



WOLVERINES FOOTBALL & CHEER

Parent/Guardian Handbook



www.wolverinesfootball.org

Latest Revision: 4/5/2024

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Wolverine Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of our board of directors, welcome to the Wolverines Football and Cheer season! If you are new to the Wolverines, we would like to welcome you and say thank you for joining our organization. If you are returning—WELCOME BACK! We look forward to another successful and exciting season.

Our program was established in January of 2007 and became a member of the Connecticut Youth Football League (CTYFL) thereafter. Our program promotes successful performance on the field and in the classroom by instilling core ethics based on hard work, discipline, respect, determination and desire. The goal of our program is to teach youth that the value and capability of the entire group is dependent upon each individual doing their best to achieve a single goal. No one athlete, coach, volunteer, parent/guardian, is more important than the team itself. Our program develops leaders on and off the field for today and the future. The youth of today are our future and the ethics and values learned are intended to help them establish a firm foundation for athletics, academics and life itself. Wolverines Football and Cheer believes we owe our best to the kids entrusted to our care and mentorship before, during and after each season.

Our program provides all our athletes with some of the safest equipment available through Schutt and Riddell. Over the past few years, we have invested over \$50,000 in the latest technology in helmets, shoulder pads, cheerleading mats and workout gear. Our program is a member of USA Football Heads-Up Program, a cutting-edge program educating people on concussion and injury protocols and all coaches are required to pass this certification. In addition, all of our coaches have passed a mandatory criminal background check. We will do everything in our power to ensure that each athlete, coach, volunteer, and parent/guardian enjoy the upcoming season, gain experience and create memories!

In promoting ethics, safety and spirit of youth athletics, our program has adopted this handbook in addition to the CTYFL bylaws. This handbook is binding upon all its participants: board members, coaches, athletes, cheerleaders, parent/guardians, volunteers and spectators. I ask that you take some time to review this handbook and adhere to the policies and guidance provided herein. Thank you for your commitment to our program and your help in making it a success.

Go Wolverines!

Tim Goff
President
Wolverines Football & Cheer

OUR MISSION

Wolverines Football & Cheer offers the youth of New Hartford, Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Norfolk, Winsted, Hartland, Harwinton and Burlington an opportunity to participate in football and cheer. Through these activities, each child will learn about hard work, being part of a team, sportsmanship, and comradery and these lessons will carry through with them for their entire life.

- - -

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Board (2-year term, term expires January 1st, 2025):

President:	Tim Goff	president@wolverinesfootball.org
Vice President:	Rob Weiss	vicepresident@wolverinesfootball.org
Treasurer:	John Rothe	treasurer@wolverinesfootball.org
Secretary:	Christina Lynch	secretary@wolverinesfootball.org
Cheer Coordinator:	Kait Adams	cheercoordinator@wolverinesfootball.org

General Board (1-year term, term expires January 1st, 2025):

League Representative:	Brant Keller
Equipment Manager:	Zach Duff
Player Agent – Football:	Meredith Cutler
Player Agent – Cheer:	Maddy Sipperly
Public Relations Director:	Amy Brooks
Field Director:	Brenden Cutler
Safety Director:	Ben Starr
Concessions Manager:	Jessica Morse
Concessions Assistant:	Anna Goff
Apparel Manager:	Tammy Rothe
Fundraising Coordinator:	Jessica Keesler
Fundraising Assistant:	Colleen Fecto

COMMITMENTS:

Sportsmanship: Parents/Guardians are a vital part of the Wolverines program and the development of our athletes. Whether cheering in the stands or volunteering, Parents/Guardians must set a positive example of good sportsmanship. Support your coaches and refrain from using profanity and harmful language. Parents/Guardians must stay off the practice & game fields and remain under control in order to be a good example to our athletes and the opposing teams. Do not criticize our program or opposing teams, its athletes, fans, officials or coaches by words or gestures. We need to work together to help teach our athletes the value of commitment, sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.

Wolverines Football & Cheer requires all athletes to be honest, fair and always show good sportsmanship. Athletes will not engage in rude behavior and will treat everyone, including teammates, coaches, Parents/Guardians, fans, opponents and officials, with respect regardless of race, creed, color, nationality or sex. All athletes, Parents/Guardians and volunteers are required to sign a code of conduct prior to the season. Please make sure that you and your athlete read and understand the code of conduct prior to the beginning of the season.

