

Parent Handbook 2018



Who are we?
LIGHTNING!!

What are we going to do?
WIN!!

How are we going to do it?
WORK HARD!!

One, two, three...

GO LIGHTNING!!

The following information is compiled to benefit parents/guardians and players/cheerleaders for the upcoming Lapeer Junior Lightning season.

CONDUCT

- **It is important to remember all of our board members, coaches and staff are volunteers.** We all value our time with your players, cheerleaders and families. Coaches & staff make all decisions on what is best for the team to succeed. A team director is assigned to each team. We ask if you have questions or concerns you **approach your team director FIRST.** If they are unable to assist you, they will point you in the proper direction. Our coaches dedicate their time to the children. Once practice or a game has begun, **PLEASE do NOT interrupt coaches.** Parents/fans are not allowed on the field at/during practice or at games unless they are a director appointed volunteer.
- **Social Media Conduct** – Any negative comments posted via social media will not be tolerated. If you have concerns you must bring them to the attention of the director and use proper avenues listed above to express your concerns regarding the Junior Lightning organization. Any discrimination via social media will be reviewed a written warning will issued and could result in the suspension/removal of player and family.
- We strive for safety, sportsmanship & respect as a Lapeer Junior Lightning. Therefore, misuse of Junior Lightning equipment, profanity or inappropriate language, bullying, the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal street drugs, criminal activity at a Junior Lightning event **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** and will result in the parent being asked to leave that event. He or she will receive a written warning regarding their behavior. In addition, his or her child(ren) will be immediately removed that event.
 - Should a second infraction occur during the same season. You as well as your child will be barred from attending any Junior Lightning event for the remainder of the season.
- Any adult who physically assaults an official, coach, player, fellow parent or volunteer **WILL BE IMMEDIATELY BANNED AS WELL AS THEIR CHILD(ren)** for a full calendar year. At the culmination of a year you may appeal to the board for the reinstatement of your children.
 - Assault includes, but is not limited to hitting, striking, slapping, pushing, kicking, spitting or striking with any part of the body or the use of any implement as a weapon.
- In keeping with our standards of safety it is **MANDATORY** that a parent or responsible adult over the age of 18 stay with your child during practices and games. In the event a parent/guardian is unable to stay it is that parent's responsibility to find a suitable replacement and make your team director aware. It is absolutely vital parents are reachable by the telephone number(s) listed on your child's emergency contact sheet at all times if they are away from practice or a scheduled event. Siblings are under no circumstances allowed to stay at practice without a PARENT. While at

practice siblings must be within eye sight of their parent and are not allowed to participate in practice or play with any equipment.

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE ELIGIBLE TO PRACTICE

- **Parents please be advised:** Cheerleaders and football players will not be allowed to start practice without **ALL** of the following:
 - Official NYFL Registration sheet

- Copy of birth certificate
- A 2018 sports physical
- **FULLY PAID** registration fee by end of Camp
- Signed copy of 2018 Player/parent information pack

***These documents should be handed into your appointed team director.**

- **Registration** – Half Registration payment is expected at the time of registration. The 2nd Half is due the 1st day of camp. The Lapeer Junior Lightning accept scholarships on a first come basis, to be considered for a scholarship you must fill out a scholarship form and mail it to the Lapeer Junior Lightning P.O. box 141 Lapeer MI, 48446. We must have this on file by May 1, 2018. **FAILURE** to pay your full registration fee or apply for a scholarship will result in your player/cheerleader being ineligible to pick up equipment and participate in **ANY** practices or scheduled games.
- **Sibling Discount** – We offer a sibling discount for families with more than one child enrolled in our program. The discount will be \$50 off the 2nd registration and each additional.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

- Team practices are mandatory and held at LCS West Campus CFI Building in Lapeer. Mandatory conditioning camp for both football players begins Monday, July 23. Practice starts promptly at 6p until 8:30p.m. Monday thru Friday until games begin. Once regular games start practices will be scheduled four days a week at the team staff discretion. As the season progresses daylight is limited and weather becomes a factor. Your specific team may change practice days, times and locations. You will be informed in advance of any such changes.
- LCS graciously donates the use of their property to our teams. Players, parents and fans need to be mindful of garbage on the field, in the parking lot and surrounding areas. There is **NO** smoking, alcohol use or illegal drug use of any kind on these premises. Destruction of landscaping or property will not be tolerated.
- Practices are mandatory, family emergencies, religious matters and major illness or acceptable and excusable reasons for missing practices. It is your responsibility as a parent to make your team director aware prior to an event if your child will not be attending practice or a game. Any and all absences, as well as tardies will be documented by the team director. All athletes are expected to be on the field in

practice attire on or before the start of practice. Tardiness is disruptive to teammates and coaches, if your child is more than 20 minutes tardy without prior authorization it will count as an absence. If you accumulate more than one inexcusable absence a week it will be the coach's discretion if your child will be eligible to play in that week's game.

