

2020 Buccaneers Youth Football

Where Players Play, Coaches Coach and Families Volunteer



Player/Family/Coach Handbook'

www.buccaneersfootballvt.org

This Handbook provides an overview of pertinent information regarding the Buccaneers Youth Football Program. The Handbook is subject to change during the course of the season and the latest version, as well as related material referenced in this Handbook, is on our website (www.buccaneersfootballvt.org). Please contact the Buccaneers Board at buccaneersvt@gmail.com with questions or concerns.

The Buccaneers must receive a completed and signed *Required Releases and Acknowledgment Form* for every player each year. Please print and complete the Form and bring to equipment distribution along with any additional required paperwork (see form for details).

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Introduction

The Buccaneers serve youth within the Champlain Valley School District (CVSD), which comprises Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, and Williston. Our mission is to offer each child the opportunity to enjoy the sport of football in a positive and safe environment. We strive to provide an instructive and competitive environment for each participant to learn the fundamentals of football as well as the importance of, and pride in, sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, physical fitness, camaraderie, leadership, and other beneficial life-long skills. Above all, the safety and well-being of each player is our number one priority. The Buccaneers are part of the Northern Vermont Youth Football League (NVYFL), which is comprised of approximately 16 teams from Northern Vermont.

Program History

The Buccaneers Youth Football program was founded as a feeder program for Champlain Valley Union (CVU) High School in 2004 by Jay Michaud, who was the then-acting coach of the CVU Club Football Team. In 2005, the Palmer family offered their land off of Shelburne Falls Road in Hinesburg for the Buccaneers to use for practice and games during the season. The following year, in 2006, the program became an incorporated non-profit organization and expanded to include a flag team, initially consisting of third and fourth graders only. Today the program has grown more than 120 players each season ranging from second to eighth grade.

Teams

The Buccaneers are comprised of three teams which play against other NVYFL teams at the same age and level: 7/8 Team (7th and 8th graders); 5/6 Team (5th and 6th graders); and Flag Team (2nd, 3rd and 4th graders). Depending on the number of players registered, the 5/6 and 7/8 teams may be divided into Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. The Flag Team also may be split into two or more equal teams. This allows all players to have more game time and the opportunity to play against players with similar levels of experience and ability.

Flag Team	This is an introduction to football with the sole purpose of teaching kids the fundamentals of football.
5/6 Team	This is an introduction to full contact, tackle football with an emphasis on safety, fitness, fair and hard play.
7/8 Team	This is an introduction to healthy competition. It is the regular season record of the 7/8 Team that determines seeding in the NVYFL Tournament.

While there are no cuts from any of the Buccaneers teams, the Buccaneers Board may limit the number of players eligible for registration based on equipment availability and how many players (per team) coaches can safely support and control. In the event the Buccaneers have met its maximum number of players for a team, every effort is made to introduce prospective players to other NXYFL programs in surrounding areas.

Player Eligibility

Under NXYFL rules and regulations, any player from Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, or Williston is eligible to play. A prospective player residing in a town served by another NXYFL team must have a written release from the head coach of the other team to play for the Buccaneers prior to registration.

The minimum age for the 5/6 Team is 8 years old by November 1 of the season year. For the 7/8 Team, the player must be in sixth grade or 11 years old by November 1 of the season year. Players on the 7/8 Team must not be above eighth grade or more than 14 years old by the end of the season. Any player attaining the age of 15 prior to April 1 of the following season year must play as a down lineman. 5/6 Team players cannot be older than 12 years by the end of the season. All new players must submit two (2) copies of their birth certificate before they are allowed to play.

A player must be at or under 135 pounds to play as an offensive back or an end on the 7/8 Team. Tight ends may weigh 145 pounds, but if over 130 pounds they cannot take a handoff. On the 5-6 Team, a player must be at or below 100 pounds to play offensive back or end. Tight ends may weigh up to 105 pounds, but if they are over 100 pounds they cannot take a handoff. All players that may potentially be ball carriers are weighed in at the season start Jamboree. All players are weighed again before the playoffs.

