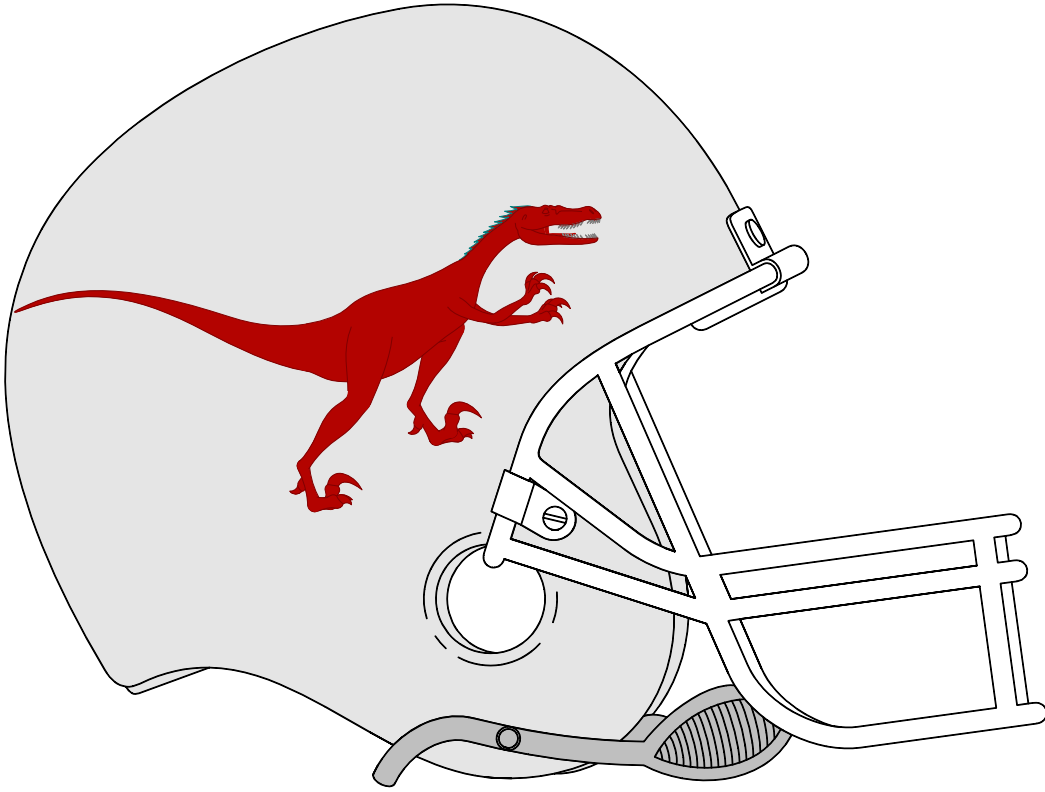


Rapids Raptors



**Real Football!
Real Cheerleading!
Real Fun!**

2019 Information Handbook

www.wrraptors.org

Important Dates

- Registration – St. Luke’s Church - 2011 10th Street South, WR
 - Saturday, April 27th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, May 1st 5:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 4th 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
- Equipment Night – Wednesday July 17th at Lincoln High School Fieldhouse
 - 5th/6th grade players starting @ 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 - 3rd/4th grade players starting @ 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Cheerleaders – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Raptors Cheer Clinic –
Date and location to be announced
- Practices Begin
 - Monday August 5th 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.- Witter Field
- Game Schedule – Complete team schedule to be handed out at practice
 - First Game – September 7th, 2019
 - Last Game – October 12th, 2019
- Equipment Return – at Wisconsin Rapids Junior High
 - October 15th, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Picture Night
 - August 26th, 2019
- End of Season Banquet
 - 3rd/4th & Cheer – Monday, October 21st – Ridges
 - 5th/6th Grade – Tuesday, October 22nd - Ridges

Raptors Costs

For the 2019 Rapids Raptor football season, every family will be **required** to donate a minimum of five (5) volunteer hours per family. If you are unable to work your required volunteer hours \$100 will be deducted from your equipment deposit, and your child will also not play in the game scheduled for that day or if they have played already, they will not play in the next game. These hours can be worked in an assortment of areas within the organization. If you are having problems completing your volunteer time, please contact the volunteer coordinator so that you can complete your volunteer time.

