

# PENNDDEL WILDCATS FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING PARENTS INFORMATION PACKET

PARENTS, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THIS PACKET. MOST OF THE KEY INFORMATION REGARDING THE PENNDDEL WILDCATS IS CONTAINED IN THIS PACKET. PLEASE KEEP THIS PACKET HANDY THROUGHOUT THE SEASON AS A REFERENCE.

The PennDel Wildcats youth football & cheerleading club competes in the Bux-Mont Youth Football League and Pop Warner Little Scholars program. Flag football is offered for boys and girls whose "league age" is 5 through 7. Tackle football is offered for boys whose "league age" is 6 through 13. Cheerleading is offered for girls whose "league age" is 5 through 13. A child's "league age" is determined by his or her age as of July 31, 2008.

Weight matrix are for football players only. Weight is measured prior to the first regular season game without pads. A one-pound weight gain per week is factored into the weight matrix once the season begins. Each player is weighed prior to each game to ensure eligibility to play in that game.

## **MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**

- Completed club membership form
- Current picture
- Copy of state/government issued birth certificate or current passport
- Three copies of 2007-2008 final report card (for all but flag football players)
- Physician form signed by physician
- Medical treatment form
- Parental Code of Conduct Form signed by parent(s) / guardian(s)
- Registration fees

Please visit our website [www.pennDelwildcats.com](http://www.pennDelwildcats.com) . You will find valuable and helpful information about the organization, game schedules, scores, upcoming events. You can also e-mail the board or VP of the sport with questions and concerns. We will use email and the website heavily in the coming years. This is a great way to "spread the word" quickly and offer our families all the information they need, at their finger tips.

## **MANDATORY FUNDRAISING FOR 2008**

The Pennel Wildcats organization will be doing Football Mania fundraisers this year. Each participant will be required to sell a minimum of two (2) Football Mania tickets costing \$20 each. Additional ticket sales are available and appreciated. One of our families won \$1,200 last year!

## **OPTIONAL FUNDRAISING**

We offer sponsorships to local businesses. Please ask for a sponsor form for pricing. All sponsors of the football & cheerleading programs receive a banner which is hung at the field during games. We announce your business during the course of our home games. You will appear on the Pennel Wildcats website and in our Yearbook.

## **REGISTRATION FEES**

### ***Per participant fees***

Flag Football - \$75

Tackle Football - \$100

Cheerleading - \$100

### ***Per family fees***

\$50 snack stand deposit

\$40 fundraising (Football Mania tickets)

\$25 club membership fee (if not paid during baseball/softball season)

## **PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS**

Parents or guardians who are not already involved in administration or coaching are encouraged to help as well. Your team representative will be assigning parents to work the chains and do play counting. You will need to sign up for snack stand duties and we will refund your \$50 deposit. It is the parent's responsibility to fulfill the snack stand duties or provide a suitable adult (at least 16 years of age) to work the hours. The only volunteer excluded from this duty is the head coach.

Volunteers are needed for many different committees. Please help our organization to be a great organization and volunteer. Parent involvement is the only way to ensure that a safe, enjoyable program remains available to all of our children. If you fail to fulfill your assignment your child may be ineligible to participate in our program.

## **FIELD DUTIES**

The football field is lined by an outside service each week. The following duties will be performed by the teams with the first and last home games each weekend. Setup and/or taking down sideline markers, goal post pads and benches. Each game during the season will involve sideline volunteers for play count and sideline markers. You must take your turn performing these duties.

## **SAFETY AND INSURANCE**

It shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to insure that the registrants are physically and academically fit to participate. The parent / guardian **MUST** obtain a medical statement from a physician **PRIOR TO THE 1ST PRACTICE** (August 1st) that the child is physically fit and there are no observable conditions that would prohibit the child from playing football or cheering. This physical form needs to be completed and signed by a physician during the 2008 calendar year.

To possibly answer some of your questions about safety: According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, Pop Warner Football is safer than many youth activities that we take for granted, such as swimming, bicycling and skateboarding. However, you should be aware that in spite of all reasonable precautions, injuries happen. Football is a collision sport, and sometimes even the best athletic gear will not prevent injury due to the many factors involved in contact. If your son has asthma, please bring their inhaler and if possible, have it kept in the medical kit. If your child is allergic to bee stings, please provide the necessary medicine. **NOTE:** If your child will be wearing glasses for football, you will need a note from the doctor specifying the need for the glasses. They will be required to wear "Rec Spec" type plastic frames/goggles held on by a strap. This is a Pop Warner rule.

