



## **Cooper City Optimists “CCO” Colts Bylaws Tackle Football & Cheerleading**

### **1 - Organization (Name)**

The organization shall be known as the Colts Tackle Football & Cheerleading or Program, the Colts operates on a non-profit basis, for the benefits of the children who play and cheer. The Colts will participate in the American Youth Football League (AYFL) and the American Youth Football League Cheerleading (AYFLC) and the regulations set forth by the CCO, Colts, AYFL & AYFLC.

### **2 - Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Colts to develop a commitment within the community to foster the growth of tackle football and competitive cheerleading. This organization is concerned with guiding and directing individuals toward the maximum development of their talent and abilities. Further, this organization strives to instill in youth athletes, an understanding and appreciation for such motivation, goal setting and goal achievements through healthy competition, individual challenges and exposure to varied coaching styles.

### **3 - Objectives**

The Colts through its Board Members and Coaching Staff will endeavor to teach, train and motivate young people to achieve their ultimate potential in TACKLE FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING, in the belief that the experience will prove valuable to them as they grow and develop.

The Parents will support their children in these efforts. As such, the Objectives of the Organization are:

- ★ To provide opportunities for youths to participate in team sports in a safe, well-supervised environment.
- ★ To promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork and “healthy” competition.
- ★ To operate with priorities in the following order
  - Provide the opportunity to play in a competitive and travel league
  - Strive to develop the confidence and self-esteem of each individual participant.
- ★ To promote and maintain physical exercise, physical fitness, and moral wellbeing of children.
- ★ To engage, assist, encourage, participate, and teach tackle football and cheerleading.
- ★ To further sportsmanship and honor among children in a competitive atmosphere.

- ★ To promote and oversee amateur games, contests, sports and athletics while elevating the standards and competitive level of amateur athletics.
- ★ To foster and encourage community pride through local amateur athletics
- ★ To instill wholesome values in youngsters and young adults
- ★ To organize a league of teams for the purpose of playing tackle football and cheerleading including obtaining coaches, and sponsors of the teams.
- ★ To raise money through registration fees, sponsor fees, and other activities which are necessary to organize the said league, purchase the necessary equipment, and in general to achieve the purpose of this organization.

#### **4 - Board Members**

The Colts Tackle Football & Cheerleading Commissioner (“Commissioner”) is appointed by the Cooper City Optimist Club (CCO).

The Colts Board Members (“Board”) will be selected by the Commissioner of the Colts. The board will consist of 8 members. Members will serve a one year period and shall have one vote per person. Board Members are encouraged to attend all meetings, and may be removed if they are unable to attend meetings or perform responsibilities as assigned. Anyone volunteering for a committee chair will report directly to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner can remove any Board Member, coach or team parent engaging in activities contrary to the best interest of the Colts as the Commissioner deems necessary.

#### **5 - Coaches’ Responsibilities**

It is an honor and privilege to coach for the Colts, not a right. The Colts Commissioner, with input from the Football Board, will assign Head Coaches.

Coaches must remember that this a youth program and should treat is as such. While winning is fun, a coach’s responsibility is to teach teamwork, sportsmanship and skill in football and cheerleading. Coaches are encouraged to make every effort to play every eligible roster player/cheerleader. While not a requirement in travel football, every coach is encouraged to make every effort to play every roster player in a scheduled game. However in cheerleading and Prep Football all player/cheerleaders will participate unless there are disciplinary reasons.

The Members of the Coaches team or squad are not professional athletics. Emotional, physical and verbal abuse toward any participant, referee, league or club official will not be tolerated. Coaches who cannot adhere to this policy will not be permitted to continue to coach in this program.

In the event a head coach cannot complete the season, he must advise the Commissioner immediately and the Commissioner will select a replacement.

Online rosters will be provided to head coaches by the May Football and Cheer Staff Meeting. COACHES DO NOT SELECT OR DRAFT THEIR TEAM. Any dispute over age and/or weight will be settled by the Commission or Football Board.

There will be no team/squad meetings prior to the “Meet the Colts” (except as sanctioned by the AFYL).

Travel Football & Cheer head coaches and staff must attend the Colts club certification and the AYFL League certifications to receive their sideline badge.

All head Travel Football coaches will be responsible for selecting their staff including a team mom, trainer and six (6) assistant coaches. The Colts Commissioner must approve all staff personnel.

Travel Football, Cheer and Prep Head coaches are responsible for the collection and return of all equipment, uniforms and League Book, to the Colts program, at the end of the season.

