



Mission:

Baraboo Youth Football's mission is to cultivate a program that is dedicated to providing our youth a fun and safe environment to learn and succeed through the game of football, while promoting sportsmanship and teamwork.

We will achieve this through:

- *Providing a safe and nurturing environment for the players
- *Coaching to help them develop the skills needed to succeed
- *Fostering an environment where respect to ones-self, teammates, opponents, officials and coaches are demanded
- *Providing our coaches with the tools, resources and support they need to succeed
- *Encouraging the continued involvement of the parents

1. Communication

- a. BYF sends program wide communication through email to the emails that are used at registration.
- b. During the season, we use the Crossbar App for communication between coaches and families.
- c. If you would like to contact someone within the program:
 - i. Individual questions/concerns
 1. Please use Crossbar and send a message directly to the head coach of your athletes team.
 - a. Ex: "Hey coach, Johnny left school sick today and he won't be able to make practice tonight, etc..."
 - ii. Whole group questions
 1. Use the team chat function in Crossbar
 - a. Ex: "I can get Johnny to practice tonight, but have a meeting when practice will finish, can someone help us out and give him a ride home, ect..."
 - iii. Difference between "chat" and "message"
 1. Individual information should be shared in a message rather than to the whole team chat.
 2. Any question/comment that will benefit the entire team should be shared in the team chat.

- iv. **Playing Time**
 - 1. BYF does not have a playing time policy. That being said:
 - a. We want everyone to play as much as possible
 - b. We want kids to play a variety of positions
 - c. We want kids to be in a situation they can feel confident to succeed (this will come in to play with position selection as well)
 - d. We work to set up coaching staffs to make sure every kid has an opportunity to build a connection with either the head coach or an assistant coach.
 - 2. If you feel something isn't right, reach out to the head coach.
- d. We practice a 24 hour rule to handle 'heat of the moment' issues.
 - i. In most situations where conflict arises, we (our coaches, board members, etc..) will wait 24 hours to have direct communication with the player, parent, or family involved. This gives both sides a chance to 'cool down' and organize their thoughts before working toward a solution.

2. Opportunities to get involved

- a. Each team will have a 'team manager' that will help organize the following volunteers
- b. Chain gang for home games (3 spots per game)
- c. Clock operator (1 spot, best view in the house)
- d. Concession stand workers (2-3 spots)
- e. Field clean-up after games (2-3)

3. Football Community: How parents talk matters!

- a. How we talk about football.
 - i. Assume positive intent with coaches' decisions and techniques.
 - ii. Find things to celebrate with your athlete.
 - 1. Everyday there will be many things to either celebrate or complain about. If we consistently find positive building blocks, we will move forward with a better mindset and the end result will be more successful.
 - 2. As hardships come along, help in identifying the best path forward for your athlete to take in order to have the best possible future outcome. (Complaining about others' actions rarely helps us get to that best future outcome).
- b. How we interact with other levels.
 - i. We work hard to build a community of football players from our 1st graders all the way through our high school's 12th graders.
 - ii. As a member of BYF we ask that you encourage and support the middle school and high school programs whenever possible. Ex: Promote attendance to those events, speak positively about the happenings within

the programs, and be excited for your athlete to grow as an athlete and as a human to build a great future of Baraboo Football!

4. Sportsmanship

- a. As youth sports continue to grow in popularity and the stakes seem to be getting higher and higher, we ask the following:
 - i. Promote positive sportsmanship with peers, opponents, coaches, and officials.
 - ii. Allow coaches to coach your players and reinforce the skills/lessons being taught at practice rather than showing them ways that contradict what is being taught.
 - iii. Adhere to the 24 hour rule (see above) when you are upset about something that happened.
 - iv. Find positive building blocks to help your player develop as a player.
 - v. Let officials officiate. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find officials - parent/coach behavior is a large factor in this issue.
 - vi. Vocalize cheers for good effort, good plays, and positive happenings rather than vocalizing negativity about what could have/should have happened or negativity about what calls were made.

5. Fundraising

- a. Our long term desire is to offer participation in BYF without being a financial burden to any family hoping to take part. That being said, each season costs around \$25,000-\$35,000 to pay for equipment, field use, officials, etc...
- b. We will ask you to assist in a variety of fundraising opportunities throughout the summer and into the football season. Thank you for working hard to raise funds without having to raise registration costs!