



2008
Brandon Steelers
Youth Football
& Cheerleading
Organization Handbook



BRANDON STEELERS YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING
Visit us at WWW.BRANDONSTEELERS.COM

Important Steelers Information

Registration fees:

- Are due at the time of registration. The fee for 2008 is \$220.00 for all participants.
- Are non-refundable (after 3 business days). A parent may petition the Board for a partial refund of the accessory fees. Any refund issued is done so at the Board's discretion, and will not be considered until all equipment issued has been returned and a formal written request is received.

Fundraising events:

- **YOU ARE NEEDED and expected** to participate and complete all fundraising events.
- Failure to participate and complete these events could result in your child being suspended from a game or removed from the program with no refund of registration fees.
- You may choose **NOT** to participate in our fundraisers by making a donation of \$50.00 per fundraiser, per child that you have registered. **YOU ARE EXPECTED** to complete at least 2 fundraisers per child that you have registered.

Volunteer time:

- **YOU ARE EXPECTED** to volunteer and a time will be assigned for you to help. Failure to complete your volunteer time can result in your child being removed from the program.
- The minimum number of volunteer hours is **10 hours per season per registered child**. If you do not have time to volunteer, you may make a cash donation in the amount of **\$10.00 per hour, per registered child**.

Game day:

- Donations collected at all fields are used to pay for game day referees. Please be sure to donate at BOTH HOME and AWAY games. Donation are as follows:
 - **\$2.00 per adult**
 - **\$1.00 per child**
- **EVERYONE** including board members, coaches, team parents and parents are asked to donate at all games. Exact change is greatly appreciated.

Minimum Play Rule:

The Steelers Organization does not have a minimum play rule and not every child will play during every game.

Section I – League Information

Mission Statement:

The Brandon Steelers Youth Football & Cheerleading Organization is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for our children to learn teamwork and to participate in sports.

Goals:

Our goal is to develop and promote the ideas of responsibility, hard work, discipline, sportsmanship and teamwork. The individual growth of our community's children is enhanced through the spirit of competition and fair play. These goals will be accomplished by providing a structured program designed to educate both participants and parents in all aspects of the sports of football and cheerleading.

Board of Directors:

Please visit our website for a list of Board Members at www.brandonsteelers.com.

Meetings:

The first board meeting of the season will be held the 3rd Wednesday of January at 7:00 pm. Future meeting dates and times will be set by the Board. Meetings will normally be held at the Steelers Press Box. The Board reserves the right to change the meeting location, date or time with no prior notice. To attend a board meeting please contact us at www.brandonsteelers.com for the next available board meeting.

Registration Costs:

Registration fees for 2008 will be \$220.00 for football players and cheerleaders. Fees must be paid in full at the time of registration to hold your child's spot.

**Pre-registration for 2009 will be held in October \$75.00 per child will be collected to reserve your child's spot. Registration costs and dates for 2009 will be decided in January or February 2009 and will be posted on the website.

Refund Requests:

Registration fees are non-refundable (after 3 business days). A parent may petition the Board for a partial refund of the accessory fee. Any refund issued is done so at the Board's discretion, and will not be considered until all equipment issued has been returned and a written request has been received.

Where your registration fee goes:

Registration fees **help** to cover the following costs:

- WCYFC League Fees
- Insurance for your child
 - **Your private insurance is primary. The League's insurance is secondary.**
- Game Day Football/Cheerleading uniform
- Pads/Helmets
- Field Maintenance (Game Day and Practice)
- Miscellaneous operating expenses
- Trophies at the end of the season—presented at the Banquet
(Child must complete season and return all equipment to receive a trophy.)

Fundraising:

Fundraising events are used to pay for the following items:

- Refurbishing of helmets
- Building improvements
- Concession equipment
- Purchase of football equipment such as tackling dummies, blocking pads, etc
- Purchase of cheerleading equipment such as pom-poms, hair bows, etc.

- Purchase of tents, water coolers, and tables

YOU ARE NEEDED and EXPECTED to participate in all fundraising events. Failure to participate and complete these events could result in your child being suspended from a game or removed from the program all together. You may choose **NOT** to participate in our fundraisers by making a donation of \$100.00 per child that you have registered. **YOU ARE EXPECTED** to complete at least 2 fundraisers per child that you have registered (maximum 4 fundraisers).

Donation Booth: Donations collected at all fields are used to pay for game day referees. Please be sure to donate at BOTH HOME and AWAY games. Donation requests are as follows:

\$2.00 per adult

\$1.00 per child

EVERYONE is expected to donate at all games. Exact change is greatly appreciated.

