

**BYLAWS of the
LIBERTY LITTLE LEOPARDS ASSOCIATION**
(approved November 19, 2023)

Article 1. Players, Cheerleaders and Fans

Section 1: Each participant, including players and cheerleaders must meet the guidelines and follow the rules set by the Liberty Little Leopards (hereafter, LLL) and Eastern Ohio Youth Football League (hereafter, EOYFL). In cases of league participation, EOYFL rules and bylaws supersede LLL rules and bylaws.

Section 2: All football players and cheerleaders must live in Liberty Township or be currently enrolled in the Liberty Local School District unless participation is permitted by EOYFL residency/boundary rules. All EOYFL decisions on non-Liberty Township/School District residency/boundary cases are final.

Section 3: The age of a child shall be no younger than 5 years of age by August 1st and enrolled in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year and no older than 13 years of age by August 1st and enrolled in 6th grade for the upcoming school year to participate in the LLL, unless participation is permitted by EOYFL age and/or grade rules.

Section 4: Any football player or cheerleader that decides not to participate and has attended less than five (5) scheduled practices prior to August 1st may request a refund of registration fees, less the amount spent on league insurance. Fees may not be refunded unless all equipment is returned.

Section 5: All youth, coaches, and fans associated with the LLL will comply with the LLL and the EOYFL Code of Conduct. All parents and/or guardians must agree to and sign a Code of Conduct statement for each child at the beginning of each season. All fans must follow expected behaviors. Conduct code violations are grounds for dismissal from practices, games, and/or other LLL- or EOYFL-sanctioned events.

Section 6: Any player wishing to play on an LLL team outside of their grade group (e.g., a JV 4th grader who wishes to play at the Varsity level) must have the request reviewed by the head coach, athletic director, and approved by the Trustees. First year cheerleaders and football players who have not cheered or played before and meet certain age and weight requirements may play down a level, pending approval of the LLL and EOYFL. Any approval must not supersede EOYFL participation rules.

Section 7: Any football players or cheerleaders suspended or expelled from school shall not participate in games and or LLL functions until they return to school. The LLL follows Liberty Local School District's policy at a minimum and any additional reprimand will be at the head coach and Trustee discretion.

Article 2. Season Rules

Section 1: Rules that are adopted for the season shall remain in effect for that season.

Section 2: FOOTBALL. Playing time is determined by the head coach. However, each head coach is required to appoint one coach to serve as a “participation monitor.” It is the function of the participation monitor to ensure each player is participating in the game in a meaningful way. This does not require equal playing time for all children. However, every effort must be made to ensure all children are playing in games.

Before each game, the coaching staff should meet to discuss strategies for including all children in the game, and when possible, prepare player substitution rotation schedules.

During the game, when substituting football players, the participation monitor should coordinate with the defensive and offensive coordinators to ensure all coaches are aware of those who have not played or have had minimal playing time.

After the game, the coaching staff should meet to discuss the outcome of the game, and to meet with those players who may have received less than average playing time. The purpose of this meeting is to explain to these players what they can do to improve to increase their playing time. In cases where parents/caregivers are concerned about the lack of playing time for their children, the head coach and participation monitor will meet with said parent/caregiver to develop a strategy for preparing the player to participate in the next game.

Section 3: All equipment shall be returned on a date announced by the equipment manager. In the event that equipment is not returned, or reimbursement has not been made for non-returned equipment, the child and family will be excluded from participating in any LLL activities until returns have been made.

Section 4: All cheerleading and/or football players parents are required to participate in all fundraising events and volunteer to work one of the following :

- Concession stand, game or practice;
- Chain gang, game setup and or clean up;
- Live fundraising events (car washes, night at the races, 50/50, etc.).

If parents/caregivers do not volunteer, the football player or cheerleader will not be able to attend the end-of-season banquet and will not receive a trophy. The Trustees hold the right to make changes to this role when there are special circumstances. Parents and caregivers are responsible for signing the roll sheet to receive volunteer credit.

Section 5: To work the concession stand, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age or have permission from the concession manager and receive Trustees approval.

Section 6: All registration fees must be paid by the first day of practice. If a late registration is submitted, the family will have two weeks to pay registration fees in full. Failure to fulfill these obligations will result in non-participation in games.