

CALAVERAS JUNIOR REDSKINS

YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER ASSOCIATION



BY-LAWS AND RULES

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MOTHER LODE YOUTH ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

ARTICLE I **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association is a Non-Profit Organization, devoted solely to provide the opportunity to the youth of this area to participate in football and cheer under the rules and regulations of the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference (MLYAC).

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the Association is to inspire our youth to practice ideals of health, citizenship, and character. To bring our youth together through common interest in sportsmanship, fair play, and fellowship. To impart elements of safety, sanity, and intelligent supervision, and keeping the welfare of our youth first and foremost.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE:

To allow boys and girls that may or may not play high school or college football or cheerleading to learn the fundamentals of the game.

To teach sportsmanship, the love of the game, and the ability to take a few hard knocks and bumps.

To promote and maintain the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association as a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free organization for the future of our youth.

To promote safe play by encouraging boys and girls to play only weight grade and age appropriate divisions.

To promote academic excellence.

To keep the welfare of our boys and girls first, foremost, and free of adult ambitions for personal glory.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: QUALIFICATIONS and DESIGNATION:

The membership of the Association shall be comprised of boys, girls, parents, legal guardians, and other adults who live in the Calaveras Unified School District. They will be a part of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

SECTION 2: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

1. All volunteer men and women who are actively serving in administrative assistant or activity capacities as recognized volunteers in the promotion and operation of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.
2. Any boy or girl who is in no higher than the eighth grade, and will turn **eight (8)** by that current school year, and who will not turn **fifteen (15)** by December first (**1st**) is eligible. Age is determined relative to December 1st of the current year for conference eligibility.

ARTICLE III
FEES

SECTION 3: REGISTRATION:

Football Registration fees for each player is \$150.00. This fee is Non-Refundable.

Cheerleading Registration fees for one player is **\$75.00**. This does **NOT** include the purchase of a complete cheer uniform. This fee is Non-Refundable.

All Registration fees for both Football and Cheer are due and payable on the designated registration day. No Exceptions.

All Football and Cheer Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.

Football and Cheer Registration Forms will not be accepted without payment.

Registration Forms that are turned in without payment will be considered incomplete and the player will go on a waiting list.

All Registration forms are required to have a copy of a Certified Birth Certificate. Registration forms turned in without a Certified Birth Certificated will be considered incomplete. No exceptions.

All Football Players and Cheerleaders must complete a physical in the current year. The forms must be turned in to the Executive Board Members before HELL WEEK or the Child will not be able to participate until physical is authorized and complete.

All cheer uniforms will be paid in full prior to ordering the uniform. The Cheer Advisor will set up a payment due date, if that date is not met a full refund will be issue for the uniform only and the Cheerleader will be taken off the roster. No exceptions.

Returned checks will be charged a \$25.00 bank fee. Child will not be able to play or perform until return (NSF) check is reconciled with the Executive Board by paying cash or money order.

SECTION 4: REFUNDS:

All registration fees are Non-Refundable.

Once a Cheer Uniform has been ordered there will be no refund issued.

If a Disciplinary action is taken no refund will be issued.

SECTION 5: INSURANCE:

All Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference football teams are required to carry accident and liability insurance. If your child needs medical care due to an injury sustained during practice or game play we will put you in contact with the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference Treasurer who will assist you in filing your claim.

ARTICLE IV **GOVERNING BOARD**

SECTION 1: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:

The officers of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Varsity Head Coach and Cheerleader Advisor. These officers will be considered as the EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS. Other General Board Members will consist of Junior Varsity Head Coach, Bantam Head Coach, and Mighty Mites Head Coach.

*To hold the position of President you must be a member of the Executive Board for one year. *

1. Executive Board may appoint coordinators for the following positions as needed:
 - Snack Bar Coordinator
 - Gate Coordinator
 - Booth Coordinator
 - Field Coordinator
 - Special Events Coordinator
 - Equipment Coordinator
 - Fundraiser Coordinator
 - Alternate Executive Board Member- An alternated Executive Board Member can be elected on an annual basis and will be required to attend all scheduled meetings with voting rights only in the event of an absent Executive Board Member.

