

Gopher State Football League Virtual Outreach Recap- July 21, 2025

Quick recap

The meeting focused on updates and registration progress for the Gopher State Football League, including team counts, registration deadlines, and new initiatives like "Let's Play Football" for promotion. Key discussions covered coach and official certification requirements, game day procedures, and weight verification processes for youth football teams. The conversation ended with reminders about upcoming events, including the July 30th coaches' clinic and league enrollment deadline of August 1st, while emphasizing the importance of proactive communication and proper documentation for team rosters and game schedules.

Next steps

- All associations to complete the [Game Day Survey](#) by August 1st.
- Associations to create accounts for coaches and assign them to teams inside your RegisterPlay Association portal.
- All associations to [enroll teams](#) and submit payment by August 1st. For assistance or an alternative payment option, please email football@myas.org
 - Note: If you enroll a 5th-8th Grade team, please look for an email from football@myas.org requesting your teams preferred start date (8/25-8/27 or after 9/3)
- Associations to ensure 2 coaches per team attend the grade-level coaches' meetings on August 3rd (5th-8th grade) @ Irondale HS and August 6th (3rd-4th grade) @ Fridley HS, and August 11th (2nd grade) @ Blaine Bandshell-Flex Room.
- Associations to ensure rosters, jersey numbers, and player weight (2nd-6th grade) are submitted 48 hours before the first game, and any additions to the roster are allowed until the Roster Freeze date of September 9th.
- Associations to ensure coaches complete Trusted Coaches or equivalent program requirements (background check, concussion certification, child abuse training, sports-specific training). Trusted Coaches? adam@myas.org
- Associations to communicate with Kevin Johnson (Supervisor of Officials) if they plan to assign their own officials.
- Associations to reach out to Adam Cook (football@myas.org) if they need help with team registration or invoices.

- Associations to encourage coaches to attend the July 30th [Gopher State Football League Coaches Clinic](#) at Spring Lake Park High School Fine Arts Center.
- Associations with concerns about meeting the August 1st deadline to proactively reach out to Managing Directors- Dawson Blanck, Kevin Johnston, and John Swanson.

Summary

Gopher State Football League (GSFL) Update

The meeting provided updates and reminders about upcoming deadlines and events for the GSFL. Dawson emphasized the importance of the July 30th GSFL coaches clinic, league enrollment deadline on August 1st, and game day survey submissions. He also announced changes to the [3rd-8th grade-level coaches' meeting times](#), and encouraged attendees to register their teams. Dawson and Kevin Johnston stressed the importance of proactive communication and offered support for any questions or concerns.

Football League Registration and Updates

Dawson announced that all coaches and parents should visit the www.gopherstatefootball.org website for league updates, rules, and news, and noted that specific 7th and 8th-grade rules would be available soon. He also introduced "Let's Play Football," as the official media partner of the GSFL. This is a new initiative to promote the league through Gopher State Football/Let's Play Football social media channels and their publications. Adam Cook provided updates on team registration, noting that 39 teams had registered, as of the meeting, and that associations should reach out if they were waiting on an invoice, which could be paid by check or with a credit card. He emphasized that all league enrollment fees must be paid by August 1st to avoid being excluded from the schedule creation.

Team Registration and Roster Submission

Adam Cook explained the team registration process and emphasized the importance of submitting team skill levels and rosters. He noted that rosters must be submitted 48 hours before the first game and that any changes after September 9th must be emailed to Managing Directors for approval. Dawson suggested some flexibility with the September 9th Roster Freeze, due to the start of school. Adam Cook also mentioned that jersey numbers are needed for all grades and weights are needed for 2nd-6th grade teams.

Game Day Survey and Planning

Kevin Johnston discussed the Game Day Survey progress, emphasizing the importance of submitting special play dates by August 1st to avoid all away games. He outlined the schedule release plan, with the 2nd-4th grade schedules rolling out by August 24th and the 5th-8th grade schedules by August 17th. Kevin also addressed field preparation, division and opponent development, and recommended roster sizes, strongly discouraging teams from having more than 30 players. He mentioned the player waiver process and the GSFL Trusted Coaches' requirements, including background checks, concussion certification, and child abuse training.

Youth Football Certification and Payments

The meeting discussed the certification and training requirements for coaches and game officials in the youth football league. Kevin explained that coaches need to be certified through www.trustedcoaches.org, or equivalent programs, with two certified coaches required per team. He also outlined the process for assigning and paying game officials, including a new system for timely payments, handled by MYAS. The meeting covered details about upcoming coach meetings, the certification process for officials, and the payment structure for game assignments.

League Operations and Field Updates

The meeting addressed questions about coach certification, league schedules, and field usage. Kevin clarified that all second-grade coaches will meet on August 11th, 6:30 pm at the Blaine Bandshell-Flex Room across from Fogarty Arena, as most teams originate primarily from the North Metro. 4th-8th-grade Home/Away games with South Division teams will be optional. As an example, Anoka has already added a special play date with Shakopee teams on Game Day Survey. Jason from Spring Lake Park inquired about field fees for Lexington Fields, and Kevin confirmed that teams would continue to cover these costs as in the past, suggesting they might discuss reductions with Jess from Centennial. Dawson emphasized that league entry fees include officials/assigners' game fees, administrative fees, and opening weekend facility rentals.

Game Day Official Procedures

The meeting discussed game day procedures for handling issues with officials. Kevin explained that coaches should contact the assigner if there are problems, and the assigner would handle the situation. A point of contact document for game days will be distributed before the start of the season. Kevin also emphasized the importance of a 24-hour rule for reporting issues, noting that allowing a cooling-off period often leads to more constructive and thoughtful communication. The group discussed the number of officials required for

different grade levels, with 2nd-4th grade having two game officials and 5th-8th grade having three game officials. John Swanson shared that Whiskey, a referee coordinator, had contacted him and was seeking to officiate Rogers games, but Kevin clarified that Whiskey is not currently an assigner in the league, and a discussion would need to take place.

GSFL Weight Verification

The meeting focused on weight verification and roster management for the GSFL. Kevin explained that official player weights are recorded at the start of the season and remain fixed unless a formal challenge process is initiated.

Open Lines of Communication

John and Dawson emphasized the importance of associations communicating any issues regarding team formations and grade-level decisions, particularly as the August 1st deadline approaches. Dawson announced that meeting slides would be distributed by the end of the week and encouraged coaches to attend the free coaches' clinic on July 30th at Spring Lake Park High School.

Respectfully submitted by Dawson Blanck, GSFL Managing Director

