

Merced Cougars Youth Football
(209) 725-8409

Player Name: _____ Age (by Aug. 1st) _____ Squad _____

PARENTS: Please ask yourself the following questions before signing up your child for youth football:

1. IS YOUR CHILD TOO SCARED TO HIT OR BE HIT?

The Cen-Cal Youth Football League is a competitive traveling team. **There is no rule regarding playing for each child**. Tackle football is a very physical and potentially violent sport. Sometimes there is a big weight difference between players. You and your child will not be able to choose whom they hit or who hits them, whether it is a Cougar teammate or an opposing team's player(s). This organization will not jeopardize your child or a Cougar teammate if your child is too scared to tackle or be tackled. **Please be advised, if it is determined your child is too scared and/or not aggressive enough for the sport, your child may not play a single down in any game.**

2. ARE YOU AND YOUR CHILD WILLING TO MAKE A HUGE COMMITMENT AND GIVE UP ALMOST HALF OF YOUR YEAR FOR FOOTBALL?

Practice begins at the end of July, five days a week. Once the season begins in August with home and away games every Saturday, practice goes to four days a week. Then playoff games, Super Bowl and the All-Star game can make for a very long season ending the first weekend of December. Yes, it's a lot!

Parents need to understand that every child has different playing abilities, so **it goes without saying that some players will play more than others on game day**. Playing time depends on several factors: skill, desire and effort shown during the weeks of practice. The Cougar Board of Directors' philosophy is that the commitment, hard work, team spirit and RESPECT for his/her teammates and coaches should be rewarded appropriately. It is up to the Head Coach to determine playing time for each player. Please understand that most kids do not have a problem with playing time; it is usually the parents who do. Your child will learn more about working as a team than in any other sport. Every day they will be learning new skills on the practice field. We are sure you will see great progress in your child because of Cougar Youth Football.

Parents are responsible for getting their child to practices and games. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE ON TIME**. If your child is late to a game, it could mean not playing. Practices are usually two hours long. Being late to practice usually means that they may have to run laps or they may miss out on an important aspect of drills for that day. It is also important to keep in mind that our coaches are volunteers and have other commitments, so it is **very important that you are on time to pick your child up from practice** if you choose not to stay. Coaches are not allowed to transport children to and from practices and/or games.

PHYSICALS: Physicals are a MUST before your child can condition for football. Every player is required to have 10 hours of conditioning in order to participate in team practice.

*****PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT GAME TIMES AND/OR DATES CAN BE CHANGED AT THE CENCAL LEAGUE'S DISCRETION. CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES*****

FEES: This year TOTAL PLAYER COST is \$275.00. **This includes your registration fee of \$150.00 and the mandatory fundraising of \$125** (please see details below to know how this works.) Parents will be given a half time fruit and after game snack and drink schedule from their Team Parent. Please note we do accept credit cards with additional \$5.00 fee per transaction.

MANDATORY FUNDRAISER: This year we have chosen to sell discount books for our fundraiser. **Note: We will also have a MANDATORY midseason fundraiser.**

SELLING SPACE FOR THE COUGAR FOOTBALL YEARBOOK:

You must sell up to \$125.00 in space; you may do this with business sponsor ad or player's "shout out" with picture. This also means if you decide to "Buyout" and not do the fundraiser, you will be able to "shout out" a space in the year book. (Please note that by selling a "Shout Out" does not automatically purchase the yearbook. Yearbooks are sold separately).

BUYOUT: This will be \$125.00 per player plus the registration fee, a total of \$275.00. **Note: Even if you buyout, you are still required to do the midseason fundraiser.**

All fundraising activities must be completed BEFORE the player will be issued any playing equipment.

REFUNDS: A full refund will only be allowed if the child leaves the team BEFORE they start any practice. If the player participates in ANY practice the first week they will not be entitled to a full refund, only a portion of the registration fee will be refunded. After Friday of the first week of practice, there will be no refunds whether the player participates or not. Fundraising monies are not refundable.

