

Dear Hortonville Area School District (HASD) Football Families,

After a multi-year effort between HASD and Hortonville Football Club (HFC), it is with great excitement that we announce the consolidation of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School and HFC football programs beginning with the 2024 season.

As this transition likely raises some questions regarding logistics, we hope the following will help answer most questions and help families prepare and spread the word to new families within the district.

For additional information, please visit <https://www.hortonvillefootball.org/hfcfaq> or reach out at any time.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Football**

HASD does not offer school sponsored athletics at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.

Tackle football will be organized by HFC and players and parents will continue to be responsible for registration fees, volunteer hours, and fundraising. HFC will maintain schedules, equipment, insurance, WIAA physical forms, and USA football certifications as in years past.

HFC Registration will open January 1 each year online. [www.HortonvilleFootball.org](http://www.HortonvilleFootball.org)

No player registration will be necessary through HASD.

Players will fundraise for personalized jerseys and numbers assigned first come first served based on registration. Those who register after June 1<sup>st</sup> will not be turned away but may only receive an “un-personalized” jersey as orders for jerseys are due June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football**

HASD will sponsor all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football for players within the district!

HFC and HASD will work collaboratively to conduct an exceptional football program for the district.

### **Registration Fees, Fundraising, and Volunteering**

- There will be no registration fee for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, though families will be asked to participate in fundraising and volunteer activities.
- Fundraising will consist of selling twelve (12) cards at \$20 each.
- Volunteering will consist of a couple hours of volunteer service per participant.
- While we believe volunteer participation and fundraising is important to culture building, we know for some families this creates hardship and we do not want anyone turned away.
  - If there are hardships, please reach out and all reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure everyone has a successful season.

### **Registration & Communication**

- Informal registration for selecting jersey numbers and setting the number of teams and league schedule at each level will begin January 1st each year at [www.HortonvilleFootball.org](http://www.HortonvilleFootball.org) through SportsEngine.
- In late April or early May, HASD will require formal registration through the RSchool program so HASD can administer insurance, certifications, and health forms through HASD's existing programs and procedures.
  - Private school and homeschool players are welcome and simply need to contact HASD to gain a login when it is time to complete the formal registration process through RSchool.
  - In-season team communication will utilize the HASD sponsored SportsYou application.

### **Philosophy**

- Leadership and character first.
- Feeder program for Hortonville High School
  - Running Hortonville High School schemes.
- Multiple, small team sizes to ensure quality playing time for all participants.
- HASD code of conduct will apply.

### **Teams**

- Grades will be split into teams of 30 or less players to ensure maximum participation.
- Teams will be split into as equal sizes as possible for number of players, weight of players, and skill level.
- Teams will be composed of players from both Hortonville and Greenville to build comradery districtwide.
- Teams will have a minimum of one trained and certified HASD paid head coach and three plus trained and certified assistant coaches.

### **Practices**

- Conducted M, T, TH at Lions Park in Greenville for 2024.
- 5:30-7:30 PM through the last Thursday in September.
  - 5:30-7:00 PM thereafter.
- Wednesdays often have religion conflicts, so traditional practices are not scheduled on those days.
  - Some coaches may provide optional film/teambuilding sessions on Wednesdays, but these are 100% optional and only for those who do not have other activities scheduled that day.
- While busing will not be provided for practices, team parents and coaches will work diligently to assist in car-pool scheduling or collaboration, so everyone has an opportunity to participate.

### Games

- Busing will be provided to and from games.
  - Players can utilize existing busing forms if they wish to return home with a parent.
- Played against FVA level feeder program opponents.
- Utilize Varsity stadiums whenever possible.
- Saturday morning games for 2024.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade @ 9:00 AM
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade @ 10:30 PM
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade @ 12:00 PM

### Coaches

- A minimum of one trained and certified HASD paid head coach and three plus trained and certified assistant coaches will be provided on each team.
- Open paid positions will be posted through the HASD employment website.
- Paid coaches are hired collaboratively between HASD and HFC staff.
- Volunteer coaches are recommended by HFC with final approval by HASD.
- All coaches must pass the HASD background check and agree to enforce and abide by the HASD code of conduct.
- All coaches must be USA Football, CPR, and First-Aid Certified.
- Coaches must attend Hortonville Football coaching clinics throughout the offseason.

### Equipment

- Top of the line equipment will be provided, managed, and maintained through current HFC protocols and procedures.
- Helmets will be professionally reconditioned each season.
- Shoulder pads will be repaired annually as damaged and replaced, at a minimum, every 10 years.
- Pants with integrated pads will be provided.
- Player's will need only provide socks and cleats of their choosing, and a WIAA approved mouthguard.
  - There are several programs we can utilize to help gain players cleats who may not be able to secure their own.
    - Please reach out if this option might help you or your family.

### Jerseys

- Players will fundraise for personalized jerseys which they can keep at the completion of the season.
  - Sell at least twelve (12) cards at \$20 each.
  - Selling additional cards is encouraged.
- Numbers are first come first served based on informal registration at [www.HortonvilleFootball.org](http://www.HortonvilleFootball.org) starting January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
- Those who register after June 1<sup>st</sup> will not be turned away, but may only receive an un-personalized jersey as orders for jerseys are due by June 1<sup>st</sup>.