



Harrisburg NC
PARKS & RECREATION



**2023 POP WARNER INFORMATION SHEET
FOOTBALL / CHEERLEADING**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Registration Dates: June 1 – June 30 IN-PERSON REGISTRATION ONLY

ALL Pop Warner registration packets must be submitted in person at the Harrisburg Parks and Recreation Office during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm, between 6/1 and 6/30.

The office is located inside Harrisburg Town Hall (4100 Main Street Harrisburg, NC 28075).

NOTE: No late registrations will be accepted. Any packets brought to the office after 5pm on June 30th will be placed into a waiting list folder. Parents/Guardians will only be contacted if a spot needs to be filled and they are next on the waiting list for that age division. No exceptions will be made.

Please visit the Parks & Recreation Youth Sports website for updates:

Pop Warner Football: <https://harrisburgnc.org/327/Pop-Warner-Football>

Pop Warner Cheerleading: <https://harrisburgnc.org/322/Pop-Warner-Cheerleading>

Pop Warner was founded in 1929 and serves as the only youth football, cheerleading, and dance organization that requires its participants to maintain academic standards to participate. Consisting of approximately 425,000 young people ranging from ages 5 to 16 years old, Pop Warner is the largest youth football, cheer, and dance program in the world.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In 2022, Pop Warner National changed from traditional age/weight divisions to age/unlimited weight divisions. Pop Warner Little Panthers, which consists of 17 associations including Harrisburg Parks & Recreation, instituted these changes as of the fall 2022 season. Harrisburg Parks & Recreation will follow the guidelines while making sure participants are placed in the division that will be safest and most beneficial for their development.

FOOTBALL Divisions Offered and Eligibility:

DIVISIONS	AGE as of 7/31/2023	Weight / Eligibility
8U	7 and 8	Unlimited weight
9U	9	Unlimited weight
10U	10	Unlimited weight
11U	11	Unlimited weight
12U*	12	Unlimited weight
*The 12U division is being assessed and may or may not be offered depending on registrations		

CHEERLEADING Divisions Offered and Eligibility: Division placement will be determined based on the child's age as of 7/31/2023 and their experience level.

DIVISIONS	AGE as of 7/31/2023	Inclusive Birth Dates
Mitey-Mites (exhibition only)	7, 8, and 9	8/1/13 – 7/31/16
Jr. Pee Wee / Pee Wee	8, 9, 10, 11, and 12	8/1/10 – 7/31/15
Junior Varsity (JV)	10, 11, 12, and 13	8/1/09 – 7/31/13

Youth players are only allowed to be registered for ONE sport per season. This policy will be enforced for player safety and in consideration of teammates and coaches.

REGISTRATION COSTS:

Town of Harrisburg Policy Change: For all Parks & Recreation fees, "Town of Harrisburg Taxpayer/Resident" refers to participants who reside within Town of Harrisburg City Limits AND pay the additional Harrisburg City Tax. Fees are no longer based on a Harrisburg address or county residence. This may make the registration cost for your participant different from previous seasons.

June 1 – June 30, 2023	Town of Harrisburg Taxpayers	Non-Harrisburg Taxpayers
Football	\$160 fee + \$100 deposit = \$260	\$190 fee + \$100 deposit = \$290
Cheerleading	\$130 fee + \$50 deposit = \$180	\$160 fee + \$50 deposit = \$210
A 2% convenience fee will be added to all credit and debit card payments.		
No bills larger than \$20 can be accepted (unless part of exact payment). Please have exact amount, if possible.		

Uniform/equipment deposits are refundable at the end of the season if all items are returned in satisfactory condition. Failure to return all items and/or items returned with damage (broken, ripped, etc.) will result in partial or full loss of deposit paid.

New Fees as of 7/1/2023: ALL registrations processed in the new fiscal year, which begins July 1st, must be processed at the 2023-2024 registration rate (additional \$45 per football registration and additional \$25 per cheerleading registration). This will apply to any player registrations that may be completed from the waiting list.

