

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 2009  
**CONTACT:** Jill Pepper, (202) 669-0357, [jill@teamcoalition.org](mailto:jill@teamcoalition.org)



## BROWNS FANS DON'T LET FANS DRIVE DRUNK

“Good Sport” Encourages Designated Drivers

Cleveland, OH – As the 2009 Cleveland Browns season gets underway, the Browns, Delaware North Companies Sportservice, Anheuser-Busch and Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) Coalition ask all Browns fans to have a designated driver in order to prevent drunk driving. The message – “*Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk*” - will appear on the beer cups at Cleveland Browns Stadium this season as part of a league-wide effort involving all 32 NFL teams and 31 stadiums. The message is a reminder that creating a positive game day experience is everyone’s responsibility, including the fans.

For the seventh consecutive season, Browns fans who pledge to be designated drivers have a chance to follow the Browns to the Super Bowl through the Responsibility Has Its Rewards sweepstakes. Last season nearly 2,200 Browns fans pledged to be designated drivers, and 140,000 fans pledged across the league. This season the goal for the NFL is [200,000 designated drivers](#).

In addition to the “*Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk*” message on all the beer cups, the Browns are offering the “*Good Sport*” designated-driver program at all guest services locations at Cleveland Browns Stadium. Each fan that pledges to not drink alcohol and ensure a safe ride home for their friends and family receives a complimentary non alcoholic beverage and a chance to be selected as the Browns Designated Driver for the Game and the Designated Driver for the Season. The randomly-selected Designated Driver for the Game is announced in the second half on the stadium video board. The winner receives a “*Good Sport*” Browns jacket.

After fans pledge to be designated drivers at Browns games, they receive an email directing them to register on-line at [www.rhir.org](http://www.rhir.org) to be randomly-selected as the Browns Designated Drivers for the Season. The Designated Drivers for the Season from the two teams competing in the Super Bowl receive trips to the game, which will be played on Sunday February 7, 2010 at Dolphin Stadium, as the grand prize winners of the [Responsibility Has Its Rewards sweepstakes](#).

“The game day experience is critically important to the Browns and our fans,” said Cleveland Browns vice president of Communications, Bill Bonsiewicz. “We want all of our fans to enjoy the game, and if they are drinking alcohol, to be responsible and make arrangements to get home safely. We strongly support the designated-driver program.”

“Tying Responsibility Has Its Rewards to our season-long Good Sport program makes for a winning combination,” said Carol Clark, vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility for Anheuser-Busch. “We’re pleased to work with the Browns, TEAM and the other program partners to recognize fans who look out for each other and make a designated-driver part of their game plan. When it comes to preventing drunk driving, we’re all part of the team.”

“Sobriety is no accident,” said Sportservice president Rick Abramson. “That’s why we work closely with the Browns to strongly promote and advocate that fans make responsible decisions when it comes to alcohol and to take appropriate action, including declining to serve them, when they do not. The designated-driver program is an important component of the alcohol management program at Cleveland Browns Stadium.”

- MORE -

“The success of the Responsibility Has Its Rewards campaign and this new initiative to communicate the ‘Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk’ message on all beer cups in NFL stadiums, including Cleveland Browns Stadium, is a direct result of the commitment from the league, the teams and all the campaign partners,” said Jill Pepper, executive director of TEAM Coalition. “Teamwork is what this campaign is all about. We are demonstrating that when everyone – including the fans – takes responsibility, everyone wins.”

Fortunately, football fans join millions of other Americans in doing the “ride thing.” According to a national survey by TNS Custom Research Inc., nearly two out of three adults – more than 137 million Americans – have been a designated driver or been driven home by one.

The designated-driver program is just one component of the fan behavior initiative offered by the Cleveland Browns at Cleveland Browns Stadium. Other components include:

- [Fan Code of Conduct](#)
- Text messaging (text “BROWNS” + Message to 78247) and phone hotline (440-824-6000) that empower fans to report disruptive behavior to security
- Certification of nearly 5,500 employees representing every organization operating in Cleveland Browns Stadium in effective alcohol management training
- Alcohol service policies including ID checks for all fans who look to be 30 and younger, no more than two alcoholic beverages per person per transaction and alcohol cut-off at the end of the third quarter

TEAM Coalition – an alliance of professional and collegiate sports, entertainment facilities, concessionaries, stadium service providers, the beer industry, broadcasters, traffic safety experts and others working together to promote responsible drinking and positive fan behavior at sports and entertainment facilities.

For more information, please visit [www.FansDontLetFansDriveDrunk.org](http://www.FansDontLetFansDriveDrunk.org).

###