Please note that NXYFL rules and regulations are subject to change and this Handbook includes the rules and regulations that were in place at the date of last revision.

Equipment

Program-Issued Equipment

The Buccaneers issues the following NXYFL approved safety equipment to all players to borrow and use during the season:

- Helmet with chin-strap
- Shoulder pads
- Pads: hip, thigh, tailbone, knee
- Practice jersey
- Uniform (jersey and game pants with belt)

All equipment issued to players is Buccaneers property and cannot be altered in any way. Players and their families are responsible for the care and maintenance of equipment issued to them and any abuse or damage that may occur while in their custody. The total replacement cost for program-issued equipment is \$500. If equipment is not returned in the same condition as received by the designated date and time for equipment return, an invoice will be issued to the adult listed on the registration form and payment, in full, is expected to be made to the Buccaneers within 30 days from the date of the invoice. No exceptions will be made.

Additional Required Equipment

The following equipment is not provided by the Buccaneers but is required to participate in practices and games. All players must have:

- Athletic support/cup
- Mouth guard
- Football cleats (metal cleats are NOT allowed)
- Black Practice Pants
- Appropriate long socks, preferably football socks in the color red or black
- Water bottle

OPTIONAL: Arm Pads, Rib Pads, Hand Pads, Gloves and girdle (to hold in tailbone pad and hip pads) are optional.

Palmer Field

Palmer Field is the home field of the Buccaneers and is where all practices and home games take place. This is private land owned by the Palmer Family that they have graciously allowed the team to use during the football season. All players, families and coaches are expected to be mindful and respectful of the Palmer property. This means:

- Parking in designated areas only.
- Staying within the bounds of the property that have been designated for use by the Buccaneers.
- Keeping dogs and other animals home. NO DOGS OR PETS are allowed at the field.
- Cleaning up after all practices and games. At no time shall water bottles, equipment, garbage, etc. or other items be left on the field.
- Abiding by the *Adult Behavior and Code of Conduct* in this Handbook.

Palmer Field is located at 2800 Shelburne Falls Road, Hinesburg, Vermont 05461.

Practices

Under NXYFL rules, all players must complete ten (10) practices in order to play in the Jamboree and/or their first game of the season. There are no exceptions to this requirement. For this reason, the Buccaneers have daily practices (Monday – Friday) the two weeks prior to the date of the Jamboree. During this time, coaches may offer double sessions at their convenience.

After the Jamboree, teams will fall into a regular practice schedule. As soon as the practice schedule is finalized, the Buccaneers posts this information on its website and also notifies all registered players by email. The regular practice schedule is usually as follows:

TEAM	SCHEDULE
Flag Team	5:30 until 7:30: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
5/6 Team	5:30 until 7:30: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
7/8 Team	5:30 until 7:30: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Games

As soon as the game schedule is finalized, the Buccaneers posts this information on its website and also notifies all registered players by email. The regular game schedule is usually as follows:

TEAM	SCHEDULE
Flag Team	Game days vary
5/6 Team	Varsity games are Saturday mornings at 8 am; Junior Varsity games will generally, but not always, be Wednesdays
7/8 Team	Varsity games are Saturday mornings at 9:30 am; Junior Varsity games will generally, but not always, be Mondays

Responsibilities and Expectations

Players, families and coaches should expect to commit a great deal of time during the football season. It takes an incredible amount of effort to have a successful youth football program. Therefore all players, parents/guardians and coaches are expected to accept and agree to the following responsibilities.