Accountability: The season spans from August through November and into December for those who make it to the playoffs. It is the Parents/Guardians responsibility to make sure athletes are always at practice and games at the designated times. If there are transportation issues, please address it ahead of time with your Team Parent so that other arrangements can be made if possible. Any transportation assistance by Wolverines staff or other parents is strictly voluntary.

Mandatory Fundraising: There is an operational cost to keep an organization of this capacity functioning. Our fundraisers offset the significant cost of providing the best experience possible to all of our athletes. While fundraisers are not mandatory, there is an expectation that you will actively participate in our fundraisers, including Harvest Fest, our largest year-end fundraiser.

Our program is responsible for paying for many operational costs including (but not limited to the following):

- CTYFL Dues
- Field rental
- Referee/Official fees
- Insurance premiums
- Trainer fees
- End of year banquet
- Concessions
- Cheer competition
- Football uniforms
- Cheer uniforms
- Trophies, awards & prizes
- And much, much more

Volunteering: Parent/Guardian participation is at the heart of the Wolverines program. There is no paid staff at our program. All work is performed by volunteers. Without a strong commitment from our participant families, our program could not exist. There are multiple opportunities for a participant's family to support our program this year.

Volunteer jobs include (but not limited to the following):

- Fundraiser assistance
- Concessions (set up, sales and breakdown)
- Food donations for Concessions
- Field setup & breakdown
- Game Day chain crew (away games)
- Cheer competition
- Special events (trunk or treat, banquet, etc.)

Parent/Guardian Volunteer process:

- Sign up for jobs & food whenever the Concessions Manager announces the upcoming event or requirements (typically a sign-up genius)
- Confirm with your Team Parent when you are due to volunteer and the specific task.
- Report for designated activity no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of your job assignment.
- Notify the Team Parent as soon as possible if you cannot perform your assignment.

Team Parent: Each team will ask for a Team Parent at the start of the season. It will be the responsibility of the team parents to:

- Act as a liaison between parents and coaches.
- Communicate directly with parents regarding any schedule updates, game information, fundraiser information and player attendance at practices and games.
- Communicate directly with the head coach to inform them of player attendance.
- Raise funds and purchase year end coach's gifts.
- Help with fundraising efforts for each team including collecting money for a team basket for Harvest Fest.
- Arranging game day drink and snacks for game halftimes.
- Assembling chain crew for away games (need 3 parents volunteers).

If you are interested in being a team parent, please contact the Vice President.

FOOTBALL INFORMATION:

Ages and Weights: The CTYFL has found that age and maturity are the dominant factors as to how well a child competes in the game of football. Our weight limits support most athletes in their given age or grade level, allowing more children to participate in sports. This will allow players in the same grade to play together throughout their youth careers. This also minimizes the amount of "older but lighter" players and the risk of those players taking key positions away from those of the proper age. High School students are excluded from playing at the youth level and are encouraged to play with their schoolmates at the High School level.

The CTYFL has aligned the makeup of the teams to closely coincide with the school grade levels, and at the same time keep the age span on a team as tight as possible. Below are the ages and weight limits of the teams.

Please Note: All CTYFL teams must abide by the age and weight matrix listed below, there will be no exceptions.

DIVISION	GRADE	MAX WEIGHT	DRESSED WEIGHT	OLDER/LIGHTER RULE	HALO RULE
A Team	7 th & 8 th	190 lbs.	196 lbs.	Not Available	197 lbs. +
B Team	5 th & 6 th	155 lbs.	161 lbs.	7 th Grade/106 lbs.	162 lbs. +
C Team	3 rd & 4 th	130 lbs.	135 lbs.	5 th Grade/85 lbs.	136 lbs. +
Mighty Mites	1 st & 2 nd	109 lbs.	115 lbs.	3 rd Grade/65 lbs.	116 lbs. +

Older/Lighter Rule: A player that meets the criteria below, may at his/her option, choose to play down one division level. Ages below are based on CTYFL playing ages:

