



Grand Island
Junior Football, Inc.

2008 Handbook

Grand Island Jr. Vikings Football and Cheerleading
2008 Parent/Player/Coaches Handbook

2008 Board Members

Position	Name	Phone Number
President	Tom Dzielski	880-4119
Vice President	John Chiarenza	308-9454
Secretary	Tammy Gorman	774-2729/609-3619
Treasurer	Mike Mosher	774-8318/435-6103
Commissioner	Joe Boudrow	774-1081
Equipment	Todd Brandon	775-1313
Cheerleading	Traci Goc	773-4284/361-4705
Fundraising	Peter Terlecky, III	836-2422

The Board of Directors would like to take this time to welcome the Players, Cheerleaders and Parents to Jr. Viking Football. Last year was a great year with both Football and Cheerleaders having great seasons. We are expecting the same this year and cannot wait to get started.

As with all volunteer organizations, the key to success is in the cooperation off **ALL** involved.

This year's Board has set forth goals that we **ALL** will strive to attain. We have started over the last few years to make this Youth Sports Program one of the BEST in the league and we are all committed to reach this goal with the help of all involved.

By using Junior Football and Cheerleading to develop and teach our children fundamental football and cheerleading skills, we hope to mold their social skills as well. Our most important focus will be to build memories and friendships that will last a **LIFETIME!**

As with all **GOALS**, this will take the active participation of everyone involved from Board Members, Players, Cheerleaders, Parents, Coaches and Volunteers.

For us to reach our **GOAL**, it is going to take a lot of hard work and effort from all involved.

To make this program work we are going to need dedicated volunteers to help make this program the best it can be. We need the help of volunteers to push this Program into the Future.

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League Rules

- **Only** Coaches and Players are allowed on Practice and Game Fields.
- Each Family is **REQUIRED** to work on Game Day at the Concession stand or as part of the Field Crew (1 Game per Child). This is a league requirement and must be adhered to by all.
- **ALL SCHOOL WORK COMES BEFORE FOOTBALL.**
- Practice Times Monday/Wednesday/Friday (6pm to 8pm).
- Weigh-in Time is One Hour Prior to Game Times.
- All Players must be properly dressed for **ALL** Practices & Games.
- Jewelry is **NOT** to be worn at Practices & Games.
- Game Uniforms are for Games Only. A player is not allowed to practice if he/she wears uniform to practice. This will count towards minimum play rule.
- Proper Language is **EXPECTED** at **ALL** times on and off field.
- Proper Behavior Will Be Mandatory.
- Every Child Plays Based on Attendance to Practices.
- Notify a Coach if you are unable to make practice or games.
- Players/Cheerleaders will be notified as soon as possible on cancellations.
- Players are expected to know their Play Books and Team Rules. Failure to do so could result in not playing in games. The Minimum Play Rule is waived.

Practice/Game Rules:

- The Board will assign Head Coaches after a coaching/volunteer form is submitted to Board. Coaches will be notified only if they are picked for a position.
- Head Coaches will present to the Board list of assistant coaches for Board approval.
- The number of Assistant Coaches will be based on the number of players on each team. Four Coaches and 2 Statistical Personnel per Team is to be the starting point.
- Each Team will have a non-coach monitoring plays.
- Head Coach will develop and design the team strategies and leave the game planning to Coordinators. Head Coach can run one side of the ball (offense or defense).
- Coaches will pick positions based on skill and safety of the players.

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- Kick-off, kick returns, punts, punt returns and extra point attempt **WILL** count towards minimum play rule.
- Head Coaches will ensure that the League **MINIMUM** Play Rule is adhered to at all times.
- All Players will play a minimum of **4** plays per game **providing the following criteria is met:**
 - The Player has attended all weekly practices that week. If a player misses practice and the Head Coach has been advised ahead of time, he or she may waive this rule.
 - Players must be willing to play in the position that the Coach places them, any player who refuses to play the position he/she is put into by Coach will be **DISQUALIFIED** from minimum play rule. If this situation arises, the Head Coach will then be responsible to inform parents.
 - If a Coach feels that a player is unsafe to play, he will not be included in minimum play rule. This means a player is not attempting to protect him/her or others. A Coach can decide to sit the player and then at end of game advise Board and parents of decision.

Awards

Exclusively the Head Coach of his/her team will choose this year's awards. The one exception of this will be the voting for the Schoenle Trophy, this award is considered the MVP of the Football Team. The Vice President will go to each team and take a vote from each player. The players will pick the MVP with no influence from the Coaches. It is the sole responsibility of the Head Coach to not discuss his or her picks with Coaches or Parents until choices are announced at Banquet.

Waiver Players are not eligible to receive the Schoenle or Byron Awards; however, they can be eligible for any additional awards given.

Cheerleading Awards will follow same guidelines.

Fundraising

Each Cheerleader and Football Player will be responsible for selling \$ 100.00 worth of raffle tickets at the beginning of the year. The player or cheerleader shall be given 20 books of 6 tickets at registration. The player or cheerleader is to sell the tickets \$1.00 a ticket or 6 for \$5.00. If all of the tickets are not sold by August 27th, the child will not be able to participate until all of the tickets are sold.

