



Lopatcong Panther Football



The Lopatcong Panther Football program participates in the Warren County Midget Football League and has done so for more than 40 years. Our football program prides itself on teaching fundamental football skills while emphasizing discipline, responsibility, good sportsmanship and teamwork. We strive to foster a positive environment of competitive youth football while instilling valuable life skills and lessons in our young athletes. Lopatcong Panther Football has existed for all these years because of dedicated coaches, volunteers and parents that have worked very hard to keep this organization operating for our young athletes.

Each season we are faced with new financial challenges that require your volunteer participation to help ease these burdens. As a result, your support and efforts are required on a continual basis. Equipment costs, referee fees and mandatory helmet reconditioning are just a few costs associated with football. To assist our program, we require each family to abide by the following policies:

Parent Volunteer Policy

Mandatory Concession Stand Duty:

- It is the policy of the Lopatcong Panther Football program that all parents are required to work a **minimum of one time slot** (approximately 2 hours) at the concession stand during our home games. **You may also be required to work additional concession time slots as needed by the organization.** A concession schedule will be published and distributed to all parents. Once the schedule is finalized, it is the scheduled parent's responsibility to arrange for a substitute volunteer in the event a change is required. **In the event a parent fails to report for his/her scheduled concession duty, he/she will be billed \$50.00.**
- You may "buy out" of your concession stand responsibility by paying \$50.00. This non-refundable payment will be **paid at sign ups** in addition to your normal registration fees.

Additional Volunteer Requirements:

- The Lopatcong Football program also requires each family to donate a minimum of four (4) volunteer hours per season. These hours are independent of concession stand hours. Please keep in mind that coaches dedicate countless hours preparing for the season and a **minimum** of ten to twelve (10-12) hours per week during the season conducting practices and games. Volunteer opportunities are available by joining one or more of the following committees: fundraising, concessions, sponsorship, chain gang and banquet planning. Please speak with a committee member, the football director, or any head coach about these and other volunteer opportunities. Your assistance is always needed and appreciated.



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Volunteer Committees

As a means to satisfy the volunteer requirements, all parents are encouraged to join one or more of the following volunteer committees:

I. Fundraising Committee:

- a. This committee will consist of a **Fundraising Coordinator** and all volunteer members. The Fundraising Coordinator will chair the committee and serve as a central point of communication. This committee shall be concerned with developing and implementing programs related to raising monetary funds for the operation of the Lopatcong Panther Football program. **Duties include, but are not limited to:** Researching, discussing, coordinating and implementing all fundraising activities. Committee members will advise and receive approval from the Lopatcong Football Director or his/her designee prior to implementing all fundraising activities.
- b. **Spirit Wear Sub-Committee:** The sales of all Lopatcong Panther Football apparel shall fall under the Fundraising Committee. This committee will consist of a **Spirit Wear Coordinator** and all volunteer members. The Spirit Wear Coordinator will serve as the central point of communication. Committee members will advise and receive approval from the Lopatcong Football Director or his/her designee prior to implementing all spirit wear fundraising activities.

II. Concession Committee

- a. This committee will consist of a **Concession Coordinator** and all volunteer members. The Concession Coordinator will chair the committee and serve as a central point of communication. This committee shall be concerned with the overall operation, scheduling and sales of all concessions at the Lopatcong Panther Football home games and related events. **Duties include, but are not limited to:** Ordering, purchasing, preparing food and related items, compiling volunteer worker lists and distributing same, recording the names of all volunteers who report to their assignments, supervising volunteers for home game concession sales. Committee members will advise and receive approval from the Lopatcong Football Director or his/her designee prior to implementing all concession activities outside normal operations.
- b. **TO HELP OFFSET THE HIGH COSTS INCURRED BY OUR ORGANIZATION, ALL PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WORK AT LEAST ONE TIME SLOT AT THE CONCESSION STAND (APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS) DURING OUR HOME GAMES. YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO WORK ADDITIONAL CONCESSION TIME SLOTS AS NEEDED BY THE ORGANIZATION.**



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III. Sponsorship/Game Day Program Committee

- a. This committee will consist of a **Sponsor/Game Program Coordinator** and all volunteer members. The Sponsor/Game Program Coordinator will chair the committee and serve as a central point of communication. This committee shall coordinate, develop and compile the Lopatcong Panther Football game program to be sold and distributed at home games. **Duties include, but are not limited to:** Soliciting local businesses to purchase advertising space in our game program, taking team and individual photographs (football players, cheerleaders and twirlers), compiling team rosters, graphics and photos, designing and laying out graphic ads and digital photos. Committee members will advise and receive approval from the Lopatcong Football Director or his/her designee prior to implementing all Sponsorship/Game Day program activities outside normal operations.

