

2024-25 SEASON



GEORGIA BUCKEYES PLAYER AND PARENT HANDBOOK

This handbook is presented to serve as a reference for you so that you may better understand the information regarding our organization. We depend on the coaches, players, parents, and spectators to do their part in order to make this program a success!

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THE ORGANIZATION

Mission

Develop dynamic student athletes, building confidence and creating a winning mindset on the foundation of achievement through teamwork, integrity and responsibility.

Vision

We will be the most fundamentally sound, best conditioned and disciplined team in the country.

Expectations

The Georgia Buckeyes have high expectations for all players and parents/spectators alike. The tradition you are being asked to uphold within the NWGYFL organization is one that has a long-standing tradition with character and integrity. How you choose to conduct yourself, both publicly and privately, will reflect directly on your family, your teammates, your coaches and the entire community.

Attitude; noun

: a bodily state of readiness to respond in a characteristic way to a stimulus (such as an object, concept, or situation)

Losing Attitude vs. Winning Attitude

Losing Attitude: even when you are Winning – you are expecting something bad to happen. There is a lack of Confidence, and Trust in your Teammates and Coaches.

Winning Attitude: even when you lose you firmly believe you only ran out of time. You expect to win, and you know eventually you will.

Buckeye Pride

Toughness: This includes mental and physical toughness. The entire team has to have the idea that no one will be more physical than us, and we will not break no matter how tough the situation is. This includes making sacrifices necessary to succeed.

Togetherness: Players should understand that the coach's role is to love their players and make them great. The player's role is to love their teammates and be the best they can be. All players must have one objective and that is to be the best team on the field. The common goal that holds everyone together is the desire to WIN. The more honor, love and respect on the team, the greater the team.

Trust: Do your job! Know your assignments and execute on every play! Each player will be coached to provide them with the physical skills and mental capability to accomplish this task. As players do their job, it will build trust between players and coaches. Only players that are trusted will play, and only players that do their job on every play are trusted. Can I trust you? Are you committed? Do you care?

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Leadership: Only trusted players become leaders. They do their job on every single play and become so respected by other players that their actions and words provide the conviction and will to fight. They are the true warriors who fight so fiercely that others are honored to continue the fight with them or pick up for them if they go down. Be a great TEAMMATE!

Commitment to the Community

The Georgia Buckeyes are dedicated to the improvement of our community. Throughout the 2024 season we will participate in multiple community events including but not limited to:

- Food Drives
- Community Days
- Volunteer Days
- Family Outings and Events

A full list of Community events can be found on our website (www.gabuckeyes.com) and will be communicated to you by your individual team coaches.

Individual teams may also volunteer in events in addition to those the organization participates in.

Team and Organization Fundraising

All players are required to participate in fundraising activities through the season. Fundraising is used to offset cost and expenses of fees, equipment and team travel.

The organization will facilitate various fundraisers throughout the season for organizational costs. However, each individual team is encouraged to run fundraisers of their own for their individual team funding needs.

Registration and Fees

Registration open January 1, 2024 – August 2, 2024

Fall Registration Cost:

Football - \$300

Cheerleading - \$350

Refunds

Any participants who withdraw from participation with the Georgia Buckeyes, on or prior to the 1st scheduled mandatory practice may apply for a refund of their participation fees. A request for refund of paid fee must be submitted in writing to the Georgia Buckeyes Board of Directors

If uniforms have been ordered, no refunds will be issued.

All football players participating need to be eligible in Nation Sports ID prior to the second Sunday in August. Your child will not be able to play if certification is not completed properly.

Football registration includes:

- 2 game day jerseys
- 2 pairs of game day pants
- Game day socks
- Mouthpiece
- League Fees

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- Referee Fees
- Facility Fees
- Insurance

Equipment not covered by registration:

Each player is responsible for obtaining their own padded girdle, cleats (rubber cleats only, no metal cleats), additional mouthpieces, practice jerseys/pants, helmet(s) and shoulder pads.

