



UPPER MARLBORO GATORS INC.

BY-LAWS



Table of Contents

Article I

General
Overview
Name
Gender
Color
Principle Office
Upper Marlboro Gators Inc.
Association

Article II

Definitions
Team/Squad Definition
Division
Highest Local Authority
General Membership
Jurisdiction
Charter
Playing Season

Article III

Purpose and Objectives
Purpose
Objective
Goals and Philosophies

Article IV

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc.
Membership
Members
Requirements for New Members
Voluntary Withdrawal
Involuntary Termination
Effect of Termination

Article V

Government of the Upper Marlboro Gators Inc..

General Definition

Qualification of Officers of the Upper Marlboro Gators Inc..

Election and Tenure of Office

Qualifications for Nomination

Vacancies

Appointments

Official Business of the Upper Marlboro Gators Inc..

Association Presidents and Cheer Directors

Removal of an Association President

American Youth Interface

Bylaws and Rules Enforcement

Bylaws and Rules Amendments

Rules Violation

Meetings

Attendance

Presidents

Conduct of Meeting

Proxy Votes

Article VI

Duties of Officers and Appointees

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Football President (Voting)

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Assistant Football Presidents (Voting)

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Cheer President (Voting)

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Assistant Cheer President (Non-Voting)

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Treasurer (Non-Voting)

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Secretary (Voting)

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Sergeant at Arms (Voting)

Article VII

Financial Activities of the Upper Marlboro Gators Inc.

Treasury

Article VIII

Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Liability

Liability

Article IX

Powers

Board of Presidents

Article X

Rights to Inspect Records

Inspection

Article XI

Team Requirements

Article I –General Document Overview

The Bylaws and Rules of the Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. is contained in four separate segments as follows:

- Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Bylaws and Rules
- Tackle Football Specific Rules
- Flag Football Specific Rules
- Cheer Specific Rules

The Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Bylaws and Rules contain general rules that pertain to and govern all aspects of the program, including tackle football, flag football, and cheerleading. The more specific rules of the participating segments are in subsequent sections. The rules governing each segment include both the Upper Marlboro Gators Inc. Bylaws and Rules and the specific segment.

Name

This non-profit organization shall be known as Upper Marlboro Gators Inc., (hereto referred to as the UM Gators), and shall be chartered for the purpose of representing the State of Maryland as an affiliate of American Youth Football, Inc. The name “UM Gators” cannot be used as an authorized endorsement without written consent of the UM Gators in advance.

Gender

The use of masculine gender throughout these Bylaws and Rules is a matter of convenience. All masculine gender words imply automatically either male or female.

Color

The colors will be red, black, and white.

Principle Office

The UM Gators has the authority to establish its boundaries, as long as it does not infringe upon the territorial rights or boundaries of another AYFL association. The principal address of the UM Gators must be within the geographical boundaries established by the UM Gators the current address is: 6605 Osborne Hill Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

UM Gators

An administrative body structured for the purpose of assisting the Associations in the performance of their duties.

Article II – Definitions

Team/Squad Definition

The basic football unit of organization within an Association, identified as a selected unit of certified football players within an age and weight division, and the entire staff of supporting personnel are hereinafter referred to as a "TEAM". The basic cheer unit of organization within an Association, identified as a selected unit of certified cheerleaders within an age division, and the entire staff of supporting personnel, is hereinafter referred to as a "SQUAD".

General Membership

The "General Membership" shall hereinafter be referred to as all members.

Jurisdiction

The word "Jurisdiction" is borrowed from the legal arena and it has two basic meanings in these Bylaws and Rules. First, it may refer to a specific territory which is controlled by the UM Gators or by a member Association, and secondly it may refer to a Group, the UM Gators or an Association, which holds power to convene a hearing or otherwise investigate and/or adjudicate a dispute or disciplinary matter either within the UM Gators or an Association. The word jurisdiction allows the UM Gators the authority to establish controls or procedures within a member Association if necessary. Further jurisdiction gives the UM Gators sole power to act in matters relating to any Association, if necessary.

Playing Season

For all purposes, the UM Gators playing season shall be defined as August 1st (or the designated start of the season) through December 31st.

Permission must be obtained from the designated charter in order for the UM Gators to extend the season may be solicited and, upon approval, be granted. All administrative personnel, coaches, players and cheerleaders are subject to disciplinary action for violations of the designated charters Bylaws and Rules for the entire calendar year, and through extension if extended, in either football or cheerleading.

Article III – Purpose and Objectives

Purpose

The purpose of the UM Gators is as follows: To implant firmly into the youths of our communities the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and courage so that they may become finer, stronger, healthier, and happier youths who may reflect credit upon themselves, their parents and their communities. Our purpose shall be achieved by providing a supervised, safety oriented Youth Tackle Football and Cheer Program within the state of Maryland.

Objective

The general objective of the UM Gators is to inspire youths regardless of race, creed or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship, and physical fitness. The specific objective of the UM Gators is to familiarize youths with the fundamentals of football or cheerleading and to provide an opportunity to participate in a supervised environment where the emphasis is on total participation and maximum safety of everyone. UM Gators aim to keep the football and cheerleading free of adult and parental pressures to win at any cost and to identify and bar from further participation any adult volunteer whose ambition or personal glory-seeking conflicts with the goals and guidelines outlined in our program (both at the UM Gators Level and the Charter Level).