1. WHAT IS REQUIRED TO SIGN UP?

- **Birth Certificate** (1 copy) – must be provided each year. They are not kept “on file”.
- **2022-23 Report Card** (1 copy) – must show all four quarters of 2022-2023 school year including final grades/standards met. If you will be registering before school ends and final report cards are not available, include the report card showing the first three quarters and be prepared to submit the 4th quarter/final report card by the end of registration.
- **Pop Warner Participant Contract/Consent Form**
- **Pop Warner Physical Fitness & Medical History Form**
 - Section I - to be completed by parent/guardian
 - Section II - must be completed by a licensed medical professional on/after January 1st of the current year.
 - This form may be submitted separately from packet if the child’s physical appointment is scheduled for June or July and/or you are waiting for the child’s doctor’s office to complete the form.
 - Sections I and II **MUST** be submitted **before August 1st** (please submit as soon as possible to complete player packet). Players will **NOT** be allowed to participate without an approved physical form on file. No exceptions will be made.
- **Harrisburg Parks and Recreation Registration Form**
- **Harrisburg Parks and Recreation Cheer Agreement** - Cheer registrations only
- **Registration Fee and Equipment Deposit**
- **Pop Warner Home School Form** – only required if applicable to individual player
- **Pop Warner Scholastic Eligibility Form** – only required if applicable to individual player

NOTE: It is the parent/guardian’s responsibility, not Parks & Recreation staff, or coaches, to make sure all player documents have been submitted. **Player registration packets must be complete with all required forms/documents by the end of registration period for the player to be placed on a team.** *Players with missing forms/incomplete packets may not be added to a team roster and their registration may be canceled at the discretion of the Parks & Recreation staff.* Registered participants with missing documents will not be allowed to participate in practices or games until completed and approved.

2. WHERE/HOW DO I REGISTER?

- Registrations for Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading can **ONLY** be completed in person at the Parks and Recreation Department during regular business hours. The office is located inside Harrisburg Town Hall at 4100 Main Street Harrisburg, NC 28075. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm.
- Required forms can be found on the Youth Sports Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading webpages at <https://harrisburgnc.org/327/Pop-Warner-Football> and <https://harrisburgnc.org/322/Pop-Warner-Cheerleading> Printed forms are available at the office, if needed.
- To speed up the registration process, please come to the office with all forms already filled out and signed, if possible. Please arrive no later than 4:45pm to allow time for review and payment. Plan to arrive earlier if you will be completing forms onsite prior.

3. IS THERE A REFUND POLICY?

- **Athletic Refund Policy:** 100% Refund **prior** to your division's first scheduled practice. 50% **prior** to your division's first scheduled game. NO refund **after** your division's first scheduled game date. A **\$10 administrative fee will be applied to ALL refunds**. Convenience fees are non-refundable. All refunds are issued via check and mailed within 30 days of approved request.
 - If a withdrawal/refund is requested after jerseys have been ordered, the cost of the jersey will be deducted from refund amount.
 - If this program is **canceled** by **Harrisburg Parks and Recreation** a full refund will be given.

4. WHAT EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED WITH THE REGISTRATION FEE AND DEPOSIT?

Registration fees assist with the cost of uniforms and equipment, field prep and maintenance, lights, insurance, Pop Warner Association dues, referees, game officials, on-site medic, and other league needs as deemed necessary.

The following equipment will be provided for use during the fall season:

- **Football:** Helmet, chin strap, shoulder pads, game-day jersey, game-day pants, and game-day socks
 - Must be returned at end of season: helmet/strap, shoulder pads, and pants
 - Can be kept by player: jersey and socks
- **Cheer:** Uniform (top & bottom), bloomers, bodysuit for under uniform, hair bow, cheer bag, pom-poms, and t-shirt
 - Must be returned at end of season: uniform (top & bottom), bloomers, bodysuit, and pom-poms
 - Can be kept by player: hair bow, cheer bag, and t-shirt

5. WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE FOR MY CHILD?

- **Football:** Practice pants with pads, a practice jersey, cleats, and mouthpiece
- **Cheer:** Practice t-shirt, shorts, tennis shoes for practice, and white shoes for game day/competitions

6. WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY DEPOSIT REFUND?

- Deposits are refunded at the end of the season after all required items are returned in satisfactory condition. Failure to return all required items and/or damage to items will result in partial or full loss of deposit. Refunds are issued via check and mailed within 30 days of approval. Name and mailing address for refund must be verified when returning equipment.

