

## **AYFL Registration Information for Parents**

What parents need to know BEFORE registering their child to play football in the Ashburn Youth Football League.

### Age-Based League

AYFL divisions are determined by participant's age on August 31. Regression requests based on grade will be considered to allow kids to play with their same grade peers.

A Division is for 12 and 13 year olds. A 14 year old may qualify if he/she will be in the 8th grade during the fall.

B Division is for 10 and 11 year olds.

C Division is for 7, 8 and 9 year olds (\*7 year olds will require a waiver signed by the parent and approval of the AYFL Board).

D Division (new for 2008) is for 6 through 7 year olds (\*there will be a 72 lb weight limit applied to 7 yr olds for safety reasons - those players can participate in C league).

### Volunteer League

AYFL is a league run by volunteers. It is expected that every family chip in to assist the league and/or team; however, we recognize that some families may have a full plate - new 2008 is the opportunity to Opt out of volunteering during registration by making a donation to AYFL.

### Player Retention (Tackle A thru C only)

Starting this year, a player will automatically return to the same team he played on in 2007 assuming the player's age puts him in the same division as last year. For example, a player that was 10 years old and played for the B Division Panthers will return to the Panthers in 2008. Players moving up a division will be included in a draft. If a player does not desire to return to his former team, the parents must send an email to [AYFLretention@ayfl.org](mailto:AYFLretention@ayfl.org) and provide a detailed explanation of the circumstances why the player should not return to his former team.

### Player Evaluations (football players only, not cheerleaders)

AYFL hosts three evaluation sessions (see AYFL Calendar for dates and times) for tackle football. All players playing tackle football must attend a tryout in order to be eligible to play (D league players just need to be sized, there will not be a D league draft). This includes players that have signed-up but have been placed on a waiting list. For players returning to the same team as last year, these players still must attend an eval session to be weighed and fitted for equipment, plus run a timed 40 yard dash. If this is a player's first year in AYFL football, he must present a copy of his birth certificate at the tryout session.

### Player Participation (Tackle A thru C only)

In 2007, AYFL introduced the "second quarter rule." That rule will be tweaked and coupled with minimum play participation rules for 2008. The major tweak will be the elimination of a complete 2nd quarter line-up requirement, instead each team will identify players that will NOT participate in the 2nd qtr (that number will be determined by roster sizes). The minimum play participation rule will include a play count for the game and mandate that everyone participate in both halves of the game.

### Player Positions (Tackle A thru C only)

Since AYFL is an age-based league, there is no limit on a player's weight. However, the League does establish a weight per division, often referred to as the running back weight, where players at or below this weight can play any position on the field (e.g., running back, quarterback, offensive/defensive line, linebacker, safety). Players exceeding this weight can only play on the offensive or defensive line. For the safety of all players, they cannot run the ball, play quarterback, or play anywhere other than the offensive or defensive line. They may participate on special teams in designated positions (kick-off team-any position) and receiving team on the front-line only.

In 2007, the running back weights were as follows:

C Division – 82lbs and below

B Division – 103lbs and below

A Division – 134lbs and below

The running back weight is established after the final tryout. The above 2007 weights are provided only as a guide and will change based upon the weights of the children participating in the league in 2008.

### Time Commitment

Football is a time-consuming activity. Practices start the first week in August for tackle football and Cheer 2 weeks later. The first game is August 30th . In order to appropriately prepare your child to play, and ensure his/her safety, participation in practices is essential. AYFL expects a child to make most if not all of the pre-season practices, so that coaches have sufficient time to prepare the entire team for the season. Parents that know their child will miss a significant portion of August practices (more than one week) should re-consider registering their child to play.

### Game Schedule

The first scheduled game for 2008 is August 30, that is Labor Day weekend. In 2008, Loudoun County schools will open the Monday after Labor Day.

### Refunds

AYFL will refund the registration fee up to two weeks after the start of practice. There is a \$15 service charge for all refund requests. After that time, if a child decides not to participate or is unable to participate, no refund will be offered.