



BERLIN BEARS YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER FOOTBALL PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT 2026

Player's Name: _____

Team (Select One): A // B // C

The mission of Berlin Bears Youth Football and Cheer is to empower the youth of our community, fostering teamwork, discipline, and respect while promoting physical and mental well-being, and building strong leadership for tomorrow's society.

In furtherance of our mission, all participating football players, BBYFC families and responsible parties must follow the requirements for participation outlined below:

1. Expectations for Parents/Guardians/Families:

- Families are welcome to observe practice but are not allowed on the field during scheduled practice times.
- Coaches/Coordinators are available to answer Parents'/Guardians' questions and concerns but are not required to discuss positions played on the team and/or playing time.
- Parents/Guardians must wait 24 hours following the end of a game to discuss game-related issues with Coaches/Coordinators.
- Parents/Guardians must avoid coaching from the sidelines during practices and games.
- Be courteous and respectful towards referees, coaches, volunteers, opposing teams and other football players and cheerleaders. Negativity, intimidation, and ridicule will not be tolerated.
- Use and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana/THC products and illegal substances are prohibited at organization practices and games.
- All Parents/Guardians are expected to download and use GameChanger for communication from Coaches, Coordinators and the Board.

2. Expectations for Football Players:

As Berlin Bears football players, you are representing our organization and our larger community. To that end, you agree to abide by the following rules:

- Use and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana/THC products and illegal substances is prohibited and violation at any time or place is subject to your immediate removal from your team or squad. This restriction is NOT limited to BBYFC practices, games and/or events.
- You are expected to be a good teammate and a good citizen. You are expected to be courteous and respectful towards referees, coaches, volunteers, demos, opposing teams and other football players and cheerleaders. Negativity, intimidation, and ridicule will not be tolerated. Bullying, negativity and mistreatment of another person (for any reason) will not be tolerated. Destruction of property will not be tolerated. This standard of behavior is expected to be maintained at practice, games, competitions, school, home and on social media.
- You are prohibited from using profanity while representing the Berlin Bears, including practice and games.
- No cell phones are allowed to be used during games or practices. Phones will be confiscated and returned to Parents/Guardians.

3. Attendance at Practices, Games is Mandatory:

- Football practice begins on August 3, 2026 with the season ending November 22, 2026. This season, football may practice five days per week, time and place to be determined. After school begins, practices run two to three times per week (two team practice and for A&B teams, one strength and agility practice), time and place to be determined but will include **weekdays** and **weekends**. All football players are expected to attend ALL practices and games.
- Football players practice throughout the regular season and during any playoff participation by their team (at the latest ending the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving).
- Games are played on Saturdays or Sundays both home and away with times set by the Nutmeg Youth Football League (Usually: C-9am, B-11am, A-1pm).
- **One unexcused absence** from practice in any week will result in a football player receiving only the minimum number of required plays; **Two unexcused absences** from practice in any week, the football player will not suit up for Sunday's game but will STILL be required to attend the game.

4. Volunteerism Requirement:

BYFC is a non-profit organization managed by the Board of Directors and comprised of volunteers. We rely on participation and cooperation of our players' families to manage all teams and squads, host home games which includes selling concessions, and fundraising in a variety of different ways during the season.

- At a minimum, families are required to volunteer two shifts for EACH child: (1) at one home game during the regular season; and (2) at one game hosted at Sage during playoff season.
- Sign up for shifts during the regular season shall occur prior to the first home game using SignUp Genius.
- Sign up for shifts during playoffs shall occur prior to the first hosted playoff game using SignUp Genius.
- If you do not sign up for your shift(s), they will be assigned to you.
- If you do not sign up for your shift(s) prior to the assignment of uniforms, the Board of Directors reserves the right to withhold uniform handout for your player until completed.

_____ Parent/Guardian's Initials

5. Uniforms:

- FOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS: The league provides helmets, shoulder pads, game pants and jersey, practice pants and jersey. Parents/Guardians are required to purchase under girdle, cup, mouthguard, cleats, socks and any additional pad protection. Unreturned or damaged uniforms beyond reasonable wear and tear are subject to a \$400.00 fee at the end of the season. Equipment will be issued the first week of practice.

I have read and understand the rules and requirements set forth in this participation agreement and will adhere to all its provisions. I understand that violation of any of these rules and requirements may subject me and/or my child to suspension from the program or other disciplinary enforcement.

Player's Name

Player's Signature/DATE

Parent/Guardian's Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature/DATE