Cobb Football League

Football Player Certification

July 2025

Overview

The Cobb Football League requires all Football Players to be certified for the current season. Certification will confirm the player is able to play within the grade assigned, as well as identify any potential restrictions needs to maintain the safety of players.

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Overview

The Cobb Football League is focused on maintaining the safety of our players on the field and during practice. There are specific guidelines for players at each grade level including weight and age restrictions.

Maximum of Players for each Age Group

The Cobb Football League has established a maximum number of players per age group:

- K-1st Grade – 16 Players
- 2nd Grade & 3rd Grades – 24 Players
- 4th Grade – 28 Players
- 5th Grade – 32 Players

Age Groups

Players are grouped by the grade they will be attending in the Fall School year. CFL follows the September 1 date for determining grade levels of players. If a player who is older than expected, proof of current grade enrollment may be request. For Player safety, each age group has a maximum weight limit for Football Players. These players will have restrictions on positions they are permitted to play, stances, and more. Coaches should refer to the current CFL Rules for more information on restrictions.

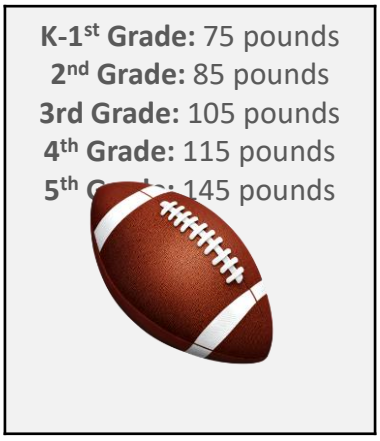

Figure 1 – Weight Max per Age Group

Over Weight Limit Player Restrictions

If a player exceeds a specific weight limit, they are required to have a stripe on their helmet for programs to identify them as a restricted player. Stripes must be at least 1” wide and run front to back across the top of the helmet. These stripes are provided by your program and must be on helmets prior to regular season games.

Scheduling Certification

Each Program is responsible for scheduling a certification date for their Football teams with an opposing team in the Cobb Football League. Certification must be completed and turned into the Cobb Football League **no later than two Fridays prior to the start of Week One regular season games**.

Certifying Football Players for each Age Group

Follow these steps for completing the Certification Forms for each Football Player:

1. Have the parent/guardian of each Football Player complete two copies of the CFL Certification Form for their football player and provide two copies of the player's Birth Certificate.
2. Parents **SHOULD NOT** enter weight information on the form; this is to be filled out by the CFL Representative only.
3. Team Parent verify all information is completed and the Parent/Legal Guardian has signed, dated and confirmed relationship for that player.
4. Team Parent attaches a photo color image of each football player on the corresponding CFL Certification Form.
   - The image should be not be dark that it hides features of the player.
   - It is recommended the Player image includes them wearing or holding their jersey number.
   - The jersey number in the image must match the assigned Uniform # on the Certification Form.
5. Have the Head Coach for that Age Group sign off on each Certification Form, ready at certification time.
6. Have players line up in jersey number order from lowest to highest during actual certification.

Follow these steps for certifying each Football Player:

1. Each Player will be asked by the representative from an opposing team to confirm the following information:
   - ✓ Name
   - ✓ Date of Birth
   - ✓ Jersey Number
   - ✓ Grade
2. Each Player will be weighed using a weight scale.
   - The weight will be recorded as is if under the maximum weight limit for the corresponding Age Group.
   - If the weight is higher than the maximum weight limit, the player may choose to be weighed a second time if they are close enough to the limit. This can happen at a different date and time and must be coordinated through that Player's team. A Player may only be weighed a maximum of two times.
   - Players can be weighed with minimal apparel; they should not be weighed wearing pads or helmets.
3. The opposing team representatives will mark the weight of the Player and if restricted, check the box next to "Restricted Weight Player".

3. The opposing team representatives will sign under the representative section to complete certification. Two representative signatures are required if the weight is within + or - 5 pounds of the weight limit.
4. One copy of certification will stay with the opposing team representatives to be turned into the CFL, and one copy will be given back to the Team Parent for the Program being certified to be maintained in the Certification Team Book.

Missing Certifications

If a Player is unable to be present for the Certification date and time of their team, they may certify at another opposing team's location or at the Cobb Football League office location prior to the required completion date. Communication to either the Program or CFL is required to confirm certification needs.

Turning in Completed Certification Forms

All certification forms must be dropped off at the Cobb Football League office locations at *Orasi Software, 114 Townpark Dr, Suite 400, Kennesaw, GA 30144* **by the team signing off on certifications** (this is not the team being certified).

When dropping off completed certification forms, you can access the building Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Take the elevator to the 4th floor and enter the doors to the lobby for Suite #400. Leave the stack of forms on the lobby desk for collection by CFL personnel.

Evaluating Players to Play on a Lower Grade Team

Any Football Player whose parent is petitioning for the player to play on a team that is lower than the Player's current Age Group must be evaluated by two Opposing Program Directors or the High School coaching staff. The evaluation must be submitted to the CFL Board for approval following the same Certification timeline requirements.

Any Football Player who is approved to play on a lower grade team is considered a semi-restricted player and will be provided a CFL sticker to wear on the back of their helmet to identify them during games. A Player is eligible to play on a lower grade team if they meet the age requirements outlined below **and** are approved by the CFL Board.

Player **does not** reach the following age **prior to September 1**:
K-1st Grade: 8 years
2nd Grade: 9 years
3rd Grade: 10 years
4th Grade: 11 years
5th Grade: 12 years

Figure 2 – Age Eligibility for Playdown Players

Maintaining a Certification Team Book

The Certification Team Book should include a copy of each Football Player's signed off Certification Form that includes the following information for each Football Player on the identified team:

- Name
- Age
- Birth Date
- Grade
- Jersey/Uniform Number
- Telephone Number
- Copy of Player's Birth Certificate
- Head Coach Signature
- CFL Representative Signature

This information is to be documented on the official Cobb Football League Certification Form. Any players who join the team after Team Certification has been completed are required to obtain CFL Board approval prior to playing on that team.

If any Certification Team Book has been altered in an unethical way, the opposing coach can notify the referee prior to the start of the game. That game will be considered under protest, and the opposing coach is required to pay a $50 protest fee within 48 hours of the end of the game. If the team is found in violation of altering the certification team book, the protest fee will be refunded to the opposing coach. The coach in violation will face a $200 fine and suspension for one week of practice and the following game.

Each program in the CFL is required to maintain a Certification Team Book that is required to be present at every game. Each Program is granted the right to review the opposing team's book within 30 minutes prior to the game start time. If a player arrives late during a game, the opposing team's coach may request to review that player's certification during the half-time break. If the Certification Team Book is not available prior to game time, the coach will be fined the following amounts.

- 1st Offense – $75
- 2nd Offense - $150
- 3rd Offense - $300