1. League Fee - \$80 – All participants are required to pay this fee. This fee is used for equipment upgrades and maintenance, insurance, and referees. Football participants will have helmets, shoulder pads, game and practice pants, pads and belts supplied by the Raptors. Cleats must be purchased separately. Mouth guards will be supplied for all football players. Socks will be supplied for each first-year player and then players are to keep the socks at the end of the season to use in future seasons. Cheerleading participants will have the uniform and socks and hair bow supplied. The cheerleaders must purchase white tennis shoes for cheering.
2. Cleats – Shoes can be purchased at any sporting goods store. We don't restrict the type of shoe that can be worn, i.e: baseball, soccer or football. White tennis shoes are needed for cheerleading. Metal cleats are not allowed.
3. Equipment deposit - \$200.00 – This deposit is used to ensure that the Raptor equipment is returned at the end of the season. The equipment deposit check is not cashed unless the equipment is not returned or is damaged beyond repair. If volunteer hours are not met, up to half of the equipment deposit could be kept covering the time not donated to the organization.
4. Physical - Participants are no longer required to have a physical. While a routine physical for sports is encouraged every two years, it is not a requirement to participate in Rapids Raptors.
5. Fundraiser – Cookie Dough. Parents/Players will be asked to purchase 5 boxes of frozen cookie dough. The cookie dough is sold for \$18 per box, in which you will recover your \$90 investment. If you wish not to participate, you can take the buyout for \$35. If you have two children in the program you will only be required to sell 8 tubs of cookie dough, if you have three or more kids in the program we ask that you sell 12 tubs of cookie dough. If you take the buyout for multiple children the buyout price of \$35 remains the same for each child.
6. Banquet – The Raptors have an end of the year banquet in which players receive participation medals, raffle prizes, and academic awards. The cost of the Raptor players and cheerleaders are covered by the organization. The cost of the banquet for other family members is approximately \$10.00 - \$15.00 per adult and \$6.00 - \$10.00 per extra child depending on the location of the banquet.
7. Practice jersey - \$13.00 – This is an optional item, which can be purchased from the Raptors. It is a mesh shirt, which goes over the football shoulders for practices.

Raptors Web-Site:

The Raptors official web-site is **wrraptors.org**. If you need updated forms, information, schedules and other printable materials they are located on the web site. Updated information will be posted during the season. Information about how to contact members of the board of directors, practice schedules and games schedules and maps to the game fields are posted on the web-site.

Raptors Facebook:

The Raptors are also on Facebook under **Rapids Raptors Youth Football and Cheer**. Like the Raptors on Facebook page. Notifications are made via the web site and the Facebook page.

Equipment Night:

Equipment night is when we get a chance to interact for the first time as a board, coaches, players, and parents. Equipment is distributed, fund raising materials are handed out and questions can be asked and answered. You will receive a checklist of items that will be distributed to outfit your son or daughter so that they can participate in football or cheerleading. Be sure you have everything on the checklist before you sign off on it. Any equipment that is lost will be your responsibility to replace.

There is an equipment deposit in the form of a check for \$200 that must be made out to Rapids Raptors. This check will not be cashed, it will be held and will be given back to you at the end of the season after all your equipment has been turned back in. If you fail to return all the equipment on equipment return night at the end of the season, the check will then be cashed. If there is extreme damage to a piece of equipment or uniform beyond normal wear and tear, a portion of your check may be deducted to cover the cost of replacing that item and then the balance of the deposit returned to you.