- Children are advised to bring their own labeled water/Gatorade bottle. Sharing is strongly discouraged.
- **FOOTBALL:** Teams are divided as follows: **Freshmen:** Ages 7–9 (7 years old are by coaches' discretion. With a maximum weight limit of 131 lbs with pads/ 141 X–men.
- **Junior Varsity:** Ages 10–11 with a maximum weight limit of 152lbs. with and without pads/162 X–men per NYFL see their website for the X–men rules. Parents are responsible for making sure their player falls within the weight limits of their respective groups. Overweight boys are allowed to practice and try to make weight limit during the practice season.

- **CHEER:** Cheer Practices are scheduled per GM of Cheer . Mega Cheer is a required competition for each cheer team along with football games. Mega cheer practices are held during regular practices and more detailed information will follow in regards to the competition as the season progresses.

GAMES

- At the end of the eight game regular season the top four teams will advance to playoff games and the franchise super bowl. If the Junior Lightning progress to these events it is required that players and cheerleaders participate in these post season games.
- Football teams with 32 or more players must record a minimum of 4 plays per half for each player. Or 6 plays per half if the team is less than 31.
- The Junior Lightning home fields are Lapeer West Campus on Fitzpatrick Field. Other teams within the NYFL and our given division also host games. Typically, games are played on Saturday and Sundays with freshmen playing first and JV to follow. Schedules will be posted as soon as possible. Players are asked to arrive 1 ½ to 2 hours prior to the start of their game fully dressed and prepared for warm-up and weigh-in. Cheerleaders are asked to arrive 30-45 prior to the start of their teams scheduled game, also fully dressed and prepared.
- Parents, **PLEASE NOTE** once your child has been delivered to their assigned team and coaches on game day due to NYFL procedures parents and coaches are not permitted to be present during the weigh-in process or at warm-up.
- **ALL** coaches and staff present on the field during games are required to complete a course on how to identify and react to a concussion or head injury. Each team also has a designated Registered Nurse present at all times during a game. If an injury takes place the player/cheerleader will be assessed by the Junior Lightning nurse. **Ultimately it is the nurse's decision to deem a player unfit to return to play.**

EQUIPMENT

- **FOOTBALL:**
 - You will be notified prior to conditioning camp, of equipment pick up dates. Equipment pick-up is located at the Junior Lightning dug-out, at Lapeer Storage 3591 Davison Rd Lapeer. Your child must be present at the time of equipment pick up as they need to measure to ensure their equipment fits properly. At the time of equipment pick up you will be required to leave a deposit check of \$300 to be **HELD** and sign out the equipment and agree to return all of it CLEAN and proper condition. **If at this time you have fail to provide a deposit check your equipment will NOT be distributed. If equipment is not returned by required time, the check will be cashed.**
 - Each player will be provided with: One practice jersey, 1 pair of practice pants, a belt, shoulder pads, knee & thigh pads, a helmet & a chin strap. These are the property of the Lapeer Junior Lightning and must be returned at the end of each season cleaned and in the same condition as given.

- Game day socks & a game day jersey will also be issued within the first weeks of practice. These are your players to keep. *NYFL rules mandate a player is not allowed to play with a clear or white mouth guard.
 - Each family is responsible for providing their player an athletic supporter cup, a girdle with hip and tailbone pads and football cleats. *Athletics cups are **MANDATORY** during both practice and games, these are checked at every game and surprise checks during practice. Cleats must be **RUBBER** no longer than 1/2" in length; cleats are also checked at games.
 - Mouthguards with a strap are mandatory each family is responsible to provide.
- **CHEER:**
 - Cheer uniforms will need to be fitted at registration by cheer volunteers. *If any exchanges are warranted please bring it to the Gm of Cheer's attention the following day. Please, do not disrupt practice or coaches to do so.
 - At this time your cheerleader will be loaned a cheer bag. These are property of the Junior Lightning and need to be returned laundered and in the same condition they were given.
A deposit check for \$100 will be required and HELD until the bag and poms are returned at the end of the season. If Cheer bag/poms are not returned at the required time the deposit check will be cashed.
 - Uniform, Warm Ups, Under garments, bows and socks are also provided and will be passed out at a later date. **MEGA CHEER SHOES** will be ordered later in the season and may only be worn at the mega cheer competition. These items will be your child's to keep.
 - Each family is responsible for providing and keeping in their cheerleaders bag, the following a bath towel, clear raincoat/poncho, plain navy knit gloves, plain navy knit winter head/ear band. Your cheerleader is expected to wear plain white & clean athletic shoes to all games.

