



TACKLE FOOTBALL

Frequently Asked Questions

Libertyville Wildcats Youth Sports

EVALUATIONS

Are there tryouts?

Yes, there are evaluations. 2024's evaluations begin the week of July 22nd.

How is my child being evaluated during evaluation week?

The athletes will be assigned their appropriate level based on age and weight on the first day of equipment handout. Evaluations will comprise various football skills and drills. Athletes will wear helmets and shorts, transitioning into full equipment and contact.

What happens if my child can't make evaluations?

Once your player returns to practice, they will be assigned to practice with the team at their level and that head coach will determine which team your athlete will be playing on for that season.

GAMES/PRACTICES

When and where are practices held?

- All practices are held at Butler Lake Park in Libertyville. The first four weeks of the season teams will practice up to five days in those weeks. Practices will be determined by the coach at each level. For the first four weeks practices will be up to 2 hours. After those practices will be 90 minutes. The week of the first game practices will be reduced to 3 days a week for 90 minutes. Practices are usually from 5:30p-7:00p or 7:00p-8:30p. They may vary a little for some levels.

Do parents need to attend practices?

Parents are not required to attend practice.

When and where are the games?

- All LWYS home games are played on Saturdays at Butler Lake. Away games can be held on either Saturday or Sunday. Times will start anywhere from 9am-7pm for start times based on level. Plan on games being 2 hours and arriving at games 1.5 hours before the start. Players will need to warm up and weigh in before every game.
- Full schedules will be posted on our website, but they are determined by the league. The schedule will be posted on www.TCYFL.net The league will post a partial schedule and it may adjust throughout the season. We are usually given the schedule two weeks at a time.
- Regular season is 9 weeks long
- Playoffs can be up to 3 weeks long
- First games are always the last weekend of August, whether Saturday or Sunday
- Games will be played Labor Day weekend

Can my child play another sport during the season?

Players are allowed to play multiple sports. During the season, there is a great amount of preparation during practice for each week's game. Before the season begins, families should communicate and potential scheduling conflicts with their Head Coach. On the Big Ten level if they are missing practice, it may affect their playing time. That will be left to the discretion of the coach. Coaches will have a set of rules for minimum practice time each week required.

Are medical personnel available during games?

Hired medics will be at all games.

Are the fields grass or turf?

The fields at Butler Lake are grass fields. We will play a few games at Libertyville High School and that field is turf. For our away games we will play on both grass and turf fields based on the fields available to those communities.

Where can I find the game rules?

- Rules can be found on our website <https://www.libertyvillewildcats.com> or www.TCYFL.net
- The base of all rules are Illinois High School rules with a few modifications for our level of play.

How long are the games?

Games are 2 hours and players will be required to be at games at least 1.5 hours before the start time. Team weigh-ins typically occur 1 hour before kickoff.

What do players need to bring to practices/games?

- Players are required to bring all their equipment. Starred items are provided by LWYS and returned at the end of the season.
 - *Helmet
 - *Shoulder Pads and Practice jersey
 - ***Game jersey and pants are only for game use only**
 - Practice Pants
 - Chin strap for helmet
 - Cleats
 - Mouthpiece
 - Protective Cup
 - Water bottle

Are there rules concerning playing time?

- On the PAC level it is equal playing time. Based on numbers on each team everyone will have a starting position. The goal being to keep teams under 22 players per team.
- On the Big Ten Level for the:
 - Bantamweight level playing time is the same as the PAC level
 - Featherweight level playing time is the same as the PAC level
 - For Middleweights players will all have a starting position, but playing time will be determined by coaches
 - Lightweights and Varsity level playing time will be determined by the coach.

What are the rules concerning position assignments?

There are weight requirements for each level determined by www.TCFYL.net (age/weight requirements are listed in the downloads section of the website). If a player is considered a striker, they will only be allowed to play offensive or defensive line.

Are there playoff games beyond the regular season?

There may be up to 3 weeks of playoffs

TEAMS

How are players assigned to a team?

Each level has a Big Ten team. That coach will determine if players remain with the Big Ten team or be assigned to the PAC Level. The PAC Level is only available at the Bantam, Feather and Middleweight level.

When will I hear from the coach?

Players will be working with their level coach from the third day of evaluations. Teams will be determined by the end of the second week of evaluations.

When/where are team pictures taken?

