

Gainesville Pop Warner

FOOTBALL

2025 Parent's Packet



City of
Gainesville

#gnvPopWarner

@GainesvillePRCA

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department - A CAPRA Accredited Agency

Gainesville Gators Pop Warner Football 2025

PARENT'S HANDBOOK



Welcome to the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) Department's Pop Warner Football! Please take the time to thoroughly read this parent packet before you fill out the registration forms.

The department's goal is to provide your children with positive experiences through the assistance of our staff and volunteer coaches.

The mission of Pop Warner Little Scholars is to enable young people to benefit from participation in team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment. Through this active participation, Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that young people will use throughout their lives.

Pop Warner seeks to provide fun athletic learning opportunities for children, while emphasizing the importance of academic success. Specifically, Pop Warner seeks to familiarize players with the fundamentals

of football. Pop Warner strives to inspire youth, regardless of race, creed or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship and physical fitness as reflected in the life of the late Glenn Scobie "Pop" Warner.

- Coaches and staff are certified in first aid, CPR and AED, and hold current USA Football and Pop Warner certifications.
- All coaches have been appropriately background-checked through Pop Warner and PRCA.

We are looking forward to a great season!

Our football program serves children 5- to 14-years-old. Each team is limited to 25 participants; spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and must have a minimum of 20 participants registered in the appropriate age level to fill a team. If the team does not have enough players by the end of the registration period, the parents will be refunded and the team will no longer exist. PRCA reserves the right to remove, add or move players to another team based on skill, age and weight classification.

TEAMS

Recreational teams:

- **6U:** Ages 5-6, age as of July 31, 2025

Competitive teams (during playoffs they have the ability to advance to regionals and nationals):

- **8U*:** Ages 7-8, age as of July 31, 2025
- **10U*:** Ages 9-10, age as of July 31, 2025
- **12U*:** Ages 11-12, age as of July 31, 2025
- **14U*:** Ages 12,13,14, age as of July 31, 2025

***Additional fees will be required if team qualifies for regionals/nationals**

Coaches needed. Apply at
www.GainesvilleFL.gov/PRCAVolunteer.





REGISTRATION & FEES

Registration closes Friday, July 25.

Fully completed forms are required at the time of Registration.

① Registration Fee:

Ages 5-12

City residents: \$122.25

Non-city residents: \$152.75

The following items are included:

- Game jersey (child may keep)
- Shoulder pads and helmet (items are returned at end of season)
- 7-9 games per season
- League participation trophy (6U only)

② What do I have to purchase?

Each participant is required to provide the following (football):

- Socks
- Game pants (vendor provided)
- Hard cup chin strap
- Practice pants and jersey
- Mouthpiece (must be worn at practices and games)
- Rubber soled football cleats*
- Snacks and food for games

* No cleats are permitted inside the MLK Multipurpose Center.

Please remove your cleats prior to entering the building.

Where can I purchase required items?

Items can be found at the following vendors:

- Dick's Sporting Goods: 3964 Plaza Blvd., #20, 352-377-3316
- Play It Again Sports: 3425 W. University Ave., 352-377-7666
- Lloyd Clarke Sports: 1504 NW 13th St., 352-372-7836
- Walmart Supercenters: 5700 NW 23rd St., 352-378-0611
1800 NE 12th Ave., 352-372-3191

③ Optional Equipment: The following items are optional and can be purchased if desired:

- Rib protectors
- Wrist bands
- Forearm pads
- Back flaps
- Eye shields (must be clear only)

④ Additional Fees:

Regional Championships: Qualifying for the regional championship game requires winning two or three post-season playoff games. If a team does win those playoff games and qualify for the Regional Championship game, it is held in Orlando, Florida over Thanksgiving weekend. There is a mandatory, one-night hotel stay for the team, and additional costs associated with that. Actual cost per athlete could range anywhere between \$150-\$400, depending on travel, lodging, food and length of stay.* Pop Warner sets lodging fees, and has a minimum 1-night stay requirement for all teams. * Actual amounts and due dates will be determined the first week of November.

National Championships: If a team wins the Regional Championship, they qualify for nationals. Nationals is usually a week after regionals, and is played during the week, in Charlotte, North Carolina. There is a mandatory, one-night resort stay for the team; additional costs are associated. Actual cost per athlete could range anywhere between \$300-

\$750, depending on travel, lodging, food and length of stay.* Pop Warner sets lodging fees, and has a minimum one-night stay requirement for all teams. Actual amounts and due dates will be determined and announced Nov. 29.

