

# MONROE TWP. BRAVES MIDGET FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING



P.O. BOX 450 WILLIAMSTOWN NJ 08094  
[www.mtbraves.com](http://www.mtbraves.com)

## HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

We would like to thank you for becoming a part of the Monroe Braves Family.

We strive to teach our children teamwork, sportsmanship, education, community involvement, but most of all a belief in ones self.

You are required to read this parent handbook and become familiar with our policies and procedures, a copy of our bylaws can be obtained at our monthly meetings.

We will from time to time mail you information regarding our programs, but our main means of communications is the Internet. If you do not have access to the Internet then please partner with a parent that can keep you informed.

Most questions or concerns can be addressed simply by contacting a Board Member. Their contact information is located at our website [www.mtbraves.com](http://www.mtbraves.com). Any major complaints or concerns can be addressed at our monthly membership meeting, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm at a location that will be posted on our website [www.mtbraves.com](http://www.mtbraves.com). Meetings are held later during the season. (Around 9:00 pm) Any changes in the time or date of the meetings will be posted on the website.

We thank you for your support!

### **About the Monroe Braves Midget Football and Cheerleading Program:**

Our organization, the Monroe Braves, is one of 18 competing organizations, which belong to the South Jersey Elite Invitational Youth Football League. The SJE is the governing body that sets playing rules, standards, and schedules for all the organizations that compete with each other during the Football & Cheer season. It also establishes the age, weight, and team size requirements to provide for the safety of the participants. Their website is [www.sjefootball.org](http://www.sjefootball.org)

All Monroe Braves coaches and Executive Board Members are dedicated to providing quality supervision and safety while teaching the fundamentals of youth football and cheerleading in a positive environment. We strive to teach our youth the fundamentals while also increasing their love for the game, thus helping them to continue into school programs, or just have childhood memories that are lasting. It is our goal to have fun, and also be competitive in a positive and disciplined environment. We also strive for academic excellence off the field.

Our home field and practice complex (George Owens Memorial Park) is located off of Tuckahoe Rd., right off of the Williamstown High School main Entrance.

### **A Note to First Year Parents**

Thank you for trusting us with your most treasured "possession," your children. A safe, enjoyable, and rewarding experience for your child is our number one goal.

Your presence at practices & games along with your positive support and encouragement will help your child meet this new challenge. Our coaches can teach the skills, but the motivation

must come from the athlete. Your involvement on the parental level with other parents, and your positive attitude will serve as a great example for your child to emulate.

As a parent, please try to attend as many practices as you can. Please do not be offended if the coaches ask you to keep a certain distance from the practice for safety reasons and to ensure that the athletes pay attention to the coaches.

By attending practice, you will meet other families and become better acquainted with the Coaches and Executive Board who will be able to answer any question you may have. Most parents of returning athletes would love to share their experiences and can give you a real sense of what to expect.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

Parents are responsible for their children before and after practices or games. Athletes should arrive shortly before practice begins and be picked up immediately at the end of practice. Parents are to refrain from interfering with coaches during practice and address issues privately outside of practice in a positive manner with the Head coach only. Sportsmanlike conduct should be shown towards all players, coaches and officials at all times.

## **Athlete Participation**

Practice begins August 1<sup>st</sup>, unless otherwise noted. Participants are required to attend all practices and games. Missed practices for football may result in less game time, for cheerleading may result in exclusion of competition participation. Practices will be held at the football complex from 6-8 pm-Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday or as designated by head coach. When school begins, practices will be held three nights per week from 6-8 pm. Some levels will have more or fewer practices at the discretion of the Head Coach. Coaches or team parent will email or call to cancel practice.

Do not assume practice is cancelled if you do not hear from anyone. Practices may still be held even if it is raining.

A game schedule will be provided at the beginning of the season. Remember dates and times are subject to change. Always contact your team parent or Head Coach with any questions. It is your responsibility as a parent to get your child where they have to be on time at all times. Check the website for updates.

Football and cheerleading are team sports! Absences make it difficult for coaches to plan for their team. Be at the field on time.

Special commitments are understood but must be brought to the attention of the Head Coach.

Football teams are separated into five weight classes. Due to the amount of children enrolled in our program each weight class is then divided into two and sometimes three separate levels depending on the amount of children on each weight class. These teams are color-coded. The BLACK team is considered "Varsity", the BLUE team is considered "Junior Varsity", and the WHITE team is considered "Junior Varsity". This separation allows each child a considerable amount of playing time. At the conclusion of the season the Black Teams may be awarded a playoff berth by the SJEYIFL. The Blue and White teams may be entered into a JV Tournament.

Teams are set up by a combination of weight and age as outlined below.