2. All Board Members & appointed Coordinators referred to in this section will have the privileges

in to help make decisions for the Calaveras Junior Redskins Association including voting rights.

3. The Executive Board will take an application for services of the Executive Board open position at the end of each season. The Executive Board for the open position will interview each applicant. The Executive Board will make a recommendation to the Membership for acceptance at the annual post-season meeting. Each position is asked to serve 2 calendar years. President, Treasurer, and Cheer Advisor, will be elected in the odd years and the Vice President, Secretary and Varsity Head Coach in the even years.
4. Board members will be required to attend meetings and take an active part in all meetings. If an officer is absent from three consecutive meetings or it seems an officer is not serving in an active roll they will be contacted as to their future involvement with the Association.
5. Officers can be removed from the board by a majority vote of the officers for non-compliance and or lack of participation in meetings, operations, and or direct violations of rules, regulations and policies. If an officer has personal obligations or problems that affect their participation in their duties other arrangements should be discussed.
6. If for some reason an Executive Board Member resigns from their duties the Executive Board may appoint an individual to the open position.
7. At the Executive Board Discretion a league Head Coach can be appointed to fill any Head Coach position.

SECTION 2: OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:

PRESIDENT: Assist in registration and record keeping.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all regular and special meetings. The President shall participate in decision making and voting on all issues of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association. The President shall vote in the event of a tie or if there are not enough Board Members to vote.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside at all regular and special meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall participate in decision making and voting on all issues of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

SECRETARY:

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the full and complete Minutes and Agenda of the regular and special meetings and to carry on such correspondence as the Association and the President direct. A copy shall be provided prior to each meeting to be voted on and accepted as presented or amended. It is also the duty of the Secretary to send all e-mails to the Association, file notices with the newspaper and write correspondence as directed by the Executive Board Members. The Secretary shall participate in decision making and voting on all issues of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

TREASURER: Assist in registration and record keeping.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, deposit, disburse, and keep complete and accurate accounting of all monies. The Treasurer shall secure authorization at regular and special meetings

for all disbursements of funds. The Treasurer shall have the accounts and records ready for audit at any general meeting. The Treasurer will give a full detail record of accounts received and paid at each meeting. The Treasurer will have a reconciliation and audit of the football year, prior to the annual meeting, and to submit a complete financial report of the Associations receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer will participate in decision making and voting on issues of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

Varsity Head Football Coach:

The JV, Bantam, Mighty Mites and all Assistants Coaches of said team is under the direct supervision of the Varsity Head Coach. It is the duty of the Head Coaches to explain to their assistants and staff they will be part of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association. They will be subject to all rules and regulations set forth by the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association as well as those of the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference (MLYAC). It is the Head Coaches responsibility to obtain a coaching application from each assistant or staff member and submit the application to the Executive Board for approval. Complete coordination and cooperation with the Treasurer in regards to equipment and uniform inventory, condition and order. The Head Varsity Football Coaches shall participate in decision making and voting on all issues of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

Cheer Advisor:

The Varsity, JV, Bantam and Assistant Coaches of said squads is under the direct supervision of the Cheer Advisor. It is the duty of the Cheer Advisor to teach the cheerleading (spirit) squad to promote spirit and fan participation for the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association and to explain to their assistants and staff they will be part of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association. They will be subject to all rules and regulations set forth by the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association as well as those of the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference (MLYAC). It is the Cheer Advisors responsibility to obtain a coaching application from each assistant or staff member and submit the applications to the Executive Board for approval. Complete coordination and cooperation with the Treasurer in regards to equipment and uniform inventory, condition and order. The Cheer Advisor shall participate in decision making and voting on all issues of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Varsity Head Coach
JV Head Coach
Bantam Head Coach
Mighty Mites Head Coach
Assistant Coaches

Cheer Advisor
Varsity Head Coach
JV Head Coach
Bantam Head Coach
Assistant Coaches

SECTION 3: COMMITTEES

1. The Executive Board may establish new positions or committees as considered necessary
2. The Executive Board shall appoint Committee Coordinators such as Snack Bar, Gate, Booth, Field, and Special Events.
3. The committee coordinators will obtain volunteers that will comply with the said By-Laws.