There will also be additional fundraisers going on during the season. Cheerleaders and Football Players are asked to try and sell as much as possible of these fundraisers, without this additional funding we will not be able to purchase new equipment. It also will help to keep the registration costs from rising each year.

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Cheerleader Attendance Policy

Beginning the 1st Wednesday of September, all cheerleading practices are considered mandatory, this is to focus on competition performances.

Any child missing 3 Practices (total time) will not be eligible to compete at Competitions, however, they will be able cheer at Sunday Games.

2008 Banquet

This year's banquet will be held at Grand Island Holiday Inn on **Saturday, November 17**, starting at **5:00 PM**. The league covers cost for players and cheerleaders as long as all fundraising obligations have been meet, as well as all equipment have been turned back in. Extra Tickets will be available for \$ 20.00. A parent **MUST** be in attendance with their child at banquet. Tickets will be handed out and sold at Equipment Hand In.

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PARTICIPANT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** physically attack, lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, threaten to strike, or kick an official, participant, coach, or another spectator. Officials are required to immediately suspend participant from further play and report participant to Board. The participant shall remain suspended until his/her case is considered by the Board.
2. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** use unnecessarily rough tactics during the course of a game.
3. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** damage or deface sanctioned facilities. Officials or League representatives are required to immediately suspend individual and report incident to Board.
4. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** engage in abusive verbal attack, including "trash talking", or taunting, or use profane, obscene or vulgar language towards any participant, coaches, official, or spectator. Officials are required to immediately suspend the participant from further play and report incident to the Board.
5. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** deliberately use rough tactics or unsportsmanlike conduct during a game against the body and person of an opposing participant. Officials are required to immediately suspend participant from further play and report incident to Board.
6. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** refuse to abide by an official's decision or be guilty of verbal or forceful demonstrations of dissent to an official's decision.
7. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** intentionally throw playing equipment. Officials are required to immediately suspend the participant from further play and report such player to the Board.
8. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL** appear in, on or around a facility at which a game or practice is held any time under the influence or in possession of a controlled substance, or in an intoxicated condition. Officials are required to suspend participant from further play and report such player to the Board.
9. **NO TEAM OR TEAMS SHALL** engage in physical aggression upon each other, officials, coaches, field supervisors, or spectators. Officials shall immediately suspend play and report the incident to the Board.
10. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL**, at any time, commit a fraudulent act (including gambling upon any play or outcome of any game) concerning any organized event, function or sports game or tournament. Such act shall be cause for disciplinary action.

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I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization involved.
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. **THE BOARD SHALL** have the power and full discretion of imposing penalties on any and all violations of the Participant's Code of Conduct. In any violation not included in said Code, the penalty shall be at the discretion of the Board.
2. Any participant removed from a game must leave the park or school facility immediately. Failure to do so will carry a maximum penalty of one year suspension.
3. Any participant having been once penalized by enforcement of the "Code of Conduct" and reported again for violating the "Code of Conduct" will be subject to additional penalties open to the determination of the Board.
4. The term participant shall include football players and cheerleaders.

Name

Signature

Date

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COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- Set a good example for participants and fans to follow.
- Respect officials and their judgment and abide by the rules of the event.
- Treat opposing coaches, participants and spectators with respect.
- Instruct participants in sportsmanship and demand they display good sportsmanship.
- Coach in a positive manner and do not use derogatory comments or abusive language.

ENFORCEMENT

- Any complaints concerning a coach who has violated this code shall be first brought to the attention of the Board.
- All complaints will be thoroughly investigated and penalties may occur at the discretion of the Board, whose decision will be final.
- Coaches may be placed on probation or suspended from league activities for violation of this code.
- Any coach suspended from all league activities for violation of this code, will receive a letter from the Board. After a reasonable period of time, not less than one week, that individual may apply to the Board to be reinstated as a coach.

PENALTIES

- Any coach ejected from a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next two events and may be subject to additional penalties.
- Any coach who physically abuses another person will be suspended for the remainder of the season and may be disqualified from any subsequent league participation.

Name

Signature

Date

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SPORT PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Children's sports are supposed to be fun - for the *children*. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

That is why the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation (NYSSF), a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth in sports, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Governors Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports, convened a consensus meeting with representatives from more than thirty sports, medical, educational and professional organizations to create the following Code of Conduct for parents and spectators to abide by at every game. The Code of Conduct can also be found at www.nyssf.org.

Parents, fans and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about...**BEING FUN FOR EVERYONE.**

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character".

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.

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13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization involved.
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension

I hereby agree to the forgoing terms and conditions of the Code of Conduct as set forth above and acknowledge that complying with said rules and regulations is a condition precedent to my child playing their particular sporting activity. In addition, I hereby acknowledge and agree that the Board of Directors of the Grand Island Jr. Vikings Football, Inc., or any sub-committee, shall have sole decision making power in imposing disciplinary action upon any parent in violation of the Parent's Code of Conduct. I hereby waive any right to a hearing on any violation of the Code and will comply with the Board's final decision regarding disciplinary action. That I am signing this agreement on behalf of myself, my immediate family and any and all guests which I may invite or bring to said games and I hereby specifically agree and acknowledge that I can be held personally responsible for the actions of any family member and/or invitee who attends any game, practice or other sporting event should their actions violate any of the provisions of this agreement.

Parent/Guardian's Name

Signature

Date