

***SENECA VALLEY JR.
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION NORTH***



2025

Parent-Athlete Handbook

Seneca Valley Jr. Football Association North

Mission Statement

The mission of this association shall be to administer, coordinate, instruct, and condition physically and mentally; as well as instill the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, courage, and respect in the children of our community, so that they may grow to be good and healthy men and women.

This mission will be achieved by providing developmental flag football, competitive tackle football, and cheerleading. The association will bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills, or the winning of games, is secondary to the primary goal of molding responsible future men and women.

We will strive to promote teamwork Sportsmanship and fair play.

We will respect our opponents, teammates, game officials, and fans on and off the field of play.

Seneca Valley Jr. Football Association North Policies

Return Check Policy

All returned checks will be assessed at \$35 in addition to any bank fees. All future transactions will be debit/credit card, cash, or money order. Any fees not paid within two weeks of notification will be referred to the District Justice Office, and you will be responsible for all court costs, in addition to fees owed.

Equipment Policy

The equipment will be distributed on the date and time announced. If you miss the appointed time, the next date will be the first day of practice at 5 pm. Do not call for a special appointment. Your child must be present to get his or her uniform and equipment. Parents and siblings are not permitted to wear jerseys or any other part of your child's equipment or uniform. Your child may wear his/her game jersey or cheer uniform to school on Fridays only during the season if they wish. You are responsible for the condition of your child's equipment and uniform. Check for loose or broken parts on helmets and shoulder pads daily. Check all other uniform parts for tears. Bring all discrepancies to the coach's attention. Game and cheer uniforms must be clean on game day.

Attendance Policy

The SVJFAN policy on attendance was established to promote responsibility and teamwork. When the season starts, football will be practiced five days a week (Monday through Friday). When school starts, we will be practicing three days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), Two hours per practice. Cheerleading will follow the same guidelines except for practice will be on Tuesday and Thursday once school starts for 1 ½ hour in most cases. (Coaches will communicate if the cheer team needs more work depending on the workload. The only acceptable excuses are communicable illnesses and family crises. Missing games or unexcused practices may make your child ineligible for any of the special awards at the end of the season banquet. We are not only teaching children cheer and football; they are learning responsibility, teamwork, and self-discipline as well as providing valuable exercise that all children need to be healthy.

This is how the policy works:

1. Your child must attend practice to be eligible to participate on game day.
2. Missing two practices will make your child ineligible to participate on game day, subject to the discretion of the coach.
3. Missing the practice before game day will make your child ineligible to participate in game day, subject to the discretion of the coach.

Attendance Policy Continued

4. Not showing up on game day even though your child may not be eligible to participate will make him/her ineligible for the following week's game.

5. In case of unacceptable behavior, the coach may apply any of the above sanctions.

It is your responsibility to contact your child's coach if he or she is missing practice or game. Do not expect your child's coach to contact you with information that may have been communicated when your child was not there. In the event of inclement weather, your child is to report to practice. Rain, snow, or cold will not curtail practices. Games are played in these conditions, and we must practice in them. This includes cheerleaders. Weather systems very often clear up quickly, and it would be a poor decision to cancel at 3 or 4 pm and find it is fine at 6 pm. We will not practice or play games with lightning in the area. Practice/games will be halted, and the children will be sent to their vehicles. If another strike does not occur within thirty minutes the practice/game will resume. During a game, the official decides to wait again or call the game. The game will then be rescheduled for the coming week. No member of this association or game official would intentionally put your child in harm's way for the sake of practice or completing a game. **Parents are required to be at practice in case of inclement weather or emergency, if you need to leave practice, please plan with another parent, and inform your child's coach.**

Concession Stand/Volunteer Time

1. Everyone will be required to post a \$100 volunteer fee for each child. If any Member chooses to recoup the volunteer fee, such reimbursement will be paid at a designated announced time upon completion. If a parent chooses to waive their right to recoup the volunteer fee in the registration process, the association shall identify a sub to fill the waived volunteer spot, and the sub will be paid using your volunteer fee.

2. A volunteer sign-up will be sent out to our members. This will allow you to choose when you volunteer and what your responsibilities are. You may work the game before or after your child's game, or you may choose to work during your child's game. All slots are filled on a first-come basis.

3. If you are unable to work your turn, it will be your responsibility to let the concession stand manager know so they can replace you.

4. If you schedule yourself or a sub to work your turn and do not show up for your shift the concession fee will be forfeited. Concession is a major source of income for the SVJFAN.

5. If a member arranges for someone else to cover their volunteer time, the original volunteer will be refunded any associated deposit or fee. However, the responsibility for compensating the substitute volunteer lies with the original volunteer.

We urge you to patronize our concession stand. All the food is fresh and reasonably priced. All food is purchased locally and prepared on game day.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN

SUPPORT YOUR CONCESSION STAND!

Fundraiser

Each family is required to participate in our primary fundraiser, which is paid at the time of registration. The fundraiser involves a calendar ticket with lottery numbers valid for the month of October.