Players

All PLAYERS must agree to the following responsibilities:

- Keep family and school as their number one priority
- Respect for the team, their fellow players - including opponents – and the coaching staff at all times
- No bullying, hitting, abusive language or abusing fellow players. *Poor sportsmanship, swearing, and inappropriate behavior is not acceptable and may result in dismissal.*
- Listen to direction of coaches
- Follow all rules and regulations of the coaches and the program
- Submit to disciplinary action (e.g. running extra laps) for disciplinary infractions
- Treat all equipment, including uniforms, with respect and diligence
- Attend all practices unless excused by a coach ahead of time
- Arrive to all practices and games on time
- Learn the game of football to the best of their ability

Families

All FAMILIES must agree to the following responsibilities:

- Read and understand the safety requirements associated with playing football
- Fulfill all registration requirements including providing insurance information and birth certificate for new players.
- Acknowledge receipt of and financial responsibility for all equipment issued to their player
- Participate in the fundraising activities of the program
- Volunteer their time as asked and when needed
- Transport or otherwise arrange transport of their child to all scheduled games and practices, including on time drop off and pick up
- Return all program-issued equipment, including uniforms, as required
- Support the teams, the coaches and the Buccaneers Board
- Raise questions, suggestions and/or concerns to the coach and/or Buccaneers Board. *Families should not communicate with the Northern Vermont Youth Football League directly.*

- Abide by the *Adult Behavior and Code of Conduct* in this Handbook

Coaches

All COACHES must agree to the following responsibilities:

- Successfully apply and be approved by the NXYFL as a coach before the start of the season (includes background check)
- Successfully complete and be certified by HeadsUp Football and USA Football as a coach before the start of the season.
- Set an example of good sportsmanship on and off the playing field
- Treat players with respect and expect the same from players
- Show a positive attitude towards the team, the game and individual players
- Offer assistance to players that may be new to the game or who need more instruction
- Maintain an open line of communication between players, families and the Buccaneers Board
- Communicate weekly, by email, with families about practice and game schedules as well as other notes of interest and copy the Board on all team communications (*Head and/or Assistant Coaches Only*)
- Abide by the *Adult Behavior and Code of Conduct* in this Handbook

Adult Behavior and Code of Conduct

Any adult who does one or more of the following during a Buccaneers Football Program practice, game or event will be asked to leave the practice, game or event and his or her child will also be removed from the practice, game or event at the same time:

1. Verbally abuses a coach, player, official, volunteer, or spectator;
2. Attempts to or does intimidate a coach, player, official, volunteer, or spectator;
3. Physically assaults a coach, player, official, volunteer, or spectator;
4. Is flagrantly rude to a coach, player, official, volunteer, or spectator; and/or
5. Smokes, uses drugs and/or consumes alcohol at a practice, game or event.

Any adult who commits a second similar offense will be banned from Buccaneers Football Program practices, games and events for the remainder of the season and his or her child will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. *No refunds.*

Any adult who physically assaults coach, player, official, volunteer, or spectator will be banned from the Buccaneers Football Program for one year from the date of the offense and his or her child will be removed from the program for the same period of time. After the one (1) year sanction time, the adult may apply for re-instatement of his or her children. If the adult commits a second similar offense, he or she will be permanently banned from the Buccaneers Youth Football Program and the Northern Vermont Youth Football League.

The term physical assault includes, but is not limited to: hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking or striking in any way with any part of the body or physical implement.

Volunteers

The Buccaneers is a wholly volunteer organization. Everyone from the Buccaneers Board to the coaches to the “chain gang” is a volunteer. The Buccaneers posts volunteer information on its website and also notifies all registered players by email when volunteers are needed. Each family is expected to donate some time to help maintain, operate and manage the program.

