



## **General**

**What is the Prince Georges Chargers Athletic Association (PG Chargers)?** The PG Chargers is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization founded in 2007. Our goal is to have a professional and ELITE organization for competitive youth sports. We are proud members of the Metropolitan American Youth Football & Cheerleading Conference (Metro AYF), which is a division of the American Youth Football (AYF) National Program.

**What is the time commitment?** There are ten hours of practice per week before school starts, Monday - Friday, dropping to six hours per week after school starts. After school starts there is one game per week. The first day of practice is the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month of July in any given year. Additional practice details are below.

**Who can participate?** Any child, in grades Pre-K (age 4) through 8<sup>th</sup> can participate.

**Are all kids able to play?** Every registered child must play a required number of plays for each game.

**What if I'm outside of Prince Georges County area?** We have no boundaries in the Metro AYF; you are welcome to play for any team you desire.

**Are parents allowed to coach or volunteer?** We welcome all parents to get involved in the program; rather it's coaching or volunteering. All parents and coaches are required to undergo a background check before participation can begin. Coaches are required to complete 2 training courses and the AYF and/or USA Football Coaching certification.

## **Registration**

**When does registration start?** Registration starts on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, and the registration enrollment period ends on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Early registration is normally during the month of February of any given year.

**How late can I sign up?** The earlier you sign up, the better we can secure your spot on a roster. Once teams reach 20-25 players per team, you will be put on the waiting list. Your registration fee will be refunded back to you if we can't secure a spot for you from the waiting list. Early registration allows the organization to secure the equipment you will need to play. The PG Chargers reserves the right to close registration at any time with no advance notice.

**Are there any discounts?** Yes, we have an early registration discount period where we encourage all participants to take care of the discount provided during that period. There are NO discounts during the early registration periods.

**Are there any payment plans?** The payment plans are broken down by making an initial payment at the time you register to secure your roster slot on the football and cheer teams. The remaining balance must be paid before equipment will be issued to you. **If you do not make your remaining balance payment by August 1, your roster slot becomes open to other registrants that have paid in full and you will not receive a refund.** Each team will have (20-25) roster slots (subject to change) and some divisions will have a total of two teams each;

**When do I turn in my Medical Release form?** With our on-line registration system, once you register, all required forms are automatically filled out in the background for you. You can print these forms at any time. The Medical Release form must be printed, signed, and turned in to the organization before you are allowed to participate. You can bring the form with you on the first day of practice the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of July of any given year.

**I have a medical condition or disability. Can I still play?** More than likely you can play. If your doctor is willing to sign your medical release and you are willing to work hard and play your best, you can generally have a good football experience. However, we would recommend contacting our Athletic Director (Ashley Montgomery) or our Football Director (John Castelly) to discuss your specific details and any concerns you might have.

**Does my Medical Release form need to be signed by a doctor?** Either a doctor or a registered nurse must sign and date the form.

**Do I need a physical?** A doctor's examination or physical are acceptable if that is what your doctor or registered nurse requires to confidently sign your Medical Release form. It must be dated in the current calendar year.

**Do I have to participate in a Fundraiser?** YES, The PG Chargers will conduct at least three fundraisers to offset the cost of registration. The first fundraiser is for organizational expenses and has been included in your registration and is used normally to satisfy pre-season expenses such as league fees, insurance, helmet reconditioning, etc. The second fundraiser is used to defray administrative cost such as field fees, additional football equipment, additional field equipment, helmet decals, etc. The third fundraisers will go towards post season play i.e. regional and/or nationals (depending on the amount that is raised). The association opens individual bank accounts for each team in post season play and all monies are deposited into those accounts.

**Do I have to work concessions a certain number of games?** We would ask everyone in the organization to get involved. We CANNOT be successful if we all are not involved in the program. The organization will NOT turn away any volunteers that want to be involved in the program!!!!!!!

Please register with our President (Shellon Young) to get involved in the program.

**Why does it cost so much?** The PG Chargers organization is growing and expanding every year to bring you more options and an improved practice, game day and family experience while still maintaining the same high quality standard for excellence that we hope initially led you to join us to begin with. The reality is that there are substantial costs involved with running a growing elite organization. However, the PG Chargers are committed to working with families that support and share our vision for providing an elite youth sports and mentoring program, but have financial challenges.

