



# 2022 Season

Football Handbook

The Livonia Blue Jays program is proud part of the Livonia Junior Athletic League (LJAL)

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**The following is a quick overview of what to expect throughout the season. Please feel free to reach out to any Football or Cheer Director should you have any questions regarding any of this material.**

### **Registration process - veteran and open registration**

Veteran Registration occurs during February-March months (specific dates released each year). The veteran registration period usually lasts between 7-10 days. Veterans can only register if they have fulfilled their mandatory volunteer hours (discussed later in handbook). See SMYFA rules for information on veteran status. If the veteran registration is missed, your athlete must be signed up during open registration.

Open (walk-in) registration happens in two sessions (specific dates released each year).

At registration, the registration fee, proof of address, and a copy of your athlete's birth certificate will be required.

### **Practice packs - cost and what's included**

The Practice Pack for the season will include specific football items for the upcoming season.

### **Raffle tickets & drawing**

The LJAL requires one MANDATORY fundraiser each year. This is a raffle for cash prizes. Families are required to purchase up-front \$100 (or \$200 if families have more than 1 child registered in football/cheer) in raffle tickets (\$5 raffle tickets, quantity 20). Everyone has the option to sell the raffle tickets to family, friends, neighbors... Sometimes, additional tickets are available to sell in packets of 20 as well.

The drawing is held in August each year.

### **Volunteer requirements, opportunities**

Each family is required to contribute a minimum of 3 volunteer sessions. These can be served in a variety of ways including: field clean up, game announcer, spotter, chains, time clock, selling 50/50 tickets, working various stations in the kitchen and much, much, MUCH more!

Families are only eligible to register early under veteran status if they have fulfilled the three (3) volunteer requirements for the previous season.

**Volunteer must be 18 years of age or older**

## **Spirit Wear**

Every Blue Jay family has the option to purchase spirit wear! Spirit wear is clothing and other items emblazoned with the Blue Jay logo (depending on the vendor, this can be used as a fundraiser for the Blue Jays with a small portion of the sale goes back to Blue Jays). Spirit wear is usually offered at several times throughout the season.

## **Blue Jays Football Camps**

### **3 days of camp (optional):**

Non-Mandatory Blue Jays Camp at Grant Elementary School, time TBD (no fees for this camp). All football players are strongly encouraged to attend all camps. Attire is athletic gear (weather appropriate) and cleats (no pads or helmets).

## **Uniform Handout - Football**

Uniform handout will be at the new storage facility 37695 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150. The Blue Jays Directors will do their best to work with our athletes to get the jersey number they want, but the most important thing is that they get a jersey that fits.

### **Football uniform number (#s) process**

1. Returning players (athletes that played prior season on that squad) will have the right to retain last year's number provided:
  - a. The numbered jersey fits properly, and the athlete attends the uniform handout day.
    - i. Note: a returning player can have the option to choose a new number (from inventory), as long as a returning player has chosen not to retain it for current season.
2. New players (athletes new to that squad) can choose from remaining numbers (from inventory) based on size and on first-come-first-serve basis.
3. Athletes who miss uniform handout will be randomly assigned a number and it is their responsibility to communicate size information to directors

## **Care of uniforms**

Wash with like colors in cool water. DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENER. DO NOT PUT IN DRYER and DO NOT IRON uniforms. Please lie flat or hang to dry.

## **Uniform Turn In**

The uniform must be turned in CLEAN in order to receive banquet tickets and to retain veteran status. The helmet should be free of mouth guard. The turn in date will be communicated by the end of the season.

## Practice

Attendance: participating in practice is required to participate in games. Catechism is considered an excused absence, as well as school Open House and Sixth Grade Camp. At the discretion of the Head Coach, any unexcused absences may result in the loss of playing time in the next game.

Parent Observers: Parents are asked to **remain 50 ft away from the practice area** to allow the athletes to practice without distraction. They often want to show their skills off to the nearby parent, but we need their focus to remain on their coach and team.

Weather: We practice in the sun, wind, clouds, cold and rain. We will suspend practice for 30 minutes if lightning has been spotted. **Please remain in your car/nearby in the weather looks like it might take a turn.**

In the case of extreme heat, decisions as to whether practice will take place will be made in accordance to the Franklin High School athletic department's (MHSAA) Heat and Humidity Policy.

What to bring (other than uniform and protective equipment): water or Gatorade!

