

Wheaton Rams

TACKLE FOOTBALL



2018 Season
Parent Information

To all Wheaton Rams Parents:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wheaton Park District Youth Football League (WPYDFL), we would like to welcome you to the start of our 2018 football season. We look forward to you and your young athlete being a part of our Rams family for another exciting season of youth football with our franchise partners in the Bill George Youth Football League (BGYFL).

The purpose of the WPDYFL, as articulated in our bylaws, is to “Provide both a sound and responsible football program for the youth of the area and to encourage the teaching of the fundamentals of football and the ideals of good sportsmanship.” This purpose will be achieved by providing supervised competitive football games. Coaches shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or winning games is SECONDARY, and the molding of their future is our PRIME importance.

Right Attitude Means Success!

Our goal is to develop passion for the game, promote a sense of teamwork and create a positive, enjoyable environment for learning the fundamentals of the game.

The evaluation process:

Evaluations mark the first week of practice. It is very important that every effort is made to attend every day of the evaluation week. Due to the very short window between the start of practice and the first scheduled game, coaches have a small amount of time to evaluate each athlete’s skill, physical ability and game awareness. At the conclusion of evaluation week (typically the Thursday of that week), the coaches for each weight level will meet to begin the drafting process.

Our first day of practice/evaluations is scheduled for **Monday, July 30th at 6 pm**. We encourage players to arrive 15 minutes early before practice begins to enable coaches to organize personnel and take attendance. Monday July 30th and Tuesday July 31st are helmets only. Wednesday, August 1st is full pads minimal contact and Thursday August 2rd is full pads contact. We strongly suggest players have their last name on the front of their helmet (A piece of athletic tape and bold print will do) to help players with identification.

Please note the following locations for player evaluations:

- **BG8U, BGU9U, and BG10U teams will be at Atten Park -off Wiesbrook Road.**
- **BG11U, BG12U, and Varsity will be at Atten Park – off Shaffner Road.**

The BGYFL is aligned in Gold and Silver divisions at each weight class. This alignment is to ensure the safest and most competitive environment for the member towns and their individual teams. For a town the size of Wheaton, we will typically have one Gold team at each weight level and between 1 and 3 Silver teams at each level, depending on enrollment. After the Gold team has selected their players, the Silver coaches will then select their players in a typical back and forth draft selection process.



It is important to note that although the league is aligned in Gold and Silver divisions, no athlete is more or less important than the other. The WPDYFL Board of Directors and coaches adhere to the program purpose mentioned above, and are committed to the development of EVERY player within our program. Trophies are not the goal. Developing good athletes and young adults in a SAFE, POSITIVE and SPORTSMANLIKE manner through the game of football will always be our primary purpose and goal.

The first week of practice will be for evaluating and assigning players to specific teams. As such, it is important that your athlete make every attempt to attend practice that week. **If he is unable to attend, please contact Nicole Chesak at the Wheaton Park District at nchesak@wheatonparks.org.**

Players are expected to practice **2 to 4 days a week** from August 3rd to the beginning of school. Thereafter, practices are usually cut back to 2-3 days a week with each individual coach setting his practice schedule. Each tackle player must wear full equipment including helmet, shoulder pads, rib guard, practice pants with 7 piece pads in place (2 hip pads, 1 tailbone, 2 thigh pads and 2 knee pads), protective cup, MOUTHPIECE, football cleats and practice jersey. Players will be withheld from contact drills in the event that they are missing any protective gear. Each player will be issued a numbered game jersey prior to the start of preseason games. Game jerseys and game pants should only be worn on game day. All equipment with the exception of game uniform and practice pants must be returned following the end of the teams season. Game jerseys are retained by the player.

It is highly advisable to send your young athlete to practice with a full bottle of water. It is important that each player stays well hydrated, even when the weather turns cold. Coaches make every effort to ensure adequate water breaks are provided, particularly during hot weather months of August and September.

Teams will practice in all weather, except for when lightning or thunder is present or during periods of heavy rain. Under certain circumstances, use will result in damage to the athletic fields, potentially for the entire season. Parents should always be prepared to pick up players early in the event of inclement weather. *Please refer to page four (4) for our Rain Out App information.*

After 2 weeks of practice, teams will start playing in pre-season bowl games. These games are particularly useful in preparing teams for the regular season and allowing players to gain familiarity with offensive and defensive scheme. All Rams teams will participate in our 'Wheaton Bowl/Kick Off Classic' Scheduled for the weekend of August 18th-19th, 2018 at Graf Park. This is the Rams premier fund-raising event of the year, and the first opportunity for many of our young athletes to get their "feet wet" with live game action. All of our teams will be participating over the course of the weekend so this will give everyone the chance to see some of the other age groups in action.

The regular season starts on the weekend of September 2nd and 3rd. Both Silver and Gold teams will play on Saturdays and Sundays, with an occasional night game scheduled for Saturday evening. The season is nine weeks long and, if a team qualifies for the playoffs, it can potentially play an additional three weeks if it keeps winning. Championship weekend is scheduled for mi- November. The Gold and Silver Championship is TBD.

