



**Policies And Code of Conduct**  
**of the**  
**MANHATTAN PATRIOTS FOOTBALL AND**  
**CHEER ORGANIZATION**

01/09 - Rev. 12/25

Parents...

*After the children, you are the most important part of this organization. Please make every attempt to have your child at all practices and games (on time). Check the area after practices and games to make sure you or your child leaves nothing on the field.*

*Attend your child's games and watch them develop through the season. They practice very hard and look for your support and interest in what they do. Remember we are not only teaching and training football and cheerleading, we are creating young adults and giving these children values that will hopefully stay with them throughout their lives. As athletic as your child may or may not be, he or she may never play organized football or cheerleading at the next level, but our goals are to teach them these values that they can use for the rest of their lives.*

*This organization's success depends on parental support. There are many areas where you can give a little time or effort and make a big difference in your child's and other children's lives.*

# **REGISTRATION, FEES, AND FAMILY PARTICIPATION**

Registration is open to residents of Manhattan and surrounding communities. The Board of Directors will determine the date, time and location for registration. There will be a fitting date announced in a few months and your child will be expected to attend. For Football Registrants we recommend wearing T-Shirts, shorts, and socks. For cheer registrants we recommend tight fitting clothes to fit the cheer uniform over it. A parent/legal guardian of each participant must provide a copy of the participant's birth certificate and all required forms at the time of registration. It will be required that parents sign off & acknowledge the Manhattan Patriots Code of Conduct. The registration and family participation/equipment return fees, which are set by the Board, must be provided via post dated check at your fitting date. The family participation/equipment return post dated check will be returned at equipment turn ins at the conclusion of the season provided the parents/legal guardians have provided the participants Parent/Legal Guardian has worked voluntarily at least three (3) credits and has returned all Manhattan Patriots equipment in good working order and condition.

**A NOTE ON VOLUNTEERISM: The Manhattan Patriots is a non for profit organization run by volunteers. We are currently providing this program for the youth of Manhattan and the surrounding communities with funds received from registration fees and fundraisers. We are dependent on volunteers who will donate their time and energy to produce a quality youth program. Taking the first step is the hardest, so please ask one of the Board Members or Coaches how you can help. Please get involved.....**

## **BASIC POLICIES FOR ALL FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS**

The following are policies of the Manhattan Patriots in common with those of the River Valley Youth Football League.

A. All Board Members, coaches, parents/legal guardians and any other adults connected with the Manhattan Patriots must realize that the organization is designed for the benefit of the young people who participate in it. The role of the adults is to teach and assist the participants.

B. All Board Members, coaches, parents/legal guardians and any other adults connected with the Manhattan Patriots will refrain from using profane language and gestures at any time while at any Manhattan Patriots practices, games, or functions and in the presence of participants.

C. All Board Members, coaches, parents/legal guardians and any other adults connected with the Manhattan Patriots will refrain from smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages at any time while at any Manhattan Patriots practices and games. No pets are allowed at any home or away facilities.

D. Participants are expected to perform in rain or other inclement weather. If threatening conditions occur, the parent/guardian should take their child to their vehicle and await a decision by the commissioners to either resume or cancel the practice or game. All decisions about whether a practice or a game will be canceled will be determined at the field.

E. Game uniforms will be worn on game days only unless otherwise directed by a coach. Proper protective equipment and uniforms are required, or the participant may not be allowed to participate in practices and/or games.

F. Each participant and their parent/legal guardian are responsible for their uniform, its appearance, its maintenance and prompt return of a clean and complete uniform by required turn in dates designated by the Manhattan Patriots. Failure to do so will result in being charged the full cost of a set of equipment or uniform and will be payable by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season or participant will be ineligible for returning participant alumni status and volunteer deposit will not be refunded (NO EXCEPTIONS).

G. No jewelry, face paint, metal barrettes or hair clips, or fingernail polish of any sort is to be worn by participants at both practices and games. Do not get your daughter's ears pierced within a couple months of the start of cheer season. They will have to remove those earrings or not participate. This is a safety issue and there will be no exceptions (this is per Illinois High School Association requirements).

H. Refreshment bottles brought to either practices or games must contain water or a sports performance beverage such as Gatorade, PowerAde, etc. and be marked clearly with participants name. No pop, orange juice or other fruit juices are allowed. Special consideration will be made for those participants with medical needs. Gum chewing and/or eating while at practice or during game participation is not allowed.