7. CAN I USE A DOCTOR'S STANDARD PHYSICAL FORM INSTEAD OF THE POP WARNER FORM?

- No. Section II of the Pop Warner Physical Fitness and Medical History Form must be completed and signed by a licensed medical professional. The form is the official certification that your child has been cleared medically to participate in Pop Warner. The form must be signed on or after January 1st of the current calendar year.
 - If your child has a physical scheduled for June or July, you may submit the signed form separately from the rest of the registration packet. It **MUST** be on file before the first practice.
 - Onsite Physicals: We will be offering onsite physicals again this year. Registered players who are unable to have the physical and form completed by their regular doctor can attend the onsite physicals session.
 - Saturday, June 24, 8:00am – 10:00am, at Parks & Recreation office inside Harrisburg Town Hall
 - First come, first served – no appointments
 - \$25 CASH / EXACT AMOUNT ONLY

8. WHY DO I NEED TO PROVIDE A REPORT CARD?

- Pop Warner requires proof of scholastic fitness. Participants must have a minimum of a 2.0/70%, meets standards, or equivalent, to participate in the program.
 - If your child does not meet the scholastic requirements, a Pop Warner Scholastic Eligibility Form must be submitted with their registration packet. This form must be accompanied by a progressing progress report or report card to be eligible for play by the scholastic deadline. If no progressing progress report or report card is submitted by deadline, then the player shall be found ineligible for the rest of the year.

9. WHAT IF MY CHILD IS TRYING OUT FOR THE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM?

- In order to play Pop Warner football, you must register within the registration period. If, after registration, your player is selected for their school team, a full refund will be given upon parent/guardian's request and with proof of participation.

10. WHEN/HOW WILL WE BE CONTACTED REGARDING A TEAM/SQUAD PLACEMENT?

- Football: Drafts will take place after registration has ended. Once players have been drafted onto a team, the coach of that team should contact you, via the primary email or phone number you provided on the registration form, no later than the weekend before the start of practice.
- Cheer: Squads will be formed after registration has ended. The coach of your squad should contact you notifying you of your first practice day and time via the primary email or phone number you provided on the registration form.

11. PRACTICE INFORMATION:

- Football:
 - Practices start the 1st week of August. Practices are two nights a week for two hours (typically 6pm-8pm). For the first month, there will be Saturday practices in addition to the two weeknight practices. Once games start, practices may remain twice a week for the younger age groups. Junior Pee Wee and up may continue to practice three times a week. Practices are at the discretion of the coach and your coach will determine your practice days. Practices are typically Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday but may be any combination of days.
 - Practices will be held at Harrisburg Park.
- Cheerleading:
 - Practices start the 1st week of August. Practices are typically two nights a week for 1.5-2 hours. For the first month, there may also be Saturday practices until games/competition begin.
 - Practices will be held at Harrisburg Park or Stallings Park.

12. GAME INFORMATION:

- Football games may begin as soon as August 26th and are typically held on Saturdays, but some Friday evening games may be scheduled as well. The season typically ends in mid-November.
- Cheer coaches will notify parents/guardians regarding which game the cheer squads will cheer at that week.
- In addition to games hosted at Harrisburg Park, the Harrisburg Cowboys also travel to other Pop Warner associations within the Pop Warner Little Panthers League. For a complete list of associations and directions, please visit <http://www.popwarnerlittlepanthers.org/page/show/539947-game-sites>.
- Game schedules are created by Pop Warner and *are typically released the week prior to each game*. Pop Warner usually releases schedules the Monday prior to the first Saturday game.
- Game schedules may be found at the following link <http://www.popwarnerlittlepanthers.org/page/show/539948-schedules-and-results> and on the [Harrisburg Pop Warner Football webpage](#) as they are released by Pop Warner.

13. HOW TO BE A COACH:

- Parks & Recreation coaching requirements:
 - Potential coaches **must** be 18 years or older. ALL potential coaches must submit a Harrisburg Parks and Recreation Coaching Application (with Code of Conduct and Volunteer Waiver) for each new season. Background checks are valid for one year from approval date. If you do not have a current approved background check or yours will expire prior to the end of the season, a Criminal Records Authorization is also needed.
 - All volunteer coaching applications and authorizations must be submitted online at <https://www.harrisburgnc.org/227/Coaching>.
 - Approved coaches must attend a mandatory coach meeting. All coaches must have a current Parks & Recreation photo ID badge made with their background expiration date. Coaches are **required** to wear their ID badges at **all** practices and games.
- Pop Warner additional coaching requirements:
 - All potential coaches must submit the Pop Warner Little Scholars Official Volunteer Application – linked on the Pop Warner website: [Pop Warner National Forms](#).
 - All head coaches must **complete** the **USA Football Clinic** either online or by attending a scheduled in-person clinic. Head coaches must **attend** the four-hour Mid-south Region Coaches training which includes information on Pop Warner Rules and Philosophy, Risk Management, and the Pop Warner Code of Conduct. Completion of these requirements certifies head coaches through Pop Warner for three years.

