

August, 2010

Dear Parents:

The 2010 Hingham Youth Football season has arrived and the HYF Board and coaches are looking forward to another great season for the Raiders. Our goal is to challenge each player appropriately according to his or her age, ability, and experience in a safe, fun and supportive, yet competitive environment. By so doing, we believe our players will learn the value of self-discipline, hard work, perseverance, sportsmanship, and teamwork while having fun playing football. We hope these lessons will be life-long.

This philosophy is the foundation for the Hingham Raiders' tradition and success. This year we have more players registered than ever before which is both testament to our past and a challenge for our future. While increased registration reflects our success, large rosters pose game and practice management challenges for the coaching staffs.

HYF is part of the Old Colony Youth Football League, a competitive league which, unlike many youth sports leagues, does not mandate equal playing time. While many of our opponents limit roster size, we have chosen not to do so. In order to maximize the playing time of each player and avoid making cuts, HYF participates in two divisions (D1 and D5) so that each grade level has its own team and also schedules JV games.

Most weeks each team will have both JV and Varsity games. JV games are usually played on Saturdays and Varsity games are usually played on Sundays. All players must attend and be prepared to play in both games. The coaches will attempt to play as many players in the Varsity games as possible without compromising the team's competitiveness. Who plays in the Varsity games, at what position, and for how long is solely within the discretion of the coaches. However, all players who have practiced during the week but who do not play in the Varsity game must play in the JV game.

JV games, as well as intra-squad scrimmages, provide players who do not play in Varsity games with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and confidence in competitive situations with teammates cheering them on. Ultimately, the most important thing is that every player, regardless of his or her current skill level, knows that he or she is a valued member

of the team, whose dedication and hard-work is recognized and appreciated by his or her teammates and coaches.

Please keep in mind that the coaches are volunteers who are donating enormous amounts of time to the program. You may not agree with all of their decisions, but be assured each is committed to his team and every player on his team and is doing what he believes is best for all concerned. A further description of HYF's expectations for its coaches, parents, and players is attached to the end of this message and also can be found on our website, www.hinghamyouthfootball.org.

Here are a few key things to know as we start our season:

- The Hingham Youth Football (HYF) website - www.hinghamyouthfootball.org is your primary place for information. Please note the Team tab on the left side of the welcome page. Each team has its own tab which contains information specific to your child's team - contact info, game & practice schedules etc.
- Volunteer - We need your help to run a successful program. Please seek out and ask me, your team parent or your coach what you can do to help.
- Mandatory Weigh-In - Saturday, September 11th is the mandatory weigh-in to be eligible to play. We will have team buses take the teams to and from the weigh-in. Further details will soon follow.
- 24-hour rule - No parent should address a coach on the field for any non-emergency reason. If there is an issue, the parent should wait 24 hours and call the coach to discuss it. If the issue cannot be resolved, please contact Sean Reagan, VP of Football Operations.
- Team Parent - Each team has a team parent that will help the Head coach coordinate volunteer activities, disseminate team information and field general team questions. Please introduce yourself to your team parent and be as helpful as you can be.
- Concessions - We have a fully stocked concession stand, staffed by parent volunteers, running during practices and games. Please volunteer to staff the concessions now and again - - your help is needed and it's fun.
- HYF Program Book - We have a program book that will have team rosters, game schedules and advertisements. Mary Donius and Cathy McGovern are directing this effort and we are looking for local businesses to show their support for HYF by purchasing ad space in the book. Families can also

support HYF by placing personal messages in the book. Please visit the Fundraising tab on the website for more information.

- Football Social / Fundraiser - On **September 24, 2010** HYF will be hosting its annual social/fundraiser. Please come to socialize with fellow parents and coaches and raise money for the program. The money from the fundraiser, as well as from the concessions, the program book, and merchandise sales is necessary to pay for on-going expenses for, among other things, uniforms, equipment, field rentals, field maintenance, referees, and game day EMTs.
- Online merchandise - We are offering online capability to purchase all Hingham Youth Football merchandise - t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc. Please take a look and show your support of Hingham Youth Football.
- Bug Spray- Due to EEE concerns, please put bug spray on your child before practice.

On behalf of Hingham Youth Football, thank you for joining our program. Go Raiders!

Kevin Donius, President
Hingham Youth Football