

Whitmore Lake Community Recreation

2023 Flag Football - Parent Welcome Packet

Dear Parent,

The Recreation Staff welcomes you and your children as participants in our youth flag football program. In hopes that you better understand our program, policies and purpose, the following information has been prepared for you. Our objective is to make sure that every child, no matter the skill level, has a positive and fulfilling experience in this league. In our league, if you participate... you win. THIS IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE. As such, our recreation program follows certain guidelines to ensure this philosophy is fostered:

- ***No Tryouts or Cuts***
- ***Equal playing time for each participant***

Flag Football is a sport that will develop strong bodies and help build self-esteem. It can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. We encourage you to get involved whether it's coaching or just being a team parent. Thanks for being part of our community recreation program!

**This information is in regards to the Flag Football league.*

FAQ'S – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHEN WILL MY FIRST PRACTICE BE?

Teams will practice on Wednesdays from 6-7:30. Practices start Sept. 6th. The first 3 practices are Sept. 6, Sept. 10 (Sunday), and Sept. 13. Games will then start on Sept. 17th

2. WHEN WILL I HEAR FROM MY COACH?

You will find out who is your coach following the coaches meeting on September 5th.

3. WHEN DO GAMES START?

Games start on Sunday Sept 17th. The games are September 17th- October 22nd, Sundays from 4pm-5pm

4. WHERE WILL THE PRACTICES AND GAMES BE HELD?

Practices are held at the Middle School's soccer fields in Whitmore Lake at 8845 Main Street. Games will be at the Jennings Road Athletic Complex Football Field.

AGES & DIVISIONS

Our league is open to male and female players 4th-5th grade.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

A player must wear her/his jersey for all games. In addition, for practice and games, we recommend each player bring their own mouthguard, water bottle, rain/cold gear, any first aid needs and Football shoes/cleats (no metal cleats). While mouthguards are not required we strongly recommend them. This is a league made for learning. If your child plans on playing middle or high school football a mouthguard is required. This is a great opportunity for them to get used to playing with the mouthguard in.

GAME SCHEDULES

Game schedules will be given by your coach and e-mailed to the address provided on your registration. All games are to start at 4pm on Sundays. It is essential players are ready to begin the games at 4pm.

COACHES

All Whitmore Lake volunteers attend a training session discussing effective coaching, program goals and skill development. They are individuals who take their personal time to instruct and coach your child. Without their efforts, this program would not be possible. We can not thank all of our coaches enough!

Coaches are needed! The only way we can guarantee that each child will have a team is if parents volunteer to coach. Even if you cannot be the “head” coach, please consider becoming an assistant coach, referee or team parent. Please contact Whitmore Lake if you are interested in coaching, being a referee, or volunteer.

No experience is necessary – we will train/help you.

A coaches meeting will be held September 5th at 6pm. This is mandatory for all coaches. If coaches can not make this meeting please email kevin.lamont@wlps.net ASAP.

As a thank you for volunteering his or her time, head coaches receive a 50% refund of registration fees and a coach t-shirt. Assistant coaches receive 25% refund and coach t-shirts.

Background Screenings

WLCR is dedicated to providing players with a safe recreational environment. We currently use the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) to screen our coaches. A background screening through NCSI is mandatory for all volunteers and independent contractors over the age of 16 who work with participants under the age of 19.

Volunteers are not authorized to coach, serve, or work with children until a background screen has been processed and approved by WLPS. All information will be confidential and not discussed outside of the process.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If there is inclement weather on a game day, the game will be called by 2pm the day of the game. Coaches will do their best to notify their players as well.

Lightning during a game: We will wait a ½ hour after a lightning strike before we restart a game.

Coaches reserve the right to cancel practices due to inclement weather. Please call your child’s coach if you are unsure as to whether a practice will be held.

CONCUSSION AWARENESS

The state of Michigan passed a law in June 2013 requiring any entity organizing youth sport activities to have staff, coaches, parents and players participate in their concussion education program. All participants and parents/guardians are required to submit an athlete/parent concussion information sheet signed. These sheets need to be filled out only once for WLCR, and WLCR is required to keep them on file until the athlete turns 18. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Dates to Remember

Coaches Meeting	September 5th at 6pm, WLCR Office
Early Registration Ends	August 21
First Practice	September 6th, 6pm WLMS Soccer Fields
First Game	September 17th 4pm Jennings Rd. Athletic Complex Football Field

CODE OF CONDUCTS

Sideline Behavior/Parent's Code of Conduct

WL Recreation seeks to instill positive character-building traits in our communities' youth through the demonstration of good sportsmanship, respect for others, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. We ask that parents and their guests attending our events help us by reflecting these character traits at games.

When attending our events, I therefore agree:

- I 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, practice or other sporting event.
- 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 will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will teach my child to play by the spirit of the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or any other participant for making a mistake.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches or referees at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place at least 24 hours after the game.
- I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, sex, or ability.

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:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or member of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident
- Potential impact to my son/daughter(s) playing time or team membership

Athletes' Code of Conduct

It is the view of WL Community Recreation that hard work, good sportsmanship and respect for others are key aspects of a successful competitive athlete. In this spirit, I recognize that I must conduct myself, both on and off the field, in a way that demonstrates respect for my coach, team, others, and me. I therefore resolve to:

- Accept accountability for my behavior and its outcomes, and recognize that poor behavior may result in dismissal from the team.
- Honor my obligations and promises to my coach and my team.
- Exercise self-control.
- Take pride in my team, our accomplishments, and myself but never at the expense of demeaning another person or group.
- Respect the efforts of others.
- Respect authority.
- Play by the spirit, not just the letter, of the rules of the game and the rules of life.

*Thanks for choosing WL Community Recreation!
Here's to a great season!*

