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Okoboji Youth Football

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**OKOBOJI YOUTH
FOOTBALL**

**PARENT-PLAYER
HANDBOOK**

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Okoboji Youth Football Handbook

Revision Date: 04-18-17

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Dear Parents & Players,

I'm happy to welcome all players and parents to Okoboji Youth Football (OYF). It is my hope we can continue the success of the program and to move it in a positive direction. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about OYF's Program.

Okoboji is one of several communities playing in the Midwest Youth Football League (MYFL). Started in 2000, the MYFL has grown to twenty-four communities and 2,500 kids in 2014. The league spans from Saint James, MN to Cherokee, IA. West to Hull, IA and East to Swea City, IA. Teams are made up of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade participants. For additional information regarding the MYFL, please visit their website at www.myfootball.org. Once the season commences, the website will show team information, standings and game schedules. OYF's website is www.okobojiyouthfootball.com.

The goal of the OYF is to instill in our young players good sportsmanship, teamwork, pride in themselves and their ability and to teach them the fundamentals of football. We are committed to the development of character and sportsmanship and believe that our program will be an educational experience in addition to an athletic contest. Under our guidelines, the coaches will strive to instill in their players the elements of fairness, teamwork, self-control, courtesy and respect for the rules of the game as well as the other participants and officials in the sport.

The purpose of this handbook is to inform parents and the participants of what OYF is all about and what we are trying to achieve. It also provides information on what is expected of players, parents, volunteers and coaches. In addition, this handbook contains some general rules and regulations. Chances are, if you have a question, the answer or where to get the answer can be found in this handbook. If you think of something that would make this handbook a better tool, please pass your suggestion on to me.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and let's have a great season of football at Okoboji! If you have any questions regarding this handbook or the OYF program, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Jeff Duvall & Shawn Roberts

Okoboji Youth Football
PO Box 212
Milford, Iowa 51351
Jeff: Mobile 330.6064
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Okobojiyouthfootball@gmail.com

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2017 SEASON

Sunday, April 23rd	5 th and 6 th Grade, Registration & Fitting	3:00 PM
	3 rd and 4 th Grade Registration & Fitting	4:00 PM
	Cheer Registration All Grades	5:30 PM
Saturday May 20th	Last day of \$170.00 registration. All registrations after this date will be \$220.00 (includes \$25.00 equipment deposit)	6:00 PM
June TBD	MYFL Youth Combine / Qualifier for Championship Weekend	Afternoon
TBD	Cheerleading Camp	
Saturday, July 22nd	Pioneer Day Parade	11:00 AM-Parade Start
Saturday, July 22nd	Last day of for late registration, \$220.00	6:00 PM
Monday, July 24 th	Northwestern Red Raider Football Camp, Orange City IA	7:30 – 5:00 PM
Tuesday, July 25 th	Northwestern Red Raider Football Camp, Orange City IA	7:30 – 5:00 PM
July TBD	Pioneer Youth Football Camp	6:00 – 8:00 PM
Sunday, August 6th	Equipment Pickup	TBD
Sunday, August 6th	MYFL will communicate team count for each community	
Monday, August 7 th	Week #1 Practice: 6 hours per week no contact practice. Helmets will be worn.	Coaches will communicate
Monday, August 7th	Cookie dough sales start.	
Thursday, August 10th	Equipment exchange day	
Saturday, August 12th	Last day for Very Late registrations, jerseys not guaranteed for first game.	6:00 PM
Monday, August 14 th	Week #2 Practice: 4.5 hours per week. Full contact, no Coaches will communicate scrimmage this week.	
Sunday, August 20th	Final Game Schedule Posted	
Sunday, August 20th	Picture Day (dependent on Jersey delivery)	TBD
Monday, August 2st	Week #3-Season Practice: Practice (2) times per week for 1.75 hours each practice. Scrimmage allowed. No Wednesday or Friday practices	
Saturday, August 26th	Cookie dough sales end	
Saturday, August 26 th	Game Day. Future game days are September 9 th , 16 th , 23rd, 30th and October 7th. Six (6) games total	Games start at 9 AM
Week of October 2nd	Tentative pick up for cookie dough orders	TBD
October TBD	Homecoming Parade	2:30 PM-3:15 PM
Saturday, October 14 th	Championship Games (5 th and 6 th only)	N/A
Tuesday, October 17th	Equipment Return	TBD