I. No foul language or gestures by participants will be allowed.

J. All referee decisions are final! It is the head coach's responsibility to get an explanation of any call if needed in a civilized manor. No yelling or arguing with any official by any participant, parent/legal guardian, relative, coach, or any other member of the Manhattan Patriots will be tolerated.

K. Participants must be picked up promptly at the conclusion of practices. It is the coaches responsibility to make sure that each participant is picked up at the end of practice.

L. So as to not distract your child, all parents, relatives, friends, etc. are to remain far enough away from the team during practice. We only have a limited amount of time to

prepare our children. One distraction disturbs the practice of the entire team, which is not fair to the rest of the team members.

M. It is the discretion of the head coach of each squad as to what position your child will play. Each football participant will participate in 5 or more plays per game. This includes special teams. Any concerns or questions are directed at the head coach of said squad first. If necessary a Board Member will be contacted for further discussion.

N. Neither parents nor players from other teams will be on the sidelines during a game unless invited by the Athletic Director.

O. Mandatory Academic/Religious functions take precedence before athletic practice or game.

P. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to notify the Manhattan Patriots of any medical condition that a child may have. This includes but is not limited to allergies, asthma, diabetes, or any physical limitations.

Q. Because of food allergies, **no team treats are allowed**, parents/legal guardians may only provide their own children with treats and may not be given during practice and/or games.

R. Parents, Participants, or Coaches will never post negative or threatening commentary on any electronic means of communication, such as email, text, Facebook, Instagram, TiK Tok, Twitter, YouTube, etc. Posting of such items will result in an immediate suspension from the program. There is a zero tolerance policy for this type of behavior.

## **RULES SPECIFIC TO FOOTBALL PLAYERS**

A. All participants are expected to attend and participate in all practices and games. If attendance is not possible, the head coach must be notified prior to the practice or game by a parent/guardian. Game plans, strategies, and safety are based on the attendance of all participants and must be significantly altered if the full team is not present. It will be the coaches discretion if a participant will be allowed to perform at a game if they have not attended practices during the previous week. Family vacations, scheduled appointments, illness and reasons similar will be allowed exceptions at the coaches discretion provided the football player has been made aware of any and all changes. It is the participant's responsibility to make arrangements to learn any new plays, positions, or strategies.

B. Players are required to wear an athletic supporter and protective cup, mouthpiece rubber molded cleats to all practices and games.

C. Participants are required to practice/warm-up at the appointed time set by the coaching staff prior to game time and will be notified prior to game date of any change in schedule.

## **RULES SPECIFIC TO COACHES**

A. All potential coaches or helpers will be screened by the Athletic Director and approved by the Board.

B. All potential coaches must be registered with the Board and agree to abide by the decisions of the league officials. All Football coaches must also be USA Football certified. In addition, all Football and Cheer coaches will be required to complete a background check prior to the start of the season.

C. Each team must have one person who will be designated by the Athletic Director as the “Head Coach”. This person is responsible for all matters concerning his/her team, its participants, coaches, fans and equipment.

D. All coaches must refrain from the following:

1. Scolding players in a loud and degrading manner. (NO EXCEPTIONS)
2. Baiting officials and disputing their calls.
3. Under NO circumstances are coaches allowed to dress or take children to the washroom. This is a parents responsibility to be present or assign someone to look after their child.

E. All coaches will be provided with a Coaches Code of Conduct and are required to complete CPR certification. Coaches expectations will be enforced prior to the start of the season.

G. Coaches are also encouraged to attend all clinics that are available via the Manhattan Patriots that concern youth coaching and football strategies. Some of these clinics may require mandatory attendance.

H. The Athletic Director has the authority to remove any coach from his/her position who in the Commissioner’s opinion is causing either physical or emotional injury to a participant, openly defies Manhattan Patriots Board directives, fails to conform to the standards set forth by the Manhattan Patriots and River Valley Youth Football League Boards and the Illinois High School Association. The Athletic Director has the authority to either issue a warn-ing, suspend or remove a coach immediately depending on the severity of the incident if any of these violations occur.

## **GRIEVANCES**

Any grievance that shall arise during the season should be taken first to the head coach of the team/squad for where the issue lies. If a satisfactory result is not obtained, or the problem is not related to a particular squad, they may bring the grievance to the Board of Directors via written complaint.