Travel Football, Cheer and Prep Head coaches will be held accountable for the conduct of all staff members, players/cheerleaders and spectators associated with their team/squad.

Any rules infraction (Club or League) by any member of a team/squad could result in immediate suspension. Only the Commissioner can grant reinstatement.

Any coach or staff member is responsible for league fines, due to his/her personal misconduct, must reimburse the program for all monetary losses incurred.

Head coaches are required to attend or send representative(s) to participate in every monthly Staff meetings and every scheduled fundraiser. Football and Cheer Staff meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, but may be change by the Commissioner.

Head coaches will obtain their required team/squad sponsorship. The amount will be set by the Football Board each year.

Head coaches are responsible for concession set-up, staffing and clean-up for one home game during the season for the entire day.

The Commissioner reserves the right to dismiss or suspend any Coach (Head or Assistant) and/or Team Parent during any point of the season, as deemed by the Commissioner to be in the best interests of the program. A coach may appeal this decision by addressing this matter before the Football Board.

Any violation of program rules or AYFL/AYFLC league rules will be reported to Colts AYFL/AYFLC Representative and Head Football or Cheer Coach and the Colts Football Board immediately. No coach will report violations directly to AYFL officials' without first reporting it to the Colts Football Board. The board will investigate said allegations and report to the AYLF, if necessary.

## **6 - Player/Cheerleading Responsibilities**

Football players and cheerleaders will conduct themselves properly at all times, as they are official representatives of the Colts and the City of Cooper City/Davie. Good sportsmanship is a must, including proper language. A positive attitude and willingness to work hard are essential.

Any player willfully damaging the Colts property will be suspended from all activities until the damage has been compensated for or repaired. Reinstatement is subject to the Commissioner's approval.

Uniforms will be furnished by the Colts. Uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season in the same condition (other than normal wear) as they were issued. Lost or damaged uniforms will have to be paid for by the player or cheerleader assigned to that uniform.

The Colts uniform should be worn with pride and kept neat and clean. There are no other accessories to be worn with the game uniform. Game uniform is to be only what is provided. Game uniform is to be worn on game day only. Players or cheerleaders wearing their game uniform to practice will be sent home. Failure to return all equipment and uniforms at the end of the season will result in suspension from all other Cooper City Optimist sports until returned or paid for.

Any player or cheerleader found to be disrespectful before, during or after practice or game or any Colts or AYFL/AFLC event, will be "immediately suspended from the program." If so, uniform and equipment will be returned, immediately, to their Head Coach or a Colts Football/Cheer administrator. Suspended player/cheerleader will also be removed from current season roster.

In addition to the above rules, a player or cheerleader must remember:

- ★ his/her commitment to the team/squad.
- ★ his/her actions on and off the field greatly affect the team/squad.
- ★ not to wear jewelry to games or practices
- ★ not to use profanity.
- ★ not to leave a game or practice without permission.
- ★ to be respectful, show good sportsmanship to other participants, coaches and staff members.

Players and Cheerleaders will be immediately dismissed if:

- ★ caught smoking, drinking or using drugs
- ★ exhibit unbecoming conduct that reflects upon the reputation of the Colts and/or CCO
- ★ or not following the rules and regulations of the Colts and AYFL/AFLC

ANY PLAYER/CHEERLEADER NOT ABIDING BY THE ABOVE RULES FACES SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM. REINSTATEMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY BY APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD ALONG WITH PARENTS AND COACHES.

## **7 - Parent Responsibilities**

Parents are spectators and the use of alcoholic beverages, profanity and negative conduct towards any coach, player or official can result in the suspension of the parent from games and/or practices. Parents that have any issues with anything have to do with their child's team, will address the matter with their head coach. This should be at a time and place mutually agreed upon by parent and Head Coach. If the issue cannot be resolved, said issue will be brought in front of the Football Board. Anyone, who purposely attempts to influence players, cheerleaders or other parents in a negative way, FACES SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM.

Parent/spectators will not be permitted on the practice or game fields. They will watch from a designated area set forth by the Colts and/or the league.

Any possible violation of the AYFL, AFLC or Colts rules will be reported to the Head football/Cheer coach and the Colts Football Board immediately. No parent/spectator will report violations directly to the AYFL officials without first

reporting it to the Colts Football Board. The Board will investigate said allegations and report to the AYFL, if necessary. Any violation of the above bylaw can result in dismissal from the program.