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MYFL League Directors

Bob Schlaeger: 712.346.7918
Brent Jacobson: 712.212.1767
Troy Menke: 507.849.0293



Okoboji Youth Football Co-Directors

Jeff Duvall 330.6064
Shawn Roberts 260.9882



Okoboji Youth Football Board Members

Melissa Bockman 330.0083
Jeff Duvall 330.6064
Scott Pyle 330.1535
Shawn Roberts 260.9882
Brittany VanderPol 330.4862



3rd Maroon

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Team Parent
Team Parent
Team Parent

4th Maroon

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Team Parent
Team Parent
Team Parent

5th Maroon

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Team Parent
Team Parent
Team Parent

6th Maroon

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Team Parent
Team Parent
Team Parent

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Board of Directors

The Board is made up of seven volunteers who have children in the program.

It's the goal of the Director and Board to continuously look for ways to improve the program. Board Members of 6th graders will be replaced by the Directors the following season unless they have another sibling entering the program.

Okoboji Youth Football Philosophy

It is our goal to make Okoboji Youth Football a program all parents and players are proud of. The philosophy of this program is to promote a culture building atmosphere for Okoboji Football. We believe our program will help your child prepare for Junior High and High School Football in addition to building their confidence and character.

Immediate goals of our program:

- A) To provide each player with the skills and fundamentals to play the game of football.
- B) To assure, to as great an extent as possible, a safe environment, both physically and emotionally, in which each player is encouraged to grow at his/her own rate.
- C) To teach and model sportsmanship and respect for the coaches, officials, opponents and each other, as the players learn to enjoy and respect the game.

To expand on the above....on each team there will be a variety of skill levels. Each player needs to be fundamentally sound at the lowest skill levels, to be able to build up to the higher skill levels. At Okoboji, our Coaches will take the time with beginning players to teach them the proper techniques of blocking, tackling, ball-handling, etc. More experienced players will benefit from this review of the fundamentals as well. As their confidence and skill level grows, the players can be taught the more advanced skills. Coaches must realize just because a skill has been presented, it doesn't mean it has been learned.

- A) No player may practice or play without the proper protective equipment, including a mouth guard.
- B) Players need to be taught on-the-field safety. Any player who is spearing, grabbing face masks, making late hits, or is overly aggressive and involved in dangerous play shall be removed from play.
- C) Players need to be treated with respect and need to feel safe emotionally within the environment. Foul language and/or demeaning behavior, on the part of coaches, parents, players or others, have no place in our program. The program is, in fact, a YOUTH program. Praise and positive reinforcement are far superior to building confidence, self-esteem and emotional maturity.

Okoboji Youth Football exists for the value it can bring to the players. Our program needs to be a platform to model and develop the following:

- A) SPORTSMANSHIP...fair and honorable play...to play the game to the best of their ability, knowing that losing is not the same as failure, and winning is not the same as success. Striving to win is very important, but improving on effort, skills and self-esteem are far more important. Mistakes can be made by anyone...players, coaches, referees and opponents, alike. The score of the game decides only who wins and loses that particular day, not who succeeds and fails. The





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win-loss record is a poor indicator of the success of a program that has been developed to build skills and sportsmanship.

