

2025 OXFORD JR WILDCATS



Football and Cheer Handbook

Oxford Junior Wildcats, Inc.
P.O. Box 683, Oxford, MI 48371
A local 501(c)(3) organization
Website: www.oxfordjuniorwildcats.net
Contact Us: ojwcommunication@gmail.com

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Welcome to the 2025 Season!

We are thrilled to kick off another incredible year for the Oxford Junior Wildcats! This season promises exciting opportunities, team spirit, and unforgettable memories for all participants and their families.

This handbook serves as your ultimate guide, providing essential information, policies, and expectations to ensure a smooth and successful season. Please read it thoroughly and keep it accessible for reference throughout the year. Let's make 2025 a season to remember!

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide the youth of Oxford and neighboring communities with an engaging, educational program that promotes friendship, teamwork, and a healthy physical lifestyle through football and cheerleading.

About Us

Oxford Junior Wildcats, Inc.

P.O. Box 683, Oxford, MI 48371

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2025 Board Members

- **President:** Danielle Wernis/Travis Wilson - Shadowing President
 - **General Manager:** Matt Rizor
 - **Secretary:** Dayna Thorman
 - **Treasurer:** Scott Mikula
 - **Communications Director:** Travis Wilson/Jeremy Crockett – Shadowing Communications Director
 - **Football Director:** Niko Grandchamp/Paul Garwood - Shadowing Football Director
 - **Cheer Director:** Tammy Webster
 - **Football Equipment Manager:** Paul Garwood
 - **Cheer Equipment Manager:** Katelyn Bojanzyk
 - **Concessions Director:** Lindsay Blain
 - **Fundraising:** Joel Fortin
 - **Volunteer Coordinator:** Jeanette Mikula
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Parent Fundraising and Volunteer Policy

To ensure the success of the OJW program, all parents of participating athletes are required to volunteer.

Volunteer Requirements:

1. Regular Season Requirements (6 Volunteer Events Required):

- Complete **one** large volunteer event (tasks requiring over 2 hours).
- Complete **two** small volunteer events (tasks under 2 hours).
- Volunteer in concessions during **one OJW game**
- Assist with clean-up after **two** Oxford High School Varsity Football home games. This includes the Homecoming game and **one** additional home game.

2. Exemptions:

- Head Football Coaches, Head Competition Cheer Coaches, and Football and Cheer Team Moms are exempt from regular season volunteering.
- Assistant Football and Cheer Coaches must fulfill one "big" volunteer duty.

3. High School Game Clean-Up:

- Participation is mandatory for all families, including those who have opted out of other volunteering requirements.
- Families must check out with an OJW Board Member after clean-up to verify they have fulfilled their volunteer obligation.

4. Post-Season Volunteer Assignments:

- Each child's representative is responsible for one assignment if their team qualifies for a post-season game.

Volunteer Opt-Out Option:

Families may pay a **\$500 opt-out fee per athlete**, which waives regular season volunteer obligations but does not exempt them from post-season or high school game clean-up responsibilities.

Expectations:

- Volunteers must arrive **15-30 minutes prior** to their assignment.
 - If unable to fulfill an assignment, it is the volunteer's responsibility to find a substitute and inform the Volunteer Director.
 - Failure to meet volunteer commitments may result in the \$500 volunteer check being cashed.
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Registration Refund Policy

Full Refund:

- Available if your child withdraws **on or before May 1, 2025**.
- Note: Customized items are non-refundable and will remain your property.

Partial Refund:

- Available if withdrawal occurs **after May 1, 2025, but before June 1, 2025**.
- Refund amount: **\$150 per child**.
- Note: Customized items remain non-refundable.

No Refund:

- No fees will be refunded if withdrawal occurs **after June 1, 2025**.

Volunteer Opt-Out Fee:

A \$500 check per athlete will be held by the Treasurer until November 1, 2025. If volunteer requirements are met, families may request the check's return via a self-addressed envelope. Unrequested checks will be destroyed after the OJW End-of-Year Banquet.

Fundraising Contributions:

All contributions are non-refundable.