- A) 7th grade and less than 106 lbs. dressed may play on B team
- B) 5th grade and less than 85 lbs. dressed may play on C team
- C) 3rd grade and less than 65 lbs. dressed may play on MM team

Halo Rule: If player exceeds the weight limit of their team, they are allowed to play but only on the offensive & defensive line, between tackles. Specific positions would be: Center, Guard and Tackle on offense and between the offensive tackles on defense, always in a 3- or 4-point stance. Halo players will not be allowed to touch the ball on the offensive side (beside Center). They are not permitted to run the ball. If a player on the defensive side of the ball recovers a fumble, the player is allowed to advance the ball. Halo players are not allowed to play kickoff and kick return on special teams. Halo players helmets are to be marked before the season with tape on the back of the helmet.

*All weights shall be determined with players in uniform, including playing shoes, without helmet, shoulder pads, and rib vest. Players not in danger of being overweight need not remove any equipment for weigh-in.

Required Documentation:

New players must complete the following forms and provide the following documentation. This is a requirement of the CTYFL. Athletes unable to provide this documentation will not be allowed to practice or play until all documentation has been provided. These forms can be found on our website under "registration documents".

1. Current year CTYFL parental consent form, signed by parent/guardian
2. Current year CTYFL Doctor's Statement signed by physician or nurse practitioner, clearing the child for participation in contact sports, cheerleading or football.
3. A copy of the player's birth certificate.
4. Most recent report card for child which must include proof of town residence and the grade the player would be entering. A team players must submit a copy of their 4th term report card.

5. USA Football concussion management form.
6. Each player will also be required to sign a code of conduct form along with his or her parent/guardian, including a disciplinary signature page.
7. Volunteer form, signed by parent/guardian, committing to some level of fundraising participation.

Practices:

- When: Practices typically begin on or around August 1st.
- Where: Practice is held at: Ann Antolini School, 30 Antolini Road, New Hartford, CT. The practice field is behind the school. You are required to park in the various parking lots and walk up the paved entrance to the field. You are not permitted to park at the top of the hill unless you are a member of the Board of Directors.
- Dates: During the month of August, football practices are generally held Monday through Thursday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Once school is in session, practices will be held Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We own portable light towers so we practice even if it gets dark early.

In the event that a practice has been changed or canceled, the information will be posted on each team's individual team app as well as emailed and/or texted. When you sign your player up for the season, your email and phone number is automatically loaded in to our system, allowing us to contact you with up-to-date information on practice and game schedules.

If there is inclement weather, we will use our discretion when canceling practice. Typically, we practice in the rain, snow, heat and cold and we do not cancel practice unless there is thunderstorms present. Please do not email or call your coach to ask if practice is canceled. Coaches will expect each child to attend and participate in EVERY practice and game. Practice time is extremely valuable and is used to develop each player's skills as well as prepare the team for the upcoming opponent. If a player must miss a practice or game, a coach must be notified either by app, phone or email 1 hour before practice begins. Limited excused absences are acceptable and will be allowed, however excessive absences may result in loss of playing time due to lack of participation. Unexcused absences may result in immediate loss of playing time.

It is extremely difficult for a child to participate at a high level in football if he or she is involved in multiple activities during football season, therefore it is not recommended. Coaches will follow the guidelines for missed practices mentioned above.

Please refrain from planning family trips/vacations during the football season. It is important that your child be at every practice and game. Plan on the season running from August 1st to early December.

Practice rules for parents/guardians: You are welcome to stay during practice to watch your players. Feel free to bring a chair, a good book to read and relax! With that said, you will not be allowed to enter the practice field area until after practice is concluded. There will be a white line painted around the practice facility. You are not permitted past the white line AT ANY TIME during practice unless a coach allows it. You are not permitted to speak with your player or correct them or a coach at any time during practice. Failure to follow these rules will result in violation of your signed parent code of conduct and will result in your removal from the practice facility and possible further discipline.

Practice Dress Code:

Coaches will announce the dress code for the next practice. The majority of practices will be held in "Full Pads". Please reference the "Dress Code" for what to wear to practice.

