

# Lapeer Steelers

## 2011

Welcome to the Lapeer Steelers Youth Football/Cheer organization. We are pleased to offer a fair and competitive atmosphere for young athletes to develop both skills and self-esteem. We hope that this information package will help you become familiar with our program and the people who volunteer their time to make it possible.

**Please read this document carefully.**  
**It will help you to understand the commitment of being a part of the Lapeer Steelers Youth Football and Cheer program.**

The Lapeer Steelers participate in youth tackle football and cheerleading as part of the

### ***Northern Youth Football League***

<http://eteamz.active.com/northernyouthfootball/>

Joining the Lapeer Steelers are the

**Birmingham Patriots**, **Brandon Jr. Blackhawks**, **Lake Orion Dragons**, **Waterford Corsairs**  
**Auburn Hill Makos**, **Clarkston Chiefs**, **Troy Cowboys**, **Oxford Jr. Wildcats**, **Oxford**

Each team hosts home games generally at a school field in their district and each has the opportunity to host conference playoffs as well as the annual Super Bowl.



### **YOUR 2011 LAPEER STEELERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**All email addresses are available at our website [www.lapeersteelers.com](http://www.lapeersteelers.com)**

President **Bob Travis** Home (810) 664-6996 or Cell (810) 358-0133

Vice President **Tom Theill**

GM of Football **Jill Currie**

Treasurer **Annette Frank**

Secretary **Rhonda Linson**

GM of Cheer **Leigh Ann Bouchey**

Head Coaches are voted on each season by the Board.  
Head Coaches choose their Assistant Coaches for the season.

**Lapeer Steelers Mailing Address: PO Box 141, Lapeer, MI 48446**

*The Lapeer Steelers have 501c3 tax exempt status. Your donation is tax deductible. EIN # 38-2572900*

**The fees for the Lapeer Steelers are explained on the page 2 of this document.**

**Page 9 of this document declares the Lapeer Steelers REFUND policy.**

***Please read them carefully.***

# FEES

## 2011 Registration Fees

**Football:** 1<sup>st</sup> Player \$175, includes \$50 for jersey, each additional player \$120, includes \$50 for jersey. **Camp is free with paid registration.**

**Cheer:** All Cheerleaders, including mascots: \$80, additional \$60

*\*Refund policy is explained on Page 9 of this document*

## The REGISTRATION FEE and FUNDRAISING covers the following expenses:

Uniforms, Insurance, Organizational Fees, Franchise Fees, Referee Fees and Field Rental  
Cheer: undergarment package, hair bows, approved cheer shoes, socks.

## The REGISTRATION FEE and FUNDRAISING does not cover:

Football - the expense of football cleats, sports athletic cup, and girdle with hip and tailbone pads.

**FUNDRAISING** – The Lapeer Steelers requires each Football player to raise \$100 & each Cheerleader \$150 fundraising profit, Fundraising Options are explained on page 3 of this document.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS DEPOSIT- Football players only:** Each player's parents are required to volunteer at least 3 hours during the season. The Lapeer Steelers require a **\$50 VOLUNTEER HOURS deposit** preferably by check, (although cash will be accepted). This deposit is due on the equipment pickup day. When your volunteer time has been completed, your un-cashed check will be returned. If your deposit was given in cash, your refund will be returned by check.

**EQUIPMENT DEPOSIT:** There is a **\$200.00 EQUIPMENT deposit** for both Football and Cheer preferably by check, although cash will be accepted. This deposit is also due on the equipment pick up day. When **all** the cleaned equipment is returned at the end of the season, your un-cashed check will be returned. If your deposit was given in cash, your refund will be returned by check.

**If we are missing items at the equipment return or if you do not return the equipment your \$200.00 Equipment deposit will be forfeited to the Lapeer Steelers. All funds will be deposited in two weeks from drop off date.**

**PLAYOFF GAMES and SUPER BOWL:** Admission fees will be charged.

**YEAR END BANQUET:** November 19, 2011 - time not set yet!.

**CHEER COMPETITIONS:** Tickets must be purchased for family and guests.

## **CAMP – FOOTBALL/ CHEER Mandantory**

All Lapeer Steelers that are registered must attend **MANDANTORY** camp. July 25 through July 29 from 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. This camp is included in the registration. Camp is open to the public for a fee of \$50.00. Cheer time will be 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

## **TEAM & INDIVIDUAL PICTURES**

A professional photographer will be available for both team and individual pictures. Order forms are made available before the planned picture day to parents. Each player is to wear his or her "Game Day" jersey and each cheerleader is to wear their "Game Day" uniform. Updates will be placed on the Lapeer Steelers websites and in the Lapeer Steelers NEWSLETTER with detailed information.