- B) RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER...skill and maturity levels may vary among individuals, but as a team, each player contributes value. At Okoboji, we strive to teach the necessary skills so that each player can progress and grow within the competitive framework of the MYFL. It should be understood that the 3rd-4th grade levels are primarily instructive, whereas the 5th and 6th grade levels are increasingly competitive. Only the 5th and 6th grade levels have the opportunity to play a Championship Game. We acknowledge that the player's parents are paying equally for the privilege of learning and playing the game. Regarding *playing time*...each player who (1) attends all practices, (2) maintains a positive and contributing attitude, and (3) abides the rules of this handbook...shall be guaranteed playing time. All grade levels will be encouraged to play on both offense and defense as well as different positions, but we recognize that this is not always in the best interest of the player (safety, comfort level, etc.). Every reasonable attempt will be made to substitute players within games as well as practices.
- C) RESPECT FOR OPPONENTS...this is a real indicator of an individual or team's level of maturity. Players will be taught that their opponents are people with love of the game, just as they are, and should be treated as such. Garbage talk, etc. has no place in our program. Remember it's a kid's game.
- D) RESPECT FOR OFFICIALS AND COACHES...right or wrong, these people are adults and their integrity is not to be contested in front of the players. Our kids have many years to enjoy sports. If we, by our example, teach them to start questioning the integrity or motives of officials and coaches, we have not served them justly. Officials are present to help assure that the game is played fairly and safely, by the rules and mutual respect shall govern our actions. Lack of sportsmanlike conduct simply will not be tolerated.

Registration & Equipment Fitting:

Registration & Equipment Fitting will take place [April 23rd](#). The cost is \$170.00 per participant registration. Any registrations later than [May 20th](#) will be \$220.00 per registration.

The registration fee includes a \$25.00 equipment deposit. The deposit will be given back when the equipment is returned on time and in satisfactory condition. Please make checks payable to Okoboji Youth Football.

Role of Parents:

Parents are as important to the success of the team as the players. Coaches and parents need to work together to make the program a success. Please keep coaches informed about problems that may be going on with your child. If the child has been sick, taking medication or going through some emotional trauma please let the coach know.

Please make every attempt to have your child at all practices and games on time. Bring your family and friends to your child's game and watch them develop through the season. They work very hard and look for your support and interest in what they do.





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Selling Cookie Dough:

Selling cookie dough is not a requirement of our players. However, it is an opportunity to be reimbursed for your MYFL registration cost. We will sell cookie dough [August 7th - August 26th](#). Checks will be issued at the end of the season during Equipment Returns. Check with the Director for details. Cooking dough orders will be picked up at Piccadilly's Dough Plant located west of Milford. Go to the far northeast door on the north end of the property.

Registration Assistance:

Registration assistance is available thru Upper Des Moines Angel Fund. See Jeff at Registration or call for details 712-330-6064.

The Cleat Box:

Outside the registration fee (which can be fully reimbursed through cookie dough sales), cleats are the largest expense. Often, players will only use their cleats for one season due to their growth. If you have cleats available, we encourage you to donate them to the "cleat box". Please make sure the cleats are washed prior to donating. Let the Director or Head Coach know if you would like to donate your previously used cleats or if you need cleats.

Transportation:

Please plan ahead for transportation to and from football events in advance. If a parent is not present to pick up the player, he or she will be supervised until the child is picked up. If transportation is an issue for your family, please communicate with the Head Coach and/or other parents to try to resolve the situation and minimize occurrences when players do not have rides to and from the events.

Equipment Handouts:

Please allow plenty of time to help your child try on ALL their equipment. You will not be able to take your equipment unless everything is tried on. Your team's Coaches, Team Parents and volunteers will be there to assist. It is imperative all equipment fitting issues are taken care of there and not at practice.

Player's Equipment:

The player's equipment, with exception to the game jersey, is the property of the MYFL Football League. Equipment is only to be worn during regularly scheduled and supervised coached events such as practices and games. Using the equipment at recess or neighbor games is prohibited. Helmets are not to be used as seats. Throwing of helmets and/or other equipment is not allowed and may result in disciplinary action.