Goals and Philosophies

The UM Gators Youth Football and Cheerleading is an organization operated for the benefit of the children who play football and lead the cheers. The adults come second, adapting to the realities of the children, rather than requiring the children to cope with the peculiarities of the adults. If this is always kept in mind, UM Gators Youth Football and Cheerleading will be one experience of today's generation that they will want for their own children. For the participants, this must remain a "Fun Thing". Hard work can be fun if the coach goes about his duties with appreciation of the ages of his players or cheerleaders constantly on his mind. The idea that football must somehow supply the lessons of "aggressiveness" as training for the future adult years in a competitive society is best left to the high school and college coaches. More general lessons are naturally learned on our turf, such as cooperation and teamwork. Even the shiniest trophy given to the first place team or squad at the end of the season will develop tarnish and a "perfect" season is more likely to last in the memory of a coach than it is in the memories of the kids

who played it. Players and cheerleaders should enjoy practices, games, or competitions at all times in an atmosphere of intelligent and patient instructors, not in an atmosphere in which an "elite" body can only make it or cope with the pressures of ego-driven adults. The wise coach or cheer instructor is one who understands the great trust placed in him or her by the community-at-large. Youth coaches often play the role of the substitute parents. Children are more apt to "rap" with their team mentor than they are with their own parents on many subject matters. The off-field contributions made by some of our adult volunteers in the program are often more significant than the athletic teachings and benefits on the field. Remember to always look beyond yourself.

Article IV – UM Gators Membership

Members

Members of the UM Gators shall consist of the parents and players identified in the roster book for the specific year and attached for reference. Included as well are the identified organizational colors.

Requirements for New Members

Each applicant for new membership shall make a written request to the UM Gators by completing a registration packet and submitting all required payment as stated in the registration packet. All applicants must also be in "good standing" prior to participating in the UM Gators season.

Voluntary Withdrawal

Any member/player of the UM Gators may voluntarily withdraw from membership by tendering its resignation to the UM Gators President accompanied by full payment of any or all debts, such as fines or assessments, owed to the UM Gators. The effective date of the voluntary withdrawal shall always be effective immediately after all monies owed are paid-in-full.

Article V – Government of the UM Gators

General Definition

The governing body of the UM Gators is the Board of Trustees, which includes the President of the UM Gators. The Board of Trustees shall supervise all Bylaws and Rules of the UM Gators. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees will be the UM Gators President. The UM Gators President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be the sole Chief Executive Officer's of the UM Gators, and will administer the program under the guidelines and directions of the Board of Trustees. There will be five (5) additional appointed officers of the UM Gators: Director of Cheerleading, Assistant Director of Cheerleading, Director of Football Operations, Assistant Director of Football Operations and Sergeant of Arms.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of the duly elected President or his/her designee. The Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be entitled to one vote each. The UM Gators President is only entitled to vote in a case of a tie vote by the Board of Trustees on any issues brought before the Board. At the November regular meeting, the nominating committee will present to the Board of election their candidates for the office of UM Gators Director of Cheerleading, Assistant Director of Cheerleading, Director of Football Operations, Assistant Director of Football Operations and Sergeant of Arms.

Any Member (in good standing) may make a nomination from the floor and the nomination must be ratified by a second from another Member (in good standing) at this meeting. The person being nominated from the floor must meet all of the qualifications of an official candidate as outlined in these Bylaws and Rules.

UM Gators election years shall be in odd-numbered years and all elected/appointed office's, shall be for a two (2) year term. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be for an initial five (5) years, after the initial years, each duly elected officer will unless said persons holding those positions directly violate any of the by-laws of the UM Gators. At that point, any of the previous positions may resign and/or be terminated by two-thirds (2/3) of the Trustee Board. The offices with standing election shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board (entitled and eligible to vote), with each Trustee having just one (1) vote. All elected or appointed

offices shall take effect no earlier than January 1st in the year following the elections.

Qualifications for Nomination

Only those individuals with either past or present Association experience, League President experience (either as a Director of Football Operations or Director of Cheerleading elected or appointed) within the UM Gators for a minimum of one year are eligible to serve as an elected officer of the UM Gators. Any Member or persons with a current penalty for any rule violation shall be ineligible to serve as an elected officer, or any appointed position within the UM Gators, until such penalty is resolved.

Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs within the UM Gators, or if a full slate of officers is not elected/appointed at the November meeting during a voting year, the UM Gators Board shall, at the first annual meeting of the UM Gators (January), fill the remaining vacancies by appointment. Any appointments must be ratified by the majority vote of the Board entitled and eligible to vote at said meeting. In the event of a vacancy in the office of UM Gators President during the season, a special election will be held by the Board to select a successor for the un-expired term. In the event that a vacancy occurs in any other position during the season, the UM Gators President shall appoint a person, with approval of the board to any one of the vacant positions with the ratification of a majority vote by the Board. Any appointment shall be for no more than one (1) year term, and will terminate on December 31st of that year.