* Some team costs can be offset by fundraising dollars. For information on how you can help, call Elliot Harris at 352-393-8542.

MANDATORY FOR FOOTBALL

Mandatory Parent Meeting:

- **Where:** Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Multipurpose Center Gymnasium, 1028 NE 14th St.
- **Date:** Will be scheduled first week of practice

This meeting is mandatory for the parent/guardian who signed the waiver form. If parent does not attend the meeting, the child may not practice until parent meets with Athletics Supervisor Elliot Harris.

Equipment pick up and fitting:

- **Where:** MLK Center Gymnasium, 1028 NE 14th St.
- **Date:** Thursday, July 10
- **Times:** 6U: 6 p.m.
8U: 7 p.m.
- **Date:** Monday, July 14
- **Times:** 10U: 6 p.m.
12U: 7 p.m.

This meeting is mandatory for participants. Each child will be fitted for and issued shoulder pads and helmets. Game uniforms and numbers will be assigned and issued by the coaches. Number requests will not be considered.

What do I bring the first week of practice?

- Helmet and mouthpiece
- Cleats, shorts and t-shirt are required attire for practice
- Sunscreen and water bottle
- Make sure your child is hydrated well **before** practice time

SCHEDULES

Practice Schedule: The first day of practice is Tuesday, July 15.

- Days for practice are determined by the head coach.
- Times of practice occur between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- All participants must complete 20 hours of conditioning before teams engage in full contact drills or scrimmages.
- Prior to Labor Day, teams can practice a maximum of 10 hours per week.
- Following Labor Day, teams can practice a maximum of 6 hours per week.

Football Practice Site:

- MLK Multipurpose Complex, 1028 NE 14th St.

Football Home Games:

- Citizens Field, 1400 NE Eighth Ave.

Game schedules are created by Putnam Athletic League and distributed by Gainesville Pop Warner. Gainesville Pop Warner does not create or influence the schedule in any way. The schedule may be viewed at www.putnamathleticleague.com.

- The head coach is notified as the schedule becomes available.
- The head coach is responsible for distribution of the game schedule to all team members. Please expect to play every week.
- Games are held on Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., unless otherwise noted on the schedule.

Travel: All team participants must find their own transportation to the football games and playoffs.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WHERE TO REGISTER:

In person

Registration packets can be picked up at the Thomas Center, Bldg. B (306 NE Sixth Ave.) and the MLK Recreation Complex (1028 Northeast 14th St.). Completed registration packets can be submitted in person on the 3rd floor of Thomas Center, Bldg. B (306 NE Sixth Ave.).

Scholarships: Scholarships are available for families that qualify through the School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) for free or reduced lunch. Families can also qualify through the City of Gainesville Family Application for Reduced Fees. You can request proof of free or reduced lunch through your child's school by calling the SBAC's Food Service Office at 352-955-7539, extension 1569.

Refunds: Parents may request a full refund until Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025. After that date, no refunds will be allowed, and, if equipment or uniforms were distributed to parents, a refund will not be processed until items are returned.

Check In and Check Out: No child is to be released to anyone other than a parent or other approved authority. You must provide written permission, in person (no calls) if you are going to allow someone other than yourself to pick up your child. If you are not sure about your release permissions, please speak with the Sports Section Rep.

Tardiness and No Shows: Parents, please make sure your child is at practice five minutes before practice begins. We urge parents to stay on premises due to issues that may arise during practice (i.e. injuries, weather, etc.). Please be ready to check out your child five minutes before practice ends. Coaches will keep track of tardiness and no shows. Tardiness and/or absence from practice will affect playing time in the game. A child may not be late more than five times in a season. After the fifth tardy time, the child may be removed from the team. If a child misses more than four practices in a season without properly notifying the head coach, they will be removed from the team. Your child is an important part of their team. Missing practice or arriving late disrupts teammates and coaches trying to learn or teach the skills necessary for field plays or competition routines.

Missing Games: A child cannot miss more than **two games** in the season; an absentee form must be completed by the parent/guardian after each missed event. If a child misses more than two games, they will be removed from the team.

Photography and Video: To promote City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) and its programs, we prefer photographing/filming youth while they are active in our programs. Many times, television, newspaper and outside camera crews will ask permission to take pictures or to film the participants during various activities or events.