All items returned must be clean. Do not use bleach when washing football uniforms between games and or practices. Please do not dry the black game pants in a dryer as they have built in pads. Please hang dry them. Any uniforms not returned will result in the deposit check being cashed.

Fund Raisers:

This year, frozen Cookie Dough will be sold by each football player and cheerleader. Each participant will sell 5 boxes of cookie dough at \$17 each. When you register, you must write out a separate check for \$80.00 at registration.

- Order forms will be distributed at equipment night July 17th.
- Forms will be collected on the first night of practice August 5th.
- The cookie dough will be delivered at Picture Night.
- We will hold the check until picture night, allowing your child enough time to sell the cookie dough, recovering your \$85.00 investment.

If you don't wish to participate, you can do the "Buy Out" for a cost of \$35. This sale is one of the season's biggest fundraisers and helps to defray the cost of registration and allows the Raptors to purchase new equipment. In addition, it gives each child the opportunity to feel they have played a part in "paying their own way" through their effort to sell the cookie dough.

The Rapids Raptors also ask for many corporate donations from area businesses, non-profit charities and other individuals who have an interest in helping the community through athletic endeavors such as youth football. We welcome anyone to point the Raptors Board of Directors toward companies or individuals who you think may have an interest in investing in youth football here in Central Wisconsin.

Volunteer Hours:

For the 2019 Rapids Raptor football season, every family will be required to work a minimum of 10 volunteer hours. These hours can be worked in an assortment of areas both prior to and on game day or at practices. There are many opportunities and if you have a specific interest that we have not listed on the volunteer form, please make a member of the Rapids Raptor Board aware of your interest. *If you do not volunteer your child will also not play in the game scheduled for that day or if they have played already, they will not play in the next game*

The sign up for volunteer hours will be at the Equipment Night. If you are unable to attend that night, you are welcome to sign up in advance by contacting the volunteer coordinator. If you do not sign up on equipment night, you will be assigned to a volunteer duty by coordinator. Volunteers are responsible to find their own replacements if they cannot fulfill their assignment. If you are unable to work your required volunteer hours \$100 will be deducted from your equipment deposit.

We ask that everyone do their part to make the season an enjoyable one for all parents and student athletes. All board members, coaches and team parents are exempt due to the many volunteer hours they already provide to the organization. (See the Rapids Raptor Volunteer Form)

Football Player Information:

Players will get a bag with their uniform and most of their equipment in it. Helmets and shoulder pads will be fitted on equipment night. Parents will be asked to sign an equipment checklist as they are given the equipment. Once the form is turned in, you are now responsible for all the equipment that you signed for. Items that are lost or abused will be replaced at the participant's expense. Mouth guards and socks can be kept at the end of the season. All players will need their name swatch sewn onto the back of their game jersey, NO GLUE! Players from previous years already may have their name swatch; new ones will be made for first year players. For those who need replacements, they will be charged for the replacement name swatch.

Cheerleader Information:

Cheerleaders will receive their hair bow and socks at equipment night. The uniforms will be handed out prior to the first week of practice. If your cheerleader did not get a chance to try on a uniform at registration, then they can try one on at equipment night. As part of the uniform, each cheerleader will need to have a white pair of tennis shoes. When the weather turns colder, each cheerleader will need black pants, black gloves, a headband or hat and a white long sleeve shirt. No jewelry is to be worn at practice or at games, and fingernails should be kept short. Hair should be kept off the shoulder for both practice and games. Please do not wear jeans to practice as that restricts movement.

Sports Ethics Policy:

All players will be weighed prior to being placed on a team for the season. All participants must meet age requirements to participate. Falsification of documents or deceptive practices for participation in the league will not be tolerated for any reason and will result in the player being asked to leave the team and all registration fees will be forfeit.

In addition, the Sports Ethics Policy Form must be signed by all parents, coaches and players to participate in either football or cheerleading. This form will be turned in on equipment night and participation will not be allowed until it has been signed and turned in.