Appointments

The UM Gators President, no earlier than January 1st of each calendar year, shall submit for approval to the Board the following positions: Director of Cheerleading, Assistant Director of Cheerleading, Director of Football Operations, Assistant Director of Football Operations and Sergeant at Arms. All appointments are for a two-year period only and will terminate on December 31st of the subsequent calendar year. All appointments must be approved by the majority vote of the Board who are entitled and eligible to vote at that time. The UM Gators President without the approval of the Board may appoint all UM Gators committees. These committees may meet to discuss or carry out the functions for what their committee has been created to do, and they may take a vote of ratification of all items discussed within the committee and submit such items to the Board, along with the results of the vote taken by the committee. However, all items coming from any committee

are just conclusions, results, and recommendations and all items coming from all committees are subject to the approval of the Board as outlined in these Bylaws and Rules. Only members on said committee who are entitled or eligible to vote on the Board will be allowed to vote on said committee items. If said committee member is not entitled to vote as part of the Board, said committee member will be entitled to speak on said subject, once it has been placed on the floor for approval, or disapproval. All officers such as Secretary, Treasurer, and Presidents shall have access to debate and discuss any item brought before the UM Gators, but shall have no vote on any item brought before this body.

Official Business of the UM Gators

The UM Gators may conduct regular or special meetings if a quorum (51%) of the Board is present. A quorum consists of a simple majority of the total number of officers, and the voting UM Gators President.

Removal of a Trustee

A Trustee may be removed from the UM Gators by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board, upon written documentation being presented to the UM Gators by either another Member, or by any UM Gators officer clearly defining the reason for said request of removal. A letter must be sent to the Association in question to inform them of the removal, the reason why, and allowing them seventy-two (72) hours in which to appeal, and seven (7) days in which to select another trustee to represent them. If an Association has a qualified Association representative on file with the UM Gators, then that representative may act as the representative to the UM Gators, until such time as a permanent replacement can be put in place.

Bylaws and Rules Enforcement

The UM Gators has the obligation and authority to enforce the Bylaws and Rules contained or referenced herein. These Bylaws and Rules are incumbent upon each member and their respective players. In addition, the UM Gators have the right to make American Youth Football general rules more stringent. However, the UM Gators do not have the power to make rules less strict.

Bylaws and Rules Amendments

No UM Gators Bylaw or Rule may be changed, deleted, or added without first submitting it in writing to the UM Gators President through the respective Member at the time indicated by the UM Gators President, prior to the Annual Rules meeting. A committee will be appointed to verify that all changes are in accordance with American Youth Football and Cheerleading. These changes will be communicated to all Trustees, with the Rules Committee recommendation, two weeks prior to the designated Annual Rules meeting. On or before June 1st of the current year, the UM Gators will hold the Annual Rules meeting for the discussion and approval or disapproval of these Bylaws and Rules. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board and voting conference members will be required to approve any rule changes. The UM Gators Bylaws and Rules, Tackle Football Specific Rules, Flag Football Specific Rules, and Cheer Specific Rules, once approved by the Board at an Annual Rules Meeting, cannot be changed without the unanimous vote of the Board of the UM Gators at any regular or special meeting called for such purpose. In no case may a rule be changed after the May meeting of the current season.

Rules Violation

Any violation of the rules contained or referenced herein shall be handled by the UM Gators. Penalties for violations will be handled in accordance with the procedure outlined herein. The violation committed and penalty or penalties handed out will be documented in summary fashion and become a permanent part of board policy for future reference.

In keeping with consistency for the years to come, this summary will be reviewed each time a violation has been committed that is like in nature to insure that violation was handled by the UM Gators as consistently as possible. An Association, team or individual may appeal the conference decision in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after the UM Gators decision or penalty has been handed out and explained. Appeals must cite rule or violation with applicable reference being used. The UM Gators is the final authority and will handle all matters in a timely fashion.

Meetings

Regular meetings will be held monthly or at the discretion of the UM Gators President, or the Board.

The annual meeting will be the first meeting in January and minutes of said meeting will be placed in the UM Gators Corporate Records for inspection, if necessary.

A special meeting of the UM Gators may be called at any time by the UM Gators President, or by three (3) members of the Board.

Notice of time, location, and subject or purpose of the meeting shall be made twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. A quorum of all members of the Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of UM Gators business. In order to close executive session meetings, a unanimous vote of the UM Gators Board and voting Presidents must be rendered in order to close the meeting and to go into executive session.

Attendance

Any Board Member who is absent at any meeting, whether it be regular, special, or closed session, that has been called for in accordance with these Bylaws and Rules, could be fined for failure to attend.

Conduct of Meeting

Except in respect to matters covered specifically in these Bylaws and Rules, Roberts Rules of Order shall prevail in all meetings of the UM Gators. Any member (adult/child) may attend any meeting open to all members of the UM Gators, as long as any member attending adheres to the conduct required of the UM Gators, and abides by all the Bylaws and Rules set down by the UM Gators

- If such conduct is not in keeping with a professional manner, the individual creating the disturbance will be asked to leave, and if refuses to do so, will be subject to any force (law) necessary to remove such individual.

Any Association member must give the UM Gators President seventy-two (72) hours advanced notice prior to a regularly scheduled UM Gators meeting, of plans to have any guests, other than normal representatives, and the reason or the purpose of attendance (coaches, parents, etc.).

