

The *INSIDER* on Youth Tackle Football 2017

-Here is the PRELIMINARY (subject to change) information on Boys & Girls Clubs Youth Tackle Football 2017.

-Note: By virtue of enrolling in the PROGRAM, the parent and youth agree to abide by all policies, decisions, directives, procedures, and rules of the Whatcom County Youth Football league.

PLEASE READ! Registrations for Bellingham Tackle Football:

- Open registrations for tackle football will be held **Monday, June 5th thru Fri, June 16th** at the Bellingham Branch between 11am and 6pm. Open registrations for tackle football will be held **Saturday, June 17th** at the Ferndale Branch between 8am and 12pm for Ferndale and Blaine teams
- Membership forms for 2017/18 are new (unless signed up for summer baseball). All players will need to have a new membership form filled out. For your convenience, you can print the membership form from our website, complete it and bring it with you to registration.

Leagues offered: (grade is based on 2017/18 school year grade) Birth Certificate is required.

Juniors – 4th and 5th grade

3rd graders are NOT allowed to play tackle football

Seniors – 6th Grade

*5th graders weighing more than 120 lbs. in pads may play in the Senior Division if there is room.

Middle School – 6th, 7th and 8th grader registrations

*See Additional NCYFL Tackle Football Insider for information. Parents of children in 6th grade may choose to sign up for our Senior Division team or for our NYCFL Division team. Once the Senior Division team fills, players may only sign up for NCYFL.

FAQ'S

Q. Can someone else register my child for football?

A. It is preferred that you register your own child. However, someone else can register your child as long as they bring in a completed new 2017/18 membership form, a signed parent release, birth certificate and payment. The parent release and membership form are both available on our website at www.whatcomclubs.org.

1) This is our 48th year of the Program. The Junior league is for all 4th and 5th graders. The Senior league is for all 6th graders and a few 5th graders wanting to play up because of size. We also have flag football for 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade, and 5th and 6th grade. Please see the tackle football rules for additional age requirements.

2) The program is strictly governed by the published **RULES**. All rules are enforced. Whenever a question is posed, our first response is, "What do the rules say?" The quality of your experience is dependent in large part on your coach's understanding, listening, supporting, and communicating rules and procedures. Parents are responsible for assisting the coach in these endeavors. It is the responsibility of the parent and players to abide by Club rules and to assist and cooperate with the coach at all times.

3) **Teams** are formed out of different areas in the county: Blaine, Ferndale, Lummi, Meridian, Bellingham, Lynden, Nooksack and Mt. Baker.

4) All players must **register** in the area in which they are playing. Each player must have a completed membership form, birth certificate, payment, and a signed release form at the time of registration. Players will not be allowed to register and play without all their paperwork turned in. The fee for teams is \$250 plus a current 17/18 membership (\$30). The total fee for tackle football is \$280. Open registration for Bellingham, Ferndale and Blaine teams begins June 19th.

5) Registration is on a first come, first served basis. **Players** should play for teams in their own area. Players may move to another area to play if the team in their area is FULL. Each area has a representative who is in charge of forming their team. Randy will be in charge of the Bellingham team rosters, Sam will be in charge of Ferndale and Blaine rosters. If there is more than one team in a division, there will be a draft. This is being done to ensure that all teams are evenly matched. This practice will also bring us in to alignment with the county teams, which have been using the draft method the past several seasons. The date of the draft – if necessary – will be July 22nd.

6) **Games** will run from September 9th–October 28th. Games are every Saturday at a field location in Whatcom County (teams may have one bye if there are uneven teams in the division). The season will begin with our Jamboree on Saturday, August 26th, location will be at Ferndale High School. Teams can start practicing in pads the week of August 1st. There will be two-three **practices** a week in the evening until the Jamboree. Bellingham teams will practice at the nearest high school. Game schedules will not come out until after the jamboree. The jamboree schedule will be ready the week of August 21st.

7) Bellingham teams will be **issued gear** on the following days depending on the number of teams:

Tuesday, July 18th or Tuesday, July 25th. Specific times for each team will be posted on the B&GC website.

Ferndale and Blaine teams will be **issued gear** on the following days depending on the number of teams:

Wednesday, July 19th or Wednesday, July 26th. Specific times for each team will be posted on the B&GC website.

Gear will be issued at the Boys & Girls Clubs gymnasium (Bellingham teams will be at Bellingham, Ferndale and Blaine will be at Ferndale). Preliminary weights will also be taken on this day. Official weights will be taken at the jamboree. No gear will be issued before these dates. If you are going to be gone when gear is passed out you can make arrangements to be fitted when you return. If you cannot make it to your gear pick-up time you may come to a time after your assigned time but not to one before your assigned time. All gear issued must be returned at the end of the season.

Provided Gear: helmet and chin strap, shoulder pads, practice and game jersey, practice pants and belt, girdle, and hip, thigh, tailbone, and knee pads. Players may supply their own gear as long as it meets all safety standards. Certain team game jerseys may be purchased for \$35.

Gear Not Provided: mouthpiece, cleats, and game pants (practice pants will work).

8) Most games will have three **officials**. Our officials come from the Whatcom-Skagit-Island Football Officials Association. Since we are the youngest leagues that they officiate we will have a lot of first year officials doing our games. The association will attempt to have at least one experienced official on each crew.

9) **Picture day** is Saturday, August 26th at the site of the jamboree. Coaches will receive a picture packet for distribution to the players. Each team will be assigned a picture time prior to their scheduled game. Photos will be returned to the club and distributed to coaches for distribution to players. Radley Muller is the photographer. Please refer photo inquiries to photographer.

10) **Only players, coaches and chain crew are allowed on sidelines**, during games. All spectators must stay on track or in grandstands. Violation of this rule could cost your team an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty (15 yards).

11) It is **your responsibility** to communicate with the coach and to be fully informed regarding practices, games, absences, playing time, team pictures, etc. It is your responsibility to know your coach's name and phone number. **All players that are registered must play a minimum of 6 plays a half, with the following exceptions: a) Disciplinary reasons (unsportsmanlike contact, missing practice, etc.) b) Health reasons.** A list of all the rules will be available in the Jamboree program.

12) Kindness, courtesy and **SPORTSMANSHIP** is required. We will not hesitate to act if the standards of the Club are compromised. Good sportsmanship is not extinct. Good sportsmanship begins and ends with parents. Randy Ashe (Bellingham), Sam Hobbs and Kaleb Ode (Ferndale) will be on site supervising games.

13) **Good citizenship** at the schools is crucial to the success of this program. Please pick up your garbage in grandstands and in your bench area. No tobacco or alcohol is allowed at any program site. We are extremely grateful to the School Districts, Principals, Athletic Directors and football coaches for allowing us use of their fields.

14) **Weights:**

- See Rules.

15) **Questions:** Please do not hesitate to call Randy or Sam with any further questions at the Bellingham Branch at 527-9777 or at the Ferndale Branch 384-0753. Thanks.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF WHATCOM COUNTY
BELLINGHAM BRANCH