



# Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. Bylaws

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# Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. Bylaws

**Article I: Name, Aliases, and Branding**

**Section 1. Official Name**

The official legal name of this organization shall be Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA).

**Section 2. Aliases**

The organization may also be referred to by the following aliases for general communication, marketing, and community purposes: Lanier Lions, Lanier Lions Football and Cheer, Lanier Lions Football, and Lanier Lions Cheer.

These aliases may be used interchangeably in non-legal contexts; however, the full legal name, *Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc.*, shall be used in all official filings, contracts, and financial documents.

**Section 3. Branding and Logos**

All logos, slogans, uniforms, graphics, and other branding materials representing the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association are the sole property of the organization.

Use of any official logo, name, or design for merchandise, promotions, or public representation must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors.

Unauthorized use, modification, or reproduction of the Lanier Lions brand or logo is prohibited. The Board reserves the right to enforce brand consistency and take necessary action to protect the organization's image and identity.

## **Article II: Mission and Purpose**

### **Section 1. Mission Statement**

The Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA) is dedicated to building strong athletes, confident leaders, and outstanding community members through the values of teamwork, discipline, respect, and integrity.

Our mission is to provide a safe, inclusive, and positive environment where every child can learn, grow, and compete both on and off the field.

### **Section 2. Purpose**

1. Develop Character and Leadership. Teach responsibility, sportsmanship, and perseverance through football and cheerleading.
2. Promote Safety and Fair Play. Ensure that all activities follow established safety standards and emphasize respect for rules, coaches, teammates, and opponents.
3. Foster Community and Family Involvement. Encourage parents, volunteers, and local partners to take an active role in supporting our young athletes.
4. Uphold Excellence. Represent the Lanier community with pride, professionalism, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

### **Section 3. Guiding Principles**

LLYFCA operates with the belief that youth sports are not just about competition, but about character, teamwork, and community.

We strive to create a fun, family-oriented atmosphere where success is measured not only by wins and losses but by the growth, confidence, and happiness of our athletes.

### **Section 4. Nonprofit Commitment**

As a nonprofit organization, LLYFCA is committed to reinvesting all funds directly into programs, equipment, facilities, and activities that benefit our athletes and community. All financial decisions shall reflect the organization's mission to serve youth and promote the development of safe, high-quality football and cheer programs.

## **Article III: Board of Directors, Committees, Meetings, and Fiscal Year**

### **Section 1. Composition**

The Board of Directors shall consist of individuals nominated and elected by the existing Board of Directors. Board members shall be selected based on their demonstrated leadership, integrity, commitment to youth development, community involvement, and alignment with the mission and values of the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc.

#### **Residency Requirement.**

All members of the Board of Directors must be legal residents of Forsyth County, Georgia for the duration of their service. Proof of residency may be required at the time of nomination and at any time thereafter at the request of the Board. Any Board member who moves outside Forsyth County during their term shall be required to notify the President within ten (10) days and shall be considered to have automatically resigned their position effective immediately, unless a temporary exception is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. Nomination and Selection of Board Members**

New board members shall be nominated and voted on by the existing Board of Directors.

The Board shall consider candidates based on their experience, leadership ability, community involvement, and alignment with the mission and values of the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association.

### **Section 3. Executive Board Positions**

The Executive Board shall consist of the following positions:

- a. President
- b. Vice President of Football Operations
- c. Vice President of Cheer Operations
- d. Treasurer
- e. Secretary

### **Section 4. Director Positions**

- a. Director of Football Operations
- b. Director of Cheer Operations
- c. Director of Rules and Ethics
- d. Director of Team Coordinators
- e. Director of Marketing

Additional directors and committee chairs may serve in appointed roles as determined by the Board.

## **Section 5. Succession Planning**

The Director of Football and the Director of Cheer should ideally be developed and prepared to assume their respective Vice President roles when those positions become available; however, this is not a requirement.

This structure encourages leadership development and continuity within each program while maintaining flexibility for the Board's needs.

## **Section 6. Term of Office**

Each board member shall serve a two-year term, with the option to continue serving additional terms upon mutual agreement between the member and the Board of Directors.