SECTION 4: COACHING REQUIREMENTS & SELECTION PROCESS

1. The Head Coaches of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association shall consist of a Varsity Head Coach, Junior Varsity Head Coach, Bantam Head Coach and Mighty Mites Head Coach must be 21 years of age or over, and their assistants must be at least 18 years of age or over.
2. The Executive Board will select the Head Coaches, only after all applications have been reviewed and presented to the Executive Board by the Varsity Head Coach and Cheer Advisor. The Secretary shall advertisement in all local papers, and at least one open meeting for the general public to submit additional applications for consideration.
3. All Head Coaches will be asked for at least a two-year commitment to the organization, and for a two-year commitment to the level that they are applying for. Coaches will therefore be selected on the basis of coaching experience, the length of their commitment to the program, ability to work well with the youth of our community, and above all for the general good of the entire program and the security of the young men and women left in their charge.
4. All Coaches will be required to fill out a Coaches application annually.
5. Head Coaches will be required to attend at least one certified coaching clinic before the start of each new season, and to be certified in CPR for each season.
6. All Head Coaches will submit a coaching application for their assistants to the Executive Board for approval. The Executive Board must approve all application.
7. Head coaches and Assistant Coaches shall not be allowed to coach any immediate family member (including their stepsons or children legally left in their custody), unless a waiver is submitted to the Executive Board.
8. The Varsity Head Coach will make every attempt to make the General Board and meetings all practices.
9. The Varsity Head Coach will organize and run the Hell Week program.
10. The Varsity Head Coach will designate a set of Coaches for late sign-ups in preparation of Hell Week.

SECTION 4: COACHING CHAIN OF COMMAND

1. All coaches will work within the structure of their coaching staff, and will use the steps provided to them by the chain of command to settle or appeal all problems related to the team or association.
2. No coach will be allowed to work outside the chain of command, and can be removed by the Executive Board from the coaching staff for any violation of the chain of command.

CHAIN OF COMMAND:

1. All Assistant Coaches will report to the Head Coach of their division.
2. All Head Coaches will report to the Varsity Head Coach. If there are unresolved issues requiring action the Varsity Head Coach will bring the issue to the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board can be held responsible for their actions, and are under the direct authority of the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference.

STUDENT ATHLETE AND PARENT CHAIN OF COMMAND:

1. The student athlete should first approach his or her individual Head Coach with any questions or concerns regarding his or her personal evaluation or treatment by the coaching staff.
2. If not settled, the parent or legal guardian may now approach their child's individual Head Coach with any questions or concerns regarding the athlete's personal evaluation or treatment by the coaching staff.
3. If not settled, the parent or legal guardian should approach the programs Varsity Head Coach/Cheer Advisor with any questions or concerns regarding the athlete's personal evaluation or treatment by the coaching staff.
4. If the problem is not settled to the satisfaction of the parent or legal guardian the parent has the right to appeal their position to the Executive Board in writing.

*** All questions or complaints will only be heard before or after practice NOT DURING PRACTICE OR DURING A GAME. Coaches or Board Members will meet at their earliest convenience.**

SECTION 5: VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION FORM

Volunteer participation forms are to be completed by all volunteers prior to participating with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association. All information will be kept in strict confidentiality. This is to include all persons involved with the Calaveras Junior Redskins, with the exception of Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Cheerleader Advisor, and Cheer Assistants. Coaches, Advisors, and Assistants are required to complete a coaching application ethics contract.

These are to be completed signed and returned to the Executive Board for approval.

All applicants will have a complete background check annually.

SECTION 6: MEGAN'S LAW

All volunteers in this Association will provide written permission to check with local law enforcement sex offender registration files. If registered as a sex offender you may not participate as a volunteer in this Association.