Player is required to supply the following equipment in order to play:

- A) Socks
- B) Custom mouth guards, if required for dental reasons. Must be able to attach to the face mask.
- C) Football cleats



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Players will be issued the following equipment:

- A) Helmet with face mask and chin strap
- B) Mouth guard (clear mouth guards are not allowed and player is responsible for lost or damaged mouthpieces)
- C) Shoulder pads
- D) One (1) practice/game pant with belt (pads are integrated into pants)
- E) One (1) practice jersey
- F) One (1) maroon game jersey
- G) One (1) Player Bag

Note: Washing Instructions:

Game jersey and practice/game pants MUST be washed using Cold water, and MUST air dry. Do NOT use BLEACH!! The practice and game pants issued by the MYFL will have integrated tailbone, hip, thigh, and knee pads. Failure to comply will result in the pads shrinking, “color bleeding” and/or the letters falling off due to the heat. Parents will be responsible for the cost to replace.

In addition, look closely at your equipment weekly. Please check for cracks in the shoulder pads and loose screws in the helmets and face masks. If your equipment becomes damaged, please report to your Head Coach.

Equipment Return:

All players will return their equipment at the same time. To expedite the return process, please return the equipment as stated below.

Review the following checklist prior to returning the equipment.

- ✓ Pants must be washed.
- ✓ Clean helmet. Check pads and chin strap must be snapped in. Remove mouth piece.
- ✓ Clean shoulder pads with damp cloth. Return with string tied and straps unbuckled.
- ✓ Wash practice jersey and fold.
- ✓ Return player bag washed, folded and free of tape, etc.
- ✓ Advise director or volunteer of any damaged equipment at check in.

Okoboji Youth Football Equipment Return									
No.	Name	Clean Pants	Shoulder Pads	Clean Helmet	Practice Jersey	Player Bag	\$25 Deposit Returned	Cookie Dough \$	Notes
1	Okoboji, Joe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	Yes	

Please turn in the equipment at the scheduled time, place and date. If you're not able to, make arrangements such that another parent can turn in the equipment for you or return it early. It is your responsibility to return the equipment as stated above. We will not accept any equipment that is dirty, incomplete or late.

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Your \$25 deposit will be returned to you at the scheduled equipment return. If the equipment is not returned at the scheduled time, you'll have five (5) days to return the equipment to the MYFL warehouse in Lake Park (do not return to the Director). Please call Brent Jacobsen at 712.212.1767 to make arrangements. After the 5th day, the MYFL will report you to Small Claims.

Making up the Teams:

Okoboji Youth Football will be made up of four teams; 3rd Grade, 4th Grade (*IF WE HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS*), 5th Grade and 6th Grade. If there are enough players to have multiple teams in a Grade level we will have a Maroon Team, White Team and Black Team. Teams will be separated evenly by ability, age and size. In addition, consideration will be given to siblings in the program. Players with siblings will be on the Maroon teams. In weeks 1 to 4 they are scheduled together (both home and both away). Unfortunately the schedule in week 5 and 6 is based on team record. If we do not have enough players to have separate 3rd and 4th grade teams, then we will have a combined 3rd/4th Grade team. It is the goal of the MYFL to have like teams play each other; i.e 3rd versus 3rd, 4th versus 4th or Combined versus Combined.

Practices:

The first week of practice begins on [August 7th](#). This is a non-contact week but helmets will be worn. We are allowed 6 total hours of practice this week. The second week, beginning [August 14th](#), full contact but scrimmages are not allowed. We are allowed 4.5 total hours of practice the second week. The week of [August 21st](#) and throughout the remainder of the season, we practice 3.5 hours per week (typically two (2) 1 hour 45 minute practices). Practices will be on Monday and Thursdays. If a scheduled practice is cancelled, we will make up Tuesday or Friday (if Varsity team is Home). Teams are limited to one padded practice per week and 30 minutes of live action contact per week. Your Head Coach will notify you of practice times and days.

