

Gators



Player and Parent Team handbook

Welcome to the 2019 TJFL Gators team! We are excited to have your player on the team and cannot wait to get the season started! We have a dedicated coaching staff that will strive to give your player the best experience while playing with the Gators and remember we volunteer our time for your children.

Enclosed in this handbook is the information that will help you prepare for your involvement with the TJFL Gators Football Team. While it would be very challenging to cover every situation, we have created this handbook for you in preparation for the season.

Dear Parents/Guardian

Welcome to what should serve as a positive and exciting experience for your player. We, the coaching staff of the TJFL Gators, have put together an expectations package for you in the hopes of helping you to better understand the program with which your player is involved. Our goal is to play safe first and create winning football players second.

This handbook is a look into what the Gator football coaching staff deems to be the important facets of our football team. Youth football should be a positive, memorable experience for all involved. Coaches' goals are to provide players the opportunity to be the best football player they can be. We intend to teach the game of football, instill discipline, respect, prepare players through practice and conditioning, and build UNITY through hard work and commitment to a common goal of a successful football season. In order to be successful, everyone involved should realize that a positive attitude is a must. Very few things in life worthwhile come easily. Hard times require a positive outlook and attitude to continue striving to improve. Our team revolves around everyone making a great effort to get better every day for the good of the TEAM. A player's level of improvement is directly related to the amount of effort put forth in each activity the team undertakes. We, as coaches, expect players to give great effort in everything we instruct players to do. While expecting great effort from players, coaches expect great effort from each other as well. It would be unfair for the coaches to expect more of a player than the coach is willing to give himself. In order for all to understand their role, everyone involved should realize the concept of "T.E.A.M" (Together Everyone Achieves More). Coaches will show a genuine interest in the well-being and concerns of each player as an individual, however; coaches, players, and parents cannot put their interests before the teams' best interest. As coaches, we will emphasize the importance of player accountability. It is expected that players will be individually responsible for their actions and day-to-day choices. Everyone should remember, "Playing football is a privilege, not a right". There is no room for special privileges on a team. Everyone is expected to abide by the same standards and serve the same punishment when they do not.

The Gators football team does not tolerate absences or lateness for our practices, games or other scheduled events. We understand that there are times where your child will not be able to attend practice (i.e. illness or school function). If your child should need to miss practice for a good reason please contact me at least 2 hours prior to the beginning of practice. There is a lot to learn in a relatively short amount of time so good attendance helps both the player and the team. We need you to support us in this effort and make sure that your player is available for the scheduled practices, games and other events such as pictures and equipment hand out and hand in.

Thank you for allowing your player to be a part of our team. Together we will have a lot of fun while working hard towards our goals.

*Leroy Winzent
Head Coach
TJFL Mini Gators*

Communications to Parents

The TJFL Gators will attempt to make every effort to keep our players and parents up to date on issues, events, and cancellations.

We have four ways of communicating with parents. They are email, Facebook, website, and text message.

- If you need to add additional parents to the communications of text message or email, please email Coach Leroy: lwinzent@gmail.com
- Please refer to website regularly. The game schedule will be posted there, practice dates and times, events (such as pictures), and newsletters - Once website for Gators is active we will let you know.
- Facebook is TJFL Gators
- Text messages will be used with emails for reminders on events, games, practices and cancellations.

Player Expectations

We operate under the Thornton Junior Football League in accordance with the rules, regulations, and policies.

As a general rule, all players are to conduct themselves with class and dignity, both on and off the field. Your behavior is a direct reflection of our team and the Thornton Junior Football League. Any actions that will embarrass you, your team, the league, or parents are an action that should not be taken.

All players on this team will recognize and respect the authority of all coaches, referees, parents, and team moms or they are subject to disciplinary action.

Any violation of one or more of the rules covered in this handbook is an indication that this football team, and being a part of it, is not important to you. Any violation will be dealt with accordingly, ranging from Gator reminders to game suspensions. Those who work hard and adhere to these policies are showing that being part of this team is important and will be rewarded with success, satisfaction, and wins.

Attendance

All players are expected to present and on-time to practice.

1. Any player that is late to practice without notice will have to conduct any conditioning that they missed before being allowed to participate in current drills.
2. Any player that misses practice without notifying Coach Leroy in person, email, or text message ahead of time (2 Hours prior minimum) will be dealt with accordingly (Based on Practices for the Week):
 - a. 1 Unexcused Absence = Misses 2nd Half of Game
 - b. 2 Unexcused Absence = 1 Game suspension
3. In case of unforeseen emergency, parent must contact Coach Leroy
4. Any absence regardless of excused or unexcused will require any conditioning to be made up prior to participating in drills.