INDIVIDUAL/TEAM PICTURES: The cost of pictures is an additional and optional expense. The picture fee is to be paid by the player's Parent/Guardian at the time pictures are taken. Even if you will not be purchasing pictures please bring your player out for the Team photo and for an individual picture (if time allotted) for our year book.

WEB PAGE/ADS: Your child's name and/or image may be subject to display on our website, Facebook group, yearbook and advertisements. *If you do not want your child's name or image used, please see a Board Member.* We will be selling our yearly football yearbook as soon as they are available.

ADMISSION: Admission fees will be charged at every game, whether home or away. The fees will be \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students and seniors, children under 6 years of age are free. Money made from admissions is ALL returned into each football team's organization. **(No outside food/drink or ice coolers are allowed at any Cen-Cal games.)**

SMOKING: There is NO SMOKING at either practices or games, as both take place on school grounds and California State law prohibits such action. You must be 25 feet away from the grounds to be in compliance.

INSURANCE: Our insurance policy is a secondary policy. This means that our insurance only pays after your personal policy pays. Our policy is \$100.00 deductible policy, and as such could be required to pay TWO deductibles. If you have no insurance then our policy is primary. Merced Cougars Youth Football is NOT responsible to pay this deductible. The limit of the policy is \$10,000.00. Any amount above that is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian.

RULES: On game day, your child must be on time. There will only be one official weigh-in prior to the start of each game. If your child is late for this weigh-in, he/she will be ineligible to play the game that day, pursuant to Cen-Cal rules.

All parents and players are expected to participate in volunteering – i.e., working in the concessions stand, ticket gate, set up and clean up after home games. The Team Parents will be passing out a volunteer schedule. It is up to the parent/guardian to switch with another parent/guardian if unable to volunteer that day. This will only be at our home games. The cost of playing football is approximately \$385.00 per player. The cost above registration must be raised through fundraising activities. An organization like ours can not be successful without volunteers. They are a vital part of the program. We invite all parents/guardians to get involved in our program. We depend on volunteers to make our program successful. **Your Participation is Appreciated!!**

Merced Cougars Youth Football & Cheerleading's "ZERO TOLERANCE" Policy- we will not tolerate any aggression or threats of physical aggression, use of foul language on the field, lack of respect towards coaches, and an overall poor attitude. The Board of the Merced Cougars Youth Football has given full discretion to the head coaches of all the football/cheer teams and cheerleading squads to enforce this policy.

The following will not be tolerated:

- Any physical displays of aggression or threats of physical aggression towards a parent, coach, referee, player or board member
- Instigating players, parents, officials, board members
- General lack of respect for the organization
- Parents of participants disrespecting coaches, referees, and each other
- Parents and fans on the field without permission
- Inappropriate language
- Insubordination to coaches, fellow teammates, and the general public

Failure to follow this policy will be brought to the attention of the Board for possible dismissal of that participant from the program. In some instances, depending on the gravity of the incident, dismissal may be immediate. We represent the town of Merced and should do this with dignity and honor during all games either at home or away. Thank you for your cooperation, Merced Cougars Youth Football and Cheerleading Board of Directors

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

Varsity squads will consist of players between 11-14 years of age. Players must not weigh more than 220 pounds playing weight. All players in 8th grade must play Varsity regardless of age/weight. No repeat 6th graders or freshman players allowed.

Junior Varsity squads will consist of players between 9-12 years of age. A maximum of 140 pounds playing weight is allowed.

Pee Wee squads will consist of players between 8-10 years of age. The maximum weight for a Pee Wee player will be 120 pounds of playing weight.

Rookies consist of players between 7-8 years of age. The maximum weight for Rookies is 110 pounds.

Note: To clarify, age cutoff date is August 1st. Cen-Cal will use the player's age that he/she is on August 1st. All weights are for the entire season.

Thank you for becoming a part of the Cougar family – we look forward to a great season!

MERCED COUGARS YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER

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Facebook Group: Merced Youth Cougars Football & Cheer



By signing this form you are agreeing to all the rules and information listed above. Failure to comply with the rules, you will be asked to leave the Merced Cougars Youth Football and Cheer Organization.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PLAYER SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____