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CENTRAL MASS POP WARNER BREAKING TRADITION

Central Mass Pop Warner Votes to Become an Unlimited Division

Leominster, MA, June 8, 2017– Central Mass Pop Warner Youth Football & Cheer has voted to move from the traditional weight metric that Pop Warner is known for, to an Unlimited Division. Parents who were told in the past that their children did not meet the weight requirements to participate in the Pop Warner program can now enroll their sons and daughters for the 2017 season. This decision was a result of the ever changing demographics as they relate to youth football in New England in general and in Central Massachusetts in particular. The Unlimited division has been piloted over the past few years with great success in regions from the eastern seaboard to the Midwest states.

“In the past two years, Central Mass Pop Warner has lost some programs with 40-year traditions because they wanted higher weight limits to allow for greater access to all that the Pop Warner experience offers. This announcement today not only eliminates the discussion about weight altogether for Central Mass Pop Warner teams, but more importantly, clearly communicates to all parents and youth football and cheer programs in the area that they are all welcome, regardless of a player's size.”
– Central Mass Pop Warner Youth Football & Cheer Board of Directors

The benefits of this move are many and varied, including among others: A reduction in travel time for most teams, inclusion of more athletes in more regions, greater access to Pop Warner's many scholarship and grant opportunities, and perhaps most importantly, the ability to experience Pop Warner's emphasis on scholastic achievement and recognition for efforts off the field.

If you would like more information about Central Mass Pop Warner Football & Cheer, please reach out today at presidentcmpw@gmail.com.

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Pop Warner Little Scholars, celebrating its 89th season in 2017, has a rich tradition of giving back to the community and its participating associations. Since 1993, the organization has presented more than \$1 million in college scholarships to scholar athletes. Pop Warner also continues to emphasize safety, with the following initiatives: a reduction in contact to 25% of practice time, the elimination of kickoffs for our youngest divisions, and the requirement that any player who suffers an injury receive medical clearance from a physician before returning to play. Pop Warner mandates CPR certification, Player Safety Coach training, and has partnered with USA Football to ensure all coaches are properly and responsibly trained.