Board members may be reappointed for additional terms without limit, provided they remain in good standing and are approved by a vote of the Board.

All appointments and renewals shall be confirmed by a vote of the Board of Directors.

## **Section 7. Vacancies**

Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with these bylaws.

## **Section 8. Unexpected Vacancies**

In the event of an unexpected vacancy that cannot wait until the next regular election, the President shall have authority to appoint an interim board member, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the remaining board members.

The interim board member shall serve until the next regular appointment period.

## **Section 9. Compensation**

All board members shall serve on a volunteer basis and receive no financial compensation for their services.

## **Section 10. Confidentiality**

Information submitted during the application process and discussions held during interviews shall remain confidential and not be shared outside of the Board without consent.

## **Section 11. Committees**

The Board may establish committees as needed to assist in the operation and management of the Association. Committees may include both board and non-board members and shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board. Committee members cannot represent the league publicly unless authorized.

## **Section 12. Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet at least eight times per calendar year. Meetings may be held in person, virtually, or by teleconference.

A quorum shall consist of a majority of current board members. Decisions shall require a two-thirds vote of members present.

The President shall vote only in the event of a tie. Board members are expected to attend all meetings unless granted an excused absence by the President or by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

## **Section 13. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31. All budgets, reports, and audits shall be prepared based on this fiscal calendar.

## **Section 14. Board Member Removal and Resignation**

### **A. Performance and Conduct Expectations**

All board members are expected to:

1. Act in the best interest of the Association and its mission.
2. Attend meetings regularly and participate actively in discussions and decisions.
3. Fulfill assigned duties and responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.
4. Maintain confidentiality of board discussions and sensitive information.
5. Demonstrate positive leadership, integrity, and respect toward athletes, families, volunteers, and fellow board members.

### **B. Grounds for Removal**

A board member may be subject to removal for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to perform assigned duties or maintain active participation.
2. Violation of the Association's code of conduct or confidentiality policies.
3. Behavior detrimental to the reputation, safety, or mission of the Association.
4. Misuse of funds, property, or authority.

### **C. Removal Procedure**

1. Any board member may be removed for cause, including neglect of duties, misconduct, or actions detrimental to the Association.
2. A written explanation of the concerns must be provided to the member in question.
3. The member will have an opportunity to respond in writing or in person before a vote.
4. Removal requires a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.
5. The vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the bylaws.

#### D. Interim Replacement

If a board member is removed, the Board may appoint an interim member to serve until the next regular appointment period, following the same approval process outlined in Section 7.

#### E. Resignation

Any board member may resign from their position at any time by submitting a written notice to the President or Secretary.

A minimum of thirty (30) days' notice is requested to allow for a smooth transition of duties. Upon receipt of the resignation, the Board may appoint an interim member to fulfill the remaining term, following the same approval process outlined in Section 7.

## **Article IV: Responsibilities of Board Members**

### **Section 1. General Responsibilities**

All board members shall act in the best interest of the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA) and its mission.

They are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, fairness, and respect, and to carry out their roles with professionalism and dedication.

Each board member shall:

1. Attend meetings regularly and participate actively in decision-making.
2. Support and promote the mission and programs of the Association.
3. Maintain confidentiality of board discussions and sensitive information.
4. Represent the organization positively in the community.
5. Perform duties assigned by the President or the Board as needed.

## **Section 2. Executive Officers**

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President of Football, Vice President of Cheer, Treasurer, and Secretary.

These officers shall collectively oversee the strategic direction, fiscal management, and operations of the Association.

## **Section 3. Summary of Executive Roles**

1. **President:** Provides overall leadership, presides over meetings, and serves as the primary spokesperson for the organization.
2. **Vice President of Football:** Supports and oversees all football-related programs, ensuring alignment with the Association's mission and safety standards.
3. **Vice President of Cheer:** Supports and oversees all cheerleading-related programs, ensuring consistency, communication, and program growth.
4. **Treasurer:** Manages the financial affairs of the organization, including budgeting, reporting, and compliance with nonprofit financial requirements.
5. **Secretary:** Maintains accurate meeting minutes, records, and official correspondence of the Association.