**Concession Stands are available at games. Please support the teams with your purchases.**

**50/50 Raffles are available at games. Please support the teams with your purchases.**

**Lapeer Steelers merchandise will be available for purchase through the season.**

## **LAPEER STEELERS FUNDRAISING**

The Lapeer Steelers requires each Football player to raise \$100 & each Cheerleader \$150 fundraising profit.

### ***FUNDRAISING DUE DATES:***

**Football Players: \$50.00 profit earned by 8/16/11- \$50.00 profit earned by 9/06/11**

**Cheerleaders: \$75.00 profit earned by 8/16/11 - \$75.00 profit earned by 9/06/11**

***You have the choice of doing one or several of the options below:***

**We will be selling candy, more to follow.**

**Program Business/Personal ads:** Programs are available at Home Games and will feature a section of Business and Personal Ads. Ads are also placed on the Sponsor section of the Lapeer Steelers website [www.lapeersteelers.com](http://www.lapeersteelers.com). You will receive all the profit earned for these ads. Payment for ads is due at the time they are turned in. Business Card ad size for **\$50.00** & Half Page size ad for **\$100.00**.

*For an ad to be eligible for the game program, it must be turned in by the Monday before the game.*

**Outright payment:** If you choose not to do one of the above fundraisers, you may pay the full \$100.00 Football or \$150.00 Cheer outright. Addition fundraising options might become available later.

***NO MATTER WHAT OPTION/S YOU CHOOSE TO DO FOR FUNDRAISING,  
HALF OF YOUR FUNDRAISING AMOUNT IS DUE BY AUGUST 16, 2011.  
THE REMAINDER OF THE FUNDRAISING IS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 06, 2011.***

***FAILURE IN COMPLETING YOUR FUNDRAISING BY THE SPECIFIED DATES WILL PROHIBIT YOUR  
FOOTBALL PLAYER OR CHEERLEADER FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE GAME THAT WEEKEND.***

### **Questions and Payments:**

The Fundraising Coordinators, Lisa Travis and Melissa Fleury, will be available at the practice field to help you with any questions. Please remember that they are volunteers and will do their best to help you. They may also be reached at home.

**Lisa Travis (810) 664-6996**

When making payments, remember to be specific as to what fundraiser option you are paying and the name of the football player or cheerleader that will receive the fundraising profit earned.

*The Lapeer Steelers have 501c3 tax exempt status. Your donation is tax deductible. EIN # 38-2572900*

## Cheer Practice

Team practices are mandatory and held at St. Paul Lutheran Church 90 Millville Rd Lapeer Practice starts August 1st, three weeks prior to the first scheduled game. Practice begins promptly at 5:30pm until TBD, Monday through Friday. Once regular games start, practices are scheduled four days a week, Monday – Thursday starting at 5:30pm – 7:30pm. As the season progresses, cheer competition becomes the squads focus and daylight is limited, practices will both progressively end earlier and possibly be moved inside. Every effort is made to keep the squads in the same location. An agenda of locations will be handed out to each cheerleader. Times may be subject to change during the season as Mega Cheer approaches.

**Parents are encouraged to stay at the practice field. If you are not able to stay** or will not be at your home number during practice, please make sure that your Team Director has a cell phone on file in case of an emergency. If your cell phone number changes during the season, please provide it to your Team Director. If your child has special health concerns (i.e. inhalers), please be sure that the Team Director is provided with these items.

### **REQUIREMENTS BEFORE A CHEERLEADER MAY PRACTICE!!!!**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** cheerleaders will not be allowed to start practice without the following:

- Official NYFL Registration sheet signed by at least one parent
- Copy of birth certificate
- 2011 Sports physical with doctor's signature (MHSAA physical form is acceptable)
- Fully paid registration fee
- A signed copy of the Lapeer Steelers Code of Conduct

The Team Directors are responsible to collect this information. Please get the required information to the Team Director as soon as possible.