Parking for the Wheaton Rams home games is available adjacent to Graf Park in the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Signs are posted on Manchester Road to direct you to the parking lot. Enter the lot at the gate



just west of the exhibit buildings. Turn right before the Grandstands and follow the road to the bottom of the hill. A gateway and a footbridge connects the parking lot to the playing fields. A limited number of parking spaces are also available in the front entrance to Monroe Middle School. Please do not park on any side streets. No parking signs are posted and cars will be ticketed or towed.

Maps for Wheaton Rams away games can be accessed by going to the Franchise Maps link on the Wheaton Rams website <http://www.wpdathletics.org/Rams/index.php>. You can also access this website through the members link on the BGYFL website www.bgyfl.org. The BGYFL website also provides a schedules/scores link that gives a complete listing of game schedules for all the age classes, together with a weekly up-to-date scores and standings.

Photo Day is tentatively scheduled for August 10th at Graf Park. Head Coaches will provide each player with an order form for selecting individual photo options (each player automatically receives a complimentary team photo at the end of the year.) Please ensure that your young athlete arrives no later than 20 minutes prior to their team's assigned photo session with a completed application form in order to allow the photographing crew sufficient time to organize the players for various shoots. Players should wear their shoulder pads, game jersey, pants (complete with pads) but do not need to bring their helmets. In the event a player cannot attend their assigned date a makeup date for individual photos will be scheduled.

Enclosed herein, you will find the WPDFL Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Complaint and Action Taken Forms. The Wheaton Rams and Wheaton Park District take pride in promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship in order to make our football program an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Our guideline is **CHARACTER COUNTS!** While attending games or practices, we encourage all adults to help maintain a positive environment for the development of character.

Parental involvement is essential to the success of our football program. Our coaches rely on volunteers to staff many of the team support functions. First and foremost is the Team Parent. **This individual is the primary communication liaison between the football coach and parents.** He/she is responsible for coordinating e-mail announcements and administering the phone tree, organizing drink and treat schedules. Other important functions include Team Videographer, Chain Crew (3 members), Sports Editor, Trainer, Field Setup and Teardown Crew, and Stat Manager. Each Head Coach will host a parents meeting shortly after rosters are assigned to discuss coaching philosophy, practice structure, player expectations and parent involvement. We ask each parent give some thought to how you can contribute to your team's success.

Wheaton Rams Sponsorships are an excellent way to support the financial viability of our program while providing a cost effective way for you to reach thousands of West Suburban community members. All sponsors will be featured in our official program book for the 2018 season. Sponsorships start for as little as \$250. Football and Cheerleading sponsors will receive a team plaque as well as program newsletter recognition. Please contact Nicole Chesak (630) 510-5139 for more details.



Each year, the Wheaton Park District distributes a Rams Football Program Evaluation Form, which is used to assess how we are doing and what we can do better. The Board of Directors and the Wheaton Park District are committed to providing the Wheaton community a quality youth sports program with coaches who espouse the ideals of good sportsmanship, promote a positive learning environment, care about the kids and have a reputation for honesty, fairness, and respect, in order to continuously upgrade our program, we need your help. **This year, the link to the evaluation forms will be emailed to each family one week prior to the final game of the season. Our goal is to get to 100% participation from all Rams players and parents to ensure we are doing our very best to meet your needs.**

Please note: should you have any questions, comments or concerns throughout the season, do not hesitate to contact your coach, the Board of Directors or Nicole Chesak. Sometimes being aware of situations helps us better the program as we go along each season.



Rainout Line App: Can be found in both android and apple devices. Download the app, search for Wheaton Park District and subscribe to the fields you would like to receive notification on by clicking on the star to the right of the park or field. When we update field closures or changes, you will be the first to know.



WHEATON PARK DISTRICT

Rams Football

Important Season Dates

First day of player evaluations:	July 30 st , 2018
Evaluation Locations:	Atten Park - All levels
Wheaton Bowl:	August 18 th and 19th 2018
BGYFL Regular Season Begins:	TBD
BGYFL Championship Weekend:	Mid-November

WHEATON PARK DISTRICT
S U P P O R T S

CHARACTER
RESPECT
responsibility
CITIZENSHIP CARING FAIRNESS
trustworthiness
COUNTS!



Wheaton Park District
Athletic Field Use Guidelines

We are all committed to provide high quality, safe playing surfaces for our multi-use athletic facilities, but we need the help and consideration of all user groups in protecting the turf from excessive damage due to game day and practice activities. The turf grass is the safety surface for the athletic fields. If the following conditions occur scheduled games and practices must be canceled or postponed.

1. Standing water on the field of play.
2. Soil Saturation:
 - a. Walking on turf causes water to surface.
 - b. Walking on turf on heels cause's indentations.
 - c. One inch or more of rain 48 hours prior to scheduled game or practice accompanied by steady rain on game or practice day.
 - d. Steady downpour of rain on game or practice day which could damage the turf or injury to participants.
3. Extreme drought conditions where 50% of the playing surface has turned dormant.
4. Audible thunder or visible lightning.
5. Visibility (darkness).

All coaches, referees, and umpires are responsible for insuring the safety of field playing conditions at all times during scheduled play. Safety implies protection of the resource, as well as the participants.

Wheaton Park District

Board of Commissioners

Adopted: April 17, 2002

