



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 League Sports Association (Basketball) and Prince George's County Sports League's (Spring Football & Soccer).

What is the time commitment? There are a maximum of 6 hours of practice per week and one game per week. The first day of practice is the 1st Tuesday of April in any given year. Additional practice details are below.

Who can participate? Any child, in grades Pre-K (age 4) through 8th 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; 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 training courses and get certified.

Registration

When does registration start? Registration starts on March 1st of each year, and the registration enrollment period ends on May 30th 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 teams. The remaining balance must be paid before equipment will be issued to you. **If you do not make your remaining balance payment by April 15th, 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; there are NO payment plans during the early registration periods.

When do I turn in my Medical Release form? With our on-line registration system, once you register, all required forms are automatically given to you at check out. 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.

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 fees:	\$4.00	Uniform: Sanitize/rental	\$10.00
Staff and Director Insurance	\$7.25	Team registrations:	\$9.00	Game Socks: (player keeps)	\$8.00
Club/Ceremony Rentals	\$4.00	Player Insurance	\$14.25	Equipment repair/access.	\$3.00
Training/registration fees	\$7.50	Referees fees	\$10.50		
First Aid Kits	\$2.50	Website fees and maintenance	\$4.75		
Game Balls	\$6.25	Board Meetings	\$5.50		
Ice/Water	\$5.00	Copies/print cartridges	\$1.85		
Fundraiser fee	\$50.00	Postages	\$0.85		
Online Registration fee	\$8.00	Paper supplies	\$3.85		
		Club/Ceremony Rentals	\$15.00		
Total	\$92.75	Total	\$69.55	Total	\$21.00

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Total cost per player:	\$183.30	
Registration fee per player:	\$100.00	<i>Our registration fee is very comparable to other major youth programs.</i>
Organization <u>verage deficit</u> cost per player:	\$83.30	<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 uniforms for all program. Program participants MUST provide all other equipment i.e. football cleats, basketball shoes, soccer cleats, etc. 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 \$50.00 (postdated check) deposit is required before any equipment is issued out. If your equipment is returned, your check will be returned to you immediately. If your equipment is not returned, the PG Chargers will cash your \$50.00 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") for football and soccer program and basketball shoes for basketball program 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? Our league 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, soccer and basketball 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.

When and where do I get my equipment? Equipment handout date will be the first practice prior to the first game of the season (subject to change). 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 \$50.00 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.

How do I take care of my equipment?

Jerseys and pants – Make sure you 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.

Teams

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 10 (basketball), 20-25 (spring football) and 15-20 (Soccer) 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.

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 Athletic Director. 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.

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. We do require a tryout for Soccer.

Practices

Where are the practices held? All practices will be held at select fields in the Largo/Mitchellville area.

When do practices start? The first day of practice will be the 1st Tuesday in April for all programs

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? There will be a minimum of 2 practices per week depending on program. Some program will require more days per week to practice.

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. Sports 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 season.

Games

How long are the games? Most games last for 1 hour. 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.

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**).

Where are games played? Our home games are in selected areas throughout PG County.

How much time will my child get to play? Each league has a minimum play requirement. This means that you will play in all games. 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. 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.