## **SEASON**

The first practice will be on August 1, 2008 at Carl Sandburg Middle School in the Highland Park section of Levittown. Please wear cleats, shorts and shirt on first day of practice. Practices will be held Monday through Thursday, 6:00 – 7:30 or 8:00 PM for the month of August. We will all move to Poplar Park in Parkland and Penndel field in late August early September. When school starts practice will be for football, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday from 6:00 – 7:30 or 8:00 PM.

Depending on the Bux-Mont schedule, we will start playing league games in late August or early September (most likely Labor Day weekend). The best way to get an idea of our schedule is to check out last year's schedule on our website.

Parents are encouraged to attend practices. Please refrain from sideline coaching, as it can conflict with what the coaches are teaching your children.

## **EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT PICKUP**

Equipment pickup dates are generally the first weekend after we start practice each season. You will be notified by your coaches of the date and time for uniform and equipment pickup. Please attend the time that is specified. Please note the following:

1. No early equipment pick-ups. Volunteers will only be available for equipment pick-up on the dates we specify. If you are away during these hand-out dates you will need to get your equipment when you return.
2. In order to obtain equipment and uniforms all paperwork and copies of documentation must be handed in and certified by the association.

The following equipment must be provided by the parents (all other equipment is provided for use by the Penn del Wildcats):

**FLAG:** Athletic supporter, socks, rubber cleats are suggested. Each player will receive a mouthpiece, if that is lost, you will have to purchase another one.

**TACKLE:** Athletic supporter/girdle, rubber cleats, socks and practice pants. Each player will receive a mouthpiece, if the mouthpiece is lost, you will have to purchase another one.

Sporting goods stores sell elbow pads, chest protectors and other additional equipment if you would like to purchase them. We usually have discount coupons for Dick's & Modell's Sporting Goods available each season.

## **GAMES**

The football & cheer schedule generally comes out mid-August. Games take place Friday night thru Sunday afternoon. We will post the schedule on our website when we receive it. Each team will have one game per week. Introductory and Competitive level teams play through November. In addition, if eligible, the competitive level teams could participate in the Eastern Region playoff brackets or possible post season bowl game.

**HOME GAMES** - Are held at Penn del Recreation Field on Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays.

**AWAY GAMES** - Are held at various opponents' fields. Your team representative will distribute maps. You can also go on our website and retrieve field directions.

Parents are responsible for transportation to all games, home and away. Tackle players must arrive at the playing field 1 hour prior to game time or they could jeopardize their chances of participating in that game. This is necessary due to pre-game weigh-in requirements.

## **FOOTBALL & CHEER TEAMS**

### **FLAG**

5, 6 & 7 years old and no weight restrictions

7 year olds are encouraged, but not required, to play Tiny Mite tackle football

### **INTRODUCTORY (NON-COMPETITIVE) LEVEL TACKLE**

TINY MITES ( 6 & 7 years old ) 35 – 70 lbs.

JR. MITEY MITES ( 7 & 8 years old ) 45 – 80 lbs.

MITEY MITES ( 8 & 9 years old ) 45 – 90 lbs.

While participation in all sports is competitive, competition at the introductory levels is de-emphasized. The introductory levels are primarily instructional levels where participants are introduced to the basics of the game. There is no league champion at this level. There are no older/lighter players at this level.

### **COMPETITIVE LEVEL TACKLE**

JR. PEE WEE ( 8, 9 & 10 years old ) 55 – 105 lbs /

( 11 years old – older/lighter ) 55 – 85 lbs.

PEE WEE ( 9, 10 & 11 years old ) 70 – 120 lbs /

( 12 years old – older/lighter ) 70 – 100 lbs.

JR. MIDGETS ( 10, 11 & 12 years old ) 80 - 135 lbs /

13 years old – older/lighter ) 80 – 115 lbs.

While remaining instructional, the competitive level teams are eligible for the Bux-Mont League & Eastern Region Championship games as well the Pop Warner Super Bowl in Disney World.

### **CHEERLEADING**

Cheerleading squads are formed for each level of football. Ages on squads generally correspond to the ages on the football team. There are no weight restrictions.

Cheerleaders are expected to cheer at every game for their team.

We want all parents to be aware that additional expenses may be incurred if your team advances to post season play. The Penn del Wildcats organization will make every effort to reduce the expenses incurred if a Wildcat team goes on to post season play.

## **SCHOLAR ATHLETE PROGRAM**

The Penn del Wildcats sponsor a scholar athlete/cheerleader program in conjunction with the Bux-Mont Youth Football League and Pop Warner Little Scholars football & cheer. There are several levels of recognition. All participants who meet the criteria (average grades of B with no lower than C and have completed the 3rd grade) are recognized as Wildcat Scholars with a certificate awarded at our Awards Banquet in February. The Bux-Mont Youth Football League selects scholars and honors twelve year olds at a league scholar athlete banquet after the season. Eligible applicants are submitted to Pop Warner National offices for the Nation Scholar program. We are proud to have had several National honorees over the years.