- If notice is not given, people may still come; however the Association President may only place it on next month's agenda for discussion or request a special meeting to deal with the agenda item.

Proxy Votes

Proxy votes shall not be allowed on any voting issues within the UM Gators Association.

Article VI – Duties of Officers and Appointees UM Gators

The UM Gators President shall be the Chief Executive Officer. He/She shall be in general supervision and control of all of the business affairs of the UM Gators. He/She shall preside at all meetings of the Board both regular and special and he shall be an ex-officio of all committee's both appointed and created, except the nominating committee. The Board and American Youth Football gives the UM Gators President the power to supervise and implement all of the Bylaws and Rules of the tackle, flag, and cheerleading programs authorized by the UM Gators. The UM Gators President has the final word on all Bylaws and Rules pertaining to the UM Gators and can only be overruled by the Board at any meeting of the Board.

UM Gators President

The President is responsible for conducting the affairs of the League and for executing the policies established by the Executive Board. The President shall also preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and all of the Members, if necessary. The President will also preside over the Executive Board and will oversee the administration of all business responsibilities of the Association. The initial term of the president is five (5) years all subsequent terms are for one (1) year.

Vice President

In the absence of the UM Gators President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. When so acting, he/she shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the President. He/She shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the UM Gators Board. The Vice President, when acting in the capacity as the Vice President, shall be allowed one vote as part of the Board. Should the Vice President temporarily assume the role of the UM Gators President, the position of Vice President will be open, and the vote from that office will not be allowed during that time period. The office of Vice President and Cheer President will be under the direct supervision of the UM Gators President. However, the Vice President and/or Cheer President will have the exact

same powers as the UM Gators President as it pertains to football and/or cheerleading, subject to the controls of the UM Gators President, or the Board. The initial term of office for the Vice President is five (5) years all subsequent terms are for one (1) year.

UM Gators Treasurer

The Treasurer shall maintain or cause to be maintained adequate and correct accounts of the business transactions of the UM Gators. The Treasurer shall promptly deposit all moneys and other valuables in the name of and to the credits of the UM Gators. As directed by the Board, he/she shall report directly to the UM Gators President and he shall report the financial status of the UM Gators to the Board at each regularly scheduled meeting, either in person or in writing. All UM Gators expenditures must be submitted to the Treasurer so as to be confirmed and approved by the Board. The initial term of the office of Treasurer is five (5) years all subsequent terms are for one (1) year.

UM Gators Secretary

It shall be the responsibility of the secretary to keep and maintain minutes of the UM Gators and to keep up-to-date the Board Policy folder. The Board Policy Folder should contain the following:

- Minutes for current year
- Slate of officers for the UM Gators
- Summary of penalties for rules violations.

The initial term of the office of Secretary is five (5) years all subsequent terms are for one (1) year.

UM Gators Director, Football Operations

The Director, Football operations under the direct supervision of the UM Gators President and/or Vice President will be in charge of all football related operations, to include but no limited to, field operations, equipment/uniform distribution and maintenance, etc. In the event that the President, Vice President and Cheer president are unable to perform their duties, the Director, Football Operation shall fill this void and all of the powers of this office will be deemed enforced by a two-thirds majority vote of the UM Gators Board. When so acting, he/she shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the Football President; (2) two year term.

UM Gators Assistant Director, Football Operations

In the absence of the UM Gators Director, Football operations or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Assistant Director, Football operations and/or Vice President shall perform the duties of the Director, Football operations. When so acting, he/she shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the Director, Football operations. He/She shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the UM Gators President or by the UM Gators Board. The Assistant Director, Football operations, when acting in the capacity as the Director, Football operations, shall be allowed one vote as part of the board. The office of Assistant Director, Football operations will be under the direct supervision of the UM Gators Director, Football operations and President; (1) one year term.

UM Gators Director of Cheerleading

The Cheer President shall serve as the direct liaison from the UM Gators to the charters Cheer Directors. The Cheer President shall serve in whatever capacity is deemed necessary by the UM Gators President in the supervision, direction, and control of cheerleading throughout the UM Gators. The Cheer President will be entitled to one vote as part of the board; (2) two year term.

UM Gators Assistant Director of Cheerleading

In the absence of the UM Gators Cheer President or in the event of her inability or refusal to act, the Assistant Cheer President and/or Vice President shall perform the duties of the Cheer President. When so acting, he/she shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the Cheer President. He/She shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Football President or by the UM Gators Board. The Assistant Cheer President, when acting in the capacity as the Cheer President, shall be allowed one vote as part of the board. The office of Assistant Cheer President will be under the direct supervision of the UM Gators Cheer President and Football President; (1) one year term.

Sergeant at Arms

Duties and responsibilities of the Sergeant at Arms are:

1. The Sergeant at Arms shall keep guard at the door.

2. He/She is to insure order during league meetings at the direction of the President.
3. He/She is to provide Parliamentary Procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order at the direction of the President.
4. It shall be important that you quiet members who are out-of-order promptly and effectively, at the direction of the President;
(1) one year term.