The completion of the paperwork does not guarantee a coaching position.

CHEER ONLY:

DIVISIONS for FALL 2023 – placement will be based on age and experience:

Mitey Mites (7, 8 and 9 year olds):

- Will cheer weekly at one football game (home or away) and will work to coordinate a routine to perform at local cheer competition for exhibition only.
- This squad will not compete at competition but will strictly perform their routine for the audience to see and for practice.

Junior Pee Wee / Pee Wee (8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds):

- Will cheer weekly at one football game (home or away) and will work to coordinate a routine to perform at local cheer competition.
- This group may or may not “compete” at competition. Either way, they will still practice and perform a routine at local competition. The coach will determine whether the performance is for exhibition only or to compete, based on the skill level of the squad.

Junior Varsity (JV) (10, 11, 12 and 13 year olds):

- This squad will focus predominantly on competition. They may cheer at a few games during the season, but their focus will be on creating and practicing their routine for local cheer competition with the goal of qualifying for regional and/or national competition.

WARM UPS:

- Your coach may require you to purchase a set of warm-up clothes (jacket and/or pants) to wear. This would be an additional cost that is not part of the registration fee.

COMPETITION:

- All Pop Warner cheer squads are **REQUIRED** to attend Local Cheer Competition during the Fall 2023 Season. This is part of the requirements of being under the umbrella of the National Pop Warner Association. It is **mandatory** for each cheerleader to attend unless there is an extenuating circumstance. Your cheer squad relies on each cheerleader to be there. Your coach will work on a routine consisting of dance, cheers and stunts that are appropriate for your age group.
- Some squads will compete at competition and others will perform their routine as an exhibition only but will not be judged.
- Local competition is typically held the 3rd weekend in October (Saturday OR Sunday) and has been at a Cabarrus County high school the last few years. This is subject to change.
- If you are on the Junior Varsity Squad – you will be competing at Local Competition for judges. If you win and qualify, you are **REQUIRED** – per Pop Warner Rules – to attend Regional Competition. If you attend Regional Competition and win and qualify – you are again **REQUIRED** to attend National Cheer Competition in Orlando Florida in December. Your coach will give you more details on this.
- If your child is on the Junior Varsity squad that is competing, you should expect to incur travel expenses along with food expenses for the cheerleader and parent/family that are traveling. These could range from \$600-\$1000 per person.
- All cheerleaders who attend National Competition must be chaperoned by at least one parent. Pop Warner requires you stay on resort property and book through their travel agency. You are also required to stay for a minimum of two nights. Pop Warner is strict about these requirements. Details about this will be shared with you by your coach.

FUNDRAISING:

- In an effort to raise money to help cover the cost of the competition, if needed, the squad may participate in fundraisers throughout the season.

UNIFORMS:

- A uniform fitting will be scheduled prior to the start of the season. The date and time are TBD but will be sent to all families once a date is selected.
- The uniform, bloomers, bodysuit, and pom-poms must be returned at the end of the season. Items must be returned in the same condition they were received. Failure to return all items and/or any damage to items (stains, rips, etc.) will result in partial or full loss of equipment deposit.

Parks and Recreation Office Staff:

Erin Kegley-Parris, Recreation Manager (704) 455-0723
Mike Kirby, Recreation Coordinator (704) 455-0725
TBD, Recreation Coordinator

ekegley@harrisburgnc.org
mkirby@harrisburgnc.org

IMPORTANT DATES

ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON FIELD AVAILABILITY, WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND/OR OTHER FACTORS. "TBD" dates will be updated as they are confirmed.

COACHES MEETING:

Football: TBD
Cheer: TBD

PHYSICALS: A doctor will be onsite to do physicals for those who need them. No appointments - first come, first served.

Football and Cheer: Saturday, June 24, 8:00am – 10:00am only
Town Hall – Parks and Recreation Office
\$25 CASH / EXACT CHANGE ONLY
(Tentative and subject to change.)

DRAFTS:

Football: Early July
Cheer: N/A

PRACTICES:

Football: Week of August 1, 2023
Cheer: Week of August 1, 2023

GAMES:

Football: Early Sept
Cheer: Early Sept

END OF SEASON:

Football: Mid November
Cheer: Mid November

For more information on the 2023 fall season please visit us online at www.harrisburgnc.org or call the Parks and Recreation office at (704) 455-PARK (7275). We look forward to a successful season!