In order to be able to volunteer and be participating in the field you must have an issued Photo Identification card issued by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V **Disbursement of Funds**

The Executive Board approves all purchases over \$50. Purchases under \$50 should be for emergency purposes only and when at all possible approved through an Executive Board Member. At the next Executive or Governing Board meeting all small expenses should be discussed and noted in the Minutes. Payment of all bills will be approved by the Executive Board and paid through the Treasurer. Large expenses, which may necessitate use of personal lines of credit, need to be coordinated with the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI **LIMITATIONS, PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOOTBALL** **PLAYERS, CHEERLEADERS, VOLUNTEER ADULTS, PARENTS OR** **LEGAL GUARDIANS**

SECTION 1: PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS

1. No young athlete, boy or girl, shall be denied the right to participate because of race, religion, color, creed, or physical handicap.
2. Any young athlete, boy or girl, who is in no higher than the 8th grade, will turn 8 by December 1st of the current year or be in the 5th grade, and who will not turn fifteen by December 1st is eligible.
3. No high school student can participate in the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association as a player or cheerleader.
4. All participants must live within the Calaveras Unified School District boundaries, which define our team's population of players. The Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference Board may grant certain exceptions.
5. Non-public school students can participate in our program subject to appropriate age, grade, and weight requirements.
6. Each boy or girl must furnish proof of parental or legal guardian permission to participate, and they must pay a registration fee.

7. Provide copy of the child's state or county live birth certificate must be presented and secured as a permanent record to be presented when your child is participating in any conference game (Cheer and Football).
8. All participants must pass a sports physical examination in order to participate, and also meet all requirements and procedures as defined in the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference By-Laws. (See MLYAC By-Laws for individual age, grade, and weight requirements)
9. As a general rule, all players should be advised to play at their highest level at which they are capable of accomplishing. Which their coaching staff should determine.
10. The Calaveras Junior Redskins Board feels that our young men and women have to become student athletes, and their grades are more important than participating in football or cheerleading. If a player or cheerleader is having difficulty with their grades in school, the parents or legal guardian should discuss these matters with their child's coach or advisor.
11. Due to numerous injuries and liability to the Calaveras Junior Redskins organization and the schools where we hold practices or games there are some new rules as follows:
 - No climbing on the trees.
 - No sitting or standing on the chains.
 - No climbing or sitting on the electrical transformer.
 - No sliding on the hillsides.
 - Parents and siblings will be required to stay in a designated area set by the Board.
 - Parents are responsible for their own children. They may not run around the campus without adult supervision.
 - Parents and siblings are not allowed on the playing field DURING PRACTICE OR GAMES.
12. There will be **NO** collection of money by any member of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Association unless the Executive Board authorizes the individual.

*** MLYAC ACADEMIC STANDARDS:**

It is the recommendation of the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference that players and cheerleaders maintain acceptable grades in order to participate in the football program. Players and cheerleaders must maintain a 2.0 or "C" average to be qualified. The various teams in the league shall adopt locally developed policies to ensure that the grades of players and cheerleaders are acceptable. The conference board will support the decisions of the various teams on this matter.

13. Parents or guardians you are responsible for determining whether your player or cheerleaders performance in school is acceptable.

NOTE: If a player or cheerleader misses a day of school on a practice day due to illness, suspension or expulsion, they cannot participate in practice that day.

14. Football is a high intensity contact sport, cheerleading is also a demanding physical sport, and both sports require many hours of practice. The Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association believes in promoting dedication to the individual sports and team members. If your child misses a practice they may be asked to sit out a quarter. If they miss a week of

practice it is up to the coach to determine play or cheer. Most often the child is not allowed to play or cheer the next game.

15. The smoking of tobacco products, chewing tobacco, and the use of drugs and alcohol are prohibited to all players and cheerleaders during practice, games, or in the public as a representative of the team or cheer squad.
16. Grounds for removal from the team or squad:
 - Poor attendance or excessive tardiness to practice or games.
 - Suspension or expulsion from school.
 - Proven association with drugs or alcohol.
 - Attitude disruptive to the rest of the team or squad or poor conduct in public as a representative of the team or squad.
 - Physical safety or well being of the player or cheerleader
 - Fighting on or off campus

Anyone affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association found to have violated THIS SECTION OR SECTION 2 might be suspended upon the order of the President until a board meeting can be set up to review and investigate the charges placed against him or her.

