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Junior Gladiators Football  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

To Our Junior Gladiators Football Family:

Below is a summary of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), please review the list and if you still have unanswered questions, please contact the league office at [gladiators@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gladiators@tampabay.rr.com) or at via phone at 941-320-7576.

**REGISTRATION QUESTIONS**

**1. What is the cut off age and weight for league?**

Answer: Teams are determined by age and weight. See categories below:

- Flag (Ages 5-7) – Weight (Unlimited)
- Mighty Might (Ages 8-10) – Weight (125 lbs. and under)
- Junior Varsity (Ages 11-12) – Weight (145 lbs. and under)
- Varsity (Ages 13-14) – Weight (185 lbs. and under)

*Note: Cut-off ages are based on a September 1<sup>st</sup> date. For example, if you turn 14 after September 1<sup>st</sup>, then you will not be eligible to play youth football.*

**2. Will Flag, Mighty Mite, Junior Varsity, and Varsity teams be in place for the 2012 season?**

Answer: The only team that will be in place for the 2012 season is Flag. Flag will be open for children that turn 5, 6, or 7 by September 1, 2012.

*Please note that cheerleading will not be offered at this time but may be offered in the future.*

**3. How do I register my child for Junior Gladiators?**

Answer: Junior Gladiators registration will open on July 1, 2012. Please check the Bradenton Gladiators website ([www.bradentongladiators.com](http://www.bradentongladiators.com)) for updates and locations. Your registration forms can be completed in the following methods.

- Go to the website [www.bradentongladiators.com](http://www.bradentongladiators.com), click on Youth Football, click on the Forms tab to print out required forms and forward to Junior Gladiators Football, PO Box 2276, Oneco, FL 34264.

**4. What do I need to bring to registration?**

Answer: The following forms must be provided during registration:

- Birth Certificate
- Recent Physical
- Recent Report Card (if applicable)
- Insurance Card
- Registration Forms (all forms can be downloaded from this website)
- Registration and Team Fee Payment

## **5. How much does it cost and what is included?**

Answer: The cost is \$150 per child. This includes a \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee and a \$125.00 team fee. All fees are due at registration. Each player will be provided the following:

- Junior Gladiators Football Uniform (Home & Away)
- Customized Football Cleats
- Customized Football Bag
- Mouth Guard

Players will need to purchase practice pants and spare mouthpieces, as they are not provided by the Bradenton Gladiators.

## **6. When do we need physical forms completed?**

Answer: The medical release form (physical) is available for download from the Bradenton Gladiators website. The physical must be completed by a licensed physician and turned in before the child can participate in any practices or other activities.

## **7. Who signs up at registration?**

Answer: All participants are required to sign up during registration, even if you participated in the program in previous years.

## **8. Can I register early or late?**

Answer: Due to demand, you must be present at registration to sign up. If there are extenuating circumstances, you may have a friend or relative deliver your information during registration. Pre-registered football applicants from the previous season are required to weigh in and make a payment by July 15th of current season. If you are submitting information after registration and are missing paperwork you will be placed on a waiting list. Every child that wishes to play football or cheer will get the chance the opportunity. The Bradenton Gladiators do not turn anyone away based on race, financial status, size or weight.

## **9. I missed registration, so now what?**

Answer: Due to high demand you will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if a position becomes available on the desired team.

## **10. When will there be another registration day?**

Answer: Please check the website ([www.bradentongladiators.com](http://www.bradentongladiators.com)) for dates and times.

## **11. When is uniform/equipment pick-up?**

Answer: The Bradenton Gladiators will distribute uniforms/equipment prior to the first game. You WILL NOT receive your equipment unless all paperwork is completed and your account is paid in full. If you have a conflict, your head coach will have an alternate date and location for uniform/equipment pick up.