## **CHEERLEADING UNIFORMS**

Each Lapeer Steeler Cheerleader will be provided with a game day uniform, which includes skirt, shell, bag and warm-up. These are the property of Lapeer Steelers and must be returned at the end of each season laundered and in the same condition that they were issued. Prior to the season and again at season's end, volunteer parents and coaches clean, check and inventory uniforms to insure the condition before re-issuing. Undergarment packages will be ordered at the beginning of August. Cheerleaders are also to bring their own water bottle to practice. Sharing is strongly discouraged.

Uniforms will be issued to cheerleaders tentatively the second week of practice. At this time, our uniform representatives will fit each cheerleader with correctly sized uniforms. All exchanges to uniforms will be handled the next day of practice with the GM of Cheer. Do not disrupt practice by bringing uniform issues to your coach.

Uniform volunteers do their best to make sure that each cheerleader receives all of the necessary pieces. However, some oversights do happen. If a girl does not have an item that may have been overlooked, please bring it to the attention of the GM of Cheer. The best effort will be made to get the missing items as soon as possible.

***Cheerleaders and mascots are not allowed to wear make-up, nail polish, or jewelry ever. If medical and/or religious medals, rings, etc must be worn, these items must be taped to the body and concealed. No candy and/or gum.***

## **CHEER COMPETITION**

**Mega Cheer** is required competitions for each Cheer team along with all the football games. Please see the Lapeer Steelers website or regularly distributed NEWSLETTER for information regarding Mega Cheer and other Cheer competitions. Mega Cheer 2011 will be October 29, 2011, 8am starting time at Oxford High School.

## **CHEER ROSTER PICTURE DAY**

Cheerleaders will be photographed at the practice field for their individual, official NYFL cheer file. This picture will act as official identification if needed in any game.

## FOOTBALL PRACTICE

**Team practices are mandatory and held at St. Paul Lutheran Church 90 Millville Rd Lapeer.**

Practices start Monday, August 1st, three weeks prior to the first scheduled game. All practices are mandatory. Practice starts promptly at 5:30pm until 8:30pm Monday through Friday until the first game scheduled for tentatively for August 20th. Once regular games start, practices are scheduled four days a week, starting at 5:30pm – 8:00pm. As the season progresses and daylight is limited, practices will progressively end earlier.

### **REQUIREMENTS BEFORE A PLAYER MAY PRACTICE!!!!**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** players will not be allowed to start practice without the following:

- Official NYFL Registration sheet signed by at least one parent
- Copy of birth certificate
- A 2011 Sports physical with a doctor's signature (MHSAA physical form is acceptable)
- Fully paid registration fee
- A signed copy of the Lapeer Steelers Code of Conduct

The Team Directors are responsible to collect this information. Please get the required information to the Team Director as soon as possible. Players need all this info turned in by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of practice.

**Parents are responsible for making sure that their player falls within the weight limits of their respective groups and that their player is in good physical shape before the start of the practice season. Overweight boys are allowed to practice and try to make the weight limit during the practice season. Playing Restrictions do apply for boys overweight at the Game Day weigh-ins.**

**Parents are encouraged to stay at the practice field. If you are not able to stay** or will not be at your home number during practice, please make sure that you Team Director has a cell phone on file in case of an emergency. If your cell phone number changes during the season, please provide it to your Team Director.

If your child has special health concerns (i.e. inhalers), please be sure that the Team Director is provided with these items.

## FOOTBALL PLAYING RESTRICTIONS

NYFL promotes fair play for all participants within the program & mandates the rules of play.

Following are the age (AGE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>) and weight (natural weight) restrictions:

### **Freshman:**

Ages 8-9 with weight up to 125 pounds – Five 7 year olds are allowed at the Head Coach's discretion

*Refunds will be given to the 7 years olds who are not deemed ready for play yet.*

### **Junior Varsity:**

Ages 10–11 with weight up to 145 pounds

### **Varsity:**

Ages 12-13, unlimited, 14 year olds with weight up to 135

- Each football player is weighed and photographed at the beginning of the season when assigned to the roster. Each player must weigh in 1 hour prior to each game time and have identification made from their photo. If your child is **above** the established weight at game time, he will not be able to participate in that game.
- NYFL rules state that all athletes must wear an athletic cup, which will be checked at weigh in. Players will not be allowed to play in the game without an athletic cup.
- NYFL rules state that all athletes must participate in each scheduled game unless excused for illness or injury.