SECTION 2: ADULTS (TO INCLUDE BUT NOT EXCLUDE), PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND ALL OTHER ADULT VOLUNTEERS

1. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association must be at least eighteen years of age (Head Coaches 21 years of age).
2. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association shall always strive to make every football activity a training ground for life for our young players and cheerleaders.
3. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association will not criticize the opposing team, coaches or fans by improper comments or gestures.
4. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association will not incite un-sportsman like conduct, will not strike or threaten to strike a game official, coach, board member, officer, director of any conference, league association, booster club, parent, guardian or spectator.
5. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association will not permit the unauthorized use of funds committed to their custody in conjunction with their participation in the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association.

******* Improper use of funds could lead to prosecution by the local authorities*******

6. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association will always set a good example in personal appearance, behavior and actions while engaged in the practice, games, fund raisers, meetings, or in the public as a representative of the team or cheer squad.

7. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association shall not participate in any activities with our youth and the program while under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages.
8. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association will not take part in the smoking of tobacco products, chewing of tobacco, or the use of drugs or alcohol while in the presence of players and cheerleaders during practice, games, team meetings, fund raisers, or while transporting players or cheerleaders.
9. Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association shall refrain from using abusive or vulgar language while in the presence of players and cheerleaders during practice, games, team meetings, fund raisers, or while transporting players or cheerleaders.
10. During a practice or a football game ALL PARENTS/GUARDIAN are to be seated in the stands. NO PARENT /GUARDIAN is allowed on the track or on the field.

Adults affiliated with the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association found to have violated this section and section 1 may be suspended upon the order of the President until a board meeting can be set up to review and investigate the charges placed against him or her. These adults can and will be removed from all Junior Redskins functions on a temporary or permanent basis.

ARTICLE VII UNIFORMS

1. The Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association purchases only top grade protective equipment for its football players. All equipment is checked and repaired regularly, and helmets are certified annually.
2. Hydration is extremely important! Parents please have your child bring more than enough water to each practice.
3. During the first week of conditioning (Hell Week), a ten (10) hour required conditioning period the following should be worn:
 - Comfortable tennis shoes, T-shirt or football jersey, socks, shorts or sweat pants (loose fitting)
 - Coaches may require a Redskin practice jersey
4. After the initial ten (10) hour conditioning week each Football Player/Cheer Leader will be issued a full practice uniform. Practice uniforms are required to be worn at all practices unless otherwise instructed by their Head Coach.
5. Football uniforms are the property of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association. During our football season this equipment is in the care and responsibility of each parent and player. Junior Redskins game and practice uniforms will be distributed at the beginning of the season and must be returned:
 - a. Immediately after the last game of the regular season, or following any play-off games,

super bowl, and other games, each Head Coach will set a time and date for the returning of all football gear.

- b. When a player and his parent or legal guardian has decided not to go on playing football for our program. This should be done within one (1) week of the player quitting.
- c. After a player injury, that would restrict him or her from finishing the current football season.

*******The Head Coach should make these arrangements as soon as possible.*******

6. Player and parent or legal guardian will not be responsible for equipment that needs to be replaced due to injury, or normal wear and tear.
7. Player and parent or legal guardian is responsible for the purchase of acceptable football shoes.
8. When the players football equipment is not returned as indicated above the player and parent or legal guardian will be billed the following replacement costs:

Football Equipment	Replacement Cost
Helmet	100.00
Helmet Facemask	25.00
Shoulder Pads	75.00
Girdle	10.00
Girdle Pads	12.00
Thigh Pads	12.00
Knee Pads	10.00
Practice Jersey	15.00
Practice Pants	15.00
Game Jersey	75.00
<u>Game Pants</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Replacement Cost	\$ 399.00

**Prices may change without notification

One (1) complimentary mouthpiece is provided at the beginning of the season, but there will be a fee for the replacement of a mouthpiece lost, misplaced or in need of replacement.

SECTION 2: CHEER

*******No short shorts, tank tops, low cut shirts or belly showing shirts are allowed.*******

- **ALL COACHING STAFF, CHEERLEADERS AND GAURDIANS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE POLICYS OF UNDERSTANDING PREPARED BY THE CHEER ADVISOR AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SEASON.**
 - **THE POLICYS OF UNDERSTANDING WILL BE PART OF OUR BY-LAWS.**
1. During the practice, the following should be worn:
 - Comfortable tennis shoes, socks and spirit pack (t-shirt & shorts) purchased with uniform.

