



July 10, 2020

Warren Youth Football Family
www.warrenyouthfootball.com

Dear Football Family,

The WYF Board wanted to reach out to our families with an update on our 2020 season. We've had an opportunity to meet with our governing body (TCYFL) to gather information about requirements/changes/etc. that would be in place for the 2020 season. We've also been gathering information from our vendors, suppliers, and facilities about availability of space, goods, and services. We have reviewed information available from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and USA Football, and extensively discussed the quality of experience possible for our kids in the midst of a pandemic, and we feel at this time, WYF will not be participating in the 2020 season.

The goal of WYF is to provide a quality football experience to our member families each year. Therefore, the decision to cancel from our perspective is necessary. After careful consideration of what would be required by the program – including our athletes and families, we felt that the experience and level of safety we could provide would not measure up against the expectation we have of our program. We understand that given the current global and state-wide pandemic that our sports would look very different from what we know. However, we must also take into consideration the multitude of uncertainties that exist. Such uncertainty leads to a higher likelihood of canceling our season at a moment's notice and potentially placing our program in an undesirable financial situation that could impact the future viability of WYF.

As is expected in a decision like this, transparency is key and below are some determining factors that led us to our decision:

- Uncertainty of field availability for camp and practice. Students will be returning to classrooms this year. However, access to practice and game facilities remains uncertain. We have not been able to confirm space required to accommodate a program of our size (particularly for proper social distancing) or secure an official answer from the schools as many in our community are still unsure of what the school year will look like for their districts.
- Uncertainty of season duration. The TCYFL clearly stated that the duration of the season is strictly dictated by health trends for COVID19. More specifically, if there is a change in trending of cases, etc., that could trigger an immediate shutdown of the season. This, in our eyes, is a significant financial risk to take with our families' money and, subsequently, the program's financial situation when refunds would not be available.





- Additional financial costs and responsibilities. Our program does have financial reserves available, however those funds are currently earmarked for future planned ongoing expenditures including mandatory equipment replacement, rent, insurance, and etc. Our registration costs for 2020 were determined and put in place prior to COVID-19. Therefore, the additional requirements for sanitation, preparation, ongoing maintenance of facilities and equipment were not factored into registration fees and would need to be funded from either direct fundraising or capital reserves.
- Additional operational requirements. Based on the requirements set forth by TCYFL (inclusive of guidance provided by IDPH, the CDC, and USA Football), there would be a need for additional staffing/volunteers to help facilitate daily/weekly tasks associated with sanitation, attendance and record-keeping, and monitoring social distance regulations to ensure our athletes, coaches, and families are kept safe throughout the season.
- Uncertainty of uniform & equipment availability. For example, we delayed orders for our jerseys due to the uncertainty of the upcoming season. Factoring in overseas lead times and shipping delays, we are not confident – nor could vendors guarantee – that we would receive jerseys in any reasonable amount of time to be viable for usage.
- Mandatory rule/requirement changes for our programs. Given the current state-wide requirements for social interaction – including strict limits on team composition and practice and game protocols (e.g. attendance control), the efforts required by all parties involved (board members and volunteers, coaches, athletes, and parents) would increase risk to all of our families and likely diminish the overall experience.

As the program was delaying expenditures that are directly tied to registration fees, we will be providing full refunds for any paid registration fees in the next few days. We ask that families please have patience as we process the requests.

While we all would certainly love to see our kids playing football this year, we feel that doing so with so many uncertainties would not make for the fun experience for everyone involved. Now, we are looking ahead to the 2021 season and are hoping that the global and local pandemic situation is materially improved at that time.

Any questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to info@warrenyouthfootball.com.

Please stay safe and healthy. Thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Warmest regards,

Warren Youth Football Board