Parent Code of Conduct

To maintain a positive environment, parents must adhere to the following guidelines throughout the season, including practices, games, and other OJW events:

1. Exhibit the highest standards of sportsmanship, including respectful language and behavior toward referees, coaches, and other parents.
2. Refrain from sideline coaching or unauthorized entry onto the field during practices or games.
3. Ensure your child attends all designated team events unless excused by the Head Coach.
4. Provide a physician's approval for your child to resume activities after injury.
5. Maintain a drug, alcohol, tobacco, and weapon-free environment at all OJW events.
6. Follow the 24-Hour rule before addressing any concerns with Team Mom or Coaches following a game, practice or other OJW event. See below for more information on the 24 Hour Rule.
7. Resolve concerns in an orderly manner, addressing the Team Mom first, Head Coach second, then escalating to the Football or Cheer Director as a final step, if necessary.
8. Avoid direct confrontation on the field during events.
9. Return all issued equipment in good condition by the designated date. Failure to do so may result in replacement fees.

24 Hour Rule

The 24-hour rule allows emotions to settle after a game, practice, or event. This cooling-off period provides everyone with the opportunity to reflect calmly on the situation, ensuring that concerns are addressed thoughtfully and respectfully rather than impulsively. It fosters a positive and constructive environment for everyone involved, particularly the players, coaches, and Team Mom.

Participant Code of Conduct

As a member of the OJW Football or Cheer Program, all participants must agree to the following:

1. Exhibit sportsmanship and respect both on and off the field.
 2. Prioritize school attendance and academic performance.
 3. Use socially acceptable language and refrain from bullying.
 4. Follow coaches' directions and respect teammates, opponents, and officials.
 5. Understand that violations may result in disciplinary actions, including reduced playtime or removal from the program.
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Attendance Policy

Attendance at all practices, games, and events is essential for the safety and success of participants.

Football Attendance:

1. One unexcused absence: Ineligibility until the second half of the next game.
2. Two unexcused absences: Ineligibility for the next game.
3. Excessive tardiness: Possible dismissal from the program.

Gameday Late Player Check-In:

Prior to each game, players are required to check-in. The check-in must start no later than sixty (60) minutes prior to the game. Any player that does not complete or pass the Check-In process ("Late Player") at least 30 minutes prior to a game shall be ineligible to play during the first half (i.e. 1st and 2nd quarters) of the game and must remove their helmet and shoulder pads. A Late Player may go through a Check-In process at half-time to determine that player's eligibility to play during the second half of the game. Any Late Player that does not complete or pass the half-time Check-In process must remove their helmet and shoulder pads for the duration of the game.

Cheerleading Attendance:

1. Mandatory attendance at all practices, games, competitions, and events.
2. Excused absences must be pre-communicated to the Head Coach.
3. Unexcused absences may result in penalties, such as loss of position or removal from routines.

Equipment Policy

All equipment must be returned by the designated date or within one week of separation from the program. Failure to do so will result in replacement costs.

Football Equipment:

- Helmet, shoulder pads, knee/thigh pads, practice jersey, and pants.

Cheerleading Equipment:

- Cheer vest, skirt, compression shirt, and rain jacket.
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Permission to Publish

Parents grant OJW permission to:

1. Publish participants' photos and names on the OJW website or in local newspapers.
2. Include participants in videos for public viewing.
3. Share participants' photos, videos, and names on official OJW social media platforms (e.g., Facebook) for promotional or informational purposes.

However, if you do not wish for your child to be included in any of these publications, please indicate your preference below:

Opt-Out Option:

[] I do not give permission for my child's photos, videos, or name to be published on the OJW website, in local newspapers, or shared on OJW social media platforms.

Participant's Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Acknowledgment and Agreement

Parent/Guardian Signature Page

I have read and understand the 2025 Oxford Junior Wildcats (OJW) Football and Cheer Handbook. I agree to abide by the policies, rules, and expectations outlined in this document.

I understand that failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including potential removal from the program for my child or myself.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank You!

Thank you for your commitment to the Oxford Junior Wildcats. Together, we ensure a safe, enjoyable, and enriching experience for all participants.