If you supply your own helmet it must be in line with the park wide helmets (must have black face mask and black chin strap). A discount code and the correct color code can be provided by the board if you wish to purchase your own helmet. Game Day Uniforms Are Not Be Worn During Practices.

Cheer registration includes:

- Uniform (shell top, skirt and half top)
- Pom Poms
- Hair Bow
- Briefs
- Shoes
- Socks
- Duffle Bag
- Breast Cancer Awareness accessories
- Practice T Shirt and Shorts
- Warm Ups
- League Fees
- Referee Fees
- Facility Fees
- Insurance

When a participant is registered, it is done through the GA Buckeyes online platform. All information provided will be part of the Georgia Buckeyes database. Telephone numbers and email addresses will be shared with your team coaches and team mom(s) for the purpose of communication.

Individual teams may have their own communication platforms (BAND, GroupMe etc.) but all official Georgia Buckeyes messages will come via email/text from the Board of Directors.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Parent Communication

The Georgia Buckeyes understand the importance of proper parent communication. Prior to the start of the 2024 season, we will hold a mandatory parent orientation meeting. A parent/family representative for every participant is required to attend our parent orientation.

Orientation is a way to ensure that our families receive all of the information needed without feeling overwhelmed or rushed. This meeting is being held so that all parents have an opportunity to meet Board Members, ask questions, and receive the same pertinent information needed to move through the season smoothly.

We will hand out a Buckeyes Parents Packet during this meeting which will list out and all events and fees for the upcoming season.

Board Members, Coaches, and Team Parents will respond to all phone calls and emails within 24–48 hours excluding weekends and holidays.

All immediate concerns should be addressed with your Team Parent. He/she will initiate the chain of command.

Practices are held for two hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. During these times, we ask that parents refrain from speaking to coaches as they are busy instructing our players. If your concern is related to a member of the coaching staff, your Team Parent can set up a time preferably before practice for you to speak with the coach directly if she cannot satisfy your concerns him/herself. If for any reason, your concern could not be satisfied with a member of the coaching staff, please email the Board of Directors at info@gabuckeyes.com. Board Members are always present at practices and games. While we try our absolute best to address all concerns immediately, some situations need more time and thought than an immediate resolution and we thank you in advance for your flexibility in this matter. We always welcome any positive/constructive feedback via email throughout the season.

Communication You Should Expect from The Board of Directors (but not limited to)

- Mandatory Parent Orientation held prior to the season
- Information regarding weather delays or cancellations of practices/games
- Information regarding Picture Day/Homecoming
- Notification of community events and volunteer opportunities throughout the season
- Immediate concerns that have to be addressed to the group throughout the season
- Information regarding tournament games
- End of the Year Event
- Park-wide off-season conditioning

Communication You Should Expect from Your Team Parent (but not limited to)

- Introduction at the beginning of the Year

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- At least one meeting every month regarding events and important dates
- Weekly reminders about upcoming practices and games (location, time,)
- Snack and Volunteer Schedule
- Messages regarding equipment and uniforms
- Information regarding Fundraisers
- Update on Volunteer hours
- End of the Year Banquet/Event
- Off-season conditioning

Communication You Should Expect from Your Coaches (but not limited to)

- Team selection process
- Individual and team expectations
- Team requirements (conditioning, practices, plays, equipment)

Appropriate Concerns to Express to Coaches (but not limited to)

- Treatment of your child (mentally/physically)
- Ways to help your child improve and develop
- Concerns about your child's behavior
- Team strategy, technique, practice-organization, or play selection

Coaches expect parents to communicate concerns directly to them (no other parents with the exception of the Team Parent), scheduling conflicts when it comes to games and practices, illnesses that may affect games and practices, and general support of the team and program.

Volunteers

In order to keep our organization running, we rely heavily on the volunteer support of our families. We ask that each family contributes to volunteer hours that can be served in the following ways (but not limited to):

- Team Parent
- Gate Attendant during games
- Concession Stand during games
- Chain Crew during games
- Facilities Beautification (designated days approved by Board)

If you would like to volunteer, you may sign up via [Signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com). The link will be provided to all parents at the start of the season. You will not be able to complete hours on behalf of someone else.