## Football Practice Schedule

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PRIOR TO PADS OR CONTACT, EACH FOOTBALL PLAYER MUST COMPLETE THREE (3) FULL DAYS OF CONDITIONING**

## Huddle & Huddle Notes

A Huddle (email or online communication) will occur after the during the first week of practice. After that, there will weekly email communications sent out by one of the Directors to provide parents with a review of the past week's events and will highlight the events for the upcoming week.

## Game Day Concession Donations:

The Livonia Blue Jays rely on the revenue from our concessions (fun-raiser) to purchase items for our teams (football and cheer). To make these purchases, we need DONATIONS for our concession stands. Once the season begins, it will be announced at Huddle what each squad will be requested to purchase and donate.

For example, the Varsity squad may be asked to donate beverages: Gatorade, Pepsi, Coke, bottled water, etc. JV may be asked to donate candy, chips, snacks, etc. You don't have to purchase each item requested, just what your family is able to do, but every donation is sincerely appreciated.

## Game days

### Saturday or Sunday

Typical Arrival and Game Start Times:

- Flag arrival, 8:00 am; game time, 9:00 am
- Freshman arrival, 9:30 am; game time, 11:00 am
- JV arrival, 11:30 am; game time, 1:00 pm
- Varsity arrival, 1:30 pm; game time, 3:00 pm

This is subject to change. Some Non-Livonia teams have different start times

Jersey: Home/away games, the athletes wear blue game jerseys (*this could change if we purchase new uniforms*). Even though we may be playing at Bentley, we may not necessarily be the home team. One of the three other Livonia teams may be home. Be sure to refer to the schedule and consult posted Huddle Notes.

Parents Location: Parents should remain in the stands and are to refrain from entering the track area.

## Vacations and Sickness

Vacations: Vacations must be communicated to a director prior to the start of school, for any vacations during the season.

Sickness: Fevers and contagious illnesses please stay home. If the illness extends more than two days, please provide a doctor's note for release back to participation. With all that has gone on since Covid, please err on the side of caution.

Communication, communication, communication!!! Please text/call Head Coaches and Directors when issues arise.

## Picture Day

Picture Day: Information on how to order/order pictures will be sent out.

## Family Day

Game Day: Make sure to invite family and friends.

Banners/Poster: Each athlete's family will create a poster to celebrate their child. (Examples will be shown at a Huddle closer to Family Day.) We ask for posters to be laminated and have holes punched in each corner so they can be displayed along the fence at Bentley.

Varsity Toilet Papering: Each year the varsity Cheerleaders toilet papers the homes of the varsity football players. It's a fun, goofy tradition that the girls LOVE to do! Parent volunteers are needed to take the girls from home to home. Please do not call the police!

Pre-Game Announcements: Announcers will highlight each of our athletes, sponsors and events for the day.

### **Playoff games/practice - attendance required**

The regular season ends mid-/end of October; however, we work hard every season to make playoffs. Practice and games will continue for any squad that makes the playoffs (or if applicable a consolation game). Expectations for attendance at practices and games do not change during the playoffs/consolation games.

### **Banquet- attire, costs, coach's gifts**

Banquet takes place at a local banquet hall mid-November each year. Athletes receive their trophies from the league, enjoy a buffet dinner and enjoy a DJ and dancing as well!

Please note: if you do not complete your volunteer requirements, you will not be permitted to attend the banquet. See the Volunteer Requirements / Opportunities section of this document.

Attire: Dressier clothing is appropriate for our players. Many boys wear suits, jackets or sweaters with dress pants or khakis while the girls wear dresses. Parents typically wear business casual or date night type apparel.

Costs: See note below

Coach's gifts: Team parents will coordinate a gift for the coaches and will ask for a monetary donation (optional) to make the gift happen. It is a small way to show our appreciation for our volunteer coaches.

### **Approximate Season Cost Run-Down**

Registration	\$300 (tackle) and \$200 (flag)
Practice Pack	\$100
Raffle	\$100 (per family, not per athlete) or \$200 for families with more than 1 child registered (football / cheer)
Picture Day	varies; depends on what/if you choose a package
Coaches Gifts	\$10-\$25 optional
Spirit Wear	varies; depends on what/if you choose
Banquet Tickets	If possible; we try to limit costs for athletes to \$5

for athletes/coaches, key volunteers and \$25 for everyone else limit 4 additional guests \$25 per person (athletes are free/included). Note: we use fundraisers throughout the year to keep cost of banquet manageable

Other Fundraising Events To Be Announced