

CYFA

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

Welcome to the *Chippewa Youth Football Association*. We offer flag football to children in grades K - 2, full contact tackle football for grades 3 - 6, and a cheer program for girls grades 3 - 6. ***Be aware that our competition levels are based on the grade they are entering.***

FLAG FOOTBALL - Must turn 6 by August 1st and can be in Kindergarten, first or second grade.

3rd / 4th GRADE TACKLE FOOTBALL- Must be entering either the 3rd or 4th grade. If a child has been held back they will play in the format for their grade not their age.

5th / 6th GRADE TACKLE FOOTBALL - Must be entering either the 5th or 6th grade. If a child has been held back they will play in the format for their grade not their age. The only exception is a child turning 13 prior to August 1st. 13 year olds are only permitted to play if they are approved by the LEAGUE board. (a exemption process is required) If your child is under 13 and entering the 7th grade they cannot participate in the WHCL.

In this handbook we cover a large amount of information so please take the time to read the entire handbook. Communication is key to a successful, fun and safe program, and it must go both ways. ***We will try to convey all of the information we feel is relevant, but if you have any questions or problems please take the time to talk with us about it. We cannot resolve a problem if we are not aware that there is one.***

Our goal is to use this program to not only teach the fundamentals of football, but also to develop well rounded young men and women through their experience with the CYFA. We stress the importance of education, sportsmanship, teamwork, friendship, leadership, discipline, physical fitness and character development.

The coaches will do everything in their power to see that each participant is utilized to their full potential, but please keep in mind that the coaches will base their decisions on what is ***BEST FOR THE TEAM***. Children are selected for their positions based on but not limited to the following parameters...

- **Attitude**
- **Skill Level**
- **Size**
- **Level of effort**
- **Level of aggression**
- **Ability to memorize play books, etc.**

We look forward to working and growing with the children this season and invite you to provide feedback on the program as the season progresses.

Respectfully,

Todd Bromley
President, CYFA

- **School comes before football!** It is a privilege to play football not a requirement. Keep your grades at an acceptable level. ***If you don't practice you will not play.*** All absences must be explained to your coach. Family and faith are more important than football and we respect that, however, when you sign up to play football you make a commitment to the team. We ask that you make every attempt to schedule other functions so they do not conflict with the teams schedule if possible.
- Coaches are in charge of the team and what they say goes. We will not tolerate any profanity or disrespect to coaches, parents, teammates, referees, or opposing teams period.
- Respect your coaches and the other players as well.
- Remember that YOU are representing your family and your community when you wear the Chippewa Blue and White. Wear it with pride and conduct yourself in a respectable manner at all times. Sportsmanship is not only expected we demand it of each other.
- Take care of your equipment! Your equipment is your responsibility and if it is lost or damaged you must reimburse CYFA the replacement value.
- Children MUST wear the equipment they were issued. Our coaches have been trained in how to properly outfit your child in the appropriate equipment. If an item does not fit properly or if you have questions please bring it to the coaches attention **IMMEDIATELY!**
- **IF YOUR HELMET IS ON YOUR MOUTHPIECE IS IN!**
- Arrive for practices on time and prepared!
- Learn the rules of the game, and know each position on the field.
- **ASK QUESTIONS!!!** If you are confused ask the coach what you are supposed to do. There truly are no stupid questions and it is our job to teach you the fundamentals of the game.

COACHES

All of our coaches put in a lot of time in the course of the season, but they also dedicate time to football in the off season as well. On average a coach will put in about 12 - 20 hours a week during the season, and they also meet at least once a month in the off season to attend clinics, board, and coaches meetings. Our board of directors had recently implemented a selection process for becoming a coach to make sure we are selecting quality people for the program. If you are interested in becoming a coach or a volunteer simply let someone in the organization know and we will gladly discuss it with you. Our coaches have attended coaching clinics for the last few years in order for them to better understand the game of football, but we have also taken courses on how to work with young athletes. We expect our coaches to not only teach the fundamentals of football but to also be role models for your children. ***We do not allow our coaches to use profanity or tobacco products of any kind while in the presence of your children. We take great pride in our organization and our coaching staff. We feel that we offer the best program in the area.*** Some duties of our coaches are...