Bringing snack/water for players and cheerleaders will not count towards volunteer hours. There are many things that have to be done to keep our program running and we need the help of volunteers in a variety of other areas.

Medical Information

Unfortunately, injuries could happen in both football and cheerleading. While all of our coaches and volunteers take every necessary precaution to keep the participants safe, accidents do happen. All minor injuries will be treated by the coach or qualified league volunteer. Any major or life-threatening injuries or accidents that may occur during practices/games or events held for our organization will be handled using the procedures listed:

- 911 will be called immediately
- Parent/Guardian will be contacted
- Based on the professional decision of the Emergency Response Team, the participant may be transported to the nearest medical facility. If transportation is necessary, the charges incurred will be billed to parents/guardians. We (coaches/volunteers) cannot transport an injured child in a personal vehicle.
- A Doctor's Release Form must be submitted before the participant may resume play.

It is very important that parents/guardians are present at all times because of these unforeseen situations. If you are not able to be present, please let your Team Mom and/or Coach know how you can be contacted if anything occurs.

We also ask that you document any pre-existing medical conditions, allergies, or impairments on the registration forms.

Physicals

All players must have a current physical along with a parent signature to participate. This physical must be current for the upcoming year; physicals are void after one year and must be done again. Physicals should be turned in directly to the head coach or team mom.

Heat Stroke/Exhaustion:

All Georgia Buckeye coaches, and Board Members will be certified in heat stroke and heat exhaustion safety. Please contact a board member if you wish you obtain additional information on heat stroke/exhaustion symptoms, treatment, and first aid.

Concussion Protocol and Policy:

All Georgia Buckeye coaches, and Board Members have been trained to identify signs for concussions. All coaches are required to pass Heads Up training prior to the start of mandatory practice and their certificate is kept on file. Please contact a board member if you wish you obtain additional information on concussion symptoms, treatment, and first aid.

Uniforms and Equipment

As outlined above in the registration section, players and cheerleaders will receive new uniforms each year. Football uniforms will be customized for each individual athlete, names for the back of jerseys should be provided at registration.

Georgia Buckeyes will place bulk orders for helmets on 2 occasions. If you wish to order a helmet, outside of the registration cost, please let a Board Member aware as soon as possible. If you wish to purchase your own helmet, please consult with a board member to ensure you are ordering the correct color helmet. Decals will be provided by The Georgia Buckeyes. Unauthorized alterations or damage done to uniforms during the season will require the parent/guardian to pay for a replacement uniform.

Weather

The Georgia Buckeyes will play and practice in the rain. When a situation arises where we have inclement weather (i.e extreme heat, lightning, snow) we will look to move practice into a gymnasium. If unable, we will provide a workout routine and/or film assignments for the players. A notification will go out to parents via email and/or text message prior to the start of practice.

Cancellations

If practice or games are cancelled for any reason, we will notify you via Band app, email and/or text message. You may also receive additional notification from your coaches.

Player Selection and Team Allocation

Depending on the final number of registrations there may be more than one Georgia Buckeyes team at each age group. If this happens, team may be required to play against each other in regular season play. Coaches will have the final say as to which players are chosen for each team. Player safety is always taken into consideration when splitting teams.

There is a possibility that teams will differ and not all participants will be invited to play in regional/national play per the NWGYFL organization guidelines.

Age Division:

5u, 6u, 7u, 8u, 9u, 10u, 11/12u

The age of your athlete on July 1, 2021 is the age group they will participate in

About NWGYFL

For more information on the NWGYFL organization please visit <https://www.nwgyfl.club/>

COACHES AND TEAM PARENTS

Roles and Responsibilities of Coaches and Team Parents

Coaches play a big part in the success of the Georgia Buckeyes. Roles of our coaches include but are not limited to:

- Coach Every Player
- Be a positive role model
- Communicate efficiently
- Commit to the program
- Enforce rules and regulations of the Georgia Buckeyes
- Be a mentor and role model to all participants (not just the ones assigned to specific teams)
- Teach fundamentals and basic skills to players
- Emphasize the importance of safety to participants
- Make sure all players are being utilized
- Abide by the NWGYFL guidelines
- Follow guidelines set forth by Georgia Buckeyes By Laws and the coaches code of conduct
- Any other duties that the Board may need assistance with

Roles and Responsibilities of Team Parents

The Team Parent will complete team administrative duties needed, so that coaches will have the opportunity to focus on player development and coaching. Team parents are to serve as the parent liaison. Team parents will communicate information provided to them by the Georgia Buckeyes Board of Directors and coaches. Team parents serve in this role voluntarily – please be mindful of this and know they are doing their best to ensure that you and your child have a wonderful experience and a smooth-running season.

Additional responsibilities for team parents may be allocated individually by the team coaches.

Code of Conduct

- Educate, train, and prepare young men to be leaders who possess uncompromising character, capable of critical thinking and sound analysis, and able to meet challenging physical demands.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of everything else.
- Utilize all participants and encourage them regardless of differences and skill level.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs at all Georgia Buckeyes sponsored events including games and practices.
- Refrain from using profanity.

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- Abide by a doctor's decision in all matters of players health and injuries and physical ability to play.
- Lead by example in demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- Engage in professional dialogue with parents and stakeholders.
- Remember that I am a youth sports coach, and the game is for children and not adults.
- Maintain a level of professionalism when handling matters to parents and players
- Do not allow personal emotions or circumstances interfere with Georgia Buckeyes activities

The Georgia Buckeyes have the authority to suspend or dismiss coaches at the commission discretion based on the league's By-Laws

Corrective Action Policy

Actions may include but are not limited to:

- Verbal/Written Warnings
- Individual Meetings with Board of Directors
- Suspension for a whole game depending on the infraction
- Suspension for a season depending on the infraction
- The Georgia Buckeyes can impose suspensions against coaches at any time during a game if the coach is heard cursing or being disrespectful to referees, other spectators, or coaches

PARTICIPANTS

Role and Responsibilities

- Attend all practices and games that you can
- Be Coachable
- Compete Relentlessly
- Do the right thing at all times
- Be a role model to others by exhibiting a good attitude and good sportsmanship
- Be committed to learning throughout the season and growing as a person and football player/cheerleader
- Listen to coaches and be respectful of other volunteers and parents in the organization
- Maintain and take care of our facilities, equipment, and your uniform
- Be responsible and keep up with your equipment and uniform
- Be mindful of the foods you eat before practice and games
- Stay hydrated
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times
- Have fun

Code of Conduct

- Refrain from taunting, bullying, or being disrespectful to other participants in our organization and in other organizations.
- Refrain from cursing or using any foul language or terms.
- Remember that you are a student first and an athlete second.
- Refrain from excessive horseplay that could put you or any other in danger.
- Dispose of all trash, containers, etc. in trash cans. Leaving trash on our field or another field leaves a bad representation of you and your team.
- Any concerns with coaches must be handled respectfully. Disrespect will not be tolerated.
- If you are absolutely unable to physically perform due to exhaustion, injury, or illness, let your coaches know.

Academics

The Georgia Buckeyes and NWGYFL Organization strive to focus not only on athletics but on academics as well.

Participants are Student-Athletes, which means you are a student first and an athlete second. We are requiring all participants to have a GPA of 2.0 or higher. We will be checking participants grades every 3 weeks. If a participant is failing a class, they will be permitted to attend tutoring until they show improvement per the teacher.

Georgia Buckeyes athletes will be recognized within our Athlete of the week program. Each week a new athlete will be chosen per age group to be recognized for outstanding performance on the field and in the classroom.

Attendance

“To be early is to be on time...” -Vince Lombardi

Players are expected to be present and on time to all practice and games. Any player late for practice will be required to make up for missed time. If a player is going to be late or miss practice, please notify your coach in a timely manner. Players should strive to arrive 15 minutes before agreed arrival time

Game Day Expectations

- This is a travel team and will compete at a national level, games will be mostly scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays sometimes with multiple games per day. Games may also be scheduled on other days of the week.
- Players should arrive on time in team gear with all required equipment.
- Players on the sideline should stay active in the game and never respond or contact fans outside of the playing field.
- Injured players will help with water and sideline management.

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- Players must be 100% focused on the job at hand while the game is in progress. No distractions will be tolerated on the sideline!
- Players should always respect their opponent and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- We want our players to play hard and be aggressive but never play dirty. Players cannot react in an unsportsmanlike fashion in response to anything an opponent or official.
- Following a game, players should immediately line up, and shake hands with their opponents.
- Following the handshake, players will immediately go to designated area for a quick briefing by the coaches then will be allowed to leave and talk with family and friends.

Corrective Action Policy

Actions may include but are not limited to:

- Warnings
- Individual Meetings that could include parent/guardian
- Suspension for a quarter or whole game depending on the infraction
- The Georgia Buckeyes can impose written warnings and suspensions against players at any time during a game if the player is heard cursing or has an excessive number of penalties (unsportsmanlike conduct, targeting, etc.)

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Role and Responsibilities

- Support your player
- Respect your coaches
- Show Team Pride
- Treat all coaches and volunteers with courtesy and respect
- Volunteer within the Football and Cheer Program
- Be involved with team activities
- Trust in the coaching staff and program policies
- Support and encourage your child to work their hardest at their position
- Notify the Team Mom and/or Coach of any scheduling conflicts well in advance (Unexcused absences or tardiness may lead to reduced playing time for your son/daughter. It is your responsibility to make sure they arrive at practice and arrive on time.)
- Cheer for our teams

We want parents to be actively involved in the program and feel that they can speak with our staff about numerous topics regarding their kids, not just football related. With that being said, we will communicate to the parents the understanding that the staff works hard and spends long hours to put the best product on the field.

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Football is a team sport, and it is our coaches responsibility to do what we feel is best for the team not individuals. We ask that you try to support the whole team, not just the team when your son is on. If a player is ever unsure of their role, they should ask their coach. The coaching staff will make every effort to clearly define the roles of each player on the team. Communication between parents, teammates and coaches will make for a successful season.

Code of Conduct

- Parents must stay off the field during practice and games.
- Give constructive criticism on your own time, not in front of other parents, players, officials, spectators, etc.
- Refrain from using profanity.
- Inappropriate behavior is cause for immediate ejection from the stands.
- Accept the decisions of officials on the field as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Stay off the field and remain under control.
- Set a good example for the players and other spectators.
- Support your team coach and refrain from “sideline coaching”.
- Do not criticize an opposing team, players, fans OR coaches.
- Abide by a doctor’s decision in all matters of players health and injuries.
- Support the coaches, players and officials and help teach the value of commitment, sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- Parents will not encourage their child or any other person to engage in un-sportsmanship conduct with any coach, parent, player, participants, officials or any other attendee.

Corrective Action Policy

Actions may include but are not limited to:

- Verbal/Written Warnings
- Individual Meetings with Board of Directors
- Suspension for a whole game depending on the infraction
- Suspension for a season depending on the infraction
- The Georgia Buckeyes can impose suspensions against parents/spectators at any time during a game if the parent/spectator is heard cursing or being disrespectful to referees, other spectators, or coaches

FINES

Any fines set forth from the League (NWGYFL) or the organization (Georgia Buckeyes) are the responsibility of the individual coach, player and/or parent the fine is directed to. The organization will not be responsible in paying fines assigned to a specific persons. Fines must be paid in a timely manner, or the coach/player/parent is subject to suspension and/or removal from the organization.



Parent Contact Information:

Player Name: _____
Parent Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

As parent/guardian of a current Georgia Buckeye participant, I understand how important it is to the program, and my child that this manual is understood and followed accordingly. I have read the manual and agree with its contents.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

2024 Personal Goals:

I will work my hardest to achieve the goals I have set for myself, and I will update my progress toward this achievement routinely.

Signature _____