- "NO PADS" - Players do not need to wear their pads or helmet to practice. Dress in workout clothing appropriate for the weather: Shorts, t-shirt and cleats.
- "HELMETS ONLY" - Same as no pads except you need to wear your helmet.
- "SHELLS" - Players will need to wear helmet/mouthpiece, shoulder pads, and practice jersey.
- "FULL PADS" - Players will need to wear helmet/mouthpiece, shoulder pads, practice jersey, practice pants, knee/thigh/tailbone pads, cup/supporter, and cleats.

Games:

- When: Games are played on Sundays. Week 1 is typically the first Sunday following Labor Day in September.
- Where: Home games are played at Brown’s Corner, 812 Steele Road, New Hartford, CT. Away games vary depending on who our opponent is week to week. Game schedules and locations will be announced before the season.
- Frequency: Typically, each age division will play eight regular season games.
- Saturday night games are a possibility, depending on field availability and opponent location. These will be announced in advance. Saturday night games will replace the scheduled Sunday game.
- Playoffs: Players that are on the A, B, and C teams will have the opportunity to play up to three more playoff games depending on their regular season record. Yes, we could be playing games in to early December!

* The number of games can be less depending on CTYFL scheduled 'bye weeks' due to unbalanced teams in the league or unforeseen game cancellations.

Games are generally two hours long.

Players should be present 75 minutes (1.25 hours) prior to their scheduled kick off in order to weigh in and warm up.

Each game consists of four 18-minute running time quarters (A & B teams); 16-minute running time quarters (C & MM teams). Overtime will follow the high school federation rules.

Games are only cancelled if lightning strikes in close proximity, however the CTYFL game officials or the Wolverines president are the only individuals who can cancel a scheduled game due to weather.

All games will follow the same game time schedule unless otherwise noted:

TEAM	KICK OFF TIME
B Team	9:00 AM
A Team	11:00 AM
C Team	1:00 PM
D Team/MM	3:00 PM

Athletes must be present for pregame certification and be present for stretches/warm-up. Stretching/warm-up is a vital part in keeping your child safe and prepared on the field. Most injuries that occur on the field are muscle cramps or muscle type injuries, which can be prevented with hydration and proper stretching. If an athlete has to miss a game due to illness or an emergency, please contact your Head Coach immediately.

Attendance Rules:

It is essential that your child is at practices and games. If your child misses practice, they will not know what to do on game day. They will also not have enough reps to know how to perform their duties on the field. First, this is not fair to the other players that do show up for all practices. Second, they will be at greater risk of injury. Third, they will put other players at risk. The following is our expectation for practice attendance:

- Your child is expected to attend all practices.
- As coaches (and parents) we do realize things may come up like an illness or important family function. Therefore, there will be one week per player during the season where 2 absences are excused.
- Players that consistently miss one practice per week will consistently only play 6 plays per game. These 6 plays include special teams. See the positions/playing time section below
- Attendance will be taken at the start of each practice and added to an attendance chart for the season.
- Parents since your child does not have a license to drive, please be sure that they are at the field 10 minutes prior to the start of practice and are fully dressed and ready to practice. Getting them there right on time is late.

Positions/Playing Time:

Players will be competing with their peers for playing time at each position during practices, scrimmages, and games. Coaches will evaluate each player in order to determine where they can help the team the most and ultimately where the player can be the safest and most successful. Players who demonstrate hard work, discipline, and good attendance during practices and games will be rewarded with additional recognition and playing time.

The Wolverines and CTYFL by-laws mandate that all players must participate in at least six plays per game which includes offense, defense, and special teams (A & B teams). As mentioned above, playing time is determined by a player's attendance, work ethic and participation level during practices, scrimmages, and games. Six play players are important! If your child is deemed a six-play player, this is not a bad thing. It is likely that coaches have determined that your player may not be ready for consistent full-time action. Players come in all different shapes and sizes, sometimes a player is not physically large enough or not fast enough at this time. Don't fret it! Allow the coaches to work with your player, don't allow your player to get down on themselves. We have seen many six play players turn into incredible athletes, sometimes it just takes time for the player to develop.