Article VII – Financial Activities of the UM Gators

The Treasury

The authorized person, as authorized by the Board, shall make all financial disbursements of UM Gators funds, on a UM Gators check or draft. All members shall be responsible for all dues and assessments that may be levied for the operation of the UM Gators. Any member who falls more than forty-five (45) days delinquent in moneys due and payable to the UM Gators and who has been officially notified by said UM Gators shall lose all voting privileges until such time as these delinquencies are paid in full, or until satisfactory payment arrangement has been made and approved by the majority vote of the Board. If any delinquencies occur after said agreed repayment plan has been approved, all voting rights will be automatically suspended until all dues and assessments are brought current and paid in full, with no other opportunity to make another prepayment arrangement until all moneys owing (in the rears) are brought current. If a member is not brought current on all monies due the UM Gators by October 31st of the current season, any and all players eligible for playoffs will be declared ineligible.

Article VIII –UM Gators Liability

Liability

No member of the UM Gators shall be liable for the debts, or be in any way responsible for the functions, activities or policies of the UM Gators or any Member authorized to participate in Youth Football by the UM Gators.

Article IX –Powers

Board of Representatives

Subject to the limitations of the Bylaws and Rules and the laws of the State of Maryland, all powers of the UM Gators shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board. The Board shall control the business affairs of the corporation. Without prejudice to any general power, the Board is hereby empowered to do the following:

- To elect and remove all officers, agents and employees of the UM Gators in the manner set forth herein; to prescribe such powers and duties for the same, as shall be consistent with the law, or with these Bylaws and Rules; to fix compensation as required for faithful service to the UM Gators.
- To remove all officers/Presidents/agents who, in the opinion of the UM Gators President and approved by the Board, is being detrimental to the welfare of the UM Gators.
- Once the UM Gators has removed such individuals from office, the team is under the direct control of the UM Gators and governed by the Board.
- The total administration, during the time period mentioned above, would be under the guidance and management of the President, unless removed by the UM Gators or by the Association itself.
- If the UM Gators removes the President, and a new President is not in place within twenty-four (24) hours, the UM Gators will appoint a President to oversee the program until such time as a newly elected President can take office of said Association.
- To borrow money, incur indebtedness to accomplish the purpose of the UM Gators , and cause to be executed and delivered, in the UM Gators name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence or debt, and provide security for the same.

- To accept charitable contributions and extend the same to accomplish the purposes of the UM Gators provided that such activities are within the law, and the Bylaws and Rules of this league.
- To maintain jurisdiction, issue and revoke franchises to all memberships as described herein.
- To investigate, approve or disapprove the fund raising activities of any organization or individual under the jurisdiction of the UM Gators.
- The UM Gators shall not be the direct recipient of any funds so raised.
- To authorize an officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and/or in behalf of the UM Gators, but such authority must be confined to specific instances; unless so authorized by the Board. No officer, agent or employee shall have any authority to bind the UM Gators, to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount, unless authorized by the Board.
- To schedule a formal hearing at which the Board shall have the right to serve reprimands, suspensions, dismissal from the program, or dismissal of the charges. If, after proper investigation and consideration, the Board determines that a member or individual has not conducted or is not conducting itself/themselves in a manner consistent with the ideals and objectives of the UM Gators the individual may be reprimanded.
- To permit a Member to recruit, place flyers, posters, mailers, or hold any type of fund-raiser whatsoever in any Associations territory. The requesting Member must first receive written permission from the President and must be ratified by the UM Gators Board thirty (30) days prior to any distribution or event.
 - The penalty for violating this rule shall be a \$1,000.00 fine to the aggrieved Member.
- To schedule game officials in all divisions of play, except flag - Each game will be scheduled with a minimum of three (3) officials.

- In the event, due to unforeseen circumstances, alternate game officials must be used for that day in order to play the specific game, both coaches must agree to the alternates. If the coaches do not agree, the game is declared a tie and both teams are awarded a tie game. Once the game has begun there will be no further discussion and the results of the game will stand with no right of appeal or protest from either party.
- To schedule all regular season and post season games and specify how appearances for football playoffs and competition for cheer will be handled.
 - The football playoff format is found in the rule book - The UM Gators Cheer Competition is open to all cheer squads that have met eligibility requirements, as specified herein.
- To establish certification dates and procedures for all Associations.

Article X –Rights to Inspect Records

Inspection

The President of the UM Gators may request to inspect the records of the Association by making the demand in writing to the President or to the Board at least thirty days prior to such inspection.

Article XI –Team Requirements

Team Notebook

Each team or squad shall present at age and weight certification the team notebook which contains the following for each player:

- Players registration form
- Physical verification

This notebook also contains the following:

- UM Gators Code of Conduct for each coach and adult staff member

- Team roster

The UM Gators President specifies the format and detailed content of this notebook.

