



**Dear parents/guardians,**

**Welcome** to the 2011 City of Barnwell Parks & Recreation Department cheerleading season. Enclosed in this letter is important information for the upcoming season. All City of Barnwell Parks & Recreation Department Athletic Programs emphasize skill development, teamwork, and good sportsmanship through recreational leagues and equal playing time for all. Our Philosophy for youth sports is that we believe that every child should have an opportunity to take part in activities offered, regardless of skill or ability & that under any circumstances, the individual participant is more important than winning.

**Mandatory Parent Meeting.** There will be a mandatory parent meeting on August 2, 2011 at Barnwell City Hall. At least one parent must attend this meeting. Parents of youth cheering for the Ponies age division will meet at 5:30pm. Parents of youth cheering for the Colts & Mustangs age divisions will meet at 6:30pm. If at least one parent does not attend this meeting, your child will not be able to participate in the 2011 cheerleading season.

**There are three age divisions for cheerleading:** Ponies: 5-6 year olds, Colts: 7-9 year olds and Mustangs: 10 – 12 year olds. These age brackets were determined based on the developmental growth of children in these age brackets and the cheerleading fundamentals that will be taught to each age division. A child will not be placed on a squad in a different age division unless a parent is coaching in a different age division and wants their child on their squad. Colts and Mustangs age divisions may travel to other towns.

**How Coaches and volunteers are chosen.** The City of Barnwell Parks & Recreation Department strives to secure responsible coaches and volunteers for all of our programs. We perform a volunteer screening process on each volunteer. A copy of this volunteer screening process is available for your review by request. The Parks & Recreation Department Staff drops in on practices to supervise the program. This is often how we evaluate our coaches. If you feel a coach is an undesirable influence on your child, please advise us immediately. Do not wait until the end of the season. We will evaluate the coach and respond to your concern. You expect a lot from the coaches, and in turn they expect a lot from you. Remember that they are volunteers and give their time for free to your family and the community. If you would like to serve as coach for the 2011 cheerleading season please fill out a volunteer application by July 13, 2011.

**How and when squads will be chosen.** Squads are chosen by a blind draw by Park & Recreation Department staff. Only the Head Coach's child will automatically be placed on a particular team. The blind draw is the fairest way to distribute players. Squads will be chosen the week of July 25, 2011. Parents will be notified by Parks & Recreation Department Staff or volunteers what squad a child has been placed on at the mandatory parent meeting.

**Practice times** will be determined by the coaches in each age division. If you have a question on practice times or location please contact your child's coach. The City of Barnwell Parks & Recreation Department recommends to our coaches they practice at minimum once per week and no more than three times per week for an hour practice depending on the age group.

**Game schedules and locations** will be handed out to all participants during the first three weeks of practices. Cheerleading squads cheer at football games for the football age division that matches the ages of their squad. All home games will be played at Lemon Park Sports Complex. The age divisions that travel will play games in Williston, Bamberg, Blackville, Orangeburg, Edisto and Branchville. Directions to each of these locations will be handed out with the game schedules.

**All cheerleaders will be given pom poms.** The girls will be able to keep their pom poms after the cheerleading season is complete. I would encourage you to write your child's name on the pom poms so that your child can easily keep track of the pom poms at practice and games. Poms poms will be handed out during the first week of practice.

**Please have your child wear** tennis shoes to all practices and games. If a child is not wearing tennis shoes to practice or a game the child will not be able to participate that evening for the safety of all children on the squad.

**Uniforms** will be the same style as the 2010 Season. If your child has a uniform from a previous year, they will still be able to wear that uniform. If you would like to purchase a uniform you must have your uniform order form and payment turned into the Parks & Recreation Department by July 13. The size run of uniforms available for cheerleaders to try on is available at Barnwell City Hall.

**Player and Team Pictures** will be taken at Lemon Park Sports Complex the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> and the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>. A schedule of exact dates and times for your child will be handed out at practice along with picture order forms. Please have your child wear their uniform to the pictures. Even if you do not plan on purchasing pictures please have your child present for the team picture.

**Parking Policy at Lemon Park.** Parking will only be allowed in the 3 parking lots provided. Parking lot 1 is located off Park Street, Parking lot 2 is located off Lemon Park Drive and Parking lot 3 is located off Brown Street. Parking will not be allowed along the perimeter of the park unless patrons are parked in the designated disabled parking spaces. Parking will not be allowed in any business parking lots surrounding the park. Please make sure to abide by the parking policy. If you are parked in a no parking area the City of Barnwell Police Department could issue you a ticket.

**Inclement Weather Policy** With the threat of inclement weather throughout the Football Season, please be aware of our policy: If lightning is detected by referees or BPRD staff, all players and spectators will be asked to exit the sports complex as quickly as possible and sit in their cars or leave the area. Notice will be given by BPRD staff. There will be a minimum of a 30 minute delay from the last detected lightning occurrence before individuals will be allowed to enter the sports complex. Individuals will not be allowed back into the sports complex until the all clear signal has been given. The "all clear" will be announced by the PA system and the gates to the sports complex will be unlocked.

The City of Barnwell has a website [www.cityofbarnwell.com](http://www.cityofbarnwell.com) to help with communication for all recreation programs. Please take the time to check it out.

We are certainly excited and looking forward to a successful cheerleading season. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 803.259.3317 or [erandell@cityofbarnwell.com](mailto:erandell@cityofbarnwell.com)

Sincerely,

Emily Randell  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Barnwell