- Hell week is a ten (10) hour required conditioning period.
- Hydration is extremely important! Parents please have your child bring more than enough water to each practice.

CHEER ATTENDANCE POLICY

Authority:

Calaveras Junior Redskins Football & Cheer Association in conjunction with the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference (MYLAC).

Definitions:

1. **Tardy** – Anytime a cheerleader arrives to practice later than the scheduled start time
2. **Absence**- Anytime a cheerleader does not attend, or misses one half of a scheduled event, to include practice, games, etc. with 24 hours or more notice.
3. **Unexcused** – Any absence or tardy that notice was not given 24 hours in advance.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a standardized attendance policy to be utilized by the entire cheer squad and coaches.

Policy:

1. **24 hours advanced notice shall be given on any absences or tardies if it is to be excused. Notice can be given either in writing or e-mail. Phone call will be accepted as long as they are followed by a written note or e-mail.**
2. **Three (3) unexcused absences, tardies or combination of absences and tardies will be grounds for dismissal from the cheer squad.**
3. **Each unexcused TARDY will result in the cheerleader missing one quarter per occurrence of the following game. However they will be required to show up at the game at the same time designated by their coach.**
4. **Each unexcused ABSENCE will result in the cheerleader missing two quarters and ½ time routine occurrence of the following game; however, they will be required to show up at the time designated by their coach.**
5. **Non-participation during cheer practice will be considered an unexcused absence.**

The following Cheerleading rules became into affect as of April 2008. Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference Cheerleading Rules and Regulations

All MLYAC league rules and regulations shall apply to all cheerleaders and cheer coaches and advisors, in addition to the following amendments:

Purpose

The Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference Cheerleading Program is an integral part of our total youth football program and contributes highly to an individual's overall education and growth as a young person. The Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference Cheerleading Program is in place to promote spirit, develop teamwork and sportsmanship, and provide a safe environment in which cheerleading participants can learn and have fun. It is the intention of this organization to allow any child who wants to cheer the opportunity to participate. Depending on the number of cheerleaders, availability of uniforms, the number of coaches available, etc, it may be necessary to limit squad sizes.

Safety

No issue is of greater importance than the safety of our young cheerleaders and mascots; none is more worthy of the attention of coaches, officials, players and administrators. The young cheerleaders and mascots who enjoy the sport of cheerleading deserve our wholehearted commitment to their safety.

Cheerleading divisions

Ages, not grades, will be used to place participants in their appropriate division or levels. The ages of all cheer participants shall correspond to the overall ages of the team with which they are associated. The Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference no longer uses grades for determining official status of any player or cheerleader.

Liability and responsibility: Guidelines are set due to age mainly because of liability reasons and the risks involved in cheerleading. Younger cheerleaders are less likely to recognize and respect those risks, and are more likely to attempt something inherently dangerous or dangerous due to current skill levels. Restrictions exist for the protection of those under the age of legal liability, coaches, parents and responsible organizations, such as the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference.

It should be noted that the guidelines set up by NFHS (National Federation of High School Associations) in the spirit section have been put in place to cover high school-age cheerleaders, and are not meant to cover the liability and responsibility of protecting the safety of the cheerleading participants at our level. The cheerleading participants at our level are not of high school age or at the skill level of high school cheerleaders.

Cheerleaders must be 10 years old on or before December 1, and not turn 15 before December 1 of the current year.

Bantam: All 10- and 11-year-old cheerleading participants will be placed on the Bantam Cheerleading Squad. No 10-year-old participants will be allowed on the Junior Varsity or Varsity squads. An 11-year-old participant with formal cheerleading experience (*see below*) may be placed on the Junior Varsity Squad with advisor approval.

Formal experience consists of one year's experience at the bantam level within our program, or an equivalent of cheerleading in an accredited youth football and cheer program. Participating as a mascot, or in gymnastics or dance programs, will not be considered as formal experience for the purpose of placement in our program.