## **Section 4. Additional Directors and Appointed Positions**

The Board may appoint additional directors or committee chairs to oversee specific operational areas such as equipment, communications, team coordination, fundraising, or rules and ethics.

These roles shall be defined in the LLYFCA Operating Procedures Manual, which may be updated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## **Section 5. Role Definitions**

Detailed responsibilities and operational expectations for all board positions shall be outlined in the LLYFCA Operating Procedures Manual.

The manual shall be reviewed annually and may be amended by a majority vote of the Board, without requiring amendment of these bylaws.

## **Article V: Eligibility for Executive Roles**

### **Section 1. Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for an executive position on the Board of Directors, an individual must:

1. Be an active member of the Board in good standing.
2. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the Association's mission, values, and operations.
3. Show a consistent record of participation, reliability, and positive leadership.
4. Be committed to upholding the standards of integrity, accountability, and professionalism expected of the Association's leadership.

### **Section 2. Minimum Service Requirement**

Newly elected or appointed board members must serve on the Board for at least one full year before becoming eligible for an executive role (President, Vice President of Football, Vice President of Cheer, Treasurer, or Secretary), unless an exception is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the current Board.

### **Section 3. Selection and Voting**

The Executive Board positions shall be filled through a nomination and voting process conducted by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 4. Good Standing**

To remain eligible to hold or seek an executive role, a member must maintain active participation, meet attendance expectations, and remain in compliance with all policies and codes of conduct established by the Association.

## **Article VI: Commencement of Duties**

### **Section 1. Start of Term**

The duties of each newly elected or appointed board member shall begin immediately following the conclusion of the fall season election meeting, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

## **Section 2. Transition Process**

Outgoing board members shall assist in a formal transition by transferring all materials, records, passwords, equipment, and any other items related to their position to their successor within fourteen (14) days of the new term's start date.

This process ensures continuity and consistency in the Association's operations.

## **Section 3. Overlap and Support**

When possible, outgoing officers should provide reasonable support and guidance to their successors during the transition period to maintain smooth operations and preserve institutional knowledge.

## **Section 4. Interim Appointments**

If a new board member is appointed mid-season to fill a vacancy, their term shall begin immediately upon approval by the Board and will continue until the next regular appointment or election cycle.

## **Article VII: Confidentiality Clause**

### **Section 1. Confidentiality Obligation**

All members of the Board of Directors shall maintain strict confidentiality regarding any sensitive information discussed, shared, or obtained through their service to the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA).

This includes, but is not limited to, financial data, personnel or volunteer matters, disciplinary actions, internal communications, and any other information designated as confidential by the Board.

### **Section 2. Purpose**

Confidentiality is essential to preserve trust, protect the privacy of participants and families, and ensure that all board discussions are conducted in an open and honest environment.

### **Section 3. Disclosure Prohibition**

No board member shall disclose or share confidential information with any person outside the Board without prior authorization from the President or a majority vote of the Board, unless disclosure is required by law.

#### **Section 4. Duration of Obligation**

The confidentiality requirement remains in effect during and after a member's service on the Board.

#### **Section 5. Consequences of Breach**

Any violation of this confidentiality clause may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the Board, in accordance with Section 13: Board Member Evaluation, Removal, and Resignation of these bylaws.

### **Article VIII: Selection and Responsibilities of Coaches**

#### **Section 1. Purpose**

The Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association (LLYFCA) is committed to providing qualified, responsible, and positive coaching leadership for all athletes. Coaches are expected to uphold the mission, values, and safety standards of the Association at all times.

#### **Section 2. Selection of Coaches**

1. Appointment Process.  
Coaches shall be selected by committees chaired by the Vice President of Football and Vice President of Cheer, in accordance with county and governing league requirements.
2. Qualifications.  
All candidates must complete the required background check, training, and certification courses as determined by the Association and its governing bodies.
3. Evaluation Criteria.  
Selection will be based on prior experience, leadership ability, communication skills, sportsmanship, and commitment to the development of players and cheerleaders.
4. Approval.  
Final coaching appointments shall be confirmed by the Executive Board before the start of the season.

