

Dear Parents/Guardian

Welcome to what should serve as a positive and exciting experience for your player. 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 Bengals and remember we volunteer our time for your children. Our goal is to play safe first and create winning football players second.

This letter is a look into what the Bengal 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 Bengals 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 Bengals

(See Information Below)

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 or Team Mom
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 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 get 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.

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).

Conclusion

Coach Leroy 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 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 2021 season and most importantly, let us have fun. We are excited to get this season started. Bengals play with heart, determination and as one. Let us get pumped up!! GO Bengals!!!