- Football teams with 32 or more players must record a minimum of 4 plays per half for each player. Football teams with 31 or less players must record minimum of 6 plays per half.

### **FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT PICK UP**

You will be notified prior to the first week of practice for equipment pick up. The athletes must be present to be properly fitted. Equipment pick up is held at the **Dug-Out**. The **Dug-Out** is generously donated to the Lapeer Steelers by the **NOWAK, PONIATOWSKI & MORGAN, P.C.** Law Firm. It is located in the basement behind their business at 385 W. Nepessing St. in the historic downtown Lapeer area. A \$200 deposit is required when equipment is distributed as stated in the FEES section of this document.

The Equipment manager does his best to make sure that each player receives all of the necessary items, etc. However, some oversights do happen. If an athlete does not have all needed items, please bring it to the attention of Equipment Manager. The best effort will be made to get the missing equipment as soon as possible.

### **FOOTBALL UNIFORMS**

Each Lapeer Steeler will be provided with: one practice jersey. It will include, practice and game pants along with belts. You will also receive protective equipment, which includes, shoulder pads, knee and thigh pads, and helmet with chin strap. These are the property of Lapeer Steelers and must be returned at the end of each season clean and in the same condition that they were issued. Helmets are inspected and reconditioned every other year. Mouthguards are provided by the Lapeer Steelers. The NYFL rules state that players may **not** have clear or white mouthguards. Each player is responsible to provide for themselves an athletic supporter with cup, a girdle with hip and tailbone pads and cleats. Cleats must be rubber no longer than 1/2 inch in length. No metal cleats are allowed.

Game jerseys are included in the registration fee, which they get to keep

Players are advised to bring their own water bottle to practice. Sharing is strongly discouraged.

### **FOOTBALL ROSTER PICTURE DAY**

Athletes will be photographed at the practice field in his/her game jersey for their individual, official NYFL player file. This picture will act as official identification if needed in any game. You will be informed by NEWSLETTER or by your Team Director when your athlete will need to bring your game jersey for this photo.

**FOOTBALL & CHEER PARKING** Back of St. Paul Lutheran Church by the pavilion, please drive slow, looking for Church members walking in the parking lot. Please put **All** garbage in the garbage can's that will be at the field. Please do not leave trash on the grass or parking lot, please pick it up, and throw it away. Let's keep St. Paul clean. Please make sure that we are not parking on the grass or in any undesignated parking spaces.

### **Football and Cheer ABSENTEE AND TARDINESS POLICY**

Illness will be an accepted excuse not to attend an event. However, you are asked to contact the Team Director before practice begins. If an athlete misses any practice, game or event unexcused, it is the coaches' discretion to discipline that athlete however they deem appropriate (in compliance with Lapeer Steelers rules) for the betterment of their team. Family emergencies, religious matters, or major illnesses are all exceptions, providing you contact Team Director or Coach prior to the practice or game. Any and all absences from practice/game/event will be documented by Team Director. All practices are cancelled at the field. Practices as well as games are conducted in the rain and/or snow. Weather may be bad where you are but may not be at the practice/game field. In the event of severe weather, including lightning, please return to the field as soon as possible to retrieve your child in the event of a cancellation or early dismissal. When bad weather threatens please wait with your child until the either practice or game starts or is officially cancelled. All athletes are expected to be on the field, in practice attire, on or before the start of practice. Tardiness is disruptive to both team members and instructions from the coaches. Lapeer Steelers assumes responsibility for children only during scheduled practice times. Parents are encouraged to drop children off no earlier than ten minutes before practice begins and pick children up promptly at the end of practice. Out of respect for the adults that volunteer their time, please do not treat them as a baby-sitting service. **DURING PRACTICE TIMES WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO CONTACT YOU OR ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY! BE SURE TO DISCLOSE THIS INFORMATION COMPLETELY ON YOUR NYFL REGISTRATION FORM.**

### **GAMES**

Regular season games start the weekend of August 20, 2011 and continue through the middle of October. Regular season home games for the Lapeer Steelers are played at Lapeer West High School and Lapeer East High School on Saturdays or Sundays. Some away games are scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Everyone will be notified weekly as to our game location.