Be prepared:

- A) All practices, including non-contact weeks, players must wear their helmets.
- B) All players should bring their own filled water bottle (games also).
- C) The child must be fully dressed and ready to practice at the scheduled start time.
- D) Dress appropriately for the weather and temperature.
- E) Practice will start on time and end on time. Please respect the coach's time and be ready to pick up your child at the conclusion of practice.
- F) All practices will be held at the High School Practice Fields south and southwest of the game field.

Weather:

A typical football season in Okoboji may require your child to play games & practice in temperatures over 100 degrees and as low as 20 degrees. Please make sure to dress your child properly for practices and games. Practices will be held no matter how the weather is outside....cold, windy, sunny, snowy, etc.

Practices and Games will be cancelled only due to lightning. The weather should not be an excuse for not attending Practices or Games.

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The weather conditions sometimes change after the child has been dropped off. Please monitor the weather. If weather conditions deteriorate, please come back and get your child or children. Let your child and coach know who they can get a ride with or who they may call to be picked up if you are not available.

If practice is going to be cancelled, your head coach will contact you via text, email or phone. You can also check the website okobojiyouthfootball.com. We will list cancellations on the Home Page. Please let the coaches know the fastest way to contact you in short notice (work phone, mobile phone, etc.).

Picture Day:

All players and coaches will be photographed and should be in game uniforms. If pictures are taken inside due to rain, the players should wear gym shoes. Spikes are not allowed in the buildings.

Picture money envelopes will be distributed earlier in the week or the week before. The forms should be fully completed and returned with payment inside the envelope. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled time so that you will not miss the team photo and will not delay other groups that follow. If your child is not present for the team photo it will not be re-taken once you arrive.

If you're a coach, please do not schedule practice before the scheduled picture time.

Game Day:

All games hosted by Okoboji will be played on the High School Football Field or Practice Fields located south and south west of the main field. Please bring lawn chairs and/or blankets the days we play on the practice field. BE A GOOD HOST TO THE OTHER TEAM!

The "Player Box" is for the Coaches, Team Parents and players only. Please respect this space and allow the coaches and players to focus on the game. All parents, spectators and players from other Okoboji Teams need to stay behind this area at least 2-3 yards. We are allowed five (5) adults on the sidelines only (Head Coach, Assistant Coach & Three (3) Team Parents)

Clean Up of Field Grounds:

This is the responsibility of the participants and spectators to pick up the area around them. At away games it's common courtesy to leave the area looking better than when we arrived. Please assist us with this so Okoboji will maintain its good reputation. After practice and games, check the area to make sure your child leaves nothing on the field.

Referees & Refereeing:

As with the NFL and College games, which use professional referee crews, there will ALWAYS be questionable and missed calls. Please understand our referees are doing the best job they can and there is no instant replay! Our rules and regulations are based on High School rules with MYFL additions. These rules are different from High School, College and Professional. The most up to date MYFL rules can be found at the MYFL website: www.myfootball.org.

Harassment or yelling at our referees WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. The ONLY person who may talk to the referees is the Head Coach of the team or the Director. If coaches, players, parents or fans are deemed

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abusive or argue with the refs, an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty may be called on their team. If it continues, they may be asked to leave the field.

Please remember this is just a game involving 3rd-6th grade kids. We need to be there to have fun and to support and represent Okoboji Youth Football in a positive light. Coaches, parents and fans should set a good example for our kids and our opponents.

Winning:

All of the players in Okoboji Youth Football should have a winning attitude and take the field expecting to win every time. Above winning is effort. Football is a type of game that requires 100% effort 100% of the time. Players that do not exhibit 100% effort during a practice or game put themselves and their teammates at risk. Losing a game is NOT the end of the world. We need to learn as much or more from losing as we do from winning and use it as a motivator to get better.

Grievances & Resolution Procedures:

During the normal course of the football season, we fully anticipate that circumstances, happenings or concerns will arise through the day-to-day team interaction as well as league play that will warrant review or action by the program.