Camp

The term camp shall be defined as meaning one or more training sessions provided by an outside organization. No Association shall require that a UM Gators football team or cheer squad in part or in whole, with or without coach(s) attend a football or cheer camp sponsored by an outside organization. There shall be no exceptions. However, a football team or cheer squad, in part or in whole MAY attend a camp if they so choose to, providing the following conditions are met:

- Coach or other team-affiliated personnel does not make it mandatory
- Camp provides as part of its services an accident insurance plan for camp participants
- Youth football coaches are allowed to organize, control or participate in any camps prior to the start of the UM Gators season (Prior approval by the UM Gators President is required)
- The event must be open to the entire UM Gators
- Camps may be held by an Association or the UM Gators if the following requirements are fulfilled:
 - The camp is held after the UM Gators hold any sponsored camp.
 - The camp counts as a practice session

Practice

Definition to prevent possible bending of the rules and as a protection for children, practices are defined as a gathering of participants, without minimum number, in the presence of at least one (1) coach, team parent, or other representative where one or more of the following activities take place:

- Chalk talk/skill session

- Viewing of fundamental films
- Group conditioning
- Individual skills sessions (QB, receiving, blocking, tackling, kicking, etc.)
- Group skills sessions
- Dummies and other inanimate contact
- Play run through without pads (shorts & T-shirt)
- Play run through with equipment, but without contact
- Inter-squad scrimmages with full pads and equipment
- Cheers, sidelines, chants, dance music, etc.
- Stunting, jumps, gymnastics, etc. The use of a football field or multipurpose gym is not required to satisfy the definition of a “practice session”.

Flag Specific Practice

Beginning April 1st (or the designated start of the season) flag teams or squads may schedule no more than six (6) hours of practice per week.

- A week is defined as seven (7) consecutive calendar days
- Not more than two (2) hours of practice may be scheduled on any one-day after Labor Day (or the start of school, whichever is defined for that season by the President) flag teams or squads are limited to three (3) hours of practice
- Practices are not to exceed one and one half (1 ½) hours per day. Break time is not counted against the six (6) or three (3) hours of allowed practice time. A ten-minute break must be given after each hour of practice.

Rules Meeting

Each season the UM Gators President shall go through the UM Gators Bylaws and Rules, Tackle Football Specific Rules, Flag Football Specific Rules, and Cheer Specific Rules. It is recommended that each Head Coach and assistant coaches attend these meetings. The date and time will be established by the UM Gators

Tackle Specific Practice

Beginning August 1st (or the designated start of the season), tackle teams or squads may schedule no more than 10 hours of practice per week.

- A week is defined as seven (7) consecutive calendar days
- Not more than 2½ hours of practice may be scheduled on any one-day after Labor Day (or the start of school, whichever is defined for that season) tackle teams or squad's practices are limited to six (6) hours per week.
- Practices are not to exceed 2 hours per day break time is not counted against the ten (10) or six (6) hours per week or 2½ or 2 hours of allowed practice time per day. A ten-minute break MUST be given after each hour of practice. Any player added after a team has formed and/or after the season has started, must be subject to the same 10 hours of conditioning before any physical body contact or stunting is allowed. It is the responsibility of every UM Gators football coach to be fully informed of, and abide by, all rules of the governing body of the UM Gators. In addition to other specific prohibitions in the UM Gators rule book, there will be none of the following:
 - No butt blocking
 - No chop blocking
 - No face tackling or spearing techniques permitted

If such techniques or any others, forbidden by the UM Gators rulebook, are taught by UM Gators coaches, said coaches may be dismissed from the program following a hearing. The first week of practice for football shall be devoted entirely and exclusively to conditioning, not wearing pads; however, helmets shall be permitted. For cheer, there is no stunting allowed.

Football Scrimmages

After the second week of practice, ten (10) hours of practice, teams are permitted to engage in controlled inter-squad scrimmages. Scrimmages will be conducted as follows:

- Coaches will be permitted on the field.

- Long time-outs are taken between plays so that coaching staffs can instruct and critique their players
- Coaching staffs may inform each other of the plays they are going to run so one team can concentrate on its offensive sets while the other improves its defense and vice-versa.
- Officials may be present.
- Game score is not kept; in fact, scoring is not the primary goal.
- No official time is kept other than to assure the practice maximum is not violated. A mandatory ten-minute (10) break is taken at the end of one hour, said break not to be counted against the allowed practice time.
- No player or team is permitted at any time to engage in a controlled scrimmage or any form of contact drills involving a player, players, or team from a different Age/Weight division of play if teams are found in violation, both Head Coaches will be suspended for the season.
- Players may not weigh more than ten (10) pounds over the maximum for the specific division of play.
- A maximum of five (5) scrimmages will be allowed throughout the season. All scrimmages outside of the UM Gators must be reported to and approved by the President twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scrimmage. For scrimmages within the UM Gators, the respective Association President's approval is required. The UM Gators President must be given twenty-four (24) hours notice of cancellation prior to a scheduled scrimmage or pre-season game outside of the UM Gators.

Voluntary Cuts

A participant shall be considered a voluntary or "self-cut" when he simply no longer shows up at practice or games of his own free will. However, if a coach is found to be arranging practices in such a way to make participants of lesser abilities quit on their own, this will be considered intentional and the coach and his staff will be brought before the Board for the appropriate action deemed necessary.

