

Dear Parents:

Last summer at the request of the Jr. Canuck Football/Cheer program, the North Plainfield Parks and Recreation Department purchased the Jr. Canucks. Since the purchase was late in the summer, the Jr. Canucks program continued and completed the 2017 season as if there was no change.

There are significant changes in 2018.

The Jr. Canucks No Longer Exist.

A complete change of operation is in place for 2018. A determination will be made by **July 1st** as to whether we have enough players for a team in a given league (age/grade group). If we have enough registered players for that league (age/grade group) we will proceed. If we don't, registration fees will be refunded and we will sign a waiver to release your player to another program, (if required). It is very important to sign your player/cheerleader up on time. Please work with us as team determinations will be made by **July 1st**. Assuming we have enough players to field a team by **July 1st**, we will continue to take registrations until **July 31st** at regular registration prices. After **July 31st**, registrations will be considered late and there will be a \$100 late fee associated to your costs. **No late registration will be taken after August 31st.**

The North Plainfield Parks and Recreation Department introduces the new

NORTH PLAINFIELD LUMBERJACKS

- The Lumberjacks are no longer a member of the Jr. Skyland Conference.
- The Lumberjacks will be playing/cheering in the Jersey Valley Conference of Pop Warner. Travel to away games will be closer to home than last year. To name a few towns, Bound Brook, Watchung, So. Plainfield, Manville and Bridgewater are members in the league.
- Pop Warner has weight restrictions.
- Since Pop Warner has a rule that states a team must have 16 players (tackle football) at game time or a forfeit will be imposed, we will be going outside North Plainfield for additional players. North Plainfield residents are **our priority**, however, there may be a need to have additional players from the outside to assist us.

Since we are now Pop Warner, all games will be played on Sunday's.

- Recreation soccer games are Saturday mornings. We are going to work on a schedule that would enable a player to enjoy both sports if they choose to do so.
- All coaches will be selected by the football/cheer commissioners and approved by the recreation directors. All football coaches must be USA Football coach certified in addition to the Rutgers SAFTEY certification. If anyone is interested in becoming a coach,

please contact the recreation office. To coach football, a football background will be required. Anyone without a football background cannot be considered to coach, however, we would welcome volunteers to assist in other areas of the program.

- All players/cheerleaders will need a physical for the 2018 season.
- **Registration Fees:**
- **Flag Football: \$75:** Players will receive and **KEEP** game jersey and pants.
- **All Cheerleading: \$100:** All cheerleaders will receive undergarments, hair bows, sneakers, warm up top and bottom to **KEEP**. The uniform skirt and top will be returned to recreation.
- **All Tackle Football: \$150:** Players will receive new uniforms in 2018 (except helmets and shoulder pads). *Uniforms will be returned to the borough upon completion of the season.*

DENNIS JACKSON IS THE FOOTBALL COMMISSIONER

DAWN MARTINEZ IS THE CHEERLEADING COMMISSIONER

They will oversee their programs and report directly to the recreation directors.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH AND HIS STAFF ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH US IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PROGRAM.

ONCE THE NEW LUMBERJACKS ARE UP AND RUNNING, ADDITIONAL TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED TO THE PLAYERS IN THE OFF SEASON IN 2019.

ALL OUT OF TOWN PARTICIPANTS WILL PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$50.

UNFORTUNATELY WE WILL NOT HAVE MULTIPLE CHILD DISCOUNTS.

WE WILL WORK WITH FAMILIES ON A PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES WHO NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE RECREATION OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

THERE WILL BE A UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT SECURITY DEPOSIT. THE DEPOSIT WILL BE RETURNED UPON RETURN OF BOROUGH PROPERTY.

PARTICIPATION TROPHIES WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL K-1-2 PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS.

THERE WILL NOT BE A SEASON ENDING BANQUET FUNDED BY THE BOROUGH.

PARENTS MUST FOLLOW NORTH PLAINFIELD RECREATION POLICIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT.

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OUR PROGRAM MAY BE MADE TO THE RECREATION DIRECTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.

SPORTSMANSHIP IS PARAMOUNT. ANY PLAYER/PARENT/COACH NOT DISPLAYING APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR IS SUBJECT TO A CODE OF CONDUCT HEARING WHICH COULD LEAD TO THEIR REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

WE WILL NEED PEOPLE TO ASSIST AS TEAM PARENTS, CHAIN GANG, TICKET SALES ETC. (THERE WILL BE A GATE TO OFFSET OPERATIONAL FEES)

ANY VOLUNTEER WHO COMES IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH PLAYERS OR CHEERLEADERS MUST BE RUTGERS SAFETY CERTIFIED AND GO THROUGH A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK. THIS IS THE SAME POLICY THAT APPLIES TO NORTH PLAINFIELD RECREATION COACHES IN ALL SPORTS.

IN CLOSING, IN ORDER FOR THIS PROGRAM TO THRIVE, WE WILL NEED THE HELP AND COOPERATION FROM OUR PARENTS AND PLAYERS/CHEERLEADERS.

COMMITMENT IS ESSENTIAL FROM PARENTS, PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS AS WE BUILD OUR NEW PROGRAM. WITHOUT A COMMITMENT IT WILL BE A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO MOVE FORWARD.

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP, COOPERATION AND SUPPORT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER AS WE MOVE FORWARD AS THE LUMBERJACKS.

All questions should be directed to the recreation department at 908-756-0247 or rec@npmail.org.