***2023 BAY AREA LIONS FOOTBALL & CHEER***

***Participant’s Checklist***

Required Documents from Parent/Participant

Completed Player / Cheerleading Contract

Signed Code of Conduct (will be printed out before certification)

Proof of Age (Photo ID: CA State Issue ID or Passport or Birth Certificate) \*

Report Card (Last report from prior school year)

Physical Form - On official Document ONLY!!

Social Media Code of Conduct (will be printed out before certification)

Checklist for LIONS

Registration Fee

Signed Up for Volunteer Hours

Uniform Fee & Sizing

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***BAY AREA LIONS FOOTBALL & CHEER***

*“What You Need To Know” (2023)*

The Bay Area Lions Football, Step & Cheer Organization is a non-profit organization operated by caring and involved parents and volunteers. This program was developed solely for the growth and benefit of our youth, ages 5 - 8th grade. We are very excited about this year and look forward to working with your son and/or daughter. The following information should help you better understand our program and expectations.

New & Returning Participant Registration Fee

**Football** - Tackle (5 -13 years old) $450.00 (Must be paid in full by July 8, 2023) plus a MANDATORY $200.00 FUNDRAISER DUE BY AUGUST 29TH

**Cheerleading -** (5 -13 years old) $700 plus a MANDATORY $200.00 FUNDRAISER DUE BY AUGUST 29TH

This association fee and fundraisers also pay for secondary insurance, football uniforms, and documentation costs, officials and facility rental for home games. Cheer and Football competition and playoff costs, trophies, and other required expenses are paid for with monies raised from team fundraising and concession at home games. All Board members and volunteers are unpaid, and their hours are donated. All other equipment (except cleats) will be provided. **The registration fee must be paid at the time of sign-up.**

**Refund Policy**

**Non-Refundable/Non-Transferable Registration/Uniform Payments:** Deposit or Full Payment of the Registration fee is non-refundable/non-transferable under any circumstances**.** There are no refunds for camps, clinics, shoes, cheer or football uniforms, hair bows, or outerwear as these are ordered custom. In the event that your child is cut/waived, a refund of registration fees will be issued less the $100 administrative and processing fee. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Return Check Policy/Fees**: I understand there is a $50.00 fee on all returned checks, which will be applied upon payment of your registration fees, the returned check fee will only be accepted by cashier check, money order, or cash. **NO EXCEPTIONS**!!!

**Equipment Policies**

All equipment/items issued to any participant, unless specifically deemed otherwise, is the property of the Bay Area Lions and must be returned at the end of the season or upon request from an authorized representative of the Board. Failure to return all items when due and in good working condition may result in your having to replace said equipment at your own expense. You are responsible for any legal expenses incurred by the organization to retrieve said equipment.

**Practices**

Team practices will begin in July. At this time, all fees must be verified “paid in full” along with all verification of all required documents (Player Contract, California I.D or birth certificate, and Physical Form).

Starting Week 1: Practices will be held Monday through Friday

After 1st Game: Practices will drop to three (3) nights per week for the remainder of the regular season. Practice Length: 2 hours

Play-offs: It is the coach’s option to have 4 practices during the week.

After the regular season, football players, cheerleaders & step teams will continue to practice as long as their team continues to participate in playoff games and invitational bowls.

All football players are required to have ten (10) hours of conditioning prior to practicing in full gear. All football players should wear shorts, a T-shirt & football cleats during this period. When the ten hours of conditioning are completed, the football players will need to wear practice pants and a girdle with pads, shoulder pads, a helmet, a practice jersey, and cleats. All items are supplied by Bay Area Lions with the exception of the cleats. Cleats must meet certain

requirements - please discuss this with a Board member or Coach. All players, cheerleaders & step team members should bring at least a half-gallon container of water to drink to cool down. Only water and sports drinks may be consumed by participants at practices and at game time. Food may not be consumed at practices or while playing/cheering/stepping at games. Gum chewing is prohibited.

Friends and siblings may not be left unattended at practice sites. Insurance coverage does not extend itself to non-participants. **All players, cheerleaders and step team members must receive a physical prior to attending the first season practice. No participant will be allowed on the practice field without medical clearance documentation. (No Exceptions)**

**Attendance**

Practice attendance and punctuality are critical to the development of our teams. Coaching staffs design new plays and routines daily. The unexcused absence of any participant is unfair to your child’s coaches and teammates and will place him/her in a “catch up” position while other participants are moving forward. Attendance at all practices, games, and designated spirit competitions is **mandatory** unless the participant is sick, injured, or there is a family medical emergency. Absences for any other unusual circumstances must be approved in advance by your child’s Coach or a Board member. Any participant who has been under the care of a Physician for extended illness or injury must present a medical release prior to returning to participation in practice sessions or games. Participants must be on time for both practices and games. Arriving late is unfair to both the team and coaching staff. Roll call will be taken at each practice, and attendance records will be turned in at each week’s end to the Football Coach Coordinator and the Cheerleader Coordinator. Tardiness and/or unexcused absenteeism may result in disciplinary action including being benched or waived from the squad.

**Games/Season**

The season will officially begin with a “Certification Jamboree”. Date, times, and location will be announced on the Blast app

Regular season games typically start in August and extend through the month of November. Playoff games and Championship games are usually held in November. Games are usually held every Saturday during the season.