Any grievances arising during the season should be taken first to the Head Coach and then to the Youth Football Director. If a satisfactory result is not obtained, you may submit a Complaint form to the Okoboji Youth Football Board of Directors. The Complaint form is available online at okobojiyouthfootball.com under the Documents tab or you may request a form by sending an email to okobojiyouthfootball@gmail.com. Parents and coaches must communicate with mutual respect. Parents and coaches reserve the right and are encouraged to postpone conversations that are getting out of hand. Heated discussions have no place in front of the players. If you have a complaint, put it in writing and email it to the Director and coach. All anonymous letters, calls etc. will be dismissed.

Okoboji Youth Football Player Code of Conduct:

Okoboji Youth Football aspires to be an outstanding youth athletic organization that provides a high-quality experience to every athlete and a safe welcoming environment for all. As a member of Okoboji Youth Football you represent more than just yourself. Your actions on and off the field can reflect positively or negatively upon many people. Being part of this organization is both a privilege and a responsibility. All players must sign, follow and strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Volunteerism:

Like all private organizations, Okoboji Youth Football is dependent on volunteers who will donate their time and energy to produce a quality activity for our children. This program's success depends on parental support. There are many areas where you could give a little time and make a big difference. Some of our volunteers do not even have children in the program, but they stay because they believe in the program and they want to give something back to the community. Please get involved! You'll be surprised how rewarding it is and how much your child will appreciate it too. Unless you prefer otherwise, every effort will be made not to schedule you while your child is playing.



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Please ask the Director how you can help. Volunteer forms are available. Some areas for which you can volunteer are: Coaching, Team Parent, Picture Day, Cookie Dough Pick-Up, Concessions, Field Maintenance (set-up before and clean-up after home games), Fund-raising, chains/down marker, Game Programs, Time Clock, Scoreboard, Parades, Equipment Handouts, Equipment Returns, etc.

As stated, we are dependent on dedicated, hard working, responsible volunteers. With that said, if you choose to volunteer, please keep in mind we are depending on you to fulfill your commitment. If something changes where you can't fulfill your commitment, please call the Director ASAP. DO NOT wait until the last minute. We need adequate time to find replacements....especially "game day" volunteers (refs, chain gang, game clock, etc.). On game day, our time and focus needs to be on our youth and not scrambling to find volunteers for those who fail to meet their obligation.

Prior to completing the Participant Contact-Volunteer Form, please review the volunteer position descriptions below. Some positions only require 1 person and others require several. Please consider 2-3 areas where you can help.

Okoboji Youth Football is extremely grateful for your volunteer participation. Thank you in advance for your consideration and commitment to our program.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

1) Head Coach/Ref & 2) Assistant Coach/Ref:

Coaches and how our children are coached is the foundation for a successful season, and more importantly, a successful overall program year after year. Coaches need to make it fun for the kids and should make both practices and games fun to the point the kids look forward to both. Do not yell negative things at them as this embarrasses them in front of their teammates, and is actually counterproductive creating more stress and more mistakes. A coach's negativity can easily turn the player away from ever wanting to play again. You can yell...and you will, but it should always be positive comments. Keep it positive....even if you're losing by 30 points.

We realize this could be the player's first football experience. The coaches need to be relentless in making it a positive experience for them. Our goal is to retain and grow the number of participants in Okoboji Youth Football. Not all kids like this game and may choose not to participate the following season. This is understandable, but we need make sure their decision is based on their lack of interest in the game and not due to a bad coaching experience.

Teach the participants good sportsmanship by your example....no yelling at the refs, no demeaning the other team, other players, etc. Teach them to play hard, but do not allow "dirty" play or trash talking. Let them know that it's OK to make mistakes and that you expect them to make mistakes. Youth football is not a perfect game. All players make mistakes...even the professionals. Coaches make mistakes and we ALL know refs make mistakes! Keep them focused on playing hard and learn from their errors. Teach them about teamwork and their responsibilities to the team...coming to practice, encouraging each other and helping each other off the ground. Celebrate the "small wins"...the first down, quarterback sack, good blocks, gang tackling, positive yardage, etc. We expect a lot of high fives, low fives, fist bumps, chest bumps and cheering each other on! Again...make it fun for the youth.