The Buccaneers Youth Football Program is directed and managed by a Board composed of six or more volunteers who offer to fulfil the following roles on an annual basis starting in early spring (March or April): President; Vice-President; Treasurer; Secretary; and Member-at-Large. In addition to Board positions, the Buccaneers rely on core volunteer managers each season. Managers include, but are limited to:

- **Communications Manager** (usually Board Secretary but not always). The communications manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Monitoring and managing the Buccaneers email account, contact list and Facebook account throughout the year.
 2. Sending out Board announcements, news and updates to current and prospective Buccaneers families through the Buccaneers email account.
 3. Responding to emails from current or prospective families, coaches, volunteers, etc. or, if the message is directed to a specific coach, Board member, or another volunteer, forwarding the email as appropriate.
 4. Assist other managers with communications related to the securing and recruiting of volunteers throughout the season.
 5. Administering the Buccaneers Facebook account by posting Board announcements, news and updates and by managing contributor access to the Buccaneers Facebook account (e.g. parent volunteers for team news).
 6. Coordinating with the Registration Managers for scholarship requests (approval process is managed by Board Secretary).
 7. Coordinating with the Registration Manager for the receipt of player contact information from the registration forms and preparing distribution lists and contact information for each head coach.
 8. Updating contact and distribution lists throughout the year as needed.

- **Head of All Head Coaches** (usually a Board member but not always). The head of all head coaches is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Recruiting head coaches for each team (Flag, 5/6 and 7/8) and assisting them with their recruitment of assistant coaches.
 2. Providing the Board Secretary with the coaches' names, contact information and team assignments.
 3. Serving as chief communicator for coaching staff (head and assistant coaches) and providing direct support to head coaches throughout the season.
 4. Assuring all coaches have the required background checks, are certified in both U.S.A. Football and Heads Up Football and have completed and signed NYYFL Coach Application and Code of Conduct forms on file with the Board Secretary before the start of the season.
 5. Helping 5/6 and 7/8 coaches schedule their JV games.
 6. Facilitating coaching clinics (when offered) and meetings with CVU Redhawks Football coaches (when requested).
 7. Reinforces, as needed, Buccaneers and/or NYYFL rules and requirements, including providing support to head coaches in regards to any disagreements that may occur between teams, coaches and/or parents.

- **Field Manager** (usually a Board member but not always). The field manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Verifying with the Palmer Family that their fields may be used for the upcoming season.
 2. Arranging for electric, storage pods, trash/recycling and portable toilet services through the Buccaneers' designated providers.
 3. Securing field supplies (e.g. line striping paint) for the season through the Buccaneers' designated suppliers.
 4. Coordinating with the Buccaneers' designated mower for field mowing.
 5. Assuring all three fields and initially striping is done by working with the Buccaneers' designated line striper.
 6. After fields are laid out and striped for the first time, recruiting and securing line stripe volunteers for the remainder of the season.
 7. In collaboration with head coaches, recruiting and managing "chain gang" and scoreboard volunteers for Saturday games.

- **Equipment Manager** (usually a Board member but not always). The equipment manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Inventorying both player and coach equipment and coordinating with the Board and, where applicable, coaches, for replacing equipment when needed.
 2. Managing equipment pickup, jersey distribution and equipment return on their respective days as designated by the Buccaneers board with input from head coaches relative to the jersey distribution date(s).
 3. Recruiting and securing volunteers to staff equipment pickup, jersey distribution and equipment return.
 4. Coordinating with the Lanyard Manager prior to jersey distribution to assure that each team is photographed as well as each individual player and his or her jersey number is recorded for lanyards as well as the NYYFL final team rosters.

- **Apparel Manager** (usually a Board member but not always). The apparel manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Coordinating with the Buccaneer's designated supplier for the season's selection of apparel items including the team's annual t-shirt.
 2. Determining what apparel items the Buccaneers will pre-purchase and stock for the sale during the season and what items will only be available through custom orders.
 3. Securing and distributing all practice pants ordered during registration.
 4. Managing an apparel sales booth during equipment pick-up, the first two weeks of practice and all home games.
 5. Recruiting and securing volunteers to staff the apparel sales booth using the online sign-up tool designated by the board.
 6. Assuring that all ordered apparel items, once received, are available for pick-up at the field in a timely manner.
 7. Coordinates with the Lanyard Manager for the sale and/or distribution of lanyards to each player's family.
 8. Tracking sales and profit and reporting accordingly to both the Treasurer and the Board.
 9. Handling all monies received for apparel sales and promptly depositing all checks and cash into the Buccaneers bank account (with approval from Treasurer).