Parent removal of child or request for reinstatement:

Prior to the start of the season and during the season, if a parent / guardian requests that their child be removed from the organization, we will do so immediately. Notification to remove a child must be done in writing and submitted to the P.O. Box or turned in at the concession stand. Please address all correspondence to the Secretary or President of the organization. **No refund of fees will be given until all equipment issued to the child by the Brandon Steelers is returned and written notification requesting said refund has been received.**

Notification to re-instate a child must be done in writing. Prior to the season we will not charge another registration fee; however the child will be treated as a new member and will be placed at the bottom of the list. If a team's roster is full, the child will be placed on the waiting list. During the season the Head Coach must approve a child's reinstatement. ****If a child misses 5 practices the Head Coach and Athletic Director may remove the child from the roster. It is very important that your child be at all practices and every game.

Injuries:

At least two (2) coaches on each team or squad should be trained in CPR and have minimal first aid training. Any football or cheer related injury, regardless of outward appearances, is taken seriously and will be addressed as such. Safety is a primary concern and extra care will be taken in dealing with any reported injury. We also encourage participants to make known any injury to his/her coach immediately upon occurrence. **Participants should not hide injuries** in order to facilitate more playing time. Any player sustaining an injury that requires a doctor's care may be required to provide a medical release from that doctor prior to further participation in games, practices or competitions.

Park Rules:

Rules and Regulations in the park must be followed at all times. Park rules are as follows:

- The use of profanity, drugs, alcohol or tobacco during any WCYFC or Brandon Steelers event is prohibited
- Smoking will be allowed in designated areas only, which are as follows:
 - Behind restrooms by exit gate (any time).
 - Parking lot areas (any time).
- **No parking** in front of emergency gates by ANYONE!! Please remember this is for safety reasons.
- **No parking** next to concession stand or restrooms, unless you are a Board Member.
- Please place trash in receptacles and keep bathrooms neat.
- Everyone should dress appropriately.
- **PERSONAL COOLERS** are not permitted beyond the gate at any WCYFC sanctioned event. This is a League rule.

- **NO PETS** are allowed at any WCYFC or Brandon Steelers function.

Volunteers:

We need your help in order to have a successful season. Board Members, coaches and team parents are volunteers that work all year long to ensure a successful season. We cannot do all the work and here are a few of the duties that we need help with:

- Maintenance of field (picking up trash and cleaning restrooms before and after games, chalking the field and setting up the parking lot for game days)
- Concession Stand: We need at least 5 people for every game (5 games each Saturday). We welcome grandparents, aunts and uncles to help get your concession hours in, but due to insurance regulations, the replacement must be an adult 21 years or older. High School students may be able to volunteer with some concession duties and other duties at the field.

All volunteers will show respect at the field and never yell at the children or other volunteers.

Failure to volunteer can result in your child being removed from the program. The minimum number of volunteer hours is **10 hours per season per registered child**. If you do not have time to volunteer, you may make a cash donation in the amount of **\$10.00 per hour, per registered child**.

Volunteer work will be assigned and will normally consist of concession stand duty and/or field maintenance duty (before or after the games). **(This does not include the hours that your child’s coach or team parent may require.)**

SECTION II – CHEERLEADING INFORMATION

Age Requirements:

Depending upon your child’s age as of August 1st, your child will be assigned to a squad as follows:

SQUAD	AGE
MASCOTS	5 & 6 & 7
SUPER MIDGETS	8 & 9
MIDGETS	10 & 11
JUNIOR VARSITY	12 & 13
VARSITY	14 & 15

Cheerleading Code of Conduct:

Cheerleaders must always conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on the Brandon Steelers and the team itself. All cheerleaders must follow the Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary actions. The Cheerleading Code of Conduct is as follows:

- I will attend all practices, games, meetings and competitions **ON TIME**.
- I will show respect toward all coaches, players, other cheerleaders and referees.
- I will not fight or argue with coaches or teammates and I will not inflict any intentional injury on another teammate.
- I will be ready to learn and to have fun.
- I will be a team player and always put the squad first.
- I will obey the coaches and the rules of the WCYFC and the Brandon Steelers.
- I will demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field of play and I understand that I risk being ejected and/or suspended from a game or

further League participation if I incur unsportsmanlike behavior or penalties.

- I understand there will be **NO** use of profanity, drugs, alcohol or tobacco during any WCYFC or Brandon Steelers event.

Competition:

We will compete in several cheerleading competitions throughout the year. Some are sponsored by the WCYFC and some are independent. All WCYFC competitions are **MANDATORY**. All competitions cost anywhere from \$6.00 to \$20.00 per child. The cheerleaders may hold separate fundraising events to help cover these costs.