If there are personal circumstances that lead you to look around for a better bargain, we understand, we know there is competition for your dollars in this area. However, we encourage you to look closely as you "comparison shop" with other area youth sports groups. We also encourage you to ask the right questions. Although, advertised registration costs, fees and such may be lower in another program, be sure that you understand what those fees include; quite often, the lower the fee the more you will be responsible for once the season has started. We encourage you to evaluate the **quality of the program...quality of the uniforms...quality of the field...quality of instruction...quality of the players/parents...quality of the staff...safety of the practice/game areas...quality of the league...type of team/organization insurance coverage....history of success and commitment to local youth.**

We hope and expect that you will recognize the clear difference between joining another local youth group and investing in OUR Program". It's not bragging or arrogance, but demonstrated facts. We think of ourselves as a family and a family-oriented program. The PG Chargers coaches, staff, volunteers, and parents make an investment in your son/daughter and we ask that you invest in us as we grow and develop into the pride of P.G. County and the surrounding area. We reward the loyalty of those who invest in us, support us, and believe in our vision for providing quality athletic programs targeting our underserved communities.

Please take a look at the chart below and it will show that your registration fee falls short of what it cost to operate this program.

PG Chargers Admin/Operation Fees		Association Office/League Expenses		Equipment	
Background checks	\$2.25	Association fee: Metro AYF	\$4.00	Helmets: Sanitize/rental	\$50.00
Staff and Director Insurance	\$7.25	Team registrations: Metro AYF	\$9.00	Shoulder Pads: Sanitize/rental	\$25.00
Club/Ceremony Rentals	\$4.00	Team registrations: AYF	\$4.00	Game Pants: cleaning/rental	\$15.00
Training/registration fees	\$7.50	Player Insurance	\$14.25	Game Jersey: cleaning/rental	\$20.00
First Aid Kits	\$2.50	Referees fees	\$19.50	Practice Jersey: (player keeps)	\$12.95
Game Balls	\$6.25	Post Season Play	\$7.75	Practice Pants: (player keeps)	\$7.00
Field rental (RBS)	\$30.00	Website fees and maintenance	\$4.75	Game Socks: (player keeps)	\$8.00
Ice/Water	\$5.00	Board Meetings	\$5.50		
Practice equipment: dummies	\$4.75	Copies/print cartridges	\$1.85	Belts: (player keeps)	\$1.25
Fundraiser fee	\$50.00	Postages	\$0.85	Equipment repair/access.	\$3.00
Online Registration fee	\$8.00	Paper supplies	\$3.85		
Field Lights (Perrywood)	\$1.25	Club/Ceremony Rentals	\$15.00		
Field Rental (no lights)	\$0.75				

Total	<b>\$129.50</b>	Total	<b>\$90.30</b>	Total	<b>\$142.20</b>
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<b>Total cost per player:</b>	<b>\$362.00</b>	
<b>Registration fee per player:</b>	<b>\$226.00</b>	<i>Our registration fee is very comparable to other major youth programs.</i>
<b>Organization <u>overage deficit</u> cost per player:</b>	<b>\$136.00</b>	<i>Even with your fundraiser fee added into the registration cost. This is our shortfall that we try to make up thru donations from you or sponsorships from our local businesses.</i>

## Equipment

**What equipment is provided?** We provide all of the equipment you will need except for cleats, girdle, 7-piece pads (2 thigh pads, 2 knee pads, 2 hip pads and 1 butt pad), and mouth piece. There are very few organizations that will provide all your equipment to include practice gear. Make sure you are aware of that when you pay a low registration cost somewhere else.

**What is an equipment deposit?** Unfortunately, we have had to deal with parents who don't return equipment and/or don't return it in a timely matter. As a result, a \$200.00 (post dated check-Dec 15<sup>th</sup>) deposit is required before any equipment is issued out. If your equipment is returned by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, your check will be returned to you immediately. If your equipment is not returned by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, the PG Chargers will cash your \$200.00 check. Please note, that there is a \$35.00 fee for returned checks. Once your deposit check is cashed the equipment is yours to keep. Should you desire to return the equipment after your check has been deposited, you may receive an organizational credit.

**What equipment do I have to provide?** Cleated football shoes (a.k.a. "cleats"), football girdle, 7-piece pads (2 thigh pads, 2 knee pads, 2 hip pads and 1 butt pad), protective cup and a mouth piece. It is our experience that the majority of the kids will use their mouth guard as "chewing gum". Therefore, we recommend that you purchase extra mouth pieces. We will have mouth pieces for sale at the concession tent. If you have braces, please consult your Orthodontist for proper mouth protection. You may also want to have other personal equipment such as gloves, wrist bands, face shields, etc. We recommend that you discuss your need for such equipment with your coach before actually purchasing it.

**What kind of cleats do I need?** Metro AYF rules require that our players wear football cleats that are designed for youth football. They must be either a molded cleat or internally threaded shoes where no post is extending from the shoe (instead, the cleat post screws internally into the shoe). **No all metal, primarily metal, or metal tipped cleats may be worn.**

**Where do I get the equipment you don't provide?** Football shoes and equipment can be purchased at any sporting goods store such as Modell's, Sports Authority, and Dicks Sporting Good. The organization will provide discount coupons to such stores to defray the cost of these items. Please get your coupons the first week of camp at the registration tent.