**70 lb Team** - Ages 5-7 years old and 70lbs at weigh-in. (must be under 7 on or before October 1 of current year)

**85 lb Team** - Maximum 9 years old and 85lbs at weigh-in. (must be 9 or under before October 1 of current year)

**105 lb Team** - Maximum 11 years old and 105lbs at weigh-in. (must be 11 or under before October 1 of current year)

**120 lb Team** - Maximum 13 years old and 120lbs at weigh-in. (must be 13 or under before October 1 of current year )

**Junior High:** Cannot be 15 years old as of October 1 of current year

Cheerleading teams are separated into five weight classes. Each team is responsible for cheering at their Black teams home and away games. Each team is also responsible for cheering at their Blue and White team's home games. Equally assigning a number of girls to cheer at each home JV game or utilizing the JV games as a practice for the whole team usually accomplishes this. We are a Football and Cheerleading Program, which means the Cheerleader's responsibility, is cheering at required football games. At the conclusion of the season, the Cheerleading teams may be entered into Cheerleading competition where they will compete against other teams.

## **Athlete Attitude and Conduct**

Vulgarity, temper-tantrums, offensive language or fighting will not be tolerated at any time and may be cause for dismissal. Disagreements with other players/cheerleaders will be brought to the attention of the Head Coach as well as the Board. Good sportsmanship and being a team player is expected at all times. Respect must be shown to parents, coaches, volunteers, executive board members and each other at all times.

## **Athlete Attire and Appearance**

Children must wear comfortable clothes for practice. Baggy, ripped or sagging clothing is not acceptable for practice. Current year game jerseys should not be worn at practice. Proper footwear is also required for safety. No metal cleats are allowed at any level. Football players must have their mouthpiece in place and helmet on whenever they are on the field. At no time are the football players allowed to wear there game pants to practice.

## **Transportation/Parking**

Players and cheerleaders are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from practices and games. Inform a coach of any transportation problems. Parents are encouraged to car pool. Coaches are not responsible for transportation unless prearranged well in advance.

**Parking at our complex can get tight at times; cars will be towed and/or ticketed if parked illegally.** Also, please be considerate and keep traffic flow moving before and after practice. Parking is prohibited on the grass. Directions to all away games can be found on the league website [www.sjefootball.org](http://www.sjefootball.org)

## **Registration Requirements**

All football players must have a copy of their original birth certificate, (prior to weigh-in early Sept.) signed registration form and fees paid before the participant can be allowed on the playing field. If you participated last year, a copy of your birth certificate may not be required. See your team parent for details.

Unfortunately, we must charge a late fee of \$25.00 per child after June 30. This is in place not to penalize anyone, but because we have to submit numbers to our insurance carries and also be up to date with equipment. The closer we get to the season the more it costs to order, ship and replace helmets and uniforms etc. There is also a \$25.00 return check fee.

No refunds will be issued after August 15.

## **Football Equipment Requirement**

Your child will be issued a helmet, game jersey, game pants, practice jersey, practice pants, girdle, and a 7-piece pad set, rib pads and mouth piece. You are required to purchase cleats, shoulder pads and a cup with athletic supporter. Metal cleats are not allowed. Athletes are responsible for keeping their equipment clean and in good condition. You may be asked to leave a refundable deposit for our equipment. Practice and game uniforms should be washed at least once a week. All items are to be washed in cold water. It is important to remove the pads from the pants prior to washing. It is best to have the pants air-dry. Do not use bleach on the game uniform. **Your child will keep their official games jersey after the season.**

## **Cheer Uniform Requirements**

Your child will be issued a skirt, shell and a sweat suit. White gym shoes must be worn at the games. Cheer uniforms are not to be worn during practice. Gym shoes should be worn at practice. You are required to purchase bloomers. **Your child will keep their sweat suit after the season.** Additional items will be required for competition. Information can be obtained from your coach. Cheerleaders may be required to produce their birth certificate for competition.

## **Parents Participation**

The Monroe Township Braves Midget Football and Cheerleading Program is a parent-cooperative organization, so you're not only signing up your child- you are signing yourself up too! As parents you make everything possible since the organization is completely run by volunteers.

To ensure that all parents do their fair share, four volunteer hours in the concession stand is required, per child, from each family (that's not a lot to ask for over a 4 month season). At registration, you may be required to leave a \$30.00 check per child, which will be return upon the completion of 2 two-hour sessions in the concession stand. There is a buy out option at \$30.00.

We also have a fundraiser every child is required to participate in. The child will not receive his/her uniform until this is completed. There will be a buy out for the fundraiser at \$50.00 per child. Fundraiser details will be given at registration. We thank you in advance for your help.