Competition Rules:

Rules for each competition vary, and they are always enforced. A copy of competition rules will be given to each cheerleader prior to the particular competition. Cheerleaders are expected to review the rules and ask any questions prior to the competition.

Disciplinary Actions:

Breaking the Cheerleading Code of Conduct or violation of any League rule may result in disciplinary action. The Board will handle all disciplinary problems, submitted in writing, on a case-by-case basis. If needed the Conference Trustees will choose a Disciplinary Committee. The Committee shall consist of 2 Board members and 1 neutral person. Punishment can, but is not limited to:

- **Verbal or Written Warning**
- **Game Suspension**
- **Season Suspension**
- **Permanent Removal from the Program.**

Dress Code:

Cheerleading uniforms supplied by the Steelers consist of a skirt, crop top and regular uniform top. The uniform must be covered at all times (except while performing on the field) with a cover up shirt of your choice or the coach's choices. **Uniforms** must be returned at the end of the season in good condition to receive a trophy.

Accessory packages must be purchased for an additional fee, and are yours to keep. The packages at a minimum consist of the following items:

- Practice / pep rally T-shirt
- Practice / pep rally shorts
- Bloomers (must be worn with uniform)
- Game/competition socks (must be worn with uniform)
- Game/competition shoes (must be worn with uniform)
- Game/competition hair bow (must be worn with uniform).

During all **regular practices**, the following dress code rules must be followed:

- Hair should be pulled back (**not** using game day bows)
- Regular athletic shoes should be worn (**not** game day shoes)
- T-shirt and shorts are required (nothing too short or too tight)
- **No jewelry**

Pep Rally or Show-N-Go Days: (usually every Thursday) the following dress code rules must be followed:

- Pep rally T-shirts and shorts should be worn
- Regular athletic shoes should be worn (**not** game day shoes)
- Hair should be pulled back (**not** using game day bows)
- **No jewelry.**

Game Day: the following dress code rules must be followed:

- Game day uniforms should be clean and neatly pressed
- Game day shoes and socks should be worn
- Hair should be pulled back using game day bows
- **No jewelry.**

Competition Day: the following dress code rules must be followed:

- Game day uniforms should be clean and neatly pressed.
- Competition shirt should be clean and neatly pressed.
- Game day socks should be clean
- Game day shoes should be polished and shoe laces cleaned
- Hair should be styled as per the coach's instructions
- **ABSOLUTELY NO JEWELRY** (we are be marked off for jewelry).

Uniforms: Since all uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season we require that they be kept neat and clean. A fee of \$150.00 may be imposed, if a uniform is lost or damaged.

Game Day: The coaches will advise you or your child of the time that they must be at the field prior to the start of the game and the start of a competition. **PLEASE BE PROMPT!!! Failure to report on time or failure to follow the coach's direction can result in disciplinary action.**

Practices: Practices will be held as follows:

- **Before the exhibition game:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- **After exhibition game:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- **After school starts:** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

All practice times are 6:30 to 8:30 pm except for Mascots whose practices will end at 8:00 pm.

All cheerleaders must be on time to each practice. If you will be late for a practice or unable to attend, you must notify a coach or a team mom. Failure to contact someone can result in disciplinary action.

Unless you have been notified that a practice is cancelled due to inclement weather, you should report to practice. Conditions at the field may vary from where you live. If practice is cancelled due to inclement weather, it may be re-scheduled for a Wednesday or Friday at the coach's and/or Athletic Director's discretion.

SECTION III – FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Age and Weight Requirements:

Depending upon your child's age and weight as of August 1st, your child will be assigned to a squad as follows:

Squad	Age	Weight
Flyweights	6 & 7	75 pounds
Super Midgets	8 & 9	95 pounds
Midgets	10 & 11	115 pounds
Junior Varsity	12 & 13	140 pounds
Varsity	14 & 15	170 pounds

All divisions can gain 1 pound per game beginning the first game of the regular season.

Football Code of Conduct:

Football players must always conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on the Brandon Steelers and the team itself. All players must follow a Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. The Football Code of Conduct is as follows:

- I will attend all practices, games, meetings and any other team functions **ON TIME.**
- I will show respect toward all coaches, players, cheerleaders and referees.
- I will treat **all** equipment with respect and **NEVER** throw my helmet.
- I will not fight or argue with coaches or teammates and I will not inflict any intentional injury on another teammate.
- I will stay within the established areas of the sidelines during games and **pay attention to the coach and be ready to play.**
- I will demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field of play and I understand that I risk being ejected and/or suspended from a game or further League participation if I incur unsportsmanlike behavior or penalties.
- I will be coachable and ready to learn and have fun.
- I will be a team player and **always** put the team first.
- I will obey the coaches and the rules of the WCYFC and the Brandon Steelers.
- I understand there will be **NO** use of profanity, drugs, alcohol or tobacco during any WCYFC or Brandon Steelers event.