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## **VOLUNTEER & COACHING QUESTIONS**

### **12. What are the qualifications of league officials responsible for my child's football experience?**

Answer: Our philosophy is to conduct a rigorous process to select the best possible volunteer candidates. Most or all coaches have some football / cheer experience and / or coaching experience. All head coaches usually have multiple years of experience coaching youth athletics. Some have been dedicated to our program in the past and have a good grasp of the fundamentals. Additionally, all coaching volunteers are required to complete certification courses conducted by outside organizations or Manatee PAL and are required to have background checks.

### **13. What do I need to do to volunteer for the Junior Gladiators Football team?**

Answer: At registration, you will be presented with a number of opportunities to choose from that will help out your child's team. Please look carefully and know that our parents are expected to perform a minimum of eight (8) hours of volunteer time per child enrolled in the organization. With that being said, if you have two participants, then you are looking at 12 hours of volunteer time. Make it a fun experience by choosing a volunteer opportunity that interests you. During the course of the season, there will be many jobs available. Game day is the time where we need most of our volunteers. We thank you in advance for contributing to the Junior Gladiators program and insuring the quality of the experience for your child and their team mates.

### **14. Can I help Coach?**

Answer: We interview our head coaches before the season starts and are selected based on several different criteria. Each head coach has the responsibility to choose his / her own assistant coaches. If you are interested in a coaching position, please fill out a volunteer application located under the forms section on our website. Some coaching staffs may be full. We require all new and returning coaches to be certified each season.

### **15. Are there certifications required to volunteer for a position with the league?**

Answer: Yes. All coaches attend a certification class conducted by Manatee PAL, Local HS coaches, Nike & USA Football, etc. Parents who volunteer and are on the field and any other volunteers need to fill out a background check application.

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

### **16. Where do we practice?**

Answer: All practices will take place at Manatee PAL, local schools or parks that the Bradenton Gladiators secure. You can expect five practices per week until school begins and three practices per week and a game on Saturday thereafter. Practices will begin at 5:30pm and go to 7:00pm. Parents or other representative are expected to remain with their child during practices or other activities.

### **17. When is the first practice?**

Answer: The first day of practice will be July 23, 2012.

**18. What should I expect if my son/daughter does not make it to practice during a given week?**

Answer: Football is a game of synergy, consistency and preparation. Given these characteristics it is very important to stay on course with practice and all season commitments. If your child inexcusably misses practice during a given week, his head coach will not be required to play him more than the minimum during the next game. Judgment on this issue lies at the team level.

**SEASON QUESTIONS**

**19. How long is the season?**

Answer: The regular season runs from August through the November. Mighty Mites through Midgets football players can count on extending their season with playoffs and bowl games.

**20. Where are the games played?**

Answer: Games are played at Manatee PAL located at 202 13th Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34208.

**21. Are there off-season programs to prepare my child for the upcoming season?**

Answer: Yes. There are various program hosted and endorsed by the Bradenton Gladiators. Please check the website ([www.bradentongladiators.com](http://www.bradentongladiators.com)) for dates and times.

**22. When will we receive our game schedules?**

Answer: Game schedules are created by Manatee PAL. We usually receive our schedules in August and your head coaches will coordinate getting them to you. Please refer to the Regular Season Schedule Page of the website.

**23. When is picture day?**

Answer: We will post specific times on the website when it is determined.

**DISPUTES**

**24. If I have an issue with a coach, player, parent or league official, how should I handle my concern?**

Answer: WE ARE A ZERO TOLERANCE PROGRAM. First, realize that any issue contains several factors. Be sure to address any concerns in a controlled and respectful manner. If you have team related issues, the first person you should contact is your head coach. Please do so after practice, or if the coach has designated a specific time that they have parent meetings, this may be your best bet. Some parents are leery to speak to their child's coach as they're afraid that the coach may then take their son down to minimum play, move a cheerleader from a coveted position, etc. Please understand that we have selected these coaches with the understanding that they have nothing but the best interest and safety of your child in mind and will handle your concerns in an adult manner. If you have a league related issue, talk to your head coach in the same format and he / she will bring the issue to the attention of the Bradenton Gladiators Administrative team. The Gladiators will be in contact with you to resolve the issue or deliver further context. If you do not follow the formal escalation process that will be handed out at the beginning of the season, your issue will not be handled.