Inclement Weather

When a practice is scheduled, we will practice regardless of the weather, unless the City of Thornton closes the fields because of weather. If the City of Thornton closes fields due to weather, we may or may not make-up the practice. **DO NOT** assume there is no practice unless notified by a Team Mom, or Coach. When a situation arises where we have inclement weather (Example: Lighting) we will do one of the following:

1. Stop practice and ask players to sit in parents vehicles until storm blows over (Lighting and heavy rain)

If the event is at the last 30 minutes of practice we will end practice.

Parent Discipline of Player

Players have responsibilities they have to take care of at home, and at school. You must show respect wherever you may be. Parents have made it so you have the “privilege” to enjoy youth sports. They have the authority to take it away. Parents can notify any of the coaches at practice in regards to violating your responsibilities. We as coaches take this very seriously; therefore, if a parent notifies us of any violations of your responsibilities we will also assist with discipline from Gator reminders to game suspensions or quarters missed upon request.

Parent Conduct and Expectations

We believe that parent involvement is vital to the outcome of the football season. Players play mostly for the accolades of their parents. It is important for the parents to be present at as many practices and games and keep as positive as possible. We expect our sidelines to be loud and proud! Please bring any issues you may have to the attention of Coach Leroy either before practice/games or after practices/games, Coach Leroy will not converse during practice or games. We are all adults so if you begin to yell at Coach Leroy or any of the coaches the conversation is over and you will be asked to depart the game or practice field. Negative comments about the coaches, referees or players expressed to the players undermine our ability to help your player during the season. Please do not coach from the sidelines at games or practices; this only confuses your player on what we are doing. If you want to be a coach, Coach Leroy will gladly explain the process. If negative comments, negative behavior, profanities or sideline coaching become an issue we reserve the right to ask parents or their guests to leave the sidelines during practice or games. ***Please remember that invited guests are the responsibility of each parent and we expect them to be positive about all game and practice situations.*** There is to be no alcohol at any game or practice. Lastly, on this subject referees are human also, and they will make mistakes but at no time can you get out of hand, yell profanities or call out the referees. Coach Leroy will contact the referee's if it is necessary. Getting out of hand gets the **TEAM** penalized and cost the **TEAM** yardage, and can possibly cost you an ejection. We teach good sportsmanship and teamwork, at any time if your player or you gets ejected from a game due to poor sportsmanship or behavior, the offender will be suspended from game play or attendance for 1 game.

During games and practices only coaches and players will be allowed on the field. Practices, parents can sit on the hill right above our practice field. Game, no parents are allowed in the box area or end zone of the game field only badged coaches, players or TJFL board members. If we have to keep advising this, then you or your guest may be asked to depart. The only exception to this is if we are the home team and you volunteer to be part of the chain crew, down marker holder, or score keeper. Lastly, if we are assigned to have cheer support during our game please be mindful of the parents that are watching

their child cheer. Cheer parents are allotted from the 10-yard line to the end zone on the side they will be cheering. They will also conduct a half time show for your viewing, and this takes place in the middle of the field; therefore, please step back during halftime to allow the cheer parents to move up to watch their child during this presentation.

Equipment Hand Out/Hand In

At the conclusion of equipment hand out, each player is responsible for going home and trying all apparel. We can make arrangements the next day to repair, or replace any faulty equipment. After that equipment repairs or replacements are going to be limited; therefore, if it was not reported and equipment is faulty then your player cannot practice in contact drills until we get an appointment date. At the end of the season you are required to turn in all equipment that was issued to your player on the exception of the game jersey. Failure to do so, can lead to legal action being taken. Any equipment issues need to be reported a coach.

Equipment Care

All players must have regard for the equipment. Equipment care is very essential in maintaining good quality equipment for your players and for future players. Please follow all instructions on jerseys and pants when washing. Please remove all pads from jerseys and pants before washing. No stickers can be placed on the helmet unless approved by the Thornton Junior Football League. No alterations to the jersey unless approved by the Thornton Junior Football League during the season. Mouth pieces will be provided and remember they are to protect your teeth, it is not chewing gum. If you provide your own mouth piece, it must have a strap to attach to the helmet.