Transportation to and from all games and practices is the responsibility of the parent. If you have difficulty transporting your child to practices or games on time, your assigned Team Parent may be able to assist you in arranging carpool. The Blast App can also be used in communicating your transportation needs.

**Team Sizes/Waivers**

We can only carry a maximum of 33 football players per team. As a result of these restrictions, waivers (cuts) are inevitable. Waivers are the decision of the Coaching Staff. While it is not uncommon to have more sign-ups than openings, a few participants will decide that this sport is not for them within the first two weeks and will decide not to participate. Please note that all team assignments are tentative until certification. Placement could be changed due to team size or player size and weight. Each game is preceded by an official “check in” to ensure a competitive and fair program. Our goal is to allow as many youths as possible to participate in our program.

**Coaching/Staff**

The Coaching Staff is carefully screened and fingerprinted. Each team’s staff consists of a Head Coach and up to six (6) assistant coaches and a team parent. The Head Coaches may have already selected a few of their assistant coaches but normally choose the remainder of the staff from interested parents. Coaching candidates must complete an official Coach Application. Completion of the said application does not guarantee a position or interview with the Board.

**Fundraising/Sponsorship**

There will be **one mandatory fundraiser** for the season. Each family will be obligated to participate in at least one fundraiser for the organization. Each team will also have a financial sponsorship. This sponsorship obligation must be paid **no later than** halfway through the season. Each team will be responsible to obtain $25 per roster participant. This money will go towards end-of-season awards, events, insurance, and administrative obligations. Funds raised will go towards travel funds in the case we have teams going out of state, lights, tumbling mats, equipment.

**Game Admission Fees**

There will be an entrance fee for all events. The admission fees will be as follows:

Adults 18 years and older $5.00

Children 6 through 17 years old $3.00

Senior Citizens (55 & older) $3.00

Players/Cheerleaders in uniform FREE

**Communication**

A message via Blast  is provided to every participant every week at the end of weekly practices. Participants and parents are responsible for reading the information included in the newsletter. Items in this publication include game dates and times, maps to “away” games, event announcements, names, and phone numbers, and all “need to know” information regarding the Bay Area Lions.

The procedure for filing a complaint regarding all issues involving the Bay Area Lions Organization issues is as follows: (1) Football player or Cheerleader discusses issues with the Head Coach. (2) Parent(s) and participant discuss issue with the Head Coach. (3) Parent(s) and participant discuss issue with Football Athletic Director or Cheer Director. (4) Parent(s) discuss issue with the President of the Bay Area Lions and/or entire Board. No complaint will be honored if out of the aforementioned sequence.

**Parent/Guardian Participation**

Parent participation is essential to the operation of our program. Sign-up sheets will be made available for the various positions (snack bar, chain gang, play official, gatekeeper, etc.) prior to round-robin/scrimmage. **Parents agree to donate a minimum of ten (10) volunteer hours per family, per season to the Bay Area Lions in addition to participating fully in various fund-raisers throughout the season. There are no exceptions to this policy. Without this participation, this organization cannot exist.**

Team parents act as administrator/coordinator for the Head Coach as well as organize participant’s/parents’ participation in fund-raisers and “home” game work schedules.

**Dress Code**

**Cheerleaders/Step Team:**

Proper attire includes shorts or sweats with loose fitting tops and tennis-type shoes with socks and shoelaces (i.e., no sandals, boots or dress shoes). Clear nail polish may be worn. Hair should be tied back away from the face. Proper attire does not include Levis or other tight-fitting garments, nylon midriff tops (skin may not be exposed when arms are raised). No false fingernails of any kind. No jewelry or make-up. No beads in hair, ankle bracelets, watches, rings, or earrings, etc. These regulations apply at all practices and at any time when cheerleader/step team uniform is worn.

**Football Players:**

Proper attire includes practice pants and girdle with pads, practice jersey, shoulder pads and helmet for the full range of motion of the arms and legs. Football cleats with a molded sole are required. Athletic supporters are also required. Proper attire includes NO screw in cleats, bandannas, scarves or jewelry (including watches).

**Code of Conduct / Zero Tolerance**

Football players and cheerleaders are expected to represent the Bay Area Lions in a manner which does not compromise the honor and/or integrity of the organization. While in uniform, any participant whose conduct is deemed unacceptable by either a coach or a board member may be subject to disciplinary action. “Conduct” is herein defined as “any behavior or action which undermines team dynamics or the professionalism of the organization”.

Any participant including but not limited to parents, children, coaches, board members, volunteers, and fans in the Bay Area Lions program who are abusive (verbally or physically) toward **any** person including but not limited to opposing teams & Bay Area Lions’ parents, coaches, referees, players, spectators, board members, water boys, etc. will be suspended. Suspended means that said person(s) may not attend any Bay Area Lions or league games or sponsored events including practices (parents would be required to drop off and pick up children but must remain in their car if they intend on staying at the practice field).

▪ **First Offense** - One (1) week suspension this step may be skipped in the case of physical abuse or severe verbal abuse.

▪ **Second Offense** - suspension for the remainder of the season.

▪ **Third Offense** - suspended for life (if you are banned for life you will be unable to participate in any leagues or activities).

Due to the severity of the abuse we reserve the right to escalate the disciplinary process to include all three steps on the first offense.

**Media, Website Pictures & Names**:

By signing the participant application you give permission to have your child’s picture and name on Lions’ website; and other forms of media outlets in conjunction with the Bay Area Lions program (names will not be listed with picture on website).