



## Benefits of Participation in Pop Warner



The mission of Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. is to enable children to benefit from participation in team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment. Through this active participation, Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that young people will use throughout their lives. Below are some of the many reasons Pop Warner is the largest national youth football and cheerleading/dance program for 80 years and counting.

**Experience & Stability**— Heading into our 82nd season, Pop Warner is the oldest national youth football and cheerleading organization in the world. Founded in 1929 by Joe Tomlin in Philadelphia as four-team conference, we now have over 120 leagues and 400,000 documented participants.

**Programs in 41 States & 6 Countries** – Pop Warner has many active programs across the U.S. and in Germany, Japan, Russia, Scotland, Mexico & Guam.

**Scholastic Emphasis** –Pop Warner is the only national youth sports organization in America that requires its participants to perform adequately in the classroom before permitting them to play. We believe that the standards we have set give these children a sense of responsibility and an appreciation for academics and athletics that will help them develop later on in life.

**No Tryouts** – Pop Warner programs have no tryouts or cutting of rosters.

**Safety** – Kids compete with kids of similar age and size. Pop Warner is the only youth football program that sets and enforces a strict Age and Weight Matrix that reduces the risk and reality of injuries.

**Volunteers & Coaches** – We have over 40,000 volunteers and coaches that are being trained every year to offer the best and safest programs for you and your children.

**Adult Code of Conduct** – All coaches, parents/guardians, adults and participants must abide by a Code of Conduct in order to respect the game and its principles.

**Background Checks** – For the 9th consecutive season, PWLS programs nationwide are required to annually conduct a background check of Coaches, Board of Directors members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and /or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players and/or spirit participants. The purpose of these background checks is, first and foremost, to protect the children.

**Mandatory Play Requirements** – Everyone participates under mandatory rules of play (MPR). Each league may set a higher number of plays, but never less than the minimum set by Pop Warner National Rules.

**It's Inexpensive** –Pop Warner Football, Cheer and Dance registration fees are as low cost as possible. A typical participation fee ranges from about \$50 to \$200 for the season, depending on your local area and many areas offer hardship waivers or discounts.

**Pop Warner Super Bowl** – Each year in December, Pop Warner hosts the Pop Warner Super Bowl and National Cheer and Dance Championships at Disney World. More than 350 cheer and dance squads and 64 football teams compete for the right to be crowned the Pop Warner National Champion, but all participants enjoy festivities at MGM Studios and ESPN Wide World of Sports, with 24 games broadcast live on ESPN3.com during Super Bowl Week

**Annual Scholastic Banquet** – Pop Warner is the only national youth sports organization that rewards its members for their outstanding performance in the classroom by hosting an awards program each year to celebrate the accomplishments of our scholar athletes. Each year, the most academically accomplished Pop Warner kids compete for Academic All-American status, and are awarded scholarships on several different levels (National, Regional, League).

**The NFL Connection** – The National Football League Players' Association (NFLPA) estimates that 70% of all NFL players began their careers playing Pop Warner Football.

**Administrative Assistance** – Each Region, League and Association receive free National Rule Books and Administration Manuals as well as personalized national staff assistance to help local programs keep current on all administrative matters and facilitate program management.

**Grants, Merchandise and Discounts** – Pop Warner sponsors and partners such as Spalding, Bike Athletic, Russell Athletic, Schutt and Team Cheer offer free equipment and merchandise as part of a grant program for new organizations as well as those in financial need. Other national partners offer Pop Warner only discounts and rebates on merchandise needed by local programs.

**Competitive and Affordable Insurance** – Pop Warner offers low-cost, broad insurance coverage as a benefit to its members. The Plan is specifically written by Chartis to meet the needs of Pop Warner Little Scholars and is periodically reviewed to obtain the broadest possible coverage at the most competitive prices.