Satisfactory progress in school is required. Parents should realize that the Penn del Wildcats program is operated for the children's benefit and that participation in the program is secondary to school work and scholastic achievement.

## **BANQUET**

The Penn del Wildcats football & cheerleading banquets are held annually. Each player / cheerleader will receive an individual trophy. Wildcat scholars are honored at this time. Awards will be given out to the senior players. If you do not attend the end of year banquet it is the parent's responsibility to make arrangements to pick up their child's trophy and yearbook.

## **PUNT, PASS & KICK**

Punt, Pass and Kick competitions are held during practice in August. This is co-sponsored by NFL Properties and Pop Warner Football. (Watch for notice of dates and times). You must wear sneakers to participate in this. Punt, Pass and Kick program is opened for girls and boys in the Penn del Wildcats Football / Cheerleading program. Penn del had three representatives move on in this competition and these players / cheerleaders participated at Lincoln Financial Field during halftime of an Eagles game.

## **FACILITIES**

The Penn del Wildcats have the use of the Penn del Recreational Field. The buildings and field are maintained by volunteers with no aid, assistance or funding from Penn del Borough. Please show respect for these facilities. It is our intention to leave them in the same shape we find them. Please pick up all trash and dispose of in the containers provided. If a trash can is full please empty it, replace the bag or let someone at the snack stand know. Do not continue to overload the trash cans. Keep all bathroom facilities clean. If there is a problem or paper products need to be replenished, please tell someone at the snack stand.

## **MANAGEMENT**

The Penndel Wildcats organization is based on volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to provide the boys and girls an opportunity to play football, lead cheers and have fun while doing so. The executive officers, board of directors and coaching staff give freely of their time to achieve this goal. All coaches must attend a certification program. The certification program stresses preparation, sports psychology, safety and conditioning rather than football and cheerleading skills.

## **PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS**

We as adults set an example that the children participating in the program will follow. The following code of ethics is to be adhered to by all adults.

- Refrain from “sideline coaching”. Let the coaching staff that has been approved by the board of directors, do their job.
  
- Do not criticize coaches, players or cheerleaders on our own or opposing teams by word of mouth or gesture. Cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.
  
- Accept the decisions of game officials as being fair and being called to the best of their ability.
  
- Abstain from consumption of alcohol or the use of tobacco products on the playing and practice fields. This is a National Pop Warner rule. Failure to abide by these rules could jeopardize the future of the Penndel Wildcats.
  
- Do your best to insure that all participants will have an enjoyable experience in their days with the Penndel Wildcats.

Occasionally, you may disagree with the way the organization is managed or the way your child’s team is coached. As a member of the Penndel Wildcats, your opinion is important. If you have suggestions for improvements, let them be known at a board of directors meeting, which are held the first Sunday day of every month at the Penndel Recreation Field Clubhouse.

Sideline gossip does nothing constructive for the children in the program. If you disagree with the way your child’s coach is handling the team or your child, you should take the following steps:

1. Speak to the coach privately. This step resolves most disagreements.
  
2. If you are not satisfied with the coach’s response, speak to the Vice President of Football/Cheerleading.

3. If the dispute remains unresolved, bring your issues to the next regularly scheduled board of directors meeting.

4. These steps are part of the Penn del Wildcats and Bux-Mont League protocol. Not following the proper channels will only delay in issues being addressed. If matters need to be heard by Bux-Mont, the Penn del Wildcats league representative will take them to the league. Bux-Mont will not entertain emails, phone calls or visits when not followed by this protocol.

There is a comments & suggestions page on the website. Notes can be sent anonymously to the VP of Football and Cheerleading. Email addresses may or may not be included depending on whether or not you would like a response.

### **2008 - BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE REQUIRED**

Pop-Warner National office is again requiring all adult individuals (18 yrs old and older) who have contact with the children in our league to have a background check done. So effective this 2008 season all of these individuals who wish to participate in the league or local associations must have this done by June 2008. The responsibility of submitting the paperwork to the state for the background checks and any associated cost will be the individual for which the background check is being performed. The individual should request that the information be sent by the state directly to them and that individual needs to review that information. If there are any problems with the information returned by the state, that individual should contact the state to resolve any problems.

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend our monthly meetings, which are held at the second Monday of every month at 7:00 pm. Please double check our website, [www.penn delwildcats.com](http://www.penn delwildcats.com), to verify dates and times in case of change.