

**RINGWOOD RATTLER FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS
BY-LAWS
REVISED 2024**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Ringwood Rattler Football Cheerleaders, also known as RRFC, and shall remain autonomous from any other group or organization.

**ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of the RRFC shall be to provide for athletic development, teamwork, and leadership skills in our cheerleaders. RRFC strives to develop in our cheerleaders the ideas of good sportsmanship, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, while fostering their growth as individuals and as positive examples of Ringwood citizens.

**ARTICLE III
GOVERNMENT**

- A. The governing body of the RRFC will consist of an Executive Board composed of a Director, an Assistant Director, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- B. In order to hold an office on the Executive Board, your child must be an active cheerleader for the RRFC.
- C. Executive Board members will hold office for a term of 2 years unless the officer's child is no longer participating in the RRFC. The terms for Director and Secretary will end March 31 of even years and the terms for Assistant Director and Treasurer will end March 31 of odd years. Officers may be elected to serve subsequent terms if interested and if their child is an active cheerleader for RRFC.
- D. Officers will be elected prior to the end of their term, or as needed in the event of a resignation, by the standing board members.

**ARTICLE IV
MEETINGS**

- A. Executive Board Meetings will be held once a quarter unless needed sooner. Exact day and location will vary based upon availability. Every other year changes to By-Laws will be proposed and decided upon in February, or as needed.
- B. Three (3) Parent Meetings will be held during Cheerleading season. One parent meeting will be held pre-season, during the first week of practice, one meeting will be held during the season, and one meeting will be held at the conclusion of our season in January.

- C. A quorum shall be no less than three (3) Executive Board members at any meeting and a majority vote of those present shall govern.
- D. Three (3) Executive Board members must be present at all meetings. A member that cannot attend a meeting must contact the Director. Each member must be present at a minimum of HALF the Executive Board meetings in order to be eligible to vote.
- E. Any Executive Board member who feels it necessary to call a special meeting shall contact the Director and a meeting shall be scheduled to be held within two (2) weeks.

ARTICLE V SCHEDULE

- A. Game and practice schedules will be provided by email or a program or application. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader's family to check the program or application used by the RRFC to stay current with their cheerleader's game schedules, availability, and changes.
- B. Pre-Season Practice will be scheduled for 3 days per week during the month of August for 1 hour for the Instructional squad and up to 2 hours for the remaining squads.
- C. The game schedule for the season will be provided after it has been received from the Football program. Games are typically held on Saturdays and Sundays.
- D. Season practice will be scheduled up to 1 hour prior to the start of each football game unless otherwise specified by an Executive Board member or advisor. There will be no practice during the week during the season.
- E. Attendance at practices and games will be monitored. Attendance at practice confirms a cheerleader's tumbling and/or stunt spots for the halftime routine. In the interest of safety, if a cheerleader does not attend pre-game practice, the cheerleader may not be permitted to perform in the halftime routine. This will be at the discretion of the coaches and advisors present. Cheerleaders who are not permitted to participate in the halftime routine will be able to participate in sideline cheers throughout the game.

ARTICLE VI UNIFORM

- A. During pre-season practice in August, uniform fittings will be held. A uniform deposit will be collected and will be returned at the end of the season if the uniform shell and skirt are returned in a timely manner and in good condition. Uniform Shell, Uniform Skirt, and bows will be provided. Only the Uniform Shell and Uniform Skirt must be returned at the end of the season.
- B. Cheerleaders are expected to wear their complete uniform to all games.
 - a. Warm Weather Uniform consists of Uniform Shell, Uniform Skirt, and bow, all provided by RRFC. Cheerleaders are responsible for providing their own black shorts, white low-cut socks, and white sneakers as part of the Warm Weather Uniform.

- b. Cold Weather Uniform consists of Uniform Shell, Uniform Skirt, and bow, all provided by RRFC. Cheerleaders are responsible for providing black leggings, black long-sleeve mock-neck crop top, Rattler Cheerleading sweatshirt, white low-cut socks, and white sneakers as part of the Cold Weather Uniform.
- c. Cheerleaders are also responsible for providing a cheer bag, cinch bag or backpack for holding uniform parts and for storing pom poms if provided.
- C. Pom poms will be provided, depending on weather conditions and availability.

ARTICLE VII RULES

- A. It is the responsibility of the Director of the RRFC to communicate the objective of Article II and the football game rules that govern these objectives to coaches, advisors, and cheerleaders. Cheerleaders must conduct themselves with good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority for their own town and all opposing towns.
- B. Advisors and coaches must follow the Ringwood Recreation Department's requirements for eligibility and certification. Any coaches or advisors who have not met the requirements will not be permitted on the field until all requirements have been met.
- C. Field Rules are as follows:
 - a. Home team shall go on the field first for the "hello cheer" and shall face the visiting team. After they are done, they will return to their side of the field and watch the visiting team's "hello cheer."
 - b. The squad from the visiting team shall submit a team roster to the announcer. The home team squad will also provide a team roster to the announcer.
 - c. Visiting team shall go on the field first for the halftime performance, facing any direction. The home team will watch and support the visiting team's performance.
 - d. Cheerleaders are not permitted to wear jewelry, nail tips, or nail acrylics for safety reasons.
 - e. Hair must be pulled back and away from the face secured in a ponytail, if length permits, for all practices and games.
 - f. Once the game begins, cheerleaders are to perform their appropriate sideline cheers throughout the game. Coaches will be responsible for the selection, cadence, and direction of cheers. Coaches have discretion to ask cheerleaders for leadership in the selection and direction of cheers. Signs or megaphones are allowed in order to get maximum crowd response.
 - g. Coaches and advisors are to be in proper attire that reflects that they are coaches of a recreation cheerleading team. Open-toed or open-back shoes, such as flip flops, are not permitted on the field.
 - h. Snacks will not be permitted on the sidelines. Cheerleaders and coaches must provide their own water for hydration and reusable bottles are encouraged.

ARTICLE VIII RULES OF CONDUCT

- A. Adult advisors will address parent and/or cheerleader concerns on their squad at the first available opportunity once a concern arises or is presented to them. Those issues, which cannot be resolved, will be brought to the attention of the Director or other Executive Board member. No concerns should be brought to the attention of teenage coaches for resolution.
- B. Any violations of the Code of Conduct and/or unsportsmanlike conduct should be reported to the Director immediately. The Director will bring the violation to the attention of the RRFC Executive Board at a special meeting, in order to be voted on for appropriate action per the guidelines in the Code of Conduct.

ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION

- 1. The organization may be dissolved with previous notice (14 calendar days) and a vote of two-thirds of the quorum of members present.
- 2. All monetary funds remaining in any bank account associated with the RRFC Booster Account upon dissolution will be transferred to the Ringwood Recreation Department, 60 Margaret King Avenue, Ringwood, NJ 07456.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

- 1. These By-Laws or any section thereof may be amended or repealed. Proposed changes and/or revised By-Laws may be proposed and discussed during a revision session. Proposed changes and/or revisions shall be submitted in writing during any other time.
- 2. A majority vote is needed to approve revisions. These By-Laws will be subject to revision every two years, or as needed.
- 3. These By-Laws are effective as of April 3, 2024 and replace and supersede any and all prior By-Laws.