

BENICIA YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER

2007 Season Overview

*****Please go to our web page at www.byfpanthers.com and sign-up for e-mail alerts so that we can keep you up to date on all Panther activities.**

*****On our web page you will find lots of info including contact info & an up to date calendar of events. Check Back Often!!!**

Benicia Youth Football and Cheer 2007 Season Kick-Off, Panther's Carnival Day, will be held on Sunday, July 29, 2007 at the **Benicia Community Park** picnic area. A mandatory participant/parent meeting will be held from **11am to 12pm** and the **carnival festivities will be held until 4:00 pm**. ALL participants and at least one parent is required to attend.

Panther's Carnival Day gives athletes a chance to meet with their coaches, take physicals, turn in physical cards, pick up equipment, have photographs taken for the player cards, sign player contracts, weigh-in (football only), submit final deposits, and ensure all paperwork is complete. Parents will be able to sign-up for their five volunteer shifts (10 hours total) at that time, as well. **Attendance is MANDATORY!** In addition, this year will mark our first annual kick-off in conjunction with carnival activities where games, food and fun will be a part of our day's activities. Mark your calendars!

Practice Commitment: Football & Cheer practice starts Wednesday, August 1st at Benicia High School from 5:30pm -7:30pm. Practice sessions are Monday thru Friday, during the month of August. The first week of practice includes Sat. 8/4. Time will be determined at a later date. Jamboree is the weekend of August 25th & 26th. Final football rosters will be determined after Jamboree. League play officially starts on Saturday, September 8, 2007. Participants will be required to attend the Official League Weigh-Ins, to be scheduled after Jamboree and prior to the first game. Practices are reduced to three days a week beginning the week of September 10th. Games are played on Saturdays and continue into early November. Some games may be played on Sundays, if there is a League conflict. Play-offs follow League Play and the Championship (Turkey Bowl) is on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend.

Birth Certificates: New participants MUST provide an original or certified copy of a birth certificate (with official raised seal issued by state only) to verify age. A passport may be used as an alternative. Photocopies or scanned copies are unacceptable. There are NO EXCEPTIONS EVER! Our insurance carrier and the league require this. Identification will be returned following final League Certification. They can be retrieved from the announcer's booth at all home games or by contacting the BYF Football Director. Once a player is certified in the league, identification will not be needed the following year.

Absence Policy: A participant's safety and knowledge of plays, and the fact that your teammates depend on you, makes all practices in August mandatory. Failure to attend practices may contribute to any coach's final roster decisions (that means you may not make the team).

Dress Code & Equipment: Though most practice and game equipment is provided to participants, athletes are responsible for purchasing their own football shoes (molded rubber cleats only), girdle with hip pads and tailbone pad, and protective cup. Optional items may include gloves, and supplemental pads. Some dress guidelines are in order. All jewelry including earrings, neck chains, etc. is prohibited at all times. Shirts with messages deemed in poor taste by coaches or Board Members will not be allowed. The best guideline is to use good common sense when dressing for practice and games. Game pants CANNOT be worn for practice.

Physical Exams: At registration you will receive a DVYFC Medical Card. The card must be completed by an authorized physician and on the ORIGINAL DVYFC card – no copies. All participants must have a current physical. Participants are encouraged to schedule their appointments ASAP. Doctors get very busy as back to school and the start of the fall sports season approaches. Sports physicals may be obtained from Neil Hamilton, D.C. or Greg Kaufman, D.C. both located in Benicia. **Participants are NOT allowed to practice without a completed DVYFC Medical Card. Please make sure that the doctor includes their complete contact information, including their phone number. The deadline is Sunday, July 29, 2007.**

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Rosters: Rosters will be published for the exclusive use of BYF Panthers, its participants and parents. Unauthorized use of this information for commercial, promotion, and political activities is strictly prohibited. State and federal law, as well as the policies and procedures of the BYF Board of Directors, prohibit the use of rosters to make contacts of a harassing nature. Violators will be subject to strong penalties and/or fines, up to and including expulsion from the DVYFC.

Code of Conduct: As a Panther participant, you represent the BYF Panthers on and off the field. All members will refrain from unsportsmanlike behavior and foul language. Team members will treat each other, the Coaching Staff and Board Members with respect at all times. Any use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances will be grounds for automatic dismissal or other disciplinary actions. The coaches or the Board of Directors will not tolerate hazing of the younger players. The Panthers Code of Conduct and subsequent consequences apply on and off the playing field.

Scholar Athlete Awards: It is the Panthers' goal to promote excellence in both academic and sporting achievements. The Scholar Athlete Award is presented by the DVYFC to league students who maintain a 3.5 GPA, with no C's. Panthers who are eligible for the DVYFC Award must complete a required personal information essay and autobiography. Forms will be available at the end of the season.

Communication: You will receive emails regularly starting mid July with all upcoming events and important information. It is imperative that we have your correct email address. If you change your email address, please make sure you send it to us via any email address on the BYFC website.

Parent Volunteers: The Football and Cheer programs are completely dependent upon parent volunteers to make each week run smoothly. Therefore, you are the key to the success. Each Panther Family will be required to volunteer 10 hours for the season. The volunteer opportunities will be available at the mandatory Kick-Off with the descriptions of each volunteer opportunity. Volunteer sign-ups will be available on a first- come basis.