VOLUNTEERING

- As our program is solely run on volunteers and volunteer participation is vital to the success of all games and Junior Lightning events parents/families of **BOTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS & CHEERLEADERS are required to volunteer at least 3 events per child, throughout the season otherwise your child will be ineligible to play.**
- Examples of volunteer duties are: Game day volunteers for football & cheer, banquet set up & clean up, golf outing, cheer dinners and mega-cheer. You will be given more detailed information on these jobs and be able to sign up for events at your teams' parents meeting and throughout the first two weeks of practice.

- A security check for volunteer time of \$200 will be **HELD** until equipment return for both Cheer and Football if volunteer time requirement is not met the check will then be cashed.

FUNDRAISING

- Football players & cheerleaders are required to raise \$100 of fundraising profit.
- The first portion of fundraising is due **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY before the 1st Game**. **IF YOUR FUNDRAISING MONIES ARE NOT SUBMITTED BY THIS DATE YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEDULED GAME THAT WEEKEND.**
- The second portion of fundraising is due **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY Before the 5th Game** **AT THIS TIME YOUR FUNDRAISING IS NOT COMPLETE YOUR PLAYER/CHEERLEADER WILL BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FURTHER GAMES UNTIL ALL FUNDRAISING IS COMPLETE.**
- Raffle tickets for 3 drawings will be distributed for fundraising each player/cheerleader will be responsible to sell 10 tickets packed in lots of 5 tickets each to complete their required fundraising.

FEES OVERVIEW

- Registration: Football Registration is \$300 Cheerleading Registration \$200
- Registration for returners without uniform Football is \$200 Cheer \$100
- Fundraising: In the amount of \$100/football and cheer.
FAILURE TO COMPLETE FUNDRAISING WILL RESULT IN THE INELIGIBILITY OF YOUR CHILD.
- Volunteer: A security Check of \$200 will be HELD not deposited until equipment return for both Cheer and Football.
FAILURE TO COMPLETE YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS WILL RESULT IN THE INELIGIBILITY OF YOUR CHILD AND CHECK WILL BE CASHED.
- Equipment: Football \$300 Deposit/Cheer \$100 Deposit Checks will be required at the time of equipment check out. These checks will be **HELD** not deposited until the end of the season. **FAILURE TO RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT IN THE SAME CONDITION IT WAS GIVEN AND NOT RETURNED ON OR BEFORE THE LAST SCHEDULED EQUIPMENT RETURN DATE WILL RESULT IN CASHING OF THE DEPOSIT CHECK. If unable to collect on deposit check LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN & POSSIBLY INELIGIBILITY OF YOUR CHILD FOR THE FOLLOWING SEASONS.**
- Small additional donations for extra activities or staff gifts may be requested throughout the season of no more than \$25.

REFUND POLICIES

- You will receive a full registration fee refund, if your child drops before camp begins.
***The refund will not include the cost of your uniform. Jersey/Uniform will be forfeited.**
- You will receive a discounted refund in the amount of \$100 for football and \$25 for cheer if your child drops after practices have begun but, before Thursday of the 1st Game. ***The refund will not include the cost of your uniform.**
- You will **NOT** receive a refund of any kind after Thursday of the 1st Game.

- In the event your child drops from the program **YOU MUST NOTIFY YOUR TEAM DIRECTOR** and make arrangements to return equipment & uniforms
FAILURE TO SCHEDULE EQUIPMENT RETURN WILL RESULT IN LEGAL ACTION TAKEN. Security Deposit checks will be cashed upon failure to return equipment.
- **ALL FUNDRAISING DONE FOR THE LAPEER JUNIOR LIGHTNING IS NON-REFUNDABLE.**
- **IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED ANY BEHAVIOR LISTED IN THIS PARENT PACK THAT IS DEEMED UNBECOMING & INTOLERABLE OF A JUNIOR LIGHTNING PARENT OR CHILD AND ARE ULTIMATELY BANNED FROM ATTENDING ANY JUNIOR LIGHTNING FUNCTIONS YOU WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES RECEIVE A REFUND.**

- Parents and family can also find additional information on our website at www.lapeerjuniorlightning.org and our franchise website www.nyfl.net. You can also find up to date information by connecting to our face book page [Lapeer Junior Lightning Youth Football and Cheer](#).

*Please remember to direct all team oriented question and concerns to your team GM' s or directors first.

*Fundraising questions and concerns should be directed to: Vice President Angie Bollman

2018 Executive Board

President: Joe Olejniczak (810) 441-2282

Vice President: Angie Bollman (810) 656-0830

Treasurer: Tavana Salmond (810) 441-8625

Secretary: Ashley Fuller (810) 627-1088

GM of Freshman Football: Jaime Granz (810) 358-1572

GM of JV Football: Missy Olejniczak (810) 656-9423

GM of Cheer: Lori Jostock (810) 748-7126