

SHAKOPEE YOUTH



FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

THE SIDE LINES

SYFA Mission & Program Goals

To offer a quality and well-supervised youth football program that, in a FUN environment, will teach values of high-character, sportsmanship, and teamwork, instruct youth on proper football fundamentals, increase the overall football skill levels of all participants, while instilling a lifelong love for the game of football.



What's New This Year?

Notice the new Saber-head



logo? This fall, the Shakopee varsity team will be moving back to the helmet logo that was in use up to 2008, but with some tweaks to its design. The youth program also has some tweaks to its program for 2011.

Probably the biggest of these is the separation of 5th and 6th grade levels. These had been combined for years because numbers required they be. With the tremendous growth we've seen recently, it was time to make the move. This should help alleviate concerns about 65 lb. 5th graders going up against 160 lb. 6th graders.

With the change, the 6th grade program is moving into a travel program in the Southwest Metro Football League. We had tremendous success last year with our 7th and 8th grade program moving into the SWML and we expect similar results with 6th grade. This aligns us with the other Southwest Metro cities which all have 6th grade in that travel league as well. We see this as a great opportunity to further raise the bar for Shakopee football, and gives the kids a chance to play against someone other than

ourselves.

Some other travel-related updates:

- Travel games & practices can be held at Tahpah, with lights!
- A post-MEA playoff with other SWML cities.
- Travel players get to keep one game jersey.
- Tournament teams: 2-3 tournaments for 7th and 8th grade teams and 1 for the 6th grade team.

Changes this year for the in-house program include moving 4th grade to a Mon-Wed-Sat schedule and adding 5th grade as a Tue-Thu-Sat schedule. This frees up two fields at Tahpah for use by the three travel levels. 5th grade will use 80 yard fields and the smaller "junior" size football just like 4th grade. This gives the 5th graders a second year at this level to make it easier to improve their skills. There will be some differences between 4th and 5th grade, namely use of black game pants and no on-field coaches at 5th grade.

We will be going back to the old flag football evaluation process of creating balanced teams using size and speed as the sole factors. Flag will not

be offered as an option at 4th grade, as it caused confusion for people and we would generally see only a couple kids go that route.

We've done some fine-tuning to the player evaluation and draft processes, which should make it much more efficient and parent-friendly. Less total stations and all evaluations done on one night! The in-house draft will not be done by coaches, but rather done based on eval scores/rankings within weight classes. In a way, this returns us to how the draft was held a few years ago, and we think this will bring about more balanced teams.

Two fun football events to watch for this August are the Meet The Sabers event on August 26th and the Youth Jamboree games on August 27th. More to come on those events. Meet The Sabers is a fun event that gives anyone in the youth program a chance to get up close to the Saber teams, and there should be some great food and games for the kids to play.

Finally, we have a new fundraiser planned for 2011. More details on it on page 2...

Who to Contact For More Info...

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE YOUTH (GRADES 1-8) PROGRAM:

YOUTH.PROGRAM@SHAKOPEEFOOTBALL.COM

REGISTRATION-RELATED QUESTIONS:

REGISTRATION@SHAKOPEEFOOTBALL.COM

EQUIPMENT-RELATED QUESTIONS:

EQUIPMENT@SHAKOPEEFOOTBALL.COM

TO SEE ABOUT SPONSORING A TEAM:

FUNDRAISING@SHAKOPEEFOOTBALL.COM

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS FOR THE SYFA PRESIDENT:

PRESIDENT@SHAKOPEEFOOTBALL.COM

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS FOR THE FULL YOUTH BOARD:

YOUTH.BOARD@SHAKOPEEFOOTBALL.COM

SYFA BOARD

PRESIDENT—COREY CARLSON

VP—CLAYTON HANDT

TREASURER—PAUL NELSON

SECRETARY—ANDY TITCOMB

IN-HOUSE DIR.—MARK FRIESEN

TRAVEL DIR.—TAC COPLIN

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE—BRIAN KOHLHOF, BRETT MARTIN, WAYNE TOMEI

VARSITY COACH—JODY STONE

HEAD OFFICIAL—BILL TURCOTTE



Upcoming Events

DATE	SYFA EVENT
Jul 1	Late Registration Begins
Jul 16	Gear Day #1
Jul 20	Gear Day #2
Jul 24	Coach Clinic Last Minute Registration
Aug 1	Begins
Aug 1 - Aug 4	Saber Summer Camps
Aug 6	Gear Day #3 Player Evaluations (Timing Stations)
Aug 8 - Aug 11	
Aug 11	Registration closes
Aug 14	Post Schedule & Rosters
Aug 15	First Tackle Practices
Aug 26	Meet The Sabers
Aug 27	Jamboree
Sep 7 - Sep 8	Photo Nights
Sep 10	First Tackle Games
Sep 30	Youth Night Final Regular Season
Oct 15	Games
Oct 19 - Oct 23	MEA
TBD	Playoffs
Nov 5	Gear Turn In Day
Dec 14	Annual Meeting

Tip: Import the .iCal calendar from our website into your Google calendar in order to automatically track your team's game schedule and important events and stay updated with any changes. Use the "tags" option to only see what events you want. See the "How To" article on our SYFA website's Calendar and SYFA News pages.



New Fundraiser

To raise money for new equipment and better fields, and keep future registration costs low, SYFA is undertaking a Jack Link's Beef Jerky fundraiser.



Tackle players will receive information packets on Aug. 20th. They can then sell boxes of 12 jerky for \$18 (same price as in the stores). They turn in their order forms and money on Aug. 31st or Sept. 1st. About 14 days later, they'll receive their jerky for delivery. For participating in this optional fundraiser, players can earn

really cool individual prizes:

- * 5 boxes sold: The 2011 Saber hat
- * 20: Saber hat and sweatshirt
- * 30: Saber hat and hoodie, and a chance to win an iPod.

Plus, the top three selling teams will earn a pizza party, Jack Link's t-shirts and recognition at a varsity football game. SYFA has a goal of 100 boxes sold per tackle team.

This fundraiser is a great opportunity to generate funds that will improve the SYFA program, enhance players' experience and enable players to earn exclusive Sabers gear!

SYFA Merchandise & Deals

For 2011, we will be offering a few items for sale through our website's Merchandise page (see link on left side of the home page):

- * 2011 youth and parent spirit wear
- * Big Stix wall decals (very cool!!)
- * Evoshield protective gear
- * Boosters Salt & Cookie Dough sales

In addition to these web offers, we have a limited number of red Shako-pee Saber Pawprint folding chairs for sale for \$30. We also have some of the very popular Saber knit hats for \$10, baseball caps, practice jerseys, girdles, and of course mouthguards! Also look for Vikings pre-season tickets on sale in July.

What's on the SYFA Website?

You can find a LOT of information on our website. Here's a sampling:

- Youth & coach registration
- League rules & policies
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Season schedule
- Team rosters
- Field maps
- Coaching documents
- Team pages
- Cleat Exchange
- Football camps offered
- Health & safety tips
- Merchandise for sale
- SYFA News
- Translate pages to non-English
- Weather alerts & notifications
- League calendar
- Sponsors list. How to sponsor
- Fundraisers offered
- SYFA Hall of Fame
- Weight training
- List of board members
- Info on the school football program