9U-10U & 11U Games. If BOTH COACHES DO NOT AGREE -On fourth down, there is an optional free punt of 25 yards. Clock will be stopped and then a 10 SECOND RUN-OFF will occur. In no circumstances can the ball be placed inside the twenty (20) yard line.
- ALL FOOTBALL TEAMS MUST ATTEND A MINIMUM OF ONE CHEER EVENT THAT THEIR HOME ORGANIZATION IS ATTENDING. Failure to do so can result in discipline from the CCYFL EB.

**MEETINGS:**

Meetings are to be held on the first Sunday of each month and are open to the public.

The CCYFL President may change the meeting date, place and time with a three (3) day notice.

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**

The CCYFL will consist of the following organizations for the 2023 season

*Batavia, Bethel, Blanchester, Clermont Northeastern, Deer Park, Goshen, Little Miami Green & Gold, New Richmond, NKY United, Norwood, Western Brown, West Clermont*

**ADMISSION:**

Coach admission is determined by the host organization. The host organization will be responsible for paying the game officials. Amounts to be paid to each official will be determined by the CCYFL -EB. All other financing will be from time to time as directed by the CCYFL- EB. Two teams playing at a neutral site will split the cost for officials if no gate is collected for that day.

Admission(s) collected during the regular season will be used for the operation(s) of the host organization for paying game officials, equipment, uniforms, etc.

Admission(s) collected during the Pre / Post season will be used for the operation(s) of the CCYFL.

Admission(s) collected at the Cheerleading Competition / Exhibition will be used for the operation(s) of CCYFL Cheerleading Function(s).

Regular Season Admission:

\$5.00 per adult

Children 12 and under are FREE

Cheerleading Events:

\$6.00 per adult

Children 12 and under are FREE

\*\*\* \$1.00 of the \$6 collected will be given back to the host Organization

Post-Season:

\$6.00 per adult

Children 12 and under are FREE

\*\*\* \$1.00 of the \$6 collected will be given back to the host Organization

**EQUIPMENT:**

- Shoes must be either gym shoes or molded cleats (**no screws on cleats or any cleats other than molded**)
- Helmet (NOC SAE) approved and bearing the warning label on the exterior of the helmet
- Shoulder pads
- Hip, thigh, knee and tail pads
- Jersey
- Football pants
- Mouthpiece
- No Dark Visors per OHSAA Guidelines (CLEAR ONLY)
- Optional equipment may include:
  - Rib protectors or other blocking pads
  - Arm or leg elastic worn under the pants
  - Neck yokes
  - Athletic cup
  - Long Sleeves - CAN NOT be 'Football Color'

**OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIZES:**

- 5-6, 7, 8 and 9 Year Old Divisions must use one of the following:
  - Rawlings Pee-Wee, Wilson Pee-Wee, Nike Pee-Wee
  - Baden Pee-Wee, Under Armor Pee-Wee
- 10 and 11 Year Old Divisions must use one of the following:
  - Rawlings Junior, Wilson Junior, Nike Junior
  - Baden Junior, Under Armor Junior
- Any other football(s) used for play in league games, other than those mentioned above, must be approved by the CCYFL-EB.
- All Footballs must be leather or leather composite
- **All Footballs must have WHITE stripes**
- No rubber footballs are permitted
- All Footballs must be inflated to within proper levels and will be checked by the Game Officials prior to each game
- No Football shall be altered.

**League Standings:**

League standings for each division will be determined by head-to-head play. Standings will be determined by total number of wins and losses for each team in the division.

**An officer from each organization must notify by email the CCYFL President before Monday of the following week with their game results.**

Standings for the league will be posted on the website only after **ALL** the previous week's game results have been submitted.