#### **Section 3. Coaching Standards and Conduct**

All coaches are expected to:

- Prioritize athlete safety and well-being at all times.

- Model good sportsmanship, integrity, and respect toward players, parents, officials, and opposing teams.
- Create a positive, inclusive environment that promotes learning, teamwork, and confidence.
- Follow all rules and policies established by the Association and Forsyth County Parks and Recreation.
- Communicate clearly and respectfully with athletes, parents, and board members.
- Coaches may not cancel any scheduled practice without prior approval from the President. The President will determine whether cancellation is appropriate in situations such as weather, field closures, or emergencies. Once approval is given, communication to families must follow the Association's established procedures.
- Attend all required meetings, training sessions, and league events.
- Abide by the Association's Coaches Code of Conduct, which must be signed prior to the first practice.

#### **Section 4. Disciplinary Actions for Coaches**

1. Reporting.  
Any complaint or concern regarding a coach must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing or by email.
2. Review.  
The Director of Rules and Ethics, along with the Executive Board, shall review all complaints and may convene a Disciplinary Committee to investigate the issue.
3. Hearing and Decision.  
The coach shall have the opportunity to respond before a decision is made. Disciplinary action may include a warning, suspension, or removal, as determined by a two-thirds vote of the Board.
4. Prohibited Conduct.  
The following behaviors are strictly prohibited and may result in immediate removal:
  - Use of abusive or obscene language or gestures.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct toward players, parents, or officials.

- Endangering player safety or violating county safety policies.
- Discrimination, harassment, or bullying in any form.
- Failure to follow board directives or regulations.

## **Section 5. Code of Conduct Acknowledgement**

All coaches, assistant coaches, and parents or guardians are required to review and sign the Code of Conduct prior to the start of each season.

Signed acknowledgements confirm understanding of the expectations and policies established by the Association.

Failure to sign or comply with the Code of Conduct may result in suspension or denial of participation privileges until compliance is met.

## **Article IX: Nonprofit Status**

### **Section 1. Organizational Status**

The Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA) is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Association shall operate as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Georgia.

### **Section 2. Use of Funds**

All income, donations, sponsorships, and other revenues shall be used solely to promote and support the mission and activities of the Association, including but not limited to program operations, equipment, facilities, training, and scholarships.

No part of the net earnings shall benefit or be distributed to any individual member, officer, or private person, except for reasonable payments for goods or services rendered in support of the Association's activities.

### **Section 3. Dissolution Clause**

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, all remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more nonprofit or charitable organizations that share a similar mission and are recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

No assets shall be distributed to any individual member, officer, or private person.

## **Article X: Scholarship Offerings**

### **Section 1. Purpose**

The Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association (LLYFCA) may provide financial assistance in the form of full or partial scholarships to participants who demonstrate financial need, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate regardless of economic circumstances.

### **Section 2. Eligibility**

Scholarships are available to participants who:

1. Meet all registration and participation requirements of the Association.
2. Demonstrate financial need through a confidential review process established by the Board.
3. Maintain good standing in terms of conduct, attendance, and compliance with team and Association rules.

Scholarships are limited to registration fees only. All other expenses, such as uniforms, spirit wear, or travel costs, remain the responsibility of the participant unless otherwise determined by the Board.

### **Section 3. Application Process**

1. Applicants must submit a completed Scholarship Application Form by the deadline set by the Board.
2. The form must include documentation supporting financial need as required by the Association.
3. All applications shall be handled confidentially and reviewed only by the designated Scholarship Committee or authorized Board members.
4. Incomplete or late applications may not be considered.

### **Section 4. Selection Process**

1. A Scholarship Committee, appointed by the Board, shall review all applications and determine eligibility based on need and available funds.

2. Scholarship awards are subject to annual review and approval by the Executive Board.
3. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

### **Section 5. Funding and Availability**

Scholarships shall be funded through the Association's general budget, donations, sponsorships, or designated fundraising efforts.

Availability and amounts may vary each year based on financial resources and community support.

### **Section 6. Non-Discrimination**

Scholarship awards shall not be denied or granted based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, or any other protected classification.