- **Registration Manager** (usually a Board member but not always). The registration manager is responsible for the following tasks.
 1. Coordinating with the Recreation Director of the Town of Williston for online registration prior to the opening of registration.
 2. Assuring the form used in the online registration is consistent with the NYYFL's required registration form and sections of the form that are being handled outside of the registration system (e.g. volunteer recruitment and required releases and acknowledgement form) are prepared and ready by the time registration opens.
 3. Receiving from the "Head of Head Coaches" or his or her designee the binders of player birth certificates submitted to the NYYFL the previous season.
 4. While registration is open, tracking and reporting any registration issues to the Recreation Director as needed while also compiling recommendations for possible changes for the next season.
 5. Coordinating with the Communications Managers for scholarship requests (approval process is managed by Board Secretary) and communicating all approvals to Recreation Director to assure registration fee is waived.
 6. Monitoring registration between April 1 and early August and reporting updates to Board, head coaches, and Communications Manager.
 7. Coordinating with the Communications Manager for the timely delivery of contact information for each registered player so he or she can be added to the contact list.
 8. Upon the close of registration, downloading registration information for the compilation of team rosters for each head coach as well as one master roster for use by the Board and other managers as needed. Format(s) to be designated by the Board.
 9. Shredding the birth certificates of all of last season's players who did not register this again this season.
 10. Coordinating with the Equipment Manager to provide lists of players for equipment handout and, following equipment handout, for receiving and filing a *Required Releases and Acknowledgement Form* for all players and, for new players, two copies of their birth certificates.
 11. Creating one master binder with each player's *Required Releases and Acknowledgement Form* and two copies of his or her birth certificate.
 12. Coordinating with the Board Secretary to receive all of the coaches' names and team assignments for the NYYFL final team rosters.
 13. Preparing the required NYYFL 5/6 and 7/8 final team rosters in the required format, including the team binders with one copy of each player's birth certificate for submission to the NYYFL at the Jamboree.
 14. Delivering the required NYYFL 5/6 and 7/8 final team rosters, along with birth certificates, to the 5/6 and 7/8 coaches.

- **Publicity Manager.** The publicity manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Managing and updating the Buccaneers website throughout the year.
 2. Photographing Buccaneers practices, games and events for publicity purposes and the website.
 3. Contacting local papers with news stories and photographs for possible inclusion in upcoming issues.
 4. Ordering and distributing signs prior to the start of registration and providing instruction on the ideal locations for signage.
 5. Ordering and installing field signs (as needed).

- **Concessions Manager.** The concession manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Managing a concession stand during all home Varsity games and assuring that all equipment (e.g. tents, tables, money box, etc.), supplies (paper plates, napkins, cups, etc.) and food items are available as needed.
 2. Recruiting and securing volunteers to staff the concession stand using the online sign-up tool designated by the board.
 3. Soliciting donations (food, gift cards, etc.) from businesses designated by the Board and informing the Board of possible other donors for possible solicitation.
 4. Soliciting food and/or monetary donations from Buccaneers friends, families and fans and arranging for the secure storage of all donated food before and between home Varsity games using the online sign-up tool designated by the board.
 5. Promptly thanking all donors and coordinating with Communications Manager and, where appropriate, Publicity Manager, to assure all business donors and others are appropriately recognized.
 6. Tracking sales and profit and reporting accordingly to both the Treasurer and the Board.
 7. Handling all monies received from concession sales and promptly depositing all checks and cash into the Buccaneers bank account (with approval from Treasurer).

