

## ***HWGYF FAQ***

- **When does our season start?**

Our first day will be on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **When and where do we practice?**

Prior to the Labor Day, we practice Monday through Friday. There will be at least 1 scrimmage against another program.

After Labor Day, we practice Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Friday is a “walk-through” and is shorter in length (about 1hr).

We practice at Patton Park in Hamilton, from 5-7pm (after Labor Day, Friday practices are shorter).

We will post a practice schedule to the website closer to the start of the season.

We highly encouraged every player attend every practice, but we know August is busy (end of summer vacations, camps, other commitments) and 100% attendance may not be possible. If you must miss a practice, please let your coach know. Missing a few days is not a problem.

- **Game Schedule**

It is a 9 game/week season. All teams are expected to play 9 games regardless of their win/loss record. This is a league rule. Failure to complete a season has serious penalties for our program.

The first game will be on the weekend of September 12/13th and the last game is on the weekend of November 7/8th. We typically play on Sundays.

Our home games will be at Hamilton Wenham high school.

- **Equipment**

HWGYF will provide all equipment **other than** cleats. For safety reasons, we require each player to wear cleats for practice and games. While we can provide mouthguards, we strongly recommend each player purchase their own.

Our coaches/board will help fit each player with equipment at our equipment distribution day (date to come). Equipment is returned at the end of the year.

HWGYF provides a game jersey and a practice jersey.

For our returning players, please locate your game jersey and practice jersey and check your sizing.

- **Our Teams**

We fully expect and are working hard to have 5 teams.

HWGYF will have at least 1 team at each of the following grade levels:

- 2-4<sup>th</sup> Grade (referred to as “D” team)
- 5-6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The number of teams at the 5-6<sup>th</sup> and 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade level are subject to our registration numbers and league rules.

For an example, if we have 30 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders sign up, we will likely have 2 teams. 1 team that is primarily 8<sup>th</sup> graders and a few 7<sup>th</sup> graders and would compete in the “A” division. The 2nd team would be primarily 7<sup>th</sup> graders and compete at the “B” level. If we only have 22 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, we would have 1 team and that team would compete at the “A” level.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders can play at either the “A” or “B” level, but the Cape Ann Youth Football League requires a program to have an “A” team before it can have a “B” team.

The same considerations apply for 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders and the “C” and “JVC” Teams. Cape Ann Youth Football League requires a program to have a “C” team (primarily 6<sup>th</sup> graders) before it can have a “JVC” team (primarily 5<sup>th</sup> graders). 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders can play at either the “C” or “JVC” level.

- **Playing Time**

This is always tricky. There are many factors that impact playing time—attitude, commitment, coachability, age, the number of players on your team, game length and ability. As volunteer coaches, we do our best to provide our players with as much playing time as possible, but there are only so many plays.

Our volunteer coaches keep 2 things in mind when it comes to playing time—how do we put this player in a position where they have the best chance to succeed and where do we play this player to make sure they can help protect themselves and their teammates.

At our younger levels, playing time will be more equally distributed. As our players get older, our games are more competitive and playing time may not be as equally distributed. We think this is common among all youth sports. Each player will be given an opportunity.

Our league rules do not let every player touch the ball nor is it appropriate that every player touch the ball. Tackle football is not flag football. Tackle football is faster, played on a big field with more players and it is more difficult to pass and catch with helmets and shoulder pads. We ask each player to come into the season with an open mind about positions, and how they can best help the team and program. There are more valuable contributions to a team than scoring a touchdown.

If you have concerns about playing time or anything related to the team, we encourage you to discuss it with your coach. The commissioner is available to facilitate any discussion.