



**Dear parents/guardians,**

**Welcome** to the 2011 City of Barnwell Parks & Recreation Department football 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 Skill Assessments for Team Placement.** There will be mandatory skill assessments for the Pee Wee & Small Fry age groups. These assessments will determine the skill level of your child in a variety of football skills. Parks & Recreation Staff will then use these assessments to place children into skill groups for the blind draw of teams. Pee Wee & Small Fry assessments will take place on July 18 & 19, 2011 from 6p – 8p at Lemon Park. Youth will need to meet on the multi-purpose field.

**Mandatory Parent Meeting.** There will be a mandatory parent meeting on July 26, 2011 at Lemon Park. Parents of youth playing for the Flag & Pee Wee age groups will meet at 5:30pm. Parents of youth playing for the Small Fry & Mites age groups will meet at 7:00pm. At least one parent must attend this meeting. If at least one parent does not attend this meeting, your child will not be able to participate in the 2011 football season. Your child will find out team they have been placed on at this meeting.

**There are four age divisions of play.** Flag is the instructional team for 5 – 6 year olds. Pee Wee is for 7 – 8 year olds. Small Fry is for 9 – 10 year olds. Mites is for 11 – 12 year olds. Please remember that the age of the participant on Nov. 30, 2011 determines which division a child plays in. There are weight requirements in the Pee Wee, Small Fry and Mites age divisions for the safety of all players. There will be a pre-season weigh-in of every player. This weigh-in will be conducted by coaches at practice. Pee Wee, Small Fry & Mites age divisions may travel to other towns to play.

**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 football season please fill out a volunteer application by July 13, 2011.

**How and when teams will be chosen.** Teams 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. Teams will be chosen the week of July 18, 2011. Parents will be notified by Parks & Recreation Department Staff or volunteers what team 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 to two 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. 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 players in the Pee Wee, Small Fry & Mites Division will be issued equipment.** Players must attend the equipment handout time as coaches will not be handing out equipment at practice. Equipment handout will take place at Lemon Park and will be on:

Thursday, August 4      4:30p – 5:30p for Pee Wee  
   5:30p – 6:30p for Small Fry  
   6:30p – 7:30p for Mites

**Equipment & Uniforms.** All players in each age division will receive jerseys that they may keep at the end of the season. In addition to a jersey the Pee Wee, Small Fry & Mites age divisions will receive pants, pads, shoulder pads, a helmet, chin strap and a mouthpiece. The pants, pads, shoulder pads, helmet & chin strap must be returned at the end of the season. If equipment is not returned, parents will be responsible for buying the equipment.

**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 football 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