IV. 'Chain Gang' Committee

- a. This committee will consist of a **Chain Gang Program Coordinator** and all volunteer members. The Chain Gang Coordinator will chair the committee and serve as a central point of communication. This Committee shall solicit volunteers to work the first down yard marker/chains at each game. **Duties include, but are not limited to:** Scheduling three volunteers per game per level (Flag, Pee Wee, Bidy, and Midget) to work the first down yard markers and chains, revising the schedule as changes may occur, ensuring volunteers report to the field ten minutes prior to the start of each game. Committee members will advise and receive approval from the Lopatcong Football Director or his/her designee prior to implementing all Chain Gang activities outside normal operations.

V. Banquet Committee

- a. This committee will consist of a **Banquet Coordinator** and all volunteer members. The Banquet Coordinator will chair the committee and serve as a central point of communication. This Committee shall coordinate and plan the end of the season dinner banquet for all levels. **Duties include, but are not limited to:** Contacting local restaurants and/or banquet establishments for pricing and related information, scheduling and coordinating payments between parents and the chosen establishment(s). Committee members will advise and receive approval from the Lopatcong Football Director or his/her designee prior to implementing all banquet activities outside normal operations.



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Equipment Policy

Costs

You may ask yourself, “Why am I required to volunteer if I pay a registration fee at sign ups? Doesn’t that cover the cost of my child(ren)?” The answer unfortunately is no. In fact, registration fees cover less than one half of all yearly expenses associated with our football program. The following policies and guidelines will provide a better understanding of the requirements and opportunities available within our program.

Lopatcong Panther Football relies heavily on registration fees, fundraising, team sponsorship and concession stand sales to financially support our program. We must raise all funds necessary to operate our program. Equipment costs alone for just one player can easily exceed \$300.00.

Yearly equipment and associated expenses include:

- **New helmet replacement (includes painting, decals and striping):** \$120.00 each.
- **Helmet painting, safety testing and recertification (NOCSAE):** \$30.00 each helmet. This testing is mandatory each year for every helmet. Each helmet’s paint must be stripped for proper testing. Should a helmet fail, a new one must be purchased to replace it.
- **Equipment and uniforms:** Game jersey (2) \$30.00 each, game pants \$27.00, practice pants \$15.00, practice jersey \$14.00, shoulder pads \$40.00, rib pads \$15.00, chin strap \$6.00, knee, thigh, hip and tail pads \$20.00.
- **Referee fees:** \$950.00 per game.
- **Blocking dummies and shields:** \$45.00 - \$150.00 each.

Equipment Care and Return Policy

Since our equipment is very costly to maintain and replace, the following guidelines have been established to prolong the use of each issued piece:

- All issued equipment must be properly maintained and cared for. **DO NOT USE BLEACH** on practice or game uniforms.
- **ALL** issued equipment will be cleaned, washed and regularly maintained throughout the entire season. At the end of the season, all equipment will be cleaned, washed and returned in a timely manner. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- If a player decides to leave the program (quit) after equipment is issued, it is his/her responsibility to return the equipment immediately to his/her head coach or the football director.



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- Game pants and game jerseys are to be worn only for game day, unless your coach tells you otherwise. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- At no time is a parent or sibling to wear these uniforms.
- Helmets are for your protection. They are not to be sat on, kicked, thrown, dropped, or misused in any way.

In accordance with the Lopatcong Athletic Association's (LAA) policy, any player who does not return football equipment will be billed for the replacement costs of the equipment and prohibited from participating in any additional Lopatcong sporting activities.