**25. What rights do we have as parents and players?**

Answer: A safe place to play football fundamental instruction. Per the code of conduct any verbal abuse, constant disruption to the team or the experience of other parents will not be tolerated. The Executive Board of the Bradenton Gladiators reserves the right to warn a parent or athlete one time, and then suspend privileges / participation for one year or permanently, depending on the offense.



## **BRADENTON GLADIATORS FOOTBALL, INC.**

P.O. Box 2276, Oneco, FL 34264-2276, (941) 320-7576

www.bradentongladiators.com

FORM 6

### **26. What if I think my son/daughter should be playing more?**

Answer: We recommend asking yourself if your son has done his best to prepare himself to succeed and worked as hard as the rest. Then we ask that you try and be as objective as possible when considering your child's ability compared to his group. The next step is to have a planned conversation with the head coach of your team to get background on his perspective relative to YOUR child. This conversation is not intended to turn his opinion or even create a preferential move for your child. You can only expect a forth right response that will allow you to understand decisions that are made. The information you collect will help you in further influencing your child to work on aspects that will help him. We recommend that you work together with the coaching staff to improve your son's opportunities. If you continue to not be satisfied with your child's playing time, please realize your opinion has been heard and the head coach will only do what he sees best for the team.

### **27. What if my son/daughter wants to play a certain position?**

Answer: Position assignments are conducted at the team level. We encourage all coaches to tryout each child for different positions early in the season. All children are evaluated equally and will have the opportunity to prove they can play different positions. Each head coach will have an evaluation form, which will list the needed skills for a given position and an evaluation for each player. Position assignments are entirely up to the head coach and his staff.

## **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

### **28. What is the general purpose of the Junior Gladiators Football?**

Answer: To fundamentally embrace children in the areas of academics and sports. Our main objective is to provide a safe place for your child to be challenged both as an athlete and a person.

### **29. Who benefits from the money that goes into the program?**

Answer: Only you! Every penny that is collected by the Bradenton Gladiators is invested back into the growth, safety of our program for the long term. We are a non-profit organization that relies on great people that volunteer their time and knowledge. Please respect this fact and consider volunteering as it can only help all of us.

### **30. What is minimum play?**

Answer: It is a requirement of the Bradenton Gladiators that all football players, regardless of skill level must play a minimum amount of plays during each game. The actual number of plays is "8" active plays. This rule only applies to Mighty Mites through Midgets.

### **31. What is the lightning / natural disaster warning policy for practice and games?**

Answer: Manatee PAL will assess weather and playing conditions. If for whatever reason conditions do not allow for practice or games, we will sound a loud horn with one long blast, which means immediately clear the field and parents are to proceed to their cars. The coaching staff will assume responsibility for supervising the team during this time. Once conditions are safe, there will be another blast to return to the playing field. Once the horn has been sounded and the field is cleared, you are at your own risk if you choose not to take cover. If the horn is blasted twice, practice is canceled and you will be expected to attend the next scheduled practice. In cases of hurricane warning or events pending of / after natural disasters, Manatee PAL will follow the same course of action as Manatee County Schools. If school is closed for weather conditions there will not be practice on that given day. Games and other activities relating to weather will be determined based on availability.

**32. Can I use pictures or the Bradenton Gladiators name for mass media?**

Answer: No, not without the express written consent of the Bradenton Gladiators President or Executive Board.

**33. What are the scholastic characteristics needed of my athlete?**

Answer: All football players are expected to sustain a 2.0 grade point average or higher to continue to participate throughout the course of the season. Players that do not receive letter grades must maintain an overall ranking of “Satisfactory” from their academic institution.