## **Team Administrator Guidelines**

If you are a team Administrator, on behalf of all parents and athletes, we want to thank you for the important role you play in the smooth operation of the Monroe Braves!

### **General Description**

Acts as a liaison between coaches, parents and Executive Board Members.

### **General Duties**

Head Coach Helper – fulfills any requests the Head Coach has to disseminate information to parents, such as team events, schedule changes, etc.

Focal Point for Various Activities - Collects and verifies every team member has completed or turned in whatever it is; and then turns it in to the Committee chairperson or appropriate Coach or board member.

Team roster/book - Make sure all necessary information and paperwork are contained and maintained in the team book.

## **Braves Sponsorships**

Would you consider becoming a Monroe Braves **Sponsor**? Or, perhaps your employer or someone you know who owns a business could benefit from becoming a **Braves Sponsor**. Visit the SPONSOR SECTION of our website for more information.

It takes an enormous amount of time, effort and money to provide this program for the children. Registration fees and fundraisers only cover a part of the necessities that go into a program of this caliber. We ask everyone to help out by finding sponsors that may help to defray the cost of all the equipment, insurance, field cost, snack bar, refs, etc, etc, etc.

### **Services-Materials-Cash**

Sponsors can receive advertising on the website. The donations are tax-deductible and our Federal ID number will be provided upon receipt of the sponsorship. Additional information will be sent to you in the near future. We would like to thank last year's team sponsors for their support and donations.

## **FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING CAMPS**

Annually, usually the third or fourth week of July we run camps with the help of area high school coaches and players. This has been very successful, and is a lot fun for the kids; you will receive more information on these camps, as well as other events in the future.

## **FINAL NOTES**

Most questions or concerns you may have can be answered at anytime simply by contacting a Board Member. Their contact information is located at [www.mtbraves.com](http://www.mtbraves.com) under the board link.

Any major complaints or concerns can be addressed at our membership meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of the month at a location to be posted on our website [www.mtbraves.com](http://www.mtbraves.com).

The Parents, Players, Coaches Code of Conduct is enclosed.

**GO BRAVES!!**

Article XI - Conduct

Section 11.01

The conduct of all coaches, Braves Board and Appointed Positions of this ORG should command the respect of the community. They are entrusted with the welfare of our children and must present a respectful image to all. Coaches, Braves Board and appointed positions are required to comply with a strict code of conduct. Repeated violations may warrant necessary disciplinary action by the Board.

Section 11.02

If the Braves Board receives any letters or correspondence pertaining to any Coach, Braves Board or Appointed Position that contains any remarks or implications of a negative nature, The president will appoint a three member committee to observe said persons performance and behavior during the playing season. The committee will file a report to the Braves Board which contains a recommendation whether to reappoint or not to reappoint said person for the next playing season. If the committee feels it necessary, they are empowered to schedule a meeting at anytime with all parties involved to address and correct the alleged problem. No coach, Braves Board or Appointed Position will be dismissed or not reappointed until this procedure has been implemented. The

Braves Board reserved the right to dismiss any Coach, Braves Board or appointed position at any time to preserve the integrity of the ORG. The Braves Board reserved the right to dismiss any Coach, Braves Board or Appointed Position at any time that does not comply with the rules and regulations of the S.J.E.I.Y.F.L. or the ORG.

#### Section 11.03

If any coach disciplines a player for any reason, the coach must notify the Director of Coaches. If the disciplining of the same player occurs more than one (1) occasion the Director of Coaches must notify the Braves Board. The president will then appoint a three member committee such as set forth in Section 11.02.

#### Section 11.04

The use of profane language, alcoholic beverages, smoking or the use of a controlled dangerous substance in any form is prohibited in sight of any and all playing fields or in any buildings associated with the ORG by any coach, Braves Board, Appointed Position, player or Fan while practice or games are in progress. Violation of this rule may be cause for necessary action of the Braves Board.

#### Section 11.05

In Reference to Profane Language and smoking

- (a) 1st offense – written reprimand
- (b) 2nd offense – one game suspension
- (c) 3rd offense – three game suspension
- (d) 4th offense – seasonal suspension
- (e) All actions will be reviewed by the Braves Board

#### Section 11.06

In Reference to Alcoholic Beverages

- (a) The use of alcoholic beverages on the field may be cause for immediate suspension up to and including the remainder of the playing season. Final determination will be made by the Braves Board.

#### Section 11.07

In Reference to Controlled Dangerous Substances

- (a) May be cause for immediate suspension and dismissal.

#### Section 11.08

In Reference to Fan Misconduct

- (a) Any Braves Board member or coach will issue a verbal warning to the fan. If conduct continues any Braves Board member or coach has the authority to eject the disorderly fan from the playing Area.