As a parent/guardian, signing the household registration and Pop Warner media form gives your consent to have your child photographed and relinquish all rights, title and interest in the finished photographs, tape, files and negatives to be used for publicity purposes for PRCA.

Communications: In the event of practice cancellations, inclement weather, time changes or schedule changes, communication is important.

In order to receive these communications from city staff, please text **@cogcheer** or **@cogfb** to 81010. You will receive any mass communications via text message. Standard text message rates apply.

Fundraising: Gainesville Pop Warner is expanding fundraising this year. Fundraising is necessary to help reduce the costs associated with regionals and nationals. We are looking for volunteers to help serve on a fundraising committee. If you are interested, please email Elliot Harris at HarrisEO@GainesvilleFL.gov.

PLEASE NOTE

PRCA is in a partnership with Pop Warner Football and Cheer. All parents, participants and spectators must adhere to both sets of rules. PRCA follows Pop Warner rules and guidelines in conjunction with the City of Gainesville's rules and policies.

Parents Conduct: Parents' conduct sends an important message about the proper role parents have in supporting their child in sports. Parents must read, understand and sign the code of conduct prior to their children participating in our league. Any parent, spouse, guardian or guest that displays or engages in of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may result in a multiple game suspension, the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending games or the removal of the child from the program.

DISCIPLINE

This policy is enforced to ensure a safe, professional and organized program and to help each participant learn and grow as a responsible person in a fair and consistent manner. If a child shows consistent disregard for the program's rules, a verbal warning and written report will be issued. A second offense will warrant a conference with the parents and coaches. If a child commits a third offense, this will warrant a one-week suspension without refund, and the fourth offense will result in withdrawal from the program without refund.

All disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the staff and coaches on site. If the staff member feels that the violation is severe enough, they can make the first disciplinary action suspension.

All disciplinary actions shall include standards that prohibit children from being subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating, frightening or associated with food or fluids, rest or toileting. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited by all personnel. There is zero tolerance for offenses involving drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons or any physical or verbal aggression or language and behavior of a sexual nature. These actions will result in immediate suspension or expulsion without refund. Rules will be discussed with participants on the first day of practice.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

1st Offense: Verbal warning and written report.

2nd Offense: Restrictions and written report.
Conference with parent/guardian.

3rd Offense: Written report and suspension.
One to five days mandatory suspension depending on the nature of the incident, and/or how many times the child has been disciplined.

4th Offense: Written report and involuntary withdrawal. Parent conference to inform the parent/guardian the participant will be withdrawn from the program for a period of six days or more, but not to exceed one year.

POP WARNER SCHOLASTICS PROGRAM

Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. (PWLS) is the only national youth sports organization in America that requires its participants to perform adequately in the classroom before permitting them to play.

- A child must show proof of satisfactory progress in school with a minimum grade point average of a 2.0 or 70%.
- If a child does not meet the requirements of a 2.0 or better, they may fill out and submit a **scholastic eligibility form**, which you can pick up at the time of registration from the PRCA Administrative Office or online.
- The scholastic eligibility form must be accompanied by a progress report or report card to be eligible to play after the Oct. 15, 2025 deadline. That report card/progress report must be dated between Sept. 1 and Oct. 15, 2025.



REPORT CARDS ARE DUE TO THE PRCA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

- The entire report card (all four quarters or all three trimesters) must be turned in.
- Report cards can be printed out through the Skyward portal for SBAC students.
- If the report card has not been turned in, your child will not be registered.

Get Money for School!

Since 1993, over \$1.3 million in scholarships have been awarded to Pop Warner scholar-athletes! Last year, Pop Warner selected 8,000 participants around the country to receive scholarships! Scholarships awarded range from \$500-\$5,000.

To Receive Scholarships from Pop Warner

- Participant is currently in 5th grade or higher.
- Has a 96% grade point average or better.
- Has a complete prior year's report card.

Have More Questions?

Athletics Supervisor

Elliot Harris

352-393-8542

HarrisEO@GainesvilleFL.gov

All forms are available for download at:

www.GainesvilleFL.gov/PopWarner



City of
Gainesville

IT STARTS IN
PARKS
Coaching. Connecting. Community.

352-334-5067
GainesvilleFL.gov/PRCA

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