Practice

Practice for the 2019 season will be conducted at Yorkborough Park, located off 98th and Detroit. Practice days for the 2019 season are Monday, and Wednesday. The first 2 weeks before game play the days are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Practice times are from 5:30p to 7:30p. **Practice attire** (unless specified differently by Coach Leroy) is as follows:

- ***Helmet***
- ***Mouth Piece***
- ***Shoulder Pads (Please wear a practice jersey)***
- ***Pants, Pads, and Cup (Please wear practice pants)***
- ***Socks and cleats***

If you would like a practice jersey or practice pants the equipment shed sells them during the equipment hand out day. Hydration is key to success and safety of the player. Please provide an adequate amount of water for your player. Team only provides water for games.

Game Day

Games will be played on Saturdays. The schedule will be handed out when ready and will be posted on the website. The location for games is Trail Winds Park (133rd and Holly) or Woodglen Meadows (12600 Bellaire St). We will meet 1 hour prior to game time to allow for adequate pre-game conditioning. Any player that is tardy, and was not present when the platoon sheet was handed to the opposing team, will

not be allowed to play in that game. A snack and drink schedule will be made prior to every game and distributed in the newsletter for the week. Please remember to bring your snack or drink when it is your turn for game day. We ask that the half time snack be a health snack and drink (NO Soda, candy, etc...). If we are the home team we will be asking for volunteers in regards to running the chains, down marker, and score/play keep. If we cannot get anyone to volunteer, then we may be forced to forfeit our game. The team will provide water for ALL game days.

Injuries

Our goal is to teach your players the fundamentals of football while only playing in the safest way possible on the field. Fundamentals are the key to winning games. If your player should get hurt during practice or games we will evaluate the situation on the field and call out a parent if needed. **No parents are allowed on the field at any time unless a coach has called them.** Most injuries are the result of a child being scared and rattled and are not serious in nature.

In the case your player sustains a serious injury and medical attention is required a coach will notify you. The Coaching staff will not allow a player to participate if a serious injury is suspected. You will need to have a medical doctor's clearance in order for your player to continue participation. At any time and any coach suspects a concussion your player will be pulled from activity and you will be advised to have a medical doctor evaluate them. If it is stated that it is a concussion, then your player will not be able to participate until a medical doctor gives clearance. Once a clearance is given then we will begin the concussion back to play protocol and your player may still miss an additional game (s).

Team Fundraisers

A touchdown bucket will be circulated after each touchdown we score. Please be sure to bring spare change and dollars to each game. We will also be conducting a fundraiser for the Gators, more information to come on this later. These funds help us plan for a great end of the season banquet and trophies!

2019 TJFL Gators Staff

Head Coach	Leroy Winzent – lwinzent@gmail.com - 720-629-6485
Defensive Coordinator	Darryl Gallegos
Offensive Coordinator	Carl Hall
Team Mom	Jennifer Winzent – jwinzent@yahoo.com
Team Mom	Calista Hall

Head Coach Leroy Winzent – Head Coach TJFL Gators

Coach Leroy has been coaching in TJFL for over 9 years. In this time, He has coached in the mini, pee-wee and junior division. During this time, he has participated in numerous playoff appearances, 3 Spring Bowl appearances, 2 Turkey Bowl appearance, 1 Division Championship, 1 Spring Bowl Championship and the holder of the 2015 sportsmanship award. He was lucky enough to have all 4 of his sons inherit his passion for the sport. As he watched his sons play for this wonderful organization, he began to become interested in coaching. Coach Leroy currently has four kids in the TJFL (1 – Senior Division, 1- Peewee Division, 1 – Defensive Coordinator in Junior Division, and 1 – Part Time Coach with Gators). The two older boys also played in TJFL. He considers it an honor to coach for this league and would not go anywhere else. He will push your player to be the best they can be and learn as much as possible this season. Sometimes, it may seem like he is pushing them hard but trust in him, he will only push them to get them to the level of player we know each and every one of your players can be.

The team moms volunteer their time to ensure we have a smooth season and keeps controls of the back-end aspects of our team. They will create a snack and drink schedule for games to hand out to all. They are always looking for help in the team mom area, so if this is something you are interested in please contact Jennifer Winzent for more details.

Let us have a great 2019 season and most importantly, let us have fun. We are excited to get this season started. Gators play with heart, determination and as one. Let us get pumped up!! GO GATORS!!!

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY