



2011 COWBOY FOOTBALL - FALL SEASON INFORMATION

FEES:

REGISTRATION FEE:	\$110
EQUIPMENT RENTAL FEE:	\$35

EQUIPMENT FITTING DATES: All Registration is on-line and may be completed at any time. Equipment fittings will be held on Saturdays: July 9, July 16 and July 23 from 9am – 2pm located at the Cowboy Complex in Jim Warren Park. **PLAYERS MUST BE PRESENT FOR EQUIPMENT FITTING AND PROVIDE COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE (if you did not play for us last year).**

PLAYER AGES: Age groups are determined by a player's age as of July 31, 2011.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Practices Begin	July 25	Mandatory Parents Meeting @ 6pm Field #1 Bleachers
TYFA Jamboree	August 13	
Cowboy Bowl	August 20	
Regular Season Begins	August 27	
Playoffs Begin	October 29	
TYFA Championship	November 12	

PLAYER EVALUATIONS: In the first two weeks of practice, players are evaluated and assigned to a team based on their ability and experience level. It is the goal of the league to have players of equal experience compete with equal competition. Players are broken into triple, double and single level teams in each age bracket. Details on player ages and rules governing player weight can be found on our website www.franklincowboys.org.

IMPORTANT: Teams are selected and players are assigned, using a very specific set of guidelines regarding player selection and draft. At no time will a parent be able to influence what team your child plays on or what coach he is assigned. You may request (in writing) your desires to be placed on a particular team, but those requests cannot be guaranteed. This rule is absolute. If you feel that you cannot abide by this directive, you will be asked to return your equipment and we encourage you to seek another program for your child. All team selections are final.

PRACTICES: Practices are typically three nights per week during the season, after an initial two-week evaluation period. The first 3 nights of practice, your child should wear shorts, shirt and cleats only. We will wear helmets after day 1. No other gear will be needed. If your child has not been fitted for equipment at registration or needs adjustments, we will make every effort to get this process done the first week.

During these first few weeks, practices usually run every evening. After the season begins, practices are limited to no more than 3 nights per week. Practices usually run 1 - 1 ½ hrs. Coaches are responsible for practice times and locations. Being at all practices and games on time is mandatory. Notify the coach prior to practice or game if your child will not be able to attend. Unexcused absences may result in the player not being able to participate in games.

Make sure the player has plenty of water, especially during hot weather. The concessions stand will not be open for practices. Sport drinks are fine, but water is best! Avoid carbonated beverages. Make sure to label the bottle or thermos with the child's name.

We strongly discourage dropping off the player /cheerleader and leaving the premises. If you have to leave, you **MUST** notify one of the coaches and make sure they have a way to contact you in the event of an emergency. Return to the practice area or game site before the finish to pick up the child. The coaches have families to get home to also.

The public walking trails which circle around the fields must be kept clear and free of any obstructions that would hinder those walking. **All parents and spectators will not be allowed on the field at anytime during practices or games. You should remain behind the fences at all times.**

GAMES: Schedules are distributed at the beginning of the season as soon as they are available from TYFA. Dates, times and locations are subject to change and coaches will have the updated changes. Schedules, and changes, will also be posted and updated on the website.

Games are usually played on Saturday; however it may be necessary to have a game on Sunday. This doesn't happen very often and only occurs after all other play options have been exhausted.

TYFA charges a \$3.00 per person entry fee for all Bowl Games; Jamborees, & Play-Off games, and \$5.00 per person entry fee for Championship games. Players and cheerleaders and children under 12 yrs. old do not pay this entrance fee.

We do "travel" to other TYFA communities for games and the locations and directions can be found on our website. Plan your travel time accordingly, taking into account traffic delays and highway construction. Your conduct at these sites is expected to be the same as at Cowboy Field.

RAIN: The most-asked question - DO WE PRACTICE and/or PLAY IN THE RAIN? And the answer is . . . IF IT'S SPRINKLING - WE PRACTICE, IF IT'S POURING AND/OR LIGHTNING - WE USUALLY WILL NOT PRACTICE.

Once you are assigned a team, most communication will be done by your coach, so please check with them. It is a good idea to show up even if it is raining, because most of the time, it blows over and in most cases, the coaches will not know until field conditions are assessed at practice time. These guidelines are the same for game day; however the Head Referee makes the decision to delay the game. If a rain delay occurs during a game, DO NOT leave the play site until directed by your coach. If the game is restarted and players and cheerleaders have left, it will mean a forfeit for your team.

FOOTBALL UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT:

- The Franklin Cowboys provide (for the current season use) players with the necessary "hard equipment" (helmet & shoulder pads). These items must be returned at the end of the last game of the season, no later than December 1, 2011. If not returned, you will be assessed a replacement fee for each missing item.
- The Cowboys provide the player with their game jersey and game pants. The game pants this year are the "all-in-one" design, where the pads are built in. At no time, during the current play season, should the game jersey and game pants be worn for practice.
- The player will be responsible for providing their own practice jersey, practice pants and pads, (purchase either the all-in-one pants or pants with snap-in pads or girdle), football cleats. Any other equipment (arm protectors, visors, gloves, etc.) may be purchase at your expense. Don't get carried away with these items as they are not needed to play the game of football. These items can be purchased at any of the retail sports stores in the area (i.e. Dicks Sporting Goods, etc).
- The shoes should fit the player comfortably; keeping in mind the socks that will be worn as the weather gets colder. The shoes should be for football, and they need to have molded or break-away cleats, and no metal posts on the soles of the shoes. The player will be given one mouth protector at the beginning of the season; however you may want to purchase some extra ones when buying the other equipment. Mouth pieces must be

colored and must be worn during all practices and games. Optional arm pads must be the soft, pliable type, no hard plastic.