**What if there is a problem with my equipment?** Many problems can be corrected using the tools and supplies that each team has, so contact your coach for assistance. If they cannot resolve the issue, then they will arrange to get you a replacement.

**My helmet hurts, can I get a different one?** It is extremely common for your helmet to hurt your head for the first couple of weeks. They must be tightly fitted in order to protect the head, which can result in some discomfort. Every effort will be made during equipment hand out to ensure a correct fit. We recommend that once you get your equipment, you wear your helmet before the start of camp and practice, in order to break it in. And remember, when you wear it, be sure to pull it all the way down, hard.

**When and where do I get my equipment?** Equipment handout date will be the first weekend in August from 9am to 3pm at the Perrywood Elementary School. Please refer to organizational calendar should dates change. You can only pick up your equipment if you have registered and turned in all of your registration documentation. If you do not have the forms completed and/or if you are not prepared to submit the \$200.00 equipment deposit check, you can be fitted, but you will not be allowed to take your equipment home with you.

**What if I can't make it to the equipment hand outs?** We do ask that you make every effort to make it on this date, since it is selected to cover most families. However, if you find it impossible to attend let us know as soon as possible, so that we can make other arrangements.

**Can I get my equipment early for a camp?** No, equipment is only authorized to be used at PG Chargers sanctioned events due to insurance restrictions.

**How do I take care of my equipment?**

**Jerseys and pants** – Make sure you remove the pads and belt (if any) and wash in cool water with like colors. It is highly recommended to Pre-treat stains if necessary. **Please Do NOT bleach.** Air dry if possible as name lettering may come off otherwise. The game jersey and pants are not to be used for practice. Game socks can be washed in warm water.

**Shoulder and other pads** - Wipe off with clean, damp cloth. Allow to air dry.

**Helmet** - Hand wash off dirt and clean interior pads with clean, damp cloth. Allow to air-dry. Parents, we ask that have your child take responsibility for keeping track of all of the equipment and keeping it clean.

## **Teams**

**Will there be traveling?** Yes, the ultimate goal of the PG Chargers is to make it to the national championship, which is held in Orlando, Florida. If all of our teams make it, all of the players MUST attend. So please begin saving and planning to spend the first week of December in Orlando, Florida,

**How are different grades grouped?** Players are assigned by age (All-American division). There are teams that will have multiple ages combined for that division.

**How are players assigned to teams?** Players are assigned to different teams by their age. Each team will have a max of twenty-five players or less. If there are multiple teams for each division, the executive board and coaching staff will assign those players to a team based on whether or not the parents are willing to travel to the national championship, held in Orlando, Florida.

**Can I request a specific coach?** No.

**Can I request friends I want to be on a team with?** If your brother (or sister) is in the same division, you can request to be on the same team, otherwise, no.

**How do I find out what team I will play for?** You will be informed once your age is assembled and verified.

**How are coaches chosen?** Applicants for head coaching positions are required to go thru an extensive interview process conducted by our Director of Football Operations. Once selected, the head coach will be allowed to select his coaching staff with the final approval coming from the Executive Board. All coaches are required to have a background check.

**How many teams are there?** This will depend on the number of players that sign up. The PG Chargers project to have the following teams every year (subject to change): Rookie All-American (5U Flag), Super Tiney Mite All-American (6U), Bantam All-American (8U) & Mitey Mite All-American (8U), Pony All-American (9U), Freshman All-American (10U), Sophomore All-American (11U), Junior All-American (12U), Varsity All American (13U)

**Do I have to try out?** No, as long as your registration is complete and paid, and you are not on a waiting list, you will be placed on a team.

## **Practices**

**Where are the practices held?** All practices will be held at Perrywood Elementary School (431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD).

**When do practices start?** The first day of practice will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of July in any given year.

**How long are practices?** Most practices are 2 hours long. Practice times will be 6:00pm to 8:00pm (subject to change).

**How many practices are there per week?** Between the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of July in any given year and the start of school, each team will practice 5 days a week. Practices/Scrimmages will be held primarily on Saturdays. After the start of school, each team will practice 3 days a week. Game day is not considered practice time.

**Why are practices so late?** There are two reasons for this. First, most of our coaches and volunteers have regular jobs as well as the parents, and it is very difficult to start practice before 6:30 PM. Every effort is made to make sure the kids are released on time.

