



RULES and PROCEDURES GOVERNING BOUNDARIES and WAIVERS

Association Boundaries

East Coast Pop Warner Conference Association boundaries are assigned to specific High School District boundaries or geographical areas and covered under the Association Membership. If an adjacent High School District or geographical area does not have a Pop Warner Program, the area is considered an open area. Associations may only register participants from within their specified boundaries or from open areas not having a Pop Warner program assigned to it. Participants will participate with the association within the high school districts in which they live. Participants living in an open area will remain with the Association in which they first registered until such time as a Pop Warner Association is established in the open area. They will not be permitted to move from one Association to another Association each year. The Association where participants register for the first time will be known as the home Association. Associations will make every effort to sign participants from within their own Association boundaries prior to recruiting in an open area.

Recruiting

Associations may only recruit participants within their established boundaries or an open area if they are unable to fill their rosters from within. Recruiting of participants outside of their boundaries and open areas or participants who have signed with other teams is illegal. Illegal recruiting will be cause for dismissal, fines, and other penalties in accordance with Pop Warner.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Only parents or legal guardians may register a participant. For a participant to be involved in East Coast and Pop Warner, he/she must live with his/her parents or legal guardian. If unable to document, child cannot participate. A legal guardian is defined as a person who has the legal responsibility for providing the care and management of a person who is incapable, either due to age (very young or even very old, or to some other physical, mental, or emotional impairment, of administering his or her own affairs. In the case of a minor child, the guardian is charged with the legal responsibility for the care and management of the child and of the minor child's estate. A legal guardian will be under the supervision of the court and will be required to appear in court to give periodic reports about the status of the child and its estate. A signed copy of legal guardianship by an approved court will be provided as proof of guardianship.

Dual Custody

If circumstances arise where dual parental custody is awarded by a court of law, the High School area where the participant attends school will be considered their residence for the purpose of Pop Warner registration.



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Waivers

Waivers will be approved by the East Coast Executive Board members only. Waivers will be issued for the following reasons only:

1. Full Roster Waiver

If squad becomes full: **per the National Rulebook full teams are at 35 participants.** Associations having rosters below this number, and stating they have full rosters, must notify East Coast Pop Warner to obtain an exemption. At the time of registration, the parent or legal guardian may opt to be placed on a waiting list or request a one-year waiver to go to another association. If a waiver request is made the releasing commissioner will assist the parent in filling out the waiver form. **Any family intentionally with-holding participants from sign-ups to circumvent these rules, in order to participate elsewhere, will be denied a waiver.**

When notification is given that the rosters are full, that Association's rosters will be frozen and no more participants will be registered for that squad. The releasing Association's commissioner will immediately notify their Conference Official of the squads that are full, provide a dated copy of the full roster(s) and a listing of participants who are wait-listed. Waitlisted participants will be listed in order of date assigned to the list and may join the team if there are drops to the frozen roster with approval by East Coast Pop Warner. The releasing commissioner can provide information on other Associations close by, but it will be the parents responsibility to contact another association for registration. Participants receiving waivers will be notified that this is a 1 time/season waiver, and they must register as returning participants with the releasing Association the following year. The releasing Association will notify the released participants of pre-registration dates for the following year. If a participant with a one-year waiver fails to register as a returning participant, with their original home Association for the following year, he/she will forfeit their right to another waiver. They will become ineligible for participation during that season if the team is full.

2. Grandfather Waiver

A grandfather waiver will be issued under the following circumstances:

A. High School Redistricting

When a participant is registered with an Association and the county redistricts their residential area to a new High School District, they may request a grandfather waiver and remain with their original Association. The Grandfather waiver remains in effect until such time as the participant and all siblings have left the program.

- Additionally, there can be no time lapse for younger siblings and participation must remain continuous.
- If through High School redistricting a, participant registers with the new Association, they may not go back to their original Association and forfeit any rights to a grandfather waiver.

B. Change in Residence

When a participant is registered with an Association and the family moves to a new residential area they may request a grandfather waiver and remain with their original Association. The Grandfather waiver remains in effect until such time as the participant and all siblings have left the program.

- Additionally, there can be no time lapse for younger siblings and participation must remain continuous.
- Once a participant registers with a new Association in their new residential area they may not go back to their original Association and forfeit any rights to a grandfather waiver



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C. Change in Residence prior to August 1st

When a family is moving from their current association's boundary area to a new association's boundary area prior to August 1st, and written proof of intent to purchase or rent is provided, an interim waiver through the August 1st date may be granted.

- If extenuating circumstances arise and the family move-in date is extended beyond the August 1st date, an extension will be requested through the East Coast Pop Warner Board and proof of delay must be provided.

The intent of this waiver *is* to allow families to register with a new Association prior to their actual residence change and before the new teams may become full.

If at any time a participant has an open period of time (not participating with any Association), consisting of one full season, he/she will be considered a new participant. He/she will forfeit all rights for grandfather waivers.

3. Extenuating and Hardship Circumstances

Extenuating and Hardship circumstances may arise for which a waiver is requested. The circumstances must be of such significance that an undue hardship must be proven. These types of waivers will only be granted on a very limited basis. It will be the burden of the requestor to justify any reason for this type of waiver. A written request will be provided to the Association's commissioner of the area where the participant resides. This request will specify the reason for the waiver request. Extenuating/Hardship circumstance waivers will not be granted for issues regarding dissatisfaction with an association. Once a decision has been reached by the Executive Board, if a denial is issued, there is no appeal to this decision.

The intent of the waiver policy is to provide all participants the opportunity to participate in the Pop Warner program, when their local association is no longer a viable option for participation. Waivers will not be granted for reasons such as wanting to participate on a winning team, that another association provides better equipment, disliking a coach or board member, etc. No participant may be placed on a team or begin practice with a team, until a waiver has been signed by all required parties, and approved, granting permission to participate for the calendar season.

Complaints of non-eligibility based on boundaries must be accompanied by specific details and be submitted to any East Coast Conference Board representative. If the board lodges a challenge to eligibility, the individual will be required to provide written documentation in a specified form. If such documentation is not provided, eligibility will be lost. (Penalty will apply.)

Penalties

If it is found that the waiver rules have been violated, severe penalties including dismissal, forfeiture of games, fines and loss of post-season participation will be imposed. It is up to the Association Directors and Commissioners to ensure that all participants are registered in accordance with Pop Warner Little Scholars and East Coast Pop Warner rules.