Mandatory Cuts

Any football or cheer participant must be cut who:

- Is found to have signed up as a result of parental pressure or tells the team/squad manager he does not really want to participate.
- Refuses or cannot furnish the four required items:
 - Parental consent
 - Medical Examination
 - Proof of Age
- Is found to be simultaneously trying out for a school tackle football team or cheer squad, or who, once the season starts, is found to be participating on a school tackle football team or cheer squad. However, participation in a school flag football program is allowed.
- Is certified on any other organized tackle football team during the season.
- Attempts to intimidate fellow participants in practice by word of mouth and/or physical deed. (Concurrence of the Association President is required. Refunding of fees is not required.)
- Is an extreme discipline problem, (Concurrence of the Association President is required. Refunding of fees is not required.)
- Weigh ten (10) or more pounds above the maximum weight for the selected division of play, at the time of the first certification Ineligible Participant There are five (5) unequivocal definitions of an ineligible participant, from which there are NO appeals.
- Over weight (football only).
- Over age or under age.
- Residing outside of legal boundaries without Waiver/Release from the UM Gators.
- Falsification of data concerning any of the above.

- Participation in school tackle football or cheer program and UM Gators tackle football or cheer in the same season The Head Coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season, pending further disciplinary actions (if any) by the Board. A football team(s) found guilty of using an ineligible player at any time during the season will forfeit all games in which those ineligible player(s) participated in, forfeit all rights to become League Champions and shall be prohibited from participation in any Playoff, Championship, or Bowl Game.

Ineligible Participant

A cheer squad(s) found guilty of using an ineligible cheerleader at any time during the season shall be prohibited from participation in any cheer competitions and the ineligible cheerleader will be removed from the squad. The Association that is found with ineligible participants could be fined \$500 dollars; if it is a High School player the fine will be \$1,500 dollars. The Association will be placed on two (2) year probation. The Association will be subject to Certification sanctions for the following season as set forth by the President. If the President of the Association is “found” in violation of signing off on any documents that were used to support the ineligibility of said players(s), the President of that Association must resign from the Presidency and will be placed on an automatic two (2) year suspension. Suspensions may be appealed to the Board for reconsideration.

Coaches & Adult Staff

All football and cheer coaches are to be selected by methods approved by the UM Gators. Once approved for coaching, selected individual must complete a background screen conducted by an authorized agent of the UM Gators. A coach’s contract automatically terminates at the last game/competition of the season. To coach the following year, the same UM Gators approval and background screening is required. However, any violation of the rules committed by a coach during the season, even though the hearing is not held until after the close of the season, is still under the jurisdiction of the UM Gators. The following shall apply to all coaching staffs:

- A head coach must be at least 21 years of age.
- An assistant coach must be at least 18 years of age or a high school graduate.

- A football/cheer trainer must be at least 14 years of age.
- A team/squad may have a maximum of four (4) adult staff members including head coach with a team/squad.
- Each team/squad must have one rostered adult (21 yrs or older) staff member for every twelve (12) participants and one rostered assistant coach (18 yrs. or older) for every additional twelve (12) participants.
- A rostered adult representative (21 years or older) must be present for practices, games and functions.

All coaches are required to provide the following items each and every year:

- Coaching Application/Form
- Coaches Code of Conduct
- If any coach deliberately and flagrantly violates these rules, the UM Gators may suspend the coach without prior notice. The teams or squad coaching staff is in complete charge of the team whenever it is together on the practice or playing field, traveling as a group to and from practice sessions and games, or together for any team function. However the coaching staff is under the direction of the Head Coach.
- The Head Coach has final responsibility for his/her actions, those of his/her Assistant Coaches, players, staff and parents
- The Head Coach will determine the assignments of their assistant coaches it is mandatory that all Head Coaches be responsible for having in their possession the team or squad notebook:
- In the event that the Head Coach is not in attendance at any player or squad gathering, the notebook should be in the possession of the adult in charge of the group at the time of the gathering. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the suspension of the Head Coach for the remainder of the season. When a Head Coach of record is not present at a game, the opposing team must be notified by the acting Head Coach prior to the game.

No alcoholic beverages may not be used or allowed in the presence or vicinity of an official game or practice of the players or cheerleaders. No alcoholic beverages shall be permitted during any game at home or away.

- Any staff member, who is found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at either a practice or game, or any UM Gators function where UM Gators children are present, will be immediately dismissed from their responsibilities. They will be brought before the Board for further action as deemed necessary.
- No smoking is allowed on the practice or game field or in the presence of players and cheerleaders.

Chain Crews

You must be sixteen (16) years of age to be on a chain crew. The chains will be on the home side of the field at all games, except when designed by the UM Gators to be placed on the visitor side of the field. It is the responsibility of the home team to supply the chain crew for the game. If the chain crew is not on the field at the coin toss, the home team will be assessed a fifteen (15) yard penalty on the opening kick-off.

- The Head Official will notify the Head Coach of the home team of the penalty, and he will be given ten (10) minutes from that point to obtain a chain crew
- Failure to secure a chain crew within that ten (10) minute period will result in the suspension of the Head Coach from that game. This rule does not apply to games starting before the scheduled time, or championship games.

Timekeepers and Official Clocks

Each Association will be required to provide timekeepers to run the official clock at their home field.

Association Requirements - Participations - Registration

All participants are to be signed up on a first come, first serve basis, up to a minimum of 16 participants and a maximum of 35 participants at the tackle level.

At the time of registration each parent should receive a list of additional items and their approximate cost that will need to be purchased prior to or while participating in the program. It is strongly suggested that a parent meeting be held to go over the Associations policies and a copy given to the parents to sign and return to the Association stating that they agree to abide by these policies.