SIX PLAY PLAYER RULES: Six play players have a tendency to 'let their foot off the gas', thinking they are not as important as the starters. This could not be more wrong. Six play players need time to develop, thus missing practice and games is the worst thing for their development. Therefore, the following rules apply: If a player is a six play player and misses 1 practice during the week, he/she will sit out for 2 plays during the game. If he/she misses 2 practices during the week, he/she will sit out for 4 plays during the game. If he/she missed 3 practices during the week, he/she will not be allowed to dress for the game. The player is still required to be at the games to support the team.

Disciplinary Actions:

Running is an everyday part of practice. On those few occasions when it is necessary to discipline a player for a minor infraction, like failing to pay attention or talking while the coaches are talking, the player may be asked to run additional laps around the practice field, do push-ups or perform another exercise. Normally, that will be the end of disciplinary action. With such a high caliber of kids, severe disciplinary problems are not expected to be a problem on any team. If disruptive behavior and disciplinary actions continue, your child may be asked to leave practice and may be removed from the team.

Equipment:

Our program supplies a majority of the necessary equipment needed to participate. The equipment manager will assign a date and time to hand out equipment. This is usually done prior to the season beginning but we may still need to fit players during the first week of practice. Each player will receive the following:

- Game jersey (jersey numbers will be distributed at random. We cannot guarantee numbers from year to year).
- Game pants
- Practice jersey
- Practice pants
- Game socks
- Helmet with face mask and chin strap
- Shoulder pads

This equipment must be returned to the football program at the season's end or parents/guardians will be billed for replacement equipment. Equipment return dates will be announced toward the end of the season.

The following items will need to be purchased in order for your child to participate in practices and games:

- Athletic supporter with protective cup (or plate for females)
- Football cleats w/molded rubber spikes - No Metal Spikes Are Allowed!
- Mouthpiece/mouth guard
- Water jug – Disposable plastic water/sports drink bottles are not allowed.

Safety/Injuries:

Athletes are required to immediately inform their coaches of any injury or condition which may affect their participation in a practice session, scrimmage, or game.

Parents/guardians are responsible for informing the coaches should their athlete suffer any injury requiring medical treatment as a result of participation in a Wolverine's practice, scrimmage, or game.

Any player that is injured and requires medical attention from a physician MUST have clearance from a medical physician in order to return to practice. If a player is confirmed to have a concussion, a clearance waiver is required from a physician. All clearance waivers must be given to and filed with the Safety Director.

CHEERLEADING INFORMATION:

Squads:

There are four squads, and they consist of:

- Mighty Mites grades 1st & 2nd
- C team grades 3rd & 4th
- B team grades 5th & 6th
- A team grades 7th & 8th

*It is at the cheer coordination's discretion to combine teams dependent on enrollment.

Required Documentation:

New Cheerleaders must complete the following forms and provide the following documentation. This is a requirement of the CTYFL. Athletes unable to provide this documentation will not be allowed to practice or play until all documentation has been provided. These forms can be found on our website under "registration documents."

1. Current year CTYFL parental consent form, signed by parent/guardian
2. Current year CTYFL Doctor's Statement signed by physician or nurse practitioner, clearing the child for participation in contact sports, cheerleading or football.
3. A copy of the player's birth certificate.
4. Most recent report card for child which must include proof of town residence and the grade the player would be entering. A team players must submit a copy of their 4th term report card.
5. USA Football concussion management form.
6. Each player will also be required to sign a code of conduct form along with his or her parent/guardian, including a disciplinary signature page.
7. Volunteer form, signed by parent/guardian, committing to some level of fundraising participation.

Practices:

- When: Practices typically begin on or around August 1st.
- The first two weeks of practice will generally be held at Ann Antolini School from 6pm-8pm, Monday through Thursday, and is located at 30 Antolini Road, New Hartford, CT. The practice field is behind the school. You are required to park in the various parking lots below and walk up the paved entrance to the field. You are not permitted to park at the top of the hill unless you are a member of the Board of Directors.
- Practices are then moved to the Brodie Park Field House, located at 325 Niles Road, New Hartford, CT and will then be held depending on the availability and flexibility of the coaches and the Field House.
 - Ideally, Mighty Mites will have 1-2 nights of practice per week for an hour and half.
 - C, B and A teams will have two nights of practice per week for two hours.