Junior Varsity: All 12-year-old and experienced 11-year-old cheerleading participants with advisor approval will be placed on the Junior Varsity Squad. A 13-year-old may participate on the Junior Varsity level with advisor approval. No 14-year-old participants will be allowed on the Bantam or Junior Varsity squads (*see formal experience*).

Varsity: All 13- and 14-year-old cheerleading participants will be placed on the Varsity Squad. Participants 12 years old with previous formal experience may participate on the Varsity Squad with advisor approval.

Mascots: A mascot, by definition, is NOT a cheerleader. Mascots are not allowed to participate in any stunting or tumbling and must be recognizably different from cheerleaders.

First-year Mascots must be 8 years old on or before December 1. Mascots will be limited to a maximum of four to any level or squad, or a total of 12.

Smaller programs: Smaller groups may participate as one squad, but stunting must be based on appropriate age levels.

MLYAC Participation

Cheerleaders are to participate in sanctioned MLYAC jamborees and games that their franchise football team is participating in. Non-MLYAC-sanctioned events must have written approval by their Franchise Board of Directors, and this written approval must be sent on to MLYAC for approval prior to participating in any event that includes stunting and tumbling, and must have the appropriate insurance coverage.

Cheer Coaches Cards and Clinics

All cheer coaches must attend a MLYAC-sanctioned coaches' clinic each year to receive their coach's card.

Coaches not attending a sanctioned clinic will not be allowed on the sidelines during games, and cannot conduct practice sessions. The MLYAC board and each team's advisors will work to contract a qualified (certified) cheer instructor to help organize the clinic.

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ARTICLE VIII
COMMUNICATION AND INCIDENTS

Section 1: Communication

The Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association welcomes parent involvement and participation. However, due to safety and insurance regulations no parents or non-players are allowed on the practice or game playing field. Parents or non-players may sit only in the stands during games and behind the designated borders during practice. There is to be no communication with the coaching staff while play is in session. The player should notify the coaching staff if they need to leave early.

Football is a high intensity contact sport. Fans, parents and players for every good reason are passionate about position play or winning. The Head Coach calls plays and sets positions and is looking out for the best interest of the team and players. Parents may not agree with a certain play, position, or how you perceive your child was talked to or treated. Parents should feel free to discuss this with the Head Coach before or after practice. The following step system should be followed when discussing an issue:

- Child's position, squad, or play - Head Coach
- No resolution with above – Varsity Head Coach

No resolution with above – A written petition to the Executive Board outlining the issue.

Section 2: Petitioning the Board

Any player, parent, guardian, coach, advisor, or Board Member may petition the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association Board to meet regarding an incident for resolution. Petition should be in writing. When the situation requires an immediate response by the Board, the Board will meet within seven days of the incident to articulate a Board policy regarding the matter.

Examples of negative incidents (partial list):

1. Section 1 written incident.
2. Any violation of a player's, cheerleader's, coaches, advisors, board members, parents, or guardians civil rights.
3. Comments or gestures intended to belittle or insult any player, cheerleader, coach, advisor, board member, parent, or guardian. This would include, but is not limited to, some ones ethnicity, religion, or economic status.
4. Physical or mental abuse of any player, cheerleader, coach, advisor, board member, parent, or guardian.

ARTICLE IX
AWARDS SECTION

At the end of each season there will be an awards banquet. All awards will be purchase by the Calaveras Junior Redskins Board Members.

Football Awards will be as follows:

- Defensive Player
- Offensive Player
- Most Valuable Player
- Defensive Lineman
- Offensive Lineman
- Most Improved
- Most Inspirational
- Coaches Award

Cheerleader Awards will be as follows:

- Most Valuable
- Most Spirited
- Most Inspirational
- Most Improved
- Coaches Award

Might Mites and Mascots will be eligible to receive a participation awards.

CALAVERAS JUNIOR REDSKINS BYLAW CHANGES

These Bylaws can only be updated by changes to the Mother Lode Youth Athletic Conference Rules on a yearly basis or by a vote of the Calaveras Junior Redskins Youth Football & Cheer Association Executive Board as needed.

Changes approved in July, 2009.