

FLEMINGTON FALCONS

TIME & COMMITMENT LETTER

FOOTBALL 2018

The following points will stress that participating with the Flemington Falcons is a team sport. It is important that both participant and parents are aware of the time and personal commitment involved with this team sport. Read the following, **sign and return** in recognition of this commitment prior to the first day of practice.

General

- Please remember the coaching staff are volunteers.
- If there is a problem or an issue, please follow the chain of command: Team Head Coach first, then Football Commissioner, and if necessary, the executive board.
- Coaches should never be interrupted during practice and/or games. Concerns should be directed to the Head Coach after practices or games.
- No profanity, vulgar, or abusive language will be allowed or tolerated at practices or games.
- All player positions are at the discretion of our coaching staff. Players are put in positions where they will succeed both individually and for the team. We ask that you trust our staff and their decisions.
- Anyone threatening to quit or pull their child from the team will be dismissed immediately.
- It is the parents' responsibility to know what is going on within the Falcon organization and team. Please check the Falcon website, www.flemingtonfalcons.org and your e-mails daily.
- If your child is going to be absent from a practice or game due to illness, religious or any other reason, you are to notify the Head Coach immediately.
- Withholding a child from practice should never be used as a form of punishment. You are not only punishing your child, but every other athlete, parent, and coach on that team.
- The Flemington Falcon football program is highly regarded for their sportsmanship and class. We expect our parents and athletes to uphold our wonderful reputation at all practices, games, and competitions.
- We reserve the right to add, change, or remove rules at any point.

The Season

- The official Pop Warner season begins August 1, 2018. Flemington Falcons tackle football divisions may start practice as early as August 1, 2018. Flag football will begin practice August 1, 2018. Athletes that will miss any part of the first week of conditioning may be able to do early conditioning on the weekends.
- Playing football with the Flemington Falcons is a team sport where there are no try outs. Athletes are placed on teams in accordance to their age/grade at the discretion of the Commissioner. The criteria used for placement include the betterment of the program, the betterment of the athlete, and to a lesser extent parental preference.
- Athletes must be prepared to participate at every game, which is on every Sunday in September, October and possibly going into November. The regular season consists of 8 games; typically, 4 away games and 4 home games played at Hunterdon Central Regional High School.
- The game schedule is set by Jersey Valley Conference (JVC) **NOT** the Flemington Falcons. Typically, games will be the same time from week to week but occasionally this will change. Directions to the away games are on the website.
- The season is not over until every playoff and bowl game has been played. Players are expected to attend every game.
- On or the before the first day of practice the following must be handed in or brought to the first day of practice:
 - Physicals and the associated forms must be up to date and handed in by the first day of practice.

- Athletes will not be allowed to practice unless the Pop Warner Physical Release form, dated in 2018, has been handed in to the Falcons.
- Current year final report card which displays the full year of grades.
- Original birth certificate with a copy. The copy will be certified by a notary and original returned. This is not required for returning athletes.

Attendance/Practices

- Football is a team sport and in order for a team to perform their best, every member needs to be present at all practice, scrimmages and games.
- Practices and games are not “optional”. Please plan for weather conditions of heat, cold and/or rain and snow. Despite the temperature or weather, your son is expected to stay to the end of the practice or game. You will be notified of cancellations.
- All practices will be at Copper Hill School unless another facility is to be utilized for a special purpose.
- Practices may be changed or added at any time during the season.
- As per National Pop Warner rules, all Athletes are required to complete 20 hours of continuous conditioning/practice during the first and second week of August. Missed hours must be made up by the athlete.
- Prior to Labor Day, practices will be 10 hours per week Monday through Thursday from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Schedules will be altered to accommodate for scrimmages played on Saturday or Sunday in August. Fridays will be used as make-up days in the event of a weather cancellation.
- After Labor Day, the practice schedule will be reduced to 6 hours per week. Practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and on Saturday morning.
- Athletes must arrive to their practice ON TIME. Promptness is crucial for a successful practice session. Plan to arrive 15 minutes before the start of practice.
- Practice is mandatory to participate in any game. This is to ensure the safety of all team members. Missed practices will result in ineligibility for games until the athlete has satisfied the Head Coach and program’s safety concerns.
- If the Head Coach determines there is a safety issue, that Athlete will be removed immediately from participating until there is resolution to the satisfaction of the organization.

Safety

- Safety is our number one concern. Under no circumstances will an athlete be allowed to participate in a game without the required uniform, completion of a minimum of 20 hours of conditioning, adequate practice participation and/or medical clearance to return to participation after an illness or injury. If the Head Coach determines that there is a player safety issue, that player will be removed from participation immediately until the safety issue has been satisfactorily resolved – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Equipment and Uniforms

- The Falcon organization provides all the necessary equipment and uniforms for the athletes with the exception of cleats, mouthpiece and athletic cup. Parents/athletes are to provide these personal items.
- Practice jersey are provided by the organization and become personal items for the athletes. All other equipment and uniforms are the property of the Falcons and must be returned at the completion of the season.
- Additional items such as Under Armour, rib vests are optional and not provided.
- Personal helmets and shoulder pads must be approved by the Falcon organization for safety compliance.
- At equipment return, the game uniform must be freshly washed. Helmets and Shoulder Pads must be clean. Failure to take proper care and return all pieces of the uniform by the end of the season will result in a fine.

Fundraising/Volunteering

- *Registration only* covers a portion of the Falcons annual operating budget. As a result, there will be many additional fundraising activities throughout the season to support Cheer and Football.
- The calendar raffle and tagging are mandatory fundraising activities, which does not include post season requirements.
- Parents are REQUIRED to volunteer 8 hours of their time to the organization for the first participant, 12 hours if 2 participants and 15 hours for 3 or more participants. The organization relies on everyone to be involved for the benefit of the children.
- Notification for volunteer positions will be through the Falcon website and email.

NOTE: Additional/post season fundraising will be required by the Flemington Falcons if your athlete proceeds to Nationals. If there is to be any type of reimbursement to you through the Flemington Falcons, fundraising is absolutely necessary. Not only does fundraising count towards partial athlete reimbursement of costs back to you but also supports additional post season organizational costs such as facility rental.

- ***You are responsible*** for your son/daughter's cost to participate in Nationals if his team reaches this level of competition. This cost is approximately \$900.00.
- Fundraising activities will be tracked for each athlete.
- If you choose not to participate in post season fundraising, you will not receive any reimbursement.

**YOUR COMMITMENT TO FLEMINGTON FALCONS FOOTBALL
2018
SIGNATURE PAGE**

Please remember that Football is a team sport.

By signing this Form and initialing each of the page's prior pages, I represent that I have read this Form thoroughly and understand my commitment and my child's commitment for the season which includes volunteer hours and fundraising during the season and post season.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Player Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Print Name: _____

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE.

Initials: _____