What to wear/bring to practice:

- Wear clothing that is non-restrictive and your child is comfortable in. Remember, the field house can get hot or cold so dress accordingly.
- A flexible sole sneaker is required. It is best that when you purchase a pair of white cheer shoes, they wear those to practice.
- Hair should be pulled back and away from the face.
- NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND- This poses a risk of injury to your cheerleader as well as others.
- Don't forget to bring a water bottle!

Games: Our cheerleaders will cheer on our football teams during their weekly games.

- When: Games are played on Sundays. Week 1 is typically the first Sunday following Labor Day in September.
- Where: Home games are played at Brown's Corner, 812 Steele Road, New Hartford, CT. Away games vary depending on who our opponent is week to week. Game schedules and locations will be announced before the season.
- Saturday night games are a possibility, depending on field availability and opponent location. These will be announced in advance. Saturday night games will replace the scheduled Sunday game.

Game Times:

- B Team 9:00 AM
- A Team 11:00 AM
- C Team 1:00 PM
- Mighty Mites 3:00 PM

Playoffs:

- A, B & C football teams have the opportunity to play up to three more playoff games depending on their regular season record. **ALL** cheerleaders are expected to cheer the football players on in these games. Even if the individual team they correspond with are not playing anymore, they are to join the other girls to cheer on whichever teams we still have in the playoffs. These games could run into early December, so be prepared!

Attire for Games:

- The Wolverines will supply the uniform for the cheerleaders. They will be sized and handed out during the first two weeks of practice. These uniforms are expected to come back in the same condition they were given in. Any excessive damage such as stains, rips, etc. will be chargeable to you.
- Coaches will send a message on the BAND app a day or two before the game to tell the cheerleaders what parts of the uniform/which bow to wear to the game pending the weather.
- Individual Purchase: Every cheerleader must purchase any pair of white cheer shoes.

Rules for Games & Practices:

- Be kind and respectful to everyone.
- You must participate in all components of practice.
- All cheerleaders must attend and cheer at the football games.
- Cheerleaders must show up to games 30-45 minutes before their scheduled game time to warm up. It is at the discretion of the coach to decide this.
- Bring all the pieces of your cheer uniform to every game. All cheerleaders need to look identical- if one girl is missing a piece of their uniform, none of the girls can wear that piece during the game.
- Give it your all, but most importantly *HAVE FUN!*

For safety purposes:

- Never build a stunt without the coach present.
- No talking between cheers.
- NO GUM, CANDY, etc.
- NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND- this includes elastic bands on wrists.

What happens if there is inclement weather on a practice night or a game day?

- We practice indoors, so practice will still go on! If there is any reason for a cancellation, the coaches will contact you via BAND app.
- For games we cheer rain or shine! NO EXCUSES!

Attendance Rules:

It is essential that your child is at all practices and games. Cheerleading is a team sport, and there are a limited number of practices. The coaches are putting in their time for free, and each cheerleader is depending on each other. If you are going to miss a practice, you must contact the coach and let them know with as much notice as possible. If one cheerleader is not there, they are not only letting themselves down, but the whole team. The coaches are understanding and accommodating for sicknesses, family emergencies/priorities, etc., but just like with any sport, cheerleading is a commitment. For that reason and more importantly for **safety** reasons- if your cheerleader misses excessive practices or games, it is at the discretion of the coach if they will be able to participate in practices, cheer at games, and/or participate in competition.

Cheer Competition:

CTYFL puts on one cheer competition per year. It is usually held in late October to early November. The exact date and place will be determined by CTYFL. Spectators will have to pay to get in. NHYFC will be asking for volunteers to help run the competition.

Safety/Injuries:

Please inform the coach immediately about any injury, or condition which may affect their participation. We care deeply about our cheerleaders and want to make sure they are safe!