- **Lanyard Manager.** The lanyards manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Managing the creation and distribution of team photos and player lanyards.
 2. Coordinating with the Equipment Manager for photographing each team (team photo) as well as each player and the recording his or her jersey number for lanyards and the NXYFL final team rosters during jersey distribution.
 3. Receiving the roster of players from the Registration Manager prior to jersey distribution and returning a completed roster, with jersey numbers, to the Registration Manager for lanyards and the NXYFL final team rosters.

4. Recruiting and securing volunteers to photograph teams and players and/or record jersey numbers using the online sign-up tool designated by the board.
 5. Recruiting and securing volunteers to assist with creating the lanyards.
 6. Upon receipt of the final roster, with jersey numbers, from the Registration Manager, manages the creation of lanyard roster cards, the printing of the cards and photographs, both team and individual players, and the compiling of individual lanyards for each player.
 7. Coordinating with the Apparel Manager for the sale and/or distribution of lanyards to each player's family and the ordering of additional lanyards.
- **NVYFL Raffle Manager.** The NVYFL Raffle Manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Managing the distribution, sale and receipt of raffle tickets.
 2. Picking up raffle tickets from the NVYFL raffle coordinator.
 3. Coordinating with the Registration Manager to receive the NVYFL final team rosters for the distribution of tickets and tracking of sales.
 4. Recruiting and managing volunteers to prepare packets consisting of 25 raffle tickets to distribute to each player.
 5. Designating days and times, with Board approval, for ticket distribution and the return of completed tickets.
 6. Managing the receipt of completed raffle tickets from players and submitting all tickets to the NVYFL raffle coordinator prior to the League's deadline.
 7. Tracking sales and profit and reporting accordingly to both the Treasurer and the Board.
 8. Handling all monies received for raffle ticket sales and promptly depositing all checks and cash into the Buccaneers bank account (with approval from Treasurer).
 9. Assuring the timely receipt of names of the raffle winners from the NVYFL and reporting results to Communications Manager for distribution by email to all players.
 - **Awards Ceremony Manager.** The awards manager is responsible for the following tasks:
 1. Coordinating with the Board for the day and time of the Awards Ceremony as well as the agenda for the evening.
 2. Completing the necessary paperwork with CVU to secure their auditorium for the day and time of the event.
 3. Coordinating with the Registration Manager to receive the NVYFL final team rosters and coach information.
 4. Ordering trophies for all 2nd-7th graders, football bags for all 8th graders based on the rosters and awards for the coaches and coordinate with the Apparel Manager if coaches will be receiving shirts or other apparel at the ceremony.

5. Recruiting and securing volunteers to help prepare trophies, bags, the printed program and a slideshow using the online sign-up tool designated by the board.
6. Recruiting and securing volunteers for the day of the ceremony to set up the awards table, greet attendees, distribute printed flyers, assist on stage, and clean-up after the event.

Hosting Home Games

The Buccaneers Board, all applicable managers and coaches are responsible for ensuring that all games hosted by the Buccaneers comply with NVYFL rules, regulations and expectations. This means that the field must be prepped to League standards and that volunteers are secured in advance. The Buccaneers also operate a concession stand at all home games as a fundraiser.

In preparing for a home game, the following steps must be taken and volunteers must be secured for each:

- Line field (one week prior to game)
- Operate scoreboard
- Set up orange cones, yard markers and down markers
- Operate the three-person “chain gang” (down marker)
- Serve as the field medical doctor (all Varsity and Junior Varsity games)
- Coordinate parking, including marking the parking lot
- Coordinate concession stand and sales
- Coordinate apparel stand and sales
- Clean up (post-game) and secure storage pod

Frequently Asked Questions

When does registration open?

Through a partnership with the Williston Parks and Recreation Departments, all registrations are done through the Department’s online registration system (www.willistonrec.org). On or before April 1 of each year, the Buccaneers and the Williston Parks and Recreation Department will post registration information as well as the current fee on their respective websites. The registration period is April 1st to July 1st each year. Registrations received after July 1st will incur a late fee. Registration officially closes the Wednesday before the first day of practice. Scholarships are available and are based on need.