*Usually* each game day starts with the freshmen squad playing at 12:00 noon and the Junior Varsity squad at 2:00pm and Varsity at 4:00 p.m. A schedule will be posted on the Lapeer Steelers website and will also be given to each player. Players are asked to arrive one and half hours prior to game time in full uniform for weigh in. During each game families and friends can enjoy concession stands with food/beverages and a 50/50 raffle to help raise money for the teams. The concessions are run by the Boosters of West/East High Schools. The 50/50 raffle is held during each game with the help of volunteer parents. Our program is totally run by volunteers; therefore all parents are required to put in their time to help the organization.

One game each season is highlighted as "Parent Appreciation Day". Parents are invited to join their young athletes on the field when players and cheerleaders are announced. You will be advised with the particulars of this event.

## **PLAYOFFS**

At the end of the eight game regular seasons the top four teams from the conference participate in a two round playoff. During this single elimination playoff each team strives to get to the Super Bowl. Playoff games are hosted by different NYFL organizations each year at neutral sites. All cheerleading squads are required to cheer for both the football playoffs and the Super bowl. Spectators must pay to get in to the games

## **BANQUET**

Once the season ends for all three squads, each football player, cheerleader and their families are invited to the annual banquet. The banquet always offers each competitor a chance to shine in front of his or her family and friends as well as be rewarded for the hard work and dedication they have shown throughout the year. A 50/50 raffle and other raffles are also a highlight of the banquet. Tickets may be purchased during the banquet for these. Volunteers secure donated items from generous supporters of the Lapeer Steelers to make this event memorable.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

Each season a volunteer parent/s agrees to work with a squad as the “Team Directors”. The Team Director assists the President, General Manager and Head Coach on the sidelines and in coordinating volunteer activities.

All parents are requested to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours per child playing on a squad. Please see the \$50 VOLUNTEER Deposit fee required on page 2. The key to the success of this program, and the enjoyment of all, is built on strong parental volunteers. During the first two weeks of practice each parent will be asked by their Team Director to sign up for one or more areas to help. Each game provides job responsibilities with spotting on the game field, doing chains and down marker, 50/50 raffle and help in the “box” with score clock and announcing, taking pictures and videos. *(Spotting on the game field requires keeping track of players’ # of plays to meet the NYFL rules of minimum play requirements as explained earlier in this document.)*

## **CONDUCT**

Football players, cheerleaders, parents, coaches, volunteers and board of directors are expected to follow a code of conduct. The Lapeer Steelers Code of Conduct is provided at the end of this information package and must be signed and returned in order for participation.

The coaches make all decisions on what is best for the team to succeed. A Team Director is assigned to each team. If you have concerns or questions we ask that you discuss them with your Team Director first. The coaching staff welcomes interaction with parents at the appropriate time and place.

Poor behavior from adults, and/or spectators, during game time or at practice will not be tolerated as stated in the Code of Conduct. Profanity or inappropriate language will not be tolerated by anyone associated with the Lapeer Steelers. Instances of the Code of Conduct being ignored will be handled by the Board of Directors on an individual basis as stated.

## **NOTE TO PARENTS**

Our coaches dedicate their time to the children. Once practice has begun, please do not interrupt the coaches except for a true emergency. Your Team Director will be available to help you with questions and concerns. In the event you have a concern during practice, please bring it to the Team Director, General Manager or the President or Executive Board member who is available to assist you.

## **Lapeer Steelers Refund Policy**

### **You will receive a full refund of your registration fee if:**

You will get \$125 if your child quits before practices have begun on Monday, 8/1/11. If you quit your jersey will be forfeited for new players.

### **You will receive a discounted refund on your registration fee if:**

You paid in full and your child quits once practices have begun on Monday, 8/1/11 but before 8/20/11. The discounted refunds are as follows: Football = \$60 Cheer = \$65 Price of the jersey \$50.00 is non refundable.

### **You will **not** receive a registration fee refund football and Cheer:**

After 8/20/11

### **All fundraising done for the Lapeer Steelers is non-refundable.**



**We are looking forward to the 2011 season of the Lapeer Steelers.**

Check out:

**[www.lapeersteelers.com](http://www.lapeersteelers.com)**

For the most updated Steelers information.