The coaches are not responsible for supervision of a child after the normal practice and/or game schedule. Parents shall arrive on time to receive their child/children and any update information.

Practices and games are mandatory. Your child's tardiness and/or absence greatly affect the team and will reflect on your child's playing time. Coaches must be contacted prior to practice or game start, if unable to attend. Parents need to be aware that extended vacations during the season could affect the team's preparation and thus impact playing time.

In case of inclement weather, unless notified by a coach, all players and cheerleaders will report to practices and games. (Games and practices are not automatically cancelled due to rain.)

Please do not address coaches during practices or games. Parents are not allowed on the practice field or game field during practices or games, at any time. All issues are to be discussed prior to or after practices and games. Confrontations should never occur in the presence of players or cheerleaders.

Please address all concerns regarding your child with your head coach or your team's/squad's adult staff member. The Commissioner is to be addressed if the issue is unresolved or is in regards to the head coach.

Depending on the financial needs of the program, each participant will be required to: (a) participate in a minimum of two (2) fundraisers (depending on the type of items being sold, funds may be collected up from when items are distributed) or, (b) participate in the buyout option (buyout option price will be set by the Board).

Parents are required to help with concession during their child's/children's, team's/squad's assigned home game. Each player/cheerleader is required to have a parent work one shift (approximately two hours).

Players/Cheerleaders are assessed by the Board and placed on appropriate teams and squads in accordance with the guidelines set by the AYFL/AYFLC including age, weight, program need, experience and tryout score. Coaches do not hand pick or draft their team or squad.

Assist your child's coaching staff in obtaining the required team/squad sponsorship. The registration fee requirements of the player/cheerleader must be submitted prior to the distribution of equipment and uniforms. A parent or guardian must accompany his/her child to a mandatory meeting "Meet the Colts."

## **8 - Colts Rules**

### **8.1 – Head Coach Selection**

All persons interested in head coaching a team or squad for the following season must submit, in writing their intentions and qualifications to be a head coach to the Commissioner prior to February 1, all applications will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis.

The Commissioner, with input from the Board will select head coaches based on, but not limited to, the criteria stated below:

Coaching skills, personal demeanor, years with the program, past performances with the program, past conformance to the Colts Tackle Football & Cheerleading Rules and coaching obligations, participation and involvement with the program, background checks, cooperation with the Board, other coaches and team Parents, participation in field set-ups, concessions, and other functions of the program.

All head-coaching applicants will be interviewed by the Football Board. All new head coaches must be an assistant coach in the Colts program, for one year, prior to applying for Head Coach. Head Coach Applicant, who wishes to have this clause waived, must bring a petition to the Football Board.

## **8.2 – Team and Squad Participation Placement**

Try-outs may be necessary for teams/squads. (League maximum: 35 players per team and 25 cheerleaders per squad). If a try-out is necessary, all participants must be present and follow all try-out rules to be considered for a team or squad. Try-outs will be determined by the Board based on the number of participants registered during the current year. City residents will have preference (no city resident will be cut before a non-city resident).

## **8.3 – Practice Schedules**

Prior to school start: Fifteen (15) hours maximum per week.

After school starts: Ten (10) hours maximum per week.

No more than one (1) practice session a day.

Practice schedules can increase for play-offs, super bowl and cheer competitions as long as it is in line with the AYFL/AYFLC bylaws.

## **9 - Registration Fees**

Registration fees will be set by the Board each year according to the financial needs of the program. No player/cheerleader can participate in the program, if registration fees are not submitted.

### **9.1 – Refund Policy**

#### **9.2.1 – Tackle Football**

There will be no refunds issued to those leaving the Program voluntarily at any time after a player is registered. If a player is removed from the Program for disciplinary reasons, no refund will be given. If a player is “cut” due to roster limitations, a full refund will be given.

#### **9.2.2 – Cheerleading**

There are no refunds issued at any time after a player/cheerleader is registered.

## **10 - Post Season Tournaments**

The Head Coach must get Board approval to participate in any post season tournament not sanctioned by the Colts or the AYFL. Requests must be submitted to the Football Board no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>. A fundraiser plan must be submitted to the Football Board by the Head Coach at the time of the Formal Request to participate. Head Coach and players must remember that they are representing the Colts and any negative behavior in post season tournaments will be brought in front of the Football Board for disciplinary action.

For a change in these bylaws, a written proposal must be made and presented to the Football Board before the April meeting. These bylaws are effective for one full year. If no changes are submitted, these bylaws will stand for the following year.