Returning participants (defined as those affiliated in the same Association program for the previous year only) may be granted the opportunity to sign up in advance of new participants. No participant may be denied a place to play, as long as the player and parents agree to abide by all the UM Gators Bylaws and Rules.

Tryouts of any kind within the UM Gators are prohibited. Tryouts are defined as any means used to ascertain the level whereby a participant is placed on a team, including assessments, evaluations, or any other method.

Not more than 35 players shall be assigned to a tackle team at the start of pre-conditioning. The participant's age on July 31st of the current year shall be the player's age for the coming season. All participants must be placed in divisions for their weight and age, per the attached age and weight chart.

A participant living within an open area (as designated by the UM Gators) may register with any Association of his choice. A participant may register in the city/town of his choosing if the city/town he resides in does not offer a division in his age or weight class. No participant release from the UM Gators is required.

The active solicitation or recruitment of participants by a coach shall occur only within those geographical areas established by the UM Gators Violation of the recruiting rule will result in the suspension or disbarment of the person(s) involved. Participant recruited will return to their "Home Association".

A candidate cannot be associated with a team until he/she has registered. To register, the parent of the candidate must complete or furnish the following:

- **UM Gators Participant Form**

- **Physical Examination**
 - Completed form or a signed statement from an examining physician that the candidate is physically fit and there are no observable conditions, which would contra-indicate him/her participating.

 - If a regular school medical examination was performed after January 1st of the current year, and the results are releasable to the parents, a copy of such a report may be used in lieu of a new exam.

 - A person with loss of a limb may participate provided that the individual has a signed statement of approval from an examining physician. The use of the limb must be certified to be no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human limb, and does not place an opponent at a disadvantage.

- **Proof of Age**
 - Certified copies of the birth certificate on file bearing the seal of the issuing office of the state of birth. Passports, Military ID cards and certified wallet-size certificates issued by a state or commonwealth are acceptable. Any other alleged, “proof of birth date”, including photocopies of “originals”, are acceptable

- **Scholastic Fitness**
 - Proof of satisfactory progress in school is required. A 70% seventy percent or the equivalent shall be the minimum grade point average acceptable to participate. In cases of doubt or conflict of opinion, a written statement by the school administration shall be deemed final.

- NOTE: This rule as it relates to scholastic grades may not be made more stringent by any team, association, or league, as other rules may be. No local team/squad may be eligible to participate in league championships and/or bowl games if it has not met the scholastic requirements. If a child does not meet the requirements of scholastic fitness, he/she may fill out and submit a *Scholastic Eligibility Form* which is to be signed by a school administrator stating that the child will benefit from participating in the UM Gators Program. It is the discretion of the school administrator as to whether or not the student would benefit from participating in UM Gators. This form allows us to monitor the progress of the child so that they maintain a minimum standard and understand the value of academics in conjunction with athletics.

Waivers

Any participant that finds it necessary to participate with an Association other than the one that he/she resides in may only do so after obtaining a Waiver/Release from the UM Gators President. The UM Gators President must grant a Waiver/Release before the participant may register.

- Any participant found to be participating with any Association at anytime during the season without a signed Waiver/Release will be disqualified from participating with that Association for the remainder of the season. The participant may however return to his “Home Association” for further participation provided final certification has not taken place.
- The parents of the participant may only obtain a Waiver/Release. The parent must state in writing to the UM Gators President:
 - The Association/city where they should be playing.
 - The Association/city that they would like to participate in.
 - The reason(s) they wish this Waiver/Release to be granted. (Requests must have a valid reason)

- Mail written request to: *UM Gators, 6605 Osborne Hill Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772*

When possible and given time, the UM Gators President shall attempt to call where the child is asking the release from to notify him/her that a participant is asking for a waiver/release. The President will then be given 48 hours to respond yes or no to the release, either by phone or in writing. If the President responds no to the release, he/she must have a valid reason for the denial of the waiver. However, the final decision to grant a release shall rest directly with the UM Gators President.

NOTE: All waivers are for a one (1) year period only. In the event that a participant has played for another Association other than the one he currently resides in (due to family movement, formation of a new Association, or other unusual events as specified by the UM Gators), this participant may continue to play with the original Association without obtaining a waiver. This shall be referred to as the Grandfather Rule.

Team/Squad Certification

The assigned UM Gators Certification team(s) will certify each team or squad in the manner specified and at the time specified by the UM Gators President. Certification is accomplished in 3 parts:

1. Paperwork certification
2. Age/weight certification - the number of required participants for each segment of certification is outlined in the table found in Article XII, Team/Squad Formation. At certification, a player who fails to make the weight for the team he has been practicing with, but falls into the weight bracket of another division, he may be moved to another division as part of certification. Once certified for a particular age and weight division, a participant will not be permitted to recertify to a lower division of play during the current season. However, he shall be permitted to recertify to a higher division of play. Prior to the first game, the UM Gators President or his/her designee may conduct random weight checks of all teams at their discretion.

3. Required Items for Certification:

- 1) Parental Consent Form
- 2) Physical Form

- 3) Birth Certificate
- 4) Scholastic Form/Report Card (Flag players are exempt)
- 5) ID Card (Flag players are exempt)

Each team must also have their ID cards at certification, each association president or his/her designee must be at certification. The ID cards must be typed in as well as having the participant's picture attached to the ID card.