- Get the players in shape
- Work on individual skills with each player
- Motivate, communicate and lead the team
- Explain the requirements for all positions
- Demonstrate techniques
- Make sure players are performing the techniques properly
- Fully explain what can go wrong if these techniques are not followed correctly
- **If you have a problem with a coach please bring it to my attention!!**

EQUIPMENT

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All players will be provided the following equipment...

- Riddell Revolution Air Helmet with face guard and mouthpiece
- Shoulder pads
- New Integrated practice and game pants! All of your girdle pads and belt are sewn right in!
- Practice jerseys and Game Jerseys with game socks and belts
- Rib pads (limited supply) If you are concerned ask us and we can give you advice on what products you should buy to protect your child. We also have valuable coupons for some area stores for you to use.

It is your responsibility to take care of and return the equipment at the end of the season. If equipment is not returned we have no choice but to raise rates for future players to participate.

You will need to provide the following...

- Football cleats (*they must be molded plastic*) no steel or removable cleats are allowed!
- Water bottle (must bring your own water to practice every night)
- Athletic supporter (highly recommended)

CARE FOR EQUIPMENT

- Please wash all football gear as often as possible to help protect against staff infections or other potential bacterial growth. You can wipe your pads or helmet interior down with a bleach / water solution.
- Please wash the white and blue items separately.
- **Please allow items (especially game jerseys) to air dry on the line.**
- **DO NOT PUT FOAM PADS IN THE DRYER**
- When cleaning shoulder pads, helmets, etc. Use warm water and a MILD soap. Wash by hand and allow to air dry.
- **DO NOT USE CLEANERS, CHEMICALS, OR WAX ON THE HELMETS, THIS WILL BREAK DOWN THE HELMET AND INCREASE THE POTENTIAL FOR INJURY.**
- **WE WILL PUT YOUR CHILD'S' NAME ON THE FRONT OF THE HELMET WITH ATHLETIC TAPE. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER KIND OF TAPE ON THE HELMET SUCH AS DUCT TAPE!**
- If a piece of equipment is damaged please return it to us for a replacement. Do not try to hide or use the broken equipment as you are putting your child's' safety at risk.
- Please make a conscious effort to keep the foam pads, helmets, shoulder pads, etc. Out of the reach of the family pets. Dogs and cats LOVE to eat and scratch these items.
- Your child is permitted to wear his or her jersey to school the day before their games. They are also permitted to wear these jerseys to Chippewa High School Football games to show there support. Please refrain from wearing them on other occasions.
- If you have a question about any of your equipment do not hesitate to ask a coach, that is what we are here for.

PRACTICES

We practice and play in all types of weather. If you don't receive a phone call that practice is canceled you are expected to be there. Parents need to be aware of the potential for bad weather such as lightning, etc. And realize that your child may need to be picked up early. We will make every attempt to run our practices on time so please make every attempt to drop off and pick up your child on time. **Each head coach should create a text list for all of his / her players. If a practice is cancelled or something has changed a mass text can be sent out to alert everyone. Please make sure your coach does this BEFORE the season begins. PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR CANCELLATIONS AT WWW.WHCLFOOTBALL.COM**

Youth Football Camp

- July 12th - July 14th, 2011; camp will be held at CMS from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Conditioning

- Starts on Monday July 25th, 2011
- Mon. - Wed. 6:00-8:00 PM dressed in shorts, T-shirts, cleats, helmets & mouthpieces.
- **Thursday - 6:00 - 8:00 PM dressed in full gear, NO CONTACT**
- **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF THREE DAYS CONDITIONING PRIOR TO ANY CONTACT.**
- **BRING YOUR OWN WATER AND WATER BOTTLE.**

Practice

- Starts on Monday August 1st, 2011

Practice before the start of school

- Monday - Thursday 6:00 - 8:00 PM dressed in full gear and full contact.

Practice after school starts

- Monday and Thursday 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

* Note: your team may set a different schedule so be sure to check with your coaches.

DO NOT allow your child to eat a large meal prior to practice or games as this will make them sick. Players should eat a sensible meal no more than two hours prior to game time or practice. A light snack is a good idea before practice, but **do not drink milk, orange juice, or soda.** Water is the best beverage prior to competition, ENERGY DRINKS like AMP, or Rock Star are the worst. During the course of the season your child will be pushed physically and needs a proper diet. Consult your physician for recommendations for a healthy diet.

Skill level is not as important as effort or the ability to protect yourself when it comes to playing time! SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN is our top priority and will be taken into account when determining your child's participation level.

PARENTS

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Parents are extremely important to the success of our program. Coaches, players and parents MUST all work together in order for our program to succeed. If your child is sick, upset, taking medication, has allergic reactions, etc. please let us know so we can assist you in watching out for the child's welfare. We ask that parents do not interrupt coaches during practice time or especially during a game. We try to arrive to practice as early as possible so please use the time before and after practice to bring any concerns to our attention. Parents and coaches must communicate with mutual respect. A coach may reserve the right to have another coach present or postpone a conversation that has the potential to get out of hand. We are all working for the same goal to see your child have fun and develop as a fine citizen.

Parents biggest contribution to the success of this association can be TIME. All we ask of parents is to put in a couple hours per week to run the concession stand, operate the scoreboard, run the chains, etc. and this is only during home games. This is an all volunteer organization so please take a little time to volunteer to work a game that your child DOES NOT participate in so all of the participants parents can enjoy watching their son or daughter and enjoy themselves.

- As children we all had our opportunity to play sports, etc. Now it is your child's chance to play. As much as you may want them to play a similar position or be as aggressive as you remember yourself that may not happen. Support them win or lose, and support the team!
- We all want to win, but if we don't it is not the end of the world. Don't get too focused on winning these are just children after all. It is usually harder on the parents then the children.
- FOOTBALL IS A LOUD, PHYSICAL, DISCIPLINED, AND EMOTIONAL GAME. We will coach it that way and ask our players to play that way. As parents and coaches it is okay and expected to be excited and emotional, but above all be SUPPORTIVE and RESPECTFUL WIN OR LOSE!
- Coaches may require your child to be more disciplined than they are at home. This is for the benefit of the team and no disrespect is directed or implied.
- Coaches will demand respect and undivided attention from your child while coaching. In return they will also be respectful of the children. Each one of our coaches does so because they love the game and more importantly they love working with the children.
- Please keep in mind that playing time is earned not given. A child who works hard and had a great attitude will get plenty of playing time.
- The start times for all practices and games are posted and announced on a weekly basis. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS ON TIME TO ALL GAMES AND PRACTICES. It is not fair to the team if a child is habitually late.
- Please pick up your children on time from practices.
- Game equipment such as pants and jerseys are to be used for games only. DO not send your child to practice in their game uniforms. Provide your child a clean uniform on game day.
- **Please keep in mind that our field is on school property so the use of tobacco products is prohibited by everyone including parents.**
- Our goal is to provide a clean, safe, fun, and positive environment for all of the children in our association.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2011

July 9th - Football Sign-ups @ Chippewa Middle School Cafeteria 10:00AM - 1:00PM
July 16th - Football Sign-ups @ Chippewa Middle School Cafeteria 10:00AM - 1:00PM
July 12th - 14th - Youth Football Camp 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
July 25th - July 28th - Football Conditioning - 6:00PM - 8:00PM at the Middle School
July 27th - Parents Welcome Meeting with the Board of Directors 6:15 PM
August 1st - August 4th - Football Practice @ CMS 6:00PM - 8:00PM
August 24th (Wednesday) - Picture Day 6:00PM
August 20th - Scrimmage Jamboree in Triway & MANDATORY WEIGH INS!!!
August 23rd - School Starts (still four practices a week)
August 27th - FIRST GAME!!!
September 3rd - NO GAMES IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
September 5th - Practice goes to 3 days a week Mon, Tues, & Thurs. 6:00PM - 7:30PM
September 10th - Senior Night at the Stadium!
October 22nd - Playoff Weekend
October 29th - CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

VOLUNTEERS!

We desperately need volunteers for the following positions at our home games!!! Due to insurance regulations 18 and over only please!!!

- Chain Gang
- Scoreboard Operator
- Concession Stand
- Trash Pickup
- 50/50 ticket sellers

We will only have THREE home dates and we need your help. Please volunteer your time to help out during a game your child does not participate in so other parents can relax and enjoy watching their child play.

FUNDRAISING

In the past few seasons we have had a drastic decrease in fundraising participation. We are hosting a night at the races fundraiser on September 24th at the Wadsworth Eagles to offset the costs associated with the program. If this fundraiser is a success we can keep participation fees at \$80.00 per child. If this does not bridge the gap in expenses we will have no choice but to either cut expenses or raise rates. Please help us make this a success.

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GAME SCHEDULES

Game schedules will be released as soon as the coaches have access to them. The format this season will be the following...

- 11:00 PM - 12:30 PM - First Game = B Division Varsity
- 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM - Second Game = B Division JV
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Third Game = A Division Varsity
- 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM - Fourth Game = A Division JV

*** except for our senior night or special events those games will be in the evening!!!**

FLAG FOOTBALL DIVISION

All flag football games and practices are held on Sunday afternoons at 1:00PM at the middle school field and are managed by the Chippewa High School Football team. This is a great opportunity for your children to meet the “big kids” and the high school kids love it too!

CONTACT LISTING

President - Todd Bromley - (330)658-1453 or todd@hadinc.com

Vice President - Tom Barnes - (330)575-1852 or twb072@aol.com

Secretary - Nick Fleming (330)671-3794 or nickjf26@yahoo.com

Flag Football Coordinator - Jim Hoopengardner - (330)658-1122

Cheerleading Advisor - Angie Cortes - angievcortes@gmail.com

League Website - www.WHCLFOOTBALL.com

Visit us on Facebook! Search Chippewa Youth Football!

ALL SCHEDULING FOR PRACTICE AND GAMES WILL BE LISTED ON THE LEAGUE WEB SITE LISTED ABOVE. MAKE SURE YOU GO TO YOUR TEAM PAGE SO YOU ARE SURE TO GET THE CORRECT INFORMATION.

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BIG PRAIRIE / LAKEVILLE BOBCATS

CHIPPEWA CHIPPS

DALTON BULLDOGS

MILLERSBURG COBRAS

TRIWAY TITANS

TUSLAW MUSTANGS

WAYNEDEALE BEARS

MISSION STATEMENT

The WHCL is a non profit organization whose main purpose is to foster the athletic and character development of our young student athletes in a competitive, instructional, and safe environment. This will be achieved by teaching the fundamentals of football, sportsmanship, good character, and lifelong values within each member community through the use of stewardship by our coaches, parents, officials, and administrators.

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WCHL CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concepts of sportsmanship and six (6) core principles:

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Citizenship

Parents, Coaches, Administrators, Referees, and Players therefore agree:

1. I will not force a child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (***and my guests***) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game or practice.
6. I (***and my guests***) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.

10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.

11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.

12. I will emphasize skill development and practices.

13. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire.

14. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

15. I will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

16. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

o Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization.

o Written warning.

o Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization.

o Parental season(s) suspension.

Parents Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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NOTES:

CHIPPS

Commitment

Honor

Intensity

Pride

Passion

Strength