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Motivation is critical in developing these players ability to play at their full potential. Effective motivation flows from the partnership between coaches and players. As coaches, we must understand our athletes as individuals and as a team gain their trust and respect. The coaches must teach our players the mechanics of football, but we must also assist in building their character. Showing support and interest in all facets of their lives helps build an effective coach-player relationship. By setting incremental goals and meeting them, the player's motivation will always increase. Once the player begins developing a sense of accomplishment, he will be motivated to try even harder.

At this age, fear should not be used as a motivator. Fear motivation, or punishing players to "motivate" them, is only a temporary expedient. After repeated exposure to fear tactics, athletes become immune to threats, and continued punishment may destroy their desire to participate. We don't want this at Okoboji. Motivation is simply a means to an end. If we provide exposure to positive ideas over a long period of time, we will produce a successfully motivated Okoboji Football Player.

Please be organized. We are limited in practice time and you will not get everything done unless you have a solid regimented schedule. Know what you need to get done the day before you begin practice. Discuss any key issues with your assistant coach before setting your schedule so that there are no surprises once the players are on the field and ready to practice.

Additional Coaching Requirements:

- A) Head Coaches represent Okoboji Youth Football and the MYFL at all times and must conduct themselves accordingly.
- B) Head Coaches are responsible of notifying the Director of any changes to the roster.
- C) Coaches must ensure their team members arrive at the game on time. They should have all necessary equipment for the game.
- D) After all games, the Coaches should congratulate the other team's participants.
- E) Notify Director of scores immediately following the game.
- F) Coaches must openly communicate and update the participant's parents regularly.
- G) Coaches must ensure that each team member participates according the MYFL Rules and improves their skills as the season progresses.
- H) The coach's priority is to ensure that all participants are having fun and are excited about being in OYF.
- I) Have a plan...a practice plan, a game plan, playbook, etc.
- J) Respect all players, parents and other coaches. Foul language and bad conduct will not be tolerated at games or practice.
- K) Coach with the *Okoboji Youth Football Philosophy* in mind.
- L) You'll be required to referee other home games as needed.

3) Team Parent/Chain Gang:

Team Parents will aid the Coaches in practice and game day responsibilities. Ideally, a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and 3 Team Parents would make up the staff for each team (only 5 coaches are allowed by the MYFL). Roughly, this will allow for one adult for every 3 players. Team Parents will help the Coaches with drills, equipment issues, coordinate Post Game Tailgates with the other parent's, equipment fitting and equipment handout. You'll be required to be on the Chain Gang as needed at our home games.

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4) Referees & Refereeing:

Our game referees consist of refs who are very familiar with the MYFL rules in each age group. Refs will be adults (18+ yrs) with knowledge or love of the game and coaches of other Okoboji Youth Football Teams. Each game requires three (3) referees. It is our goal to have plenty of people willing to referee such that the coaches can focus on our youth and the game.

5) Chain Gang:

The chain gang consists of three (3) individuals who are on the sidelines during the game and are taking care of the down marker and the first down chains. This function is required at home games only. The chain gang should be at the game at least 30 minutes early.

6) Game Clock/Score Board Keeper:

During home games, one (1) individual per game is needed to keep the time clock and the scoreboard. Depending on what field we're playing on, practice or game field, the individual will be in the announcer's booth (game field) or on the field (practice field).

7) Game Announcer:

The game announcer will be responsible for introducing all teams (visiting team too) and calling the game. If we have an announcer, we are required to call the game for both teams (home & visitors).

8) Game Photos:

Parents are always looking for good game photos. Please take photos and distribute via email to the other parents on your team. Some photos may be used for the website, future presentations, etc.

9) Post Game Tailgates:

Win or lose, we want to celebrate our teams. Please provide snacks and beverages for the team after each game. Share this responsibility with other parents on the team.