- Each *family* will receive one book of ten tickets.
- Each player/cheerleader will receive 1 additional book to offset the registration cost.
- You may choose to sell the tickets to recoup your prepaid fundraiser fee or keep them for yourself.

Cheerleading Families:

- Cheerleaders will receive an additional book of ten tickets to sell.
- Proceeds from these sales can be used to offset the cost of the cheerleading camp.

Lottery Details:

- Tickets correspond to the PA PICK 4 evening lottery drawing (straight numbers only; no wild numbers).
- If your number is drawn, you will win the designated amount for that day.

Important Deadlines & Rules:

- All ticket stubs must be turned in by September 30th, including the following information:
 - Complete Name, Address, and Phone Number.
- No refunds will be issued for fundraiser tickets.
- If winning ticket stubs are not turned in, no prize money will be distributed.

Required Equipment & Apparel

The following items are personal and in addition to registration. Cheer: Turtleneck – Spanks – Socks – Black Leggings – Raincoat Hair Ribbon & Gloves (Optional) Football: Mouth guard with strap, Practice Pants, Practice Jersey, Protective Cup, Cleats, and Black Knee-High Socks.

Physical

All participants in the SVJFAN must have a current sports physical. The physical must have been performed on or after registration day of the current season, and before the first day of practice. SVJFAN's designated physical form can be downloaded from SVJFAN.com. Any football player or cheerleader who does not meet this requirement will not be permitted to participate until the physical form is completed and returned to SVJFAN.

Seneca Valley Jr. Football Association North Policies

Refunds

There will be no refunds after the first week of practice. The only fees that will be refunded are the concession stand fee and uniform deposit check. You must return all the equipment and uniforms before you get your refund. There are no refunds on fundraiser tickets!

To receive a refund, you must contact Tony Conti via email at Conti9@yahoo.com by the end of the first week.

Equipment Return

Turn equipment and uniforms in on the appointed date and time, clean and in good condition other than normal wear. Helmets are to be cleaned; all award stickers removed. The SV decal, number, and stripe are not to be removed.

Those not returning equipment and uniforms at the designated time or returning equipment and uniforms that were improperly cared for will have their deposit checks cashed into the SVJFAN account.

This includes improperly washing and drying, stains other than those that would normally occur during a game or while cheering, missing items from the uniform, or equipment rips and tears.

Follow the washing and drying instructions on the uniform and do not remove any tags.

Stains from make-up, nail polish, lipstick, and food are unacceptable.

By registering your child to play football or cheer you understand and agree to these SVJFAN policies and conditions.

Banquet

The season-end banquet is to honor the young men and women of the SVJFAN. All cheerleaders and football awards are paid by SVJFAN. Each cheerleader and football player will receive a participation award. Special awards will also be given. Senior cheerleaders and football players who have participated for at least 5 years will receive a special gift. To help offset the cost of the banquet, gift baskets are raffled. You may be asked to make a monetary contribution for these baskets.

Seneca Valley Jr. Football Association North Policies

Grievances

In the event you should have a concern about your child, please follow the guidelines below. All grievances shall be filed or addressed at a minimum of 24 hours after the issue being addressed has occurred. NEVER approach a coach during practice OR game.

1. Talk to the head coach of your child's team. Before or after practice, or by phone. Do not interrupt practice or games. Speak quietly and away from children.
2. If you feel your concerns were not adequately answered, speak to the SVJFAN Athletic Director.
3. Still not Satisfied contact any Board member and bring your concern to the next Board meeting.
4. Keep in mind while you may be observing only your child, the coaching staff is evaluating all players or cheerleaders.

Seneca Valley Jr. Football Association North Parent Code of Conduct

- I will enjoy my child's opportunity to experience the benefits of sport.
- I will trust in my child's ability to have fun as well as to perform and achieve excellence on his/her own.
- I will help my child to learn the right lessons from winning and losing, and from individual accomplishments and mistakes.
- I will respect my child's teammates and fellow parents as well as the players, parents, and coaches from opposing teams.

- I will give only encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether for my child, his/her teammates, their opponents, or the officials.
 - I will respect my child's coach and support his/her efforts.
 - I will not instruct from the sideline unless asked to by the coach.
 - I will ensure that my child will attend all games and practices if possible and if that is not possible, I agree to inform the coach in advance.
 - I will respect all facilities made available so my child can play games and practice.
 - I will respect any equipment or uniform that may be loaned to my child so that he/she can participate.
 - I will respect the game officials and their authority during the games.
 - I will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behavior or use foul language.
 - I will be responsible for reporting to the Seneca Valley Jr. Football Association North any perceived misconduct by a coach, player, parent, or game official so it can be dealt with appropriately.
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- I will treat all my teammates, coaches, game officials, and opponents with respect.
 - I will learn the skills of the game, the values of teamwork, and the meaning of good sportsmanship.
 - I will demonstrate good sportsmanship and always encourage teammates.
 - I will know the rules and play by the rules.
 - I will respect all facilities made available so my child can play games and practice.
 - I will not use foul language at any time.
 - I will respect myself and strive to be the best I can be.
 - I will have fun, after all, it's just a game.