(See Sports Ethics Policy Form)

Refund Policy:

The Rapids Raptors refund policy is as follows. It is the policy of the Rapids Raptors Board of Directors that registration fees are non-refundable. This is since registration is done several months before the season begins so that uniforms, equipment and other items can be purchased for your child's participation. There are exceptions to every rule but here are the ones that will be considered.

1. A doctor's excuse. If a physician feels that it would not be in the best interest of the child to participate due to physical restrictions or limitations, a total or partial refund will be given.
2. Moving out of the area. If due to a move, it is not feasible to participate. A total or partial refund will be given.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER AUGUST 5TH, 2019.

Coaches:

If you are interested in becoming a coach or have coached in the past in the Rapids Raptor Youth Football & Cheerleading program, we would welcome your participation this season. Background checks are done on all coaches to ensure the safety of all participating children. If you are interested in becoming a coach, fill out the coach's volunteer form. All coaches will attend an orientation night to become familiar with policies, procedures and protocol for Rapids Raptor Coaches. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory. (See Coaches Volunteer Form)

Practice and Physical Fitness:

Football players must condition during 8 hours of practice with a helmet on before they wear pads and have full contact. Players must practice an additional 10 hours prior to playing in a scrimmage or a game. Please attend all practices, football is a team sport and if a practice is missed, it only hurts the team. Practice not only teaches players the positions and plays, but also helps them to get in shape for the games. Being at practice will help to minimize mistakes and will help to prevent injuries. Please make sure that your son or daughter arrives on time and stays for the entire practice, missing any part of practice will make it harder for the team to perform its best. There is also an award given at the end of the season for all those with perfect attendance.

Cheerleaders must also attend all practices. There will be a dance routine and several cheers that must be learned prior to the beginning of the season. It is important for them to be at practice and know their part. Every member of the cheer team is important and their performance will reflect how much work was done in practice. This also means they attend the entire time allotted for any given practice. Missing any part of practice will make it harder for the team to perform its best.

If a practice must be missed, please notify the coach in advance. Practice and participation guidelines will be covered at the parent meetings for players and cheerleaders. Weekly handouts and information updates will be given out at practice and sent to you via e-mail on a weekly basis. It is the responsibility of the player or cheerleader to pass these handouts on to their parents and for parents to check their e-mail updates.

Team Pictures:

Team pictures will be taken by a professional photographer. A special package will be available for purchase as a keepsake of your son or daughters season with the Rapids Raptors. Your child will need to wear their game uniform and all equipment for the pictures, just as on game day. Your son or daughter is not required to purchase anything from the photographer, however each member of the team will have

individual and team pictures taken. The entire team will be photographed, so everyone must participate in the photo shoot. This will be the only time in which game uniforms should be worn on a practice day.

Football League Participants:

This year's season will include the following communities:

Auburndale
Medford

Marshfield
Pittsville

Stratford
Necedah

Wisconsin Rapids

Lincoln High School Football Camp:

There is a football camp hosted by Lincoln High School Head Coach Tony Biolo that is being offered to any interested Rapids Raptors. A registration form will be made available. This camp will help players with skill development and conditioning. While not required to participate, this camp is highly recommended.

Cheer Camp:

Cheer camps are a great opportunity for the cheerleaders to learn stunts, cheers and skill development to become better cheerleaders. While not required to participate, camps are highly recommended. Local day camps will be offered in Wisconsin Rapids more information will be posted on the website with dates and registration information throughout the season.

Parking and Dropping Off Athletes:

Coaches cannot leave until all children from their team are picked up, so please note when practice is scheduled to end or when games are scheduled to end, and be considerate and on time when picking up your child at the appropriate practice or game field.

Note: The practice fields, games fields and all school grounds are drug free, alcohol free and smoke free, the use of any of these items on school grounds are prohibited.