10) Registration & Player Fitting:

During Registration & Player Fitting, 4-5 parents from each age group will help fit the player's equipment and record their sizes. In addition, aid the Director in receiving and recording player registrations. Organize registrations and equipment requirements by team. We'll also have a station to record player's weight and height. In addition, we'll have a station for helmet decals.





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11) Equipment/Handouts:

Assist the coaches with the players trying on their equipment. The players will not be able to take their equipment home unless everything is tried on and fitted properly. Record equipment issues, sizing problems, etc. and report them to the Head Coach or Director.

12) Equipment Return:

All equipment must be checked in, inspected for damage, make sure they're clean and sorted by size. In addition, record all damage and/or missing equipment. We'll need 3-4 people to aid the director with equipment returns.

13) Concessions:

Manage/work the Concession Stand. Report to the concession stand 1 hour prior to the first game to set up the stand and prepare for sales. Work the stand selling food, refreshments, candy, etc. Clean up the concession stand, putting food and supplies away (3-4 people required per game). Please note you will not be scheduled during your child's game.

14) Fundraising:

We must always look for ways to continually improve Okoboji Youth Football Program and make it the best we can for our youth. Often, this comes with a price. It is our goal to provide these kids with the best equipment and experience we can. Year to year, our costs will include free shirts and posters for the kids, practice equipment (as needed), helmet decals and misc.

15) Cheer Coordinator(s):

As Cheer Coordinator, you would be responsible for putting this program together. This will include recruiting, coaching and organizing Okoboji Youth Cheerleading.

16) Cheer Assistant (s):

The primary function of the Cheer Assistant(s) is to help the Cheer Coordinator(s) establish and manage the Cheer Program for Okoboji Youth Football.

17) Game Day Field Preparation/Tear Down/Clean Up:

The morning of game days, people are needed to set up the field. This will include setting up the yard markers, end zone pylons, chains, etc. Set up and tear down takes roughly 30 minutes each. We ask volunteers arrive at the parking lot, near the concession stand, at least one (1) hour prior to the first game.

18) Transportation:

During the season, scheduling conflicts may arise and there will be a need for carpooling from time to time. Please advise your Head Coach if you have room to take additional players and their equipment to the game.



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19) Game Programs:

At every home game, programs for the Okoboji spectators are provided. The programs will include the roster for each Okoboji Youth Football Team. Programs will need to be copied and folded prior to the games. Due to teams playing at different times, 1-2 individuals from each team will be required to distribute at their game.

20) Cookie Dough Pick-Up:

The cookie dough arrives in bulk and will be stored at Piccadilly's Dough Plant just west of Milford. The Director and 1-2 other individuals will separate the dough into individual orders and hand them out to the parents/players as they arrive.

21) Picture Day Assistants:

During Picture Day, we need 4-5 parents from each team to help the photographer collect order forms and to organize the players for the team picture as well as individual pictures.

22) Parade Assistance:

Our program participates in the Pioneer Day Parade and Okoboji Homecoming Parade. We'll need trailers and drivers for each parade. Bales of hay or straw are also needed for the kids to sit on. In addition, we need adults to sit on the trailer with the youth during the parade. Please keep them seated and safe.

23) OYF Poster Ideas:

The poster committee will work together with the photographer and graphic designer in developing our Okoboji Youth Football Poster. This will include determining the poster motto and theme. In addition, you'll assist the Picture Day Volunteers.

24) Equipment Bag & Tag:

Once the equipment is picked up from the MYFL, we will need 5-6 individuals to separate all the equipment by size and by player. All equipment will be bagged and tagged for each player.

25) Youth Football Chaperone:

The Northwestern Red Raider Youth Football Camp is a non-contact camp aimed at football fundamentals, light conditioning and team building. It is a two day camp held in Orange City at Northwestern College. Camp Staff includes current Red Raider Coaches and Players. We need a minimum of two Chaperones to attend each day of camp. If we have enough players attending, OYF will coordinate transportation, \$25 per family.

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Notes: