

April 8, 2019

Parents,

We wanted to share some things with you about the 2019 Season for the Greater Grand Forks Youth Football League. We are excited about these changes and believe that we can continue to grow the game of football in our region. We have spent a lot of time looking at the USA Football Development Model. This model focuses on the following:

- Install solid fundamentals
- Develop better players
- Provide multiple entry points and game options
- Create developmentally appropriate skill instruction

To accomplish the core fundamentals of this model, we are going to be offering the following three levels of football.

1. Flag Football – This will be offered to 1st graders this year for the first time. This means **boys and girls** in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades will be able to sign up for Flag Football. The cost this year will be \$60 but if you register by July 15th, there will be a \$10 discount bringing the total down to \$50.
2. Rookie Tackle Football – This will be offered to 3rd and 4th graders. This means **boys and girls** in 3rd and 4th grade will be able to sign up for Rookie Tackle Football. This also means that 3rd graders will have the option to play either flag football **or** rookie tackle. The cost this year will be \$200 but if you register by July 15th, there will be a \$50 discount bringing the total down to \$150. Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kz3vq2lf2mY> for Rookie Tackle Info.
3. Tackle Football – This will be offered to 5th and 6th graders. This means **boys and girls** in 5th and 6th grade will play only Tackle Football. The cost this year will be \$200 but if you register by July 15th, there will be a \$50 discount bringing the total down to \$150.

You will notice that our fees have increased this year. For flag football we have increased the fees by \$10 per player and for Rookie Tackle and Tackle we have increased the fees by \$25 per player if you pay by July 15th. The board has not taken the increase of fees lightly. However, when you consider that in the last two years we have purchased 310 new football helmets, 330 new pairs of shoulder pads, reconditioned another 155 helmets and purchased over \$12,000 worth of new practice equipment for all the teams to use it becomes necessary to make sure we do not outspend our income. The reason for the \$50 increase in fee after July 15th for Tackle is because it makes our planning so much easier to know our athlete numbers well before the season starts.

In the last two seasons, the board has also approved: adult referees along with the high school athletes serving as line judges, two certified athletic trainers available at all weekends at Ulland Park, coaching certification for our volunteer coaches, background checks for all coaches and the hiring of some staff positions to make sure our program runs efficiently. When you take into account all the SAFETY enhancements for the players, we feel that we are still charging a reasonable price for the program we are providing.

Registration will begin on April 15th, 2019 on our website, www.gfyouthfootball.com Scholarship applications will also be available at that time and will be due by July 15th, 2019. After that date, no scholarships will be available. And as always, we will be looking for volunteer coaches again this season. We feel that most people with the help of the USA Football courses can serve as a volunteer coach in our program. If you would like to help coach or have any questions, please contact me at: ggfyfdirector@gmail.com And lastly, we are now on Facebook. Please like and share our page at: Greater Grand Forks Youth Football Association

Sincerely,

Paul Strande
Executive Director for GGFYF