All applicants shall be treated fairly and evaluated solely on financial need and eligibility criteria.

## **Article XI: Liability Clause**

### **Section 1. Assumption of Risk**

Participation in youth football and cheerleading involves inherent risks of injury.

All participants and their parents or legal guardians acknowledge these risks and agree to assume full responsibility for any injury or loss that may occur while participating in any activity sponsored by the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA).

### **Section 2. Release of Liability**

By registering for or participating in any Association activity, all participants and their parents or legal guardians agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the LLYFCA, its Board of Directors, officers, coaches, volunteers, agents, and affiliates from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising from injury, loss, or damage of any kind, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, during participation in any Association-sponsored event, practice, or activity.

### **Section 3. Insurance Coverage**

The Association shall maintain liability insurance coverage as required by Forsyth County Parks and Recreation and any applicable governing bodies.

This coverage is intended to protect the organization and its representatives while acting in good faith within the scope of their official duties.

## **Section 4. Indemnification of Board Members and Volunteers**

To the fullest extent permitted by law, all Board members, officers, and volunteers of the Association shall be indemnified and held harmless against any liability or expense incurred in connection with their service to the Association, provided their actions were taken in good faith and in alignment with the mission and policies of the organization.

## **Article XII: Issues Not Covered in Bylaws**

### **Section 1. General Authority**

In any situation not specifically addressed within these bylaws or the governing rules of the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA), the Executive Board shall have the authority to interpret, clarify, or establish procedures as necessary to maintain the effective and fair operation of the Association.

### **Section 2. Guiding Principles**

All decisions regarding matters not covered in these bylaws shall be made with the following priorities in mind:

1. The safety and well-being of athletes and participants.
2. The integrity and mission of the Association.
3. Compliance with the rules and regulations of Forsyth County Parks and Recreation.
4. Fairness, transparency, and consistency in decision-making.

### **Section 3. Documentation and Incorporation**

Any decision or new policy created under this Article shall be documented in the meeting minutes and reviewed by the Board.

If determined to be ongoing or significant, the policy may be added to the LLYFCA Operating Procedures Manual or incorporated into the bylaws through the formal amendment process outlined in Article XIII.

## **Article XIII: Amendments**

### **Section 1. Proposal of Amendments**

Any member of the Board of Directors may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting the proposed change in writing to the President or Secretary.

Proposals should include a clear explanation of the amendment's purpose and intended impact.

## **Section 2. Review and Discussion**

Proposed amendments shall be distributed to all board members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which they will be discussed.

The Board shall review the proposal and may make revisions or request clarification before voting.

## **Section 3. Approval**

An amendment to these bylaws shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Approved amendments shall take effect immediately unless a different effective date is stated in the motion.

## **Section 4. Documentation**

All adopted amendments shall be recorded in the official meeting minutes and incorporated into the next published version of the bylaws.

The updated document shall be signed and dated by the President and Secretary to confirm adoption.

## **Article XIV: Adoption and Interpretation**

### **Section 1. Adoption of Bylaws**

These bylaws shall be considered officially adopted upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA).

Once adopted, they shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified in the adoption motion.

### **Section 2. Interpretation**

In the event of any ambiguity or dispute regarding the meaning or intent of these bylaws, the Board of Directors shall interpret the provisions in a manner consistent with the mission, values, and best interests of the Association.

Interpretations shall be decided by a majority vote of the Board, and the outcome shall be documented in the meeting minutes.

**Section 3. Supersession**

Upon adoption, these bylaws shall supersede any and all previous constitutions, bylaws, or governing documents of the Association.

**Article XV: Date of Acceptance**

These bylaws of the Lanier Lions Youth Football and Cheer Association, Inc. (LLYFCA) were reviewed, approved, and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors on the date listed below.

These bylaws shall remain in effect until amended or replaced in accordance with Article XIII.

Approved by the Board of Directors on: 12/10/2025

President: Christy Pittman

Vice President of Football: Dustin W Benefield 

Vice President of Cheer: Dymette Vooches

Treasurer: [Signature]

Secretary: [Signature]