Disciplinary Actions:

Breaking the Football Code of Conduct or violation of any League rule may result in disciplinary action. The Board will handle all disciplinary problems on a case-by-case basis. If needed the Conference Trustees will choose a Disciplinary Committee. The Committee shall consist of 2 Board members and 1 neutral person. Punishment can be but is not limited to:

- **Verbal or Written Warning**
- **Game Suspension**
- **Season Suspension**
- **Permanent Removal from the Program.**

Dress Code:

Football uniforms supplied by the Brandon Steelers consist of the following and **must be returned** at the end of the season to receive a trophy:

- Helmet (must be returned)
- Shoulder pads (must be returned)
- Game day pants (must be returned) (**may not be worn during practice**)

The following uniform items are yours to keep:

- **Game day jersey (may not be worn during practice)**
- **7 piece pads**
- **Game day socks**
- **Mouthpiece**

Other items needed for practice and game day, which you must purchase consist of:

- Athletic supporter
- Football cleats (no metal or screw ins)
- Football girdle
- Mouthpieces – **NOT** white or clear (available in our concession stand)
- Practice pants (any color) no game day pants allowed

- Practice jersey (game day jersey cannot be worn during practice)
- Game day socks

DURING PRACTICES, NO GAME ATTIRE MAY BE WORN.

A fee may be imposed if any equipment is lost or damaged. A player will not be allowed to practice or play on game day if any equipment is missing or not properly worn. Replacement equipment may be **purchased**, if needed. We will have a limited amount of equipment to purchase at away games. It is your responsibility to remember to bring all necessary items with you.

Game Day: The coaches will advise **your child** of the time they must be at the field prior to the start of the game. **PLEASE BE PROMPT. Failure to be on time can result in your child not being able to participate in the game.**

Practices: Practices will be held as follows:

- **Before the exhibition game:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- **After exhibition game:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- **After school starts:** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

All practice times for all squads are 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

All players must be on time to each practice. If you will be late for a practice or unable to attend, you must notify a coach or a team mom. Failure to attend a practice can result in sitting out all or part of a game.

Unless you have been notified that a practice is cancelled due to inclement weather, you should report to practice. Conditions at the field may vary from where you live. If practice is cancelled due to inclement weather, it may be re-scheduled for a Wednesday or Friday at the coach's and/or Athletic Director's discretion.

SECTION IV – COACHING INFORMATION

Coaching Selection:

The Athletic Director or Cheerleading Director may choose all Head Coaches or they may choose a Coaching Committee to interview Head Coaches. The Athletic Director and Cheerleading Director will have final approval on all assistant coaches that the Head Coaches choose.

For the 2008 season, if a coaching committee is chosen; all Head Coaching candidates will present themselves to the Coaching Committee prior to election. All Head Coaches will select their staff of assistant coaches, who must be approved by the Athletic Director or the Committee. All teams may have up to five (5) assistant coaches and one (1) manager. All coaches and managers must pass a background check, (cost to be paid by the volunteer) through the Hillsborough County Athletic Association; attend a coaching certification class and possibly a Board class. All coaches are asked to be CPR certified and have minimal first aid training. The Athletic Director and the Cheerleading Director will have final say on the selection of all coaches.

Coaches - Code of Conduct

Coaches must always conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on the Brandon Steelers and the team itself. All coaches must follow a Code of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary actions as stated on the following page. The Coaches Code of Conduct is as follows:

- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win—THE SAFETY OF MY PLAYERS WILL ALWAYS COME FIRST!!!
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language and I will treat everyone with dignity.
- I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players and to make sure that all players PRACTICE.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play, respect and sportsmanship to all my players and encourage good sportsmanship from fellow coaches, players, officials and parents at all times.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco or alcohol by any of my players.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport I coach and I will teach these rules to my players. I will also be knowledgeable of the rules of the WCYFC and the Steelers Organization.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills I teach.
- I will conduct myself in a positive manner at all times.
- I will address any concerns that the parents have as long as they are submitted as detailed in the Parent's Section of this handbook.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for **CHILDREN AND NOT ADULTS.**

Disciplinary Actions:

Breaking the Coaches Code of Conduct or violation of any League rule may result in disciplinary action. The Board will handle all disciplinary problems submitted in writing on a case-by-case basis. If needed the Conference Trustees will choose a Disciplinary Committee. The Committee shall consist of 2 board members and 1 neutral person. Punishment can be but is not limited to:

- **Verbal or Written Warning**
- **Game Suspension**
- **Season Suspension**
- **Permanent Removal from the Program.**

SECTION V – PARENT INFORMATION

Parent Responsibility:

We encourage all parents to get involved with the Steelers Organization. If you see something that can be improved upon, please contact the Secretary or President with your suggestions. Please be **positive** with your criticism and be ready to help make the changes that **you** are suggesting. We ask that you do not voice any complaints or concerns toward coaches, referees or League officials in front of any children. This includes spectators during a game or during practices. During practices and on game days, we ask that you support all teams. Applaud good plays, ignore errors, **CONGRATULATE** the winners and **ENCOURAGE** the losers.

Parents Code of Conduct:

Parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on the Brandon Steelers and the team itself. Failure to follow the Code of Conduct can result in disciplinary actions as stated below. The Parent Code of Conduct is as follows:

- I will support the efforts of all **volunteers and Board Members**.
- I will not use profanity, drugs, alcohol or tobacco during any WCYFC or Brandon Steelers event.
- I will set the right example for the children by **ALWAYS** showing good sportsmanship.
- I will show respect toward everyone at the field and never yell at the children.
- I will never argue with a coach or an official during practices or games. **Any complaint or concern must be submitted in writing** and must be signed, via the website or submitted to the concession stand for investigation or review within 72 hours of the written incident (this includes questions or concerns for your child's coaches).
- I understand that my child will be given every opportunity to participate; however, the **SAFETY** of my child is the #1 concern of the Brandon Steelers.
- **I understand that my child may not have playing time in every game.**
- I understand that if I enter the playing field during a game, or incur an unsportsmanlike behavior penalty, I risk my child being disqualified from further League participation.
- I will remember to praise my child's efforts and always offer my support.
- I understand if I make a scene or remove my child from **ANY** practice or game, I may forfeit my child finishing the season and I may not be considered to sign up in the future.
- I understand that if I furnish a false birth certificate or misrepresent my child's age or date of birth I may be subject to both Civil and Criminal legal action.
- I understand that refusal to return all equipment issued to my child or to pay for missing equipment, may result in my child not receiving a trophy or being eligible to sign up for next year. **I further understand that refusal to return any and all equipment issued may subject me to both Civil and Criminal legal action and may exclude my child from further participation in the West Coast Youth Football Conference.**

Please allow your child to play as a child and have fun!!!!!!!!

Disciplinary Actions:

Breaking the Parent Code of Conduct or violation of any League rule may result in disciplinary action. The Board will handle all disciplinary problems submitted in writing on a case-by-case basis. If needed the Conference Trustees will choose a Disciplinary Committee. The Committee shall consist of 2 board members and 1 neutral person. Punishment can be but is not limited to:

- **Verbal or Written Warning**
- **Game Suspension**
- **Season Suspension**
- **Permanent Removal from the Program.**

Directions to all fields

Directions to Lakeland Eagles:

Take Highway 60 East to Highway 37. Turn left onto Highway 37. Turn right onto Highway 540A. Turn left onto Lakeland Highlands Blvd. Turn right into George Jenkins High School.

Directions to Wesley Chapel Cowboys:

FROM I-75 East on S.R. 54

North on Boyette Rd.

Approximately 3/4 of a mile on the left on the corner of Boyette and Overpass Road

Directions to Temple Terrace:

Take 301 North to Harney Road make a right turn, take Harney east a little of 2 miles to Main Street and make a right turn. The field is located about a block down on the right.

Take I-75 North to Fowler Avenue exit (take a right at the exit ramp). Take a left at Highway 301. Take the first right, which will put you back on Fowler, go to the 4-way stop sign. Go straight and the game day field is located about a block ahead on the right.

Directions to Plant City Dolphins:

Take I-4 East to Park Road exit in Plant City (take a right at the exit ramp and get into the left hand lane). At the light, this is Cherry Street turn left. The game day field is located at Otis Andrews Sports Complex.

Directions to East Bay Buccaneers:

Take I-75 South to Big Bend Road (take a left at the exit ramp). The game day field is located at East Bay High School, which is on the right.

Directions to Brandon Broncos:

From Providence and Bloomingdale: Take Bloomingdale East to Kings Avenue. Make a left onto Kings Avenue. The game day field is located at the Hanley Sports Complex, which is located next to Kingswood Elementary.

Directions to Brandon Bears:

From Providence and Bloomingdale: Take Bloomingdale East past Bell Shoals Road. The game day field is located at Bloomingdale High School, which is on the left.