- If the player has their own equipment, it must be NOCSAE certified and in good condition. The Cowboys will provide the decals and stripes to be placed on the helmet for the season.
- The helmet and shoulder pads will be fitted to the player at the time of registration. The player's parents will be given a fitting form and they will then proceed to the fitting area. No equipment will be given or refitted without this form!
- Once the player has been given their equipment, they should not mark their name on it. DO NOT mark directly on any equipment. Helmets can be cleaned with mild soap and water. Do not use household cleaners or a steel wool pad or abrasive cleaners or pads as they may damage the shell.
- Game pants and jerseys should be washed after each game. A pre-wash product can be very helpful, and then use a mild detergent. DO NOT use liquid bleach as this will destroy the fibers and decals. Turn the jersey inside-out before washing to preserve the decals. You can machine dry on a low setting, but it is best to lay flat or hang to dry. DO NOT DRY-CLEAN

ISSUES/CONCERNS: If you have a concern or an issue, you must first address it with the Head Coach independently of a game or practice. If your concern remains unanswered, you may request a joint conference with the Division Athletic Director and the Head Coach. If no solution is reached after this conference, a meeting will be scheduled with you, the Division Athletic Director and the Cowboys Executive Board.

We want to know your concerns and opinions in order to provide a better program and environment for your child. Please do not wait until the end of the season to report a problem or concern, let us know immediately so we can try to resolve the issue and make the season more enjoyable for everyone.

REFUNDS: If, after registration your child is unable to participate, a partial refund may be available. Only the registration fees are eligible for a refund. There will be no refunds of the equipment rental fee or cheer uniform costs, regardless of whether the equipment/uniform was used or not. All requests for refunds must be done in writing to the Vice President of Finance and will only be considered if a participant is unable to play. No Refund will be considered after the first pre-season game, August 13. All approved refunds will be credited via credit card or mailed (if paid by check) to the participant after the TYFA Fee Night filing date.

SPONSORS: The Franklin Cowboys are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and we welcome help financing our activities. The fundraisers and registration fees only provide a portion of those needs. We ask that each team and squad assist in securing at least two sponsors for the association's current season. There are many businesses and organizations in the area that are more than happy to help. In order to be fair to all participants, sponsorships and donations do not go to individual teams/squads, but are used to support the overall program. If you know of any business or organization that would be interested in helping, please contact the President or the Vice-President of Finance for further details.

FUNDRAISERS: Each year, the Cowboys organization sponsors fundraisers for the football teams and the cheerleading squads. These fundraisers are necessary to help with equipment, insurance and other program related expenses. We ask that you support these fundraisers by purchasing the product and helping your child with the selling and delivery of them.

VOLUNTEERS: Our organization relies on volunteers to be successful and we ask parents to volunteer some of their time to help out. There are several different areas that your help would be invaluable. Some of those areas are; Team Equipment Manager, Team Mom (manager), Chain Crews for home games (3-person - adults chain crew for each home game).

We ask that you help by picking up, and putting the litter in the trash receptacles that are placed around the park. This is especially true during practice times. Please make sure the practice area has been picked up and all litter has been placed in the trash receptacles. This includes the field areas as well as in the parking lot.

HOMECOMING: This is a special event for our players and cheerleaders, where among other things, we recognize the “seniors” (4+ years of participation in the program). The cheerleaders are in charge of all Homecoming activities; however any help would be greatly appreciated. In the past years our celebration begins on Friday evening with a dinner and recognition ceremony and ends with all games being played on Saturday. Whatever Homecoming activities are planned, we ask for your support to make this a special time for the kids.

PARKING: Parking will be an issue due to the large amount of participants in the Cowboys organization, as well as Franklin Baseball Club. Please remember these important rules;

- DO NOT park in front of the gate at the entrance off Boyd Mill Ave. This is the only access for emergency vehicles to enter Fields 1 & 2.
- Respect the Handicap Parking Zones - unauthorized vehicles will be towed at owner’s expense.
- DO NOT speed through the parking lot.
- Park only in designated parking slots - do not park on any grass area or medians; this includes Boyd Mill Ave. and Twin Oaks Drive

VIOLATION OF THE PARKING RULES WILL RESULT IN TICKETS BEING ISSUED BY THE FRANKLIN POLICE DEPT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Franklin Cowboys believe in teaching sportsmanship, hard work and character, leading to success both on and off the field. All coaches are certified, follow a strict code of conduct and undergo a complete evaluation process, making sure that those who coach for the Cowboys carry the same philosophy.
- The Franklin Cowboys are proud members of the Tennessee Youth Football Association (TYFA). Details about other communities can be found at WWW.TYFA.ORG.
- The Franklin Cowboys were proud finalist for the 2009 Franklin Sizzle awards in the category of best youth athletic program. We play a minimum of 11 games and 40-50 practices, making our program one of the most affordable youth programs in Williamson County.
- The Franklin Cowboys are a non-profit and a complete volunteer organization. No member of the Cowboys staff is compensated for their time and work. In keeping with our mission to provide opportunities for all children (regardless of financial ability), we encourage you to visit our website in the coming weeks to see our list of sponsorship programs and help support our program.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FRANKLINCOWBOYS.ORG TO KEEP CURRENT WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION AND REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PROGRAM UPDATES, WEATHER, AND OTHER COWBOY NEWS.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE COWBOY PROGRAM.