**If I missed practice because of school work, will my kid still play?** Yes, your kid will still play in the game. However he may have a limited role that week if he's not up to speed on the coaches "game day plan"

**What about the vacation I have scheduled?** Go and enjoy yourself. Football will still be here when you get back. But please tell your coach as soon as you can. With that said, if you have any flexibility, try to schedule around the football season, especially August, since the first two weeks of August is conditioning. Your player must have the required hours of conditioning before they are allowed to wear football gear.

**What if I miss the first week of practice?** The biggest downside to you missing the first week of practice is that you will not be allowed to practice in full gear for the first week of your team's practice, which means you will not be able to take part in any contact (hitting) drills. You will be a little bit behind your team mates for a little while. Also, practices might be a little boring while you watch others learn the different techniques required to play the game such tackling drills. But you will catch up and you will still be placed on a team. If you attend a week of camp; we will give you credit for the ten mandatory conditioning hours that is required by AYF before any participation in contact drills.

## **Games**

**How long are the games?** Games are made up of four 8 and 10 minute quarters. Most games last for 1 hour for non-competitive divisions, and 1 ½ hours for the competitive divisions. In addition, players are expected to be at the field at least 1 hour before the game to warm up and weigh in. So count on spending up to 2 to 3 hours on game day. If the game ends in a tie, and time is available, the game will be extended in "Over Time" to determine the winner.

**Why do I have to get to the game so early?** Players are expected to get to the game site at least an hour before game time. This ensures that there is adequate time to warm up and weigh in. Being late for warm ups can increase your chance for injuries, while being late for weigh-in can cause you to be disqualified from some game time, and in some cases may cause a team forfeit. It is important to be on time to the game site. If you are "time challenged", consider carpooling or setting your alarm 30 to 60 minutes earlier than usual. You don't want your child to get hurt, and you don't want to miss a game!

**What is Over Time?** Over Time is an extended quarter to break ties, usually at the end of a game. Basically, the ball is placed on the 10 yard line away from the goal and the offensive team has 4 tries to score. Then the teams switch sides and the new offensive team has 4 tries. If only one team scores, they are the winner. If neither scores after the 4 tries, the game remains a tie, unless it's a playoff game.

**How many games are there?** The teams can play between 8 to 12 games if they advance to the playoffs. Those in the top 4 of their division will move on to the playoffs (**subject to change**). The playoffs consist of Conference, State, Regional, and the Nationals. We ask that every parent understand that we are a National organization, and the further we advance in the playoffs, we will be required to travel. If you know for sure that you will not be traveling, every effort will be made to place your child on a non-traveling squad, if one is available.

**Where are games played?** Our home games are played at Riverdale Baptist School, in Upper Marlboro, MD. Most of our away games are played against other associations in Prince Georges County, and Montgomery County. There are times when we will play other associations in AYF from Virginia and Baltimore, to name a few.

**How much time will my child get to play?** Metro AYF has a minimum 8 play rule. This means that you will play in at least 8 active plays per game (plays ending in penalties, kneel-downs, and special teams are not considered active plays). Depending on your position, your skill, and especially your willingness to work hard, you may play more than the required minimum. Notice that "position" was the first item on the list: if you insist on playing one of the "skill" positions, like everyone else, you will likely not play as much. There are a lot of people who want to be the quarterback running back, or receiver. But if you are willing to learn to play any position, you will have a better chance to play more often.

**What position will I play?** More than likely, you will be playing several positions. Most players will play "both ways", both on offense and defense. Your coaches will observe and work with you to find the best locations for you. We want you to be successful!

**What rules are used?** In general, we use the High School football rules as defined by the NFHS. There are several modifications to these rules adopted by the Metro AYF and the AYF National Association.

## **Camp**

**PG Chargers Conditioning Camp:** The PG Chargers Conditioning Camp is a camp covering the fundamentals of youth football, which includes proper techniques for each position and building stamina and endurance. The camp consists of the coaches, staff, and high school players of the local area. This camp is directed by the PG Charger coaching staff and select guests.

**How much does the PG Chargers Conditioning Camp cost?** The camp fee is \$60.00 for the week, per participant. A \$150.00 savings passed on to you without any reduction in quality instruction, training drills, or fun. For each participant that registers with the organization for the fall football season, a \$50 credit will be applied to your account to defray the cost of fall football registration.

**What if I miss the camp?** If you miss camp, you will be a little behind and it is your responsibility to catch up with your conditioning. Also, attending camp allows coaches to scout, and assess your skills, which is very critical when you are competing for certain positions.

**What do I need to wear to camp?** Dress for the weather. Wear proper fitting football cleats.

**What do I need to bring to camp?** Just bring yourself, and a good attitude. Water will be provided for you.

**What group should I practice with at camp?** The camp staff will place you in different groups each day.