



Parents, Coaches, and Players,

We are very excited to share with you some improvements that will be made to the CYFL league for the upcoming season. We are constantly evaluating our league to provide the best experience for everyone involved. Through our partnership with USA football, we seek to provide the safest, most fun environment for the kids. Improving our already outstanding player safety record is always at the forefront.

Over the past three seasons we have only had one documented concussion while having approximately 600 football players playing in over 100 games. We attribute this to past adoptions such as our Heads up tackling program, concussion screening, state of the art equipment, and eliminating high-risk plays such as the kickoff. Adopting USA football's Rookie Tackle Program is the next step in this evolution. CYFL has and always will place player safety as our highest priority.

The USA Football Rookie Tackle Program was piloted by many youth football programs throughout the country last year. It has proven to advance the safety as well as the overall experience for players, parents and coaches. The program highlights consist of each young man playing only with their own grade level, smaller rosters, and reducing the size of the playing field gradually progressing to full field 11 man football. This is a faster paced game that promotes more scoring and provides every player an opportunity to touch the ball.

I urge each of you to visit www.usafootball.com and check out the Rookie Tackle program. We have also included a couple of video links at the end of this letter that we encourage you to watch. CYFL will be having several meetings in the near future to fine tune the program and mold it to fit our league. Stay tuned to our website, Facebook and Twitter, as well as your email for updates as we complete the process.

This will also be the inaugural year for the Jr. Knights Academy for 5th and 6th graders. In an effort to provide a more comprehensive and competitive football experience, the Jr. Knights Academy will begin when school is out and continue throughout the summer and CYFL season.

The Jr. Knights tournament team registration will open at the same time as our league registration. Only players registered and participating in CYFL league play will be allowed to participate in the Jr. Knights academy. We encourage all CYFL players to sign up for and take part in the Knights Academy to develop their skills and learn football. As in the past, players

will have to work hard and earn playing time when tournament time rolls around as playing time will not be guaranteed. It will be merit based football.

Our 5th and 6th grade tournament teams will now be coached by CHS Varsity appointed and trained coaches. They will be coached in the Castle system and focus on position skill development. The Jr. Knights Academy will include Summer youth camp, summer skills development program, and Pre-season training camp with the Varsity Staff and Academy coaches. It will also include game jerseys that the players can keep, multiple games in October, and will play in our Storm the Castle tournament and the Gibson Southern Titan Clash Tournament. We will still have a fourth grade tournament team. This team will be coached by CYFL Board directed coaches. They too will have an extended season, starting practices earlier and playing in two tournaments.

We understand that many of our football players participate in other summer sports and we will make every attempt to limit the conflicts with other commitments. Players will not be penalized for missing summer events to participate in other sports as long as this is clearly communicated to the coaches. We believe the key to success is a well-rounded athlete.

We know there will be many questions, so feel free to attend our board meetings or call, text or send an email anytime. Our contact information can be found on our website:
www.castleyouthfootball.com

Our next board meeting will be April 15, 2018 at 6:00pm in the CHS Community Room.

Sincerely,

The Castle Youth Football Board

Video Links:

<https://youtu.be/tp5jprbVOH8>

<https://youtu.be/jVOoSSvSpDo>