



## OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT Tackle Football – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What age group will my child play in?**

Tackle Football - Ages 7-13

Divisions: OCHS/NOHS - 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade/12U

*The age control date is August 1, 2020. Age on that date determines league.*

### **Are exceptions made to the age control date?**

Exceptions are not made for a child to play in a league below his/her age level. Occasionally, exceptions may be made to move a child up to a higher age level (For example, if the child is exceptionally advanced in the sport). Approval from the Program Coordinator is required before a child can be placed in a higher age level.

### **What eligibility documents are required?**

Proof of age and Oconee residency as well as specific OCHS or NOHS school district is required. The documents must be provided to the Head Coach by August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Oconee Schools' Power School document (the Demographics Page) for the **2020-2021** school year is sufficient. Otherwise a birth certificate AND a utility bill or other proof of residency will be required.

### **What do I need to wear/buy?**

A quality home and away jersey will be provided this season. OCPRD will issue helmets, shoulder pads and a mouth guard. Integrated football pants will need to be purchased (OCYFL standard pant color is white). Players can elect to purchase their own personal equipment (helmets, shoulder pads and a mouth guard) but the equipment must be inspected by staff prior to use. Cleats are highly recommended.

### **Can I request a specific team or coach for my child to be placed with?**

Team placement requests are not considered. Players are placed by their age and school district. In the event we have enough players to warrant more than one team in a single age division, then there will be a draft according to NGYFA procedures. The draft will be proctored by an NGYFA Executive Committee member. The Head Coaches' kid(s) and siblings, if a sibling is playing in the same league, are the only guaranteed placements.

### **Where will practices and games be held?**

Practices are held at Oconee County Parks and Oconee/North Oconee school facilities. Games are held in High School stadiums at North Oconee, Oconee, and other locations within the NFC Conference of the NGYFA.

### **What days of the week will my child's team see activity?**

There is no guarantee to any team/league on a specific week night; however, below are the primary days: Practices will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Some teams option to review game film in lieu of practice. Games are primarily held on Saturdays. The Saturday start times will vary, ranging from 9:00am through 6:00pm. Youngest divisions play first.

**How many kids make up a team?**

Roster size will be 14 to 35 players for a Tackle Football Team. Total numbers fluctuate based on registration numbers. When the registration total in a single age division reaches 36 there is mandatory NGYFA draft.

**Will my kid make a team? My player is nervous about “Try Outs”.**

There will not be a “try out”. Evaluations are only held in leagues that require a draft. This is so that our coaches can rate the players’ skills. The draft process will comply with the standards set by NGYFA. Every kid will be drafted. No cuts. **\*There are no evaluations unless an age group exceeds 35 registrants\***

**Does my player have to attend evaluations? Yes. If a draft is required, then every player is required to be evaluated.** Allowing our coaches, staff and NGYFA representatives to accurately assess the skills of ALL players keeps our teams evenly balanced when they are being assembled.

**Are there minimum playing time requirements?**

Yes. All players must play a minimum of 10 live balls. Live ball plays would be any special teams plays such as kick off, punt or anytime a player enters the game to line up on the ball.

**Does OCPRD coordinate end of season trophies?**

OCPRD does not coordinate or arrange for trophies or end of season awards. The NGYFA will award trophies to the Super Bowl Champions, Super Bowl Runner-Up and their Cheerleaders. All teams are encouraged to arrange a post-season celebration on their own.

**Is there a role other than coaching where I can help?**

Yes! Most coaches need a parent(s) to run chains at games, photography, end of season activities, snacks, etc.

**What is the NGYFA?**

The North Georgia Youth Football Association is the league we play in. We will be in the NFC Conference this season. Visit [www.ngyfa.org](http://www.ngyfa.org) for schedules and info related to the league that we play in.

**What is PAYS Requirement?**

PAYS stands for the Parents Association of Youth Sports and is part of the National Association of Youth Sports.

At least one parent/guardian of each youth participant is required to complete the online PAYS program:

- Go to <http://www.nays.org/paysonline/how-it-works.cfm> and click “Get Started”
- Step 1 – Contact Information: Complete contact info, then click “Next”
- Step 2 – Select League/Agency Affiliation: Click “Yes”, select “Oconee County Parks & Rec Dept” then click “Next”
- Step 3 – Payment Information: NO PAYMENT OR DONATION REQUIRED, simply click “Confirm”
- Step 4 – Confirmation: Click “Process”
- Thank You for Registering page appears, click “Next”
- Click “Start PAYS Course”
- Click on video to begin course
- Answer required course questions to complete

**What do I need to do to volunteer to coach or to be an assistant coach?**

1. Complete Volunteer Coach Application online at <https://register.communitypass.net/OconeeCounty>
1. Complete a Criminal History Consent Release form at [OCPRD Background Screening Form](#)
2. The OCYFL Exec. Board has the final approval.
3. Complete the NYSCA Training.
4. Complete free online [CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports training](#) and submit a printed copy of the CDC certification of completion to OCPRD (1 time only)
5. Complete USA Football Requirements (annually)
6. Complete Darkness to Light (1 time only)