What is the Buccaneers Refund Policy?

Should a player decide to withdraw from the program before the completion of the first two weeks of practice, he or she is eligible to receive a refund for the full registration minus a \$25 administrative fee. Requests for refunds, along with all borrowed equipment, must be received no later than 5:00 pm on the last Friday of the first two weeks of practice. Players who decide to withdraw from the program after this time are not eligible for refunds.

When is equipment distributed and returned?

Equipment is usually distributed on the Sunday before the first day of practice at Storage Solutions located at 119 Commerce Street (Unit C-20) in Hinesburg. As soon as the day and time are finalized, the Buccaneers posts this information on its website and also notifies all registered players by email.

All equipment is required to be returned to the Buccaneers in the same condition as received at a designated date and time, usually the first Sunday after the last regular season game. (Teams that make the Playoffs will return equipment on the Saturday after the final Playoff day.) As soon as the day and time for equipment return are finalized, the Buccaneers posts this information on its website and also notifies all registered players by email.

THERE ARE NO OTHER SCHEDULED DATES FOR EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION OR RETURN. Players who miss equipment distribution and/or return need to make arrangements through their coach. In addition:

- ALL PLAYERS must be present to ensure that their equipment is properly fitted for safety reasons.
- Failure to pick up equipment *may result* in a delay of starting practice and the season.
- Failure to return equipment *will result* in a \$500 charge to cover the cost of purchasing new equipment. The invoice will be issued to the adult listed on the registration form and payment, in full, is expected to be made to the Buccaneers within 30 days from the date of the invoice.

Failure to pay an invoice within 30 days will result in \$50 late fee and a claim will be filed with the Vermont Superior Court against the adult listed on the registration form.

Does equipment, including uniforms, need to be clean before returning?

Yes, all equipment, including uniforms, must be clean prior to returning. Equipment and uniforms must also be in the same condition as received. Dirty or damaged equipment and uniforms will NOT be accepted for return.

Can uniforms be machine washed and dried?

Uniforms, which consist of game jerseys and game pants, must be cleaned weekly and can be machine washed. However, they should **not** be placed in the dryer after cleaning. The heat of the dryer will cause the numbers and letters to peel off of the jerseys. The heat of the dryer will also cause the elastic material of the game pants to deteriorate more quickly and lose their shape. Please hang game jerseys and game pants up to dry in the air. Never use bleach on uniforms.

What is the best way to take care of a football helmet?

Scrub helmets with mild detergent to remove scuffs after games or as necessary. **Never** soak or submerge a helmet in water, place a helmet near heat or open flame, or use a hand or mechanical pump to inflate the air liner in a helmet. Sitting, throwing and leaning on helmets will result in damage.

How do coaches manage playing time?

The Buccaneers place emphasis on instruction and participation over competition and coaches make every effort to allow every player to play in every game; fair playing time is a priority. Playing time, position determination and team placement will vary based on the coaching staff's assessment of what is sometimes called a "The Three A's": Attendance, Attitude and Ability.

- Attendance: Players must be present to learn the skills
- Attitude: Players must be respectful to all teammates, coaches, officials and volunteers at all times; behavior and effort must be positive
- Ability: Players must build strength in practice, demonstrate durability, and play with spirit (Endurance). Players must learn the fundamentals, study the playbook and give extra effort (Skill).

As players advance, the impact of "Ability" in this evaluation has a greater impact on playing time. Due to the physical nature of the game, however, there are instances where the size of the player determines his/her position; some positions get more playing time than others.

How do coaches decide teams?

The 5/6 and 7/8 Varsity teams are generally comprised of the oldest players on each of the teams (e.g. 6th and 8th graders) whereas the Junior Varsity teams (if there are enough players to field another team) are comprised of the youngest players (e.g. 5th and 7th graders). Final placement, however, is largely based on experience and skill with an emphasis on safety first. Less experienced players, regardless of grade, are usually placed on Junior Varsity teams to start. Flag teams are also decided based on experience and skill.