Pictures are typically the week after Labor Day. They will be either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday during practice time at Butler Lake.

PARENTS

What is the volunteer requirement for parents?

Parents are required to volunteer 4 hours for each player signed up in our league.

Is there a buyout option in lieu of volunteering?

Yes. Please refer to www.libertyvillewildcats.com for more information.

What are the volunteer options?

- Volunteer opportunities can be found on the Dibs section of www.libertyvillewildcats.com.
 - Board Members
 - Coaching
 - Team Parent
 - Concessions Stand
 - Running the Grill
 - Field Clean Up
 - Equipment Handout
 - Equipment Return
 - Other opportunities as they become available

REGISTRATION

How much does it cost?

- Fee is \$625. Initial registration is a \$50 deposit. The remaining payments will be pulled out over a 4-month period starting May 1st
 - There is an early bird discount if signed up between November and February 1st of \$100

- Late Fee of \$100 applies on May 1st
- There is an out of residence fee of \$25 for individuals out of the Village of Libertyville

Is the registration fee refundable?

If a football player or cheerleader is no longer able to participate and LWYSs provided written notice on or before July 1, a 100% refund will be issued. If a football player is no longer able to play and LWYS is notified in writing on or before September 1, a 50% refund shall be issued. After September 1, no refunds in any amount shall be issued to the family of any football player or cheerleader, regardless of the reason; this means, but is not limited to, no refunds for injury, illness, loss of interest, financial hardship, academic struggles, coaching conflict, or the family moving out of the Libertyville area.

What do the fees go towards?

- Purchase of equipment
- Field maintenance- The Village of Libertyville does not maintain our fields that is our full expense
- Referees
- Medics
- Insurance
- Capital Improvements of our facilities
- Jerseys
- Travel League Fees

When can I register?

Registration opens after the current season ends.

How do I register?

www.libertyvillewildcats.com

When is the deadline to register?

Registration closes July 1st.

Why do I need to upload a copy of my child's birth certificate?

It is required by the www.TCFYL.net for age verification.

I am not comfortable providing my child's birth certificate. Can I still register?

No, it is required by www.TCFYL.net

COACHES

Who are the coaches?

Coaches are all volunteers.

What are the requirements to coach?

Coaches are required to be USA Football Certified: <https://footballdevelopment.com/courses-certifications>

What type of training do coaches receive?

We work closely with Libertyville High School Coaching staff.

Are background checks done on coaches?
Yes, background checks are conducted.

LEAGUE

Is football safe to play?

Football drills are used to teach players the safe way to approach the game.

What are the differences between tackle and flag football? (Besides the obvious, tackle)

- The number of practices a week, 1 day a week for flag and 3 days a week for tackle
- Our league is set up to teach the progress of football. We have a transition from flag to tackle and from the lower level of tackle to the upper levels.

What are the different levels in tackle?

- Big Ten Level is the highest level
- PAC Level is designed for beginning players and younger players on the upper levels.

If my child has never played football before, what football program do you suggest they join?

This is dependent on each family. We you to schedule a time to talk to one of our board members. With tackle football our league is designed to progress in learning different skills. With players that start at the Bantam or Featherweight level, they will get the basics of the game of football while also learning to use the equipment at a young age. If players start at an older age, we still focus on teaching them the basics. Our program's goal is to build on the fundamentals each year and have the players want to continue the following season.

EQUIPMENT

What type of mouthguard should I buy?

- There are many different mouth pieces. We leave this completely up to each family
 - We recommend one that attaches to the helmet so that it is not lost.
 - Pick the appropriate one for players that have braces.

What equipment does my child need?

- Cleats
- Chinstrap for helmet
- Protective Cup
- Mouthpiece
- Practice Pants
- Water bottle/jug

Does my child need cleats? If so, what kind?

- Cleats are required, the brand is completely up to each player.
- We recommend football cleats, but soccer cleats are acceptable. Baseball Cleats are not allowed

What equipment is provided?

- Helmet
- Shoulder pads
- Practice Jersey
- Game Jersey
- Game Pants

When is equipment provided?

We will notify members of several dates to pick up equipment during the summer.

ELIGIBILITY

What ages are eligible to play?

Kindergarten to 8th Grade

Are levels dependent on age or grade?

Please refer to the current year's requirements listed in the document section of www.TCYFL.net

Are there weight limits?

Please refer to the current year's requirements listed in the document section of www.TCYFL.net