Communication:

When you sign up for the season, your email and phone number is automatically loaded into our system, allowing us to contact you with up-to-date information. However, the cheer coaches like to be able to communicate with you directly. Please download the BAND app on your phone, and the cheer coordinator or coach will send you a link to join your cheerleaders' group. It is imperative to be on this app to stay up to date with any changes, cancellations, what to wear to the games, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

First Aid:

The Wolverines pays for a trainer to be at each game, both home and away. Typically, each competitive program supplies their own trainer as well. Each program must ensure that emergency medical personnel are present for duty at the start of and throughout each game. There are no trainers at practice however all coaches are trained by the local ambulance team on CPR and AED usage. This training occurs in July, before the season begins.

Referees: Each town must ensure that referees are present for each game. The cost of each referee is paid for by the host/home team.

Concession Stand:

Our concession stand is the best in the league, hands down! Our concession stand raises significant money for our program. Without parent/guardian involvement, they cannot operate. The Concessions Manager will send out sign up genius prior to each home game, looking for volunteers to operate the concession stand and to donate food for resale. Please make every effort to sign up and volunteer at each home game.

Issues or Complaints:

Problems or complaints should be discussed with the Vice President to try to arrive at a solution to the problem. Under no circumstances is a Parent/Guardian to approach a coach with a complaint or an evaluation of coaching philosophy during practice and/or on game day. If problems or complaints require a Head Coach to be involved, the Vice President will facilitate a time to discuss, preferably 15 minutes prior to or 15 minutes after practice. Anything that cannot be resolved at this point will be brought to the President.

Parents/Guardians who do not follow the above protocol and address issues with Coaches during practices and on game days will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible expulsion from the program.

24 HOUR RULE: Please allow 24 hours after a game to address any issues with the Vice President. Emotions are escalated immediately following competition and it is in the best interest of everyone to allow time to calm down and address issues in the proper manner.

Pictures:

Professional photography will be offered early in the season for all squads. Purchases of individual and team photos are the responsibility of the parents/guardians. No one is required to order pictures, but all players should be available for picture day.

End of Year Banquet:

The finale to our season is a banquet to be held in November. This is an evening of recognition and fun for our athletes. The main purpose is to acknowledge our athletes and others who made the season possible. Volunteers will be needed for this event. Once the date and time is finalized an announcement will be sent for ticket purchase.

WOLVERINES YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER
Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

All players, parents/guardians, board members, volunteers and coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a manner becoming so that they fully represent the spirit of the Wolverines in a positive light. No unsportsmanlike conduct will be accepted from anyone, this includes but is not limited to hitting, spitting, name calling, foul or abusive language, talking negatively about another team or refusing to shake the other team's hands at the end of each game.

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct:

- I understand I am to conduct myself in a civil and respectable manner at all league sponsored events.
- I will assist the Wolverines in teaching my child and others in the league that rules are important and should be followed.
- I understand that children learn best by example and that I will always attempt to set a good example for my child and any other participating children.
- I will teach and demonstrate by example the importance of good sportsmanship in victory and in defeat.
- I will ensure my athlete is on time for practices and games.
- I will not publicly question the honesty, integrity or judgment of the coaches or game officials.
- I understand that verbal and physical abuse is not to be tolerated. Verbal abuse includes swearing, profanity, and foul or demeaning language.
- I understand that abusive or violent conduct with any child, parent, staff member, fan, referee or any participating person is prohibited and shall not be tolerated.
- I understand that sexual or vulgar conduct or language is prohibited and shall not be tolerated.
- I understand that language that is considered offensive from a racial, ethnic, religious or gender perspective is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
- I understand that sexual harassment of any nature is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
- I understand that drinking alcoholic beverages, using illegal substances or being under the influence of either alcohol or illegal substances on any school grounds is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
- I understand smoking is prohibited at all games and practices.
- I shall responsibly handle disagreements and shall not engage in divisive or destructive activities such as verbal and physical confrontations, gossip and/or the spreading of rumors.
- I further accept responsibility for my family members, friends, guests and/or anyone who accompanies me to any Wolverines game, practice or other activity, and shall ensure they exhibit good sportsmanship and comply with this Code of Conduct.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I do hereby certify by my signature below as a parent/guardian/board member participating with Wolverines Football & Cheer that I/we have read and received a copy of the Wolverines Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of said Code of Conduct. I am also aware of the disciplinary actions associated with violation of the Wolverines Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the final decision of the Wolverines Football & Cheer executive board in adjudication of said violations.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

**WOLVERINES YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER
ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

I hereby pledge to exhibit good sportsmanship, act as a role model and comply with the Wolverines Conduct Rules. I agree to conduct myself accordingly. I understand that a failure to abide by these rules could result in disciplinary action including but not limited to a penalty, ejection, game forfeit, suspension and/or disqualification from further participation. I further pledge that:

I WILL:

1. Be respectful of my parents/guardians, coaches, teammates, opponents, game officials, and teachers.
2. Complete all homework assignments and work to maintain my grades at school.
3. Attend all practices and games; be on time for practices and games and ready to play or perform when called upon.
4. Work to improve as a player, teammate and/or person.
5. Encourage my teammates.
6. Bring my own water to practices and games.
7. Keep all of the equipment issued to me clean and safely in my possession at all times.
8. Notify my coach as far in advance as possible, if it is necessary for me to miss a game or practice.
9. Always take the safety of my teammates into consideration and I will not act in any way that will create an unsafe or dangerous situation.
10. Listen to my coaches and participate in practice as directed to the best of my abilities.

I WILL NOT:

1. Use foul or demeaning language.
2. Mock, taunt, or demean another member of my team or an opposing team.
3. Fight with another player.
4. Talk back to or be disrespectful to my parents/guardians, teachers, teammates, coaches, volunteers, and/or any game or league official.
5. Fool around during practice and water breaks.
6. Damage the property of another.

I recognize that wrongful behavior could result in my termination from practice, the game and possibly, the team.

Athlete Signature

Date

Athlete Printed Name

**WOLVERINES YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER
CODE OF CONDUCT – DISCIPLINARY SIGNATURE PAGE**

I recognize that violation of these Code of Conducts while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a New Hartford Youth Football & Cheer event will subject me/us to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the following in any order or combination:

1. Verbal warning issued by a representative of the Wolverines or CTYFL equivalent.
2. Written warning issued by the Wolverines.
3. Suspension or immediate ejection from the Wolverines event by an official who is authorized to issue such suspension or ejection.
4. Suspension from multiple Wolverine events issued by an official who is authorized to issue such suspension or ejection.
5. Season suspension or multiple season suspension from Wolverine events issued by an official who is authorized to issue such suspension or ejection.

SIGNATURES:

Athlete Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Athlete Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Date:

*All Code of Conduct signature pages MUST be placed behind the respective player/cheerleader physical form in each of the team's books.

WOLVERINES YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER COACHES GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

It is the purpose of this portion of the handbook to outline our coaches' guidelines and expectations of players, parents and other coaches alike. These guidelines were assembled by our Vice President and our head coaches.

- 1) Everyone is in this together! Players, parents and coaches are one team.
- 2) This is football, it's a tough, rugged sport. Expect us and other teams and players to be physical!
- 3) Coaches will be hard on players at times. This is to build them into tough competitors. Critiques are made with only the best intentions for the players and team alike.
- 4) We will always circle back as coaches. We will acknowledge improvement and proper correction with the individual player.
- 5) It is mandatory that each player give 100% during every practice and every game! NO EXCUSES!
- 6) Coaches know that not every player is created equal but we will hold each player to the same standards.
- 7) Coaches will only put their hands on a player to break up a physical altercation with another player. Coaches who are physical or verbally demeaning with players will be terminated. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 8) Everyone has to be 100% committed to the Wolverine way. We are a small program competing against some major programs, we will have the fight for every victory!
- 9) Coaches' priorities are always speed, discipline and strength. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure each player and team is 100% ready each week. If an athlete is not ready, they should be removed as their lack of preparedness could result in the injury of others.
- 10) Coaches should never put their own children or the children of Board Members in spots they have not earned. Each player must earn their right to be on the field. The same rules apply to everyone!
- 11) We will only be successful if every player, parent and coach is on board.
- 12) Lead by example! Coaches, players and parents must be the example to each other and hold each other accountable.
- 13) This sport isn't for everyone and that is OK!
- 14) Have fun! What's the sense in doing something you don't enjoy? Let's have a blast, win some games and become better people, together!