What happens if it rains during practice or a game?

All practices and games are held rain or shine. We also follow the Northeast Regional Little League's policy for storms, which is as follows:

Weather safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after a storm passes before resuming play. Lightning strikes occur in all directions around storms, even behind them. Do not rush to resume play even if skies begin to clear. Wait until thunder is no longer audible or about 30 minutes after a storm passes. Neither the suspension of play or the safety of our families is taken lightly; the safety of our children is paramount at all times."

What does this mean?

- At the FIRST sight of lightning or sound of thunder, all players need to clear the field immediately. The safest place for players is inside a vehicle with the windows rolled up. Parents and coaches are expected to do the same.
- Thirty (30) minutes after the last sign of thunder or lightning, play may resume. A coach will be assigned as the official timekeeper and will reset the clock as needed.
- Until a coach announces "all clear" and practice is safe to resume, all players must remain inside a vehicle. Coaches will monitor players during this delay to insure compliance.

What is the Buccaneers' Team Cheer?

The Buccaneers are proud of its team cheer, which exemplifies our program, what is about and why:

BUCCANEERS take S.T.O.C.

For your SELF...RESPECT!

For your TEAM...RESPECT!

For your OPPONENT...RESPECT!

For your COMMUNITY...RESPECT!

Buccaneers...PRIDE

Buccaneers...POISE!

Buccaneers...AARRRGHHHH!

2020 Required Releases and Acknowledgment Form
(Required before player is eligible to participate)

PARENTAL RELEASE I/We certify that I/we am/are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of 'player' and that he/she is, to the best of my/our knowledge, physically fit and able to participate in unrestricted activities related to practice and games in the sport of football. If 'player' has a history of serious illness or injury a note signed by a physician clearing the individual for full participation in all NXYFL activities must accompany this form.

GENERAL RELEASE The undersigned individual, in consideration of his/her player's participation in the Northern Vermont Youth Football League, covenants and agrees to hold harmless NXYFL, its agents, team organizations, coaches and all league administrators and persons transporting 'player' to/from activities, against all liabilities, expenses, costs and claims arising from or in connection with any suit, claim or demand of any kind and character brought or maintained in connection with the player's participation in the NXYFL and any associate member team. The program includes the use of football players' equipment, and the preparation for a participation in tackle football games—a contact sport—under the instruction and supervision of adults. NXYFL hereby informs both the player and his/her parents that there are risks inherent in athletic participation. I/We agree to return all equipment assigned to my/our child, or be sent a bill for it.

MEDICAL RELEASE I/We grant permission to NXYFL coaches/staff to render first aid to 'player'. In case of emergency, I/we hereby authorize him/her to be treated by Certified Emergency Personnel and understand that I/we and/or his/her emergency contact (parents first) will be contacted as quickly as possible.

WEBSITE RELEASE I/We give permission for 'player's picture and name (first initial, last name) to appear on the NXYFL website and/or associated team site. Further I/we understand that the content of the website is at the sole discretion of the website administrator and NXYFL and that neither guarantee that his/her neither picture nor name will appear.

(Place a checkmark in the box only if you do not agree to this release.)

By signing below, I/we, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____
 (player's name) acknowledge all information and herein give my/our consent to participate in the NXYFL program.

I/we also acknowledge that I/we have read and understand the Buccaneers Handbook for the 2020 season and will comply with all herein. I/we understand that not complying with Handbook requirements and expectations may subject my son(s) /daughter(s) to be ineligible to participate in the 2020 season.

 PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

 PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME

 DATE.

****NEW PLAYERS or RETURNING PLAYERS WHO DID NOT PLAY LAST YEAR****
 Please submit two (2) photocopies of the player's birth certificate with this form.