

## Wheaton Rams Football-Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: My child has not played organized football in past years, will my child play with others who are new?**

A: For each division, Tackle players are evaluated by coaches to separate the advanced and experienced players from the developmental players. Unless highly skilled, most new players will be placed with other players at the developmental level.

**Q: Is playing tackle football safe?**

A: Yes! Tackle football is the safest it's been with enhancements to equipment and advanced coaching techniques that promote player safety. Our coaches are trained and certified with USA Football's Heads Up program. Every coach and assistant coach must complete the Heads-up Training before the season begins. The Wheaton Rams and BGYFL take safety seriously. The BGYFL requires a certified trainer at every game. The Wheaton Rams have a certified athletic trainer from Northwestern Medicine at every home game.

**Q: Is there a disadvantage to playing only flag football up until high school?**

A: Actually, Yes. Skills learned at the flag level only translate to tackle to an extent. As an example, most flag players do not learn the basics of blocking or the proper technique of tackling. While flag football is a good starting point to learn the basics of the game, the sooner a player starts in the tackle program, the quicker they will learn the full sport of football and be ready for high school football.

**Q: My child is small. Will my child play with others the same size?**

A: Divisions are organized by age and by skill level within an age bracket. There are restrictions on heavier kids carrying the football and coaches will make sure that kids of similar ability are matched up.

**Q: Can I request that my child play for a specific coach?**

A: The Rams cannot accommodate requests for a specific coach. Teams are determined through an evaluation process and a draft system if there are multiple teams at an age level. For these reasons we can't assure that a player is in the same Division or Level as a specific coach.

**Q: Can I request that my child be on the same team as a sibling?**

A: Yes. If siblings are playing in the same Division and at the same Level, the coaches will make every attempt to place the siblings on the same team if requested.

**Q: What are the BGYFL Divisions?**

A: Players will be placed in a Division based upon Age. The Divisions are: 9U - 10U - 11U - 12U - 14U. Age cut off is 8/01 of the current year.

**Q: What are the BGYFL Levels?**

A: The age divisions are further broken down into GOLD and SILVER teams based on ability with GOLD being high ability and SILVER being developmental.

**Q: What is the purpose of the "Weight" provided on registration form?**

A: The "weight" provided is for planning purposes only – to provide the Ram's program a rough idea of the equipment and coaching requirement for the upcoming season. The child is not placed into a Division based upon weight.

**Q: Where do teams practice and play games?**

A: Practices take place at Atten Park and all home game are played at Graf Park (Monroe Middle School).

**Q: Why should I register early?**

A: It is important to register early. The board can determine if there will be 2 or 3 teams at every level based on registration numbers. This gives us a chance to make sure we have a head coach for every team. The BGYFL does not allow more than 26 players per team. Early registration allows us to prepare for 2 or 3 teams per level.

**Q: What should I do if equipment seems to be mis-sized or there is a specific problem with the issued equipment?**

A: Please see any coach during the first week of practice, or your child's head coach once teams are established. The coach will arrange to resolve the specific problem.

**Q: Will a coach contact my son or daughter prior to opening night?**

A: Coaches will not contact players prior to the first practice. Players meet as a large group by Division and are evaluated by coaches until teams are drafted after the first week of practice. The player will be notified of his/her Division at the beginning of that practice.

**Q: What is the practice schedule?**

A: Each head coach will determine the team's practice schedule. The first three weeks in August normally include practices each evening and perhaps on Saturday morning. Once school begins, the practices are limited to 2 to 3 evenings (or approximately 6 hours) per week.

**Q: What is the length of the season, and how many games will be played?**

A: The first day of practice is August 1st, the first games are played on August 27th; we have a nine week regular season; each team can expect to play 8-9 regular season games, with up to three weeks of playoff games (for those that qualify).

**Q: How far will I have to travel for away games?**

A: The Wheaton Rams are part of the BGYFL league. Teams in this league are mainly neighboring towns that are close to the 355. The furthest we travel is Palatine (North) and Plainfield (South). Local towns consist of Glen Ellyn, Carol Stream, Downers Grove, Bartlett, Hanover Park, Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, West Chicago, and Tri Cities (Batavia, Geneva, and St. Charles). We do not travel out of state or to the city of Chicago.