

Edina Football Association 6th Grade Welcome Letter 2011

Edina Football Players and Parents:

Welcome to the Edina Football Association's 6th Grade program for 2011. You are joining an exciting program dedicated to providing the best possible football experience.

Your grade coordinator is: Matt Meyer Phone: 612.987.9969
Email: mmeyer106@gmail.com

If you have any questions about the EFA program, please contact Matt or your coach.

There will be a total of six Edina 6th grade teams this season. You will receive the game schedule once the teams are selected. Games will be played on Thursdays and Saturdays at Lewis Fields and Pamela Park.

Rules for Edina 6th grade football are posted on the EFA website at www.edinafootball.org. We encourage players and parents to read the rules in advance of the start of the season. The backfield weight restriction as noted by the black stripe in 6th Grade is 115 pounds and over.

Practice and Game Schedule

All practices this season will be held on the south end of Highlands Park. Players are to wear full gear to practices. The season begins on Monday, August 15. Practices will start promptly at 6:00 and conclude at 8:00 on the following days:

First Week: August 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 (Evaluations and Draft)

Second Week: August 22, 23, 24, 25 (Team Practices)

Third Week: August 29, 30, 31

Fourth Week: September 6, 8, with the first game on September 10

Starting September 6, practices will usually be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays with games on Saturdays and some Thursday's. Practices will start at 6:00 and end at 7:30.

Our season will conclude with the 6th Grade Hornet Championship game and 3rd place games at Edina's Kuhlman Stadium on Saturday morning, October 29. Please check website for more details.

Team Selections

The EFA uses an equi-draft to determine what players will be on a particular team. This allows us to make sure that each team is as equally balanced as possible. Once you have been assigned to a team, you will communicate primarily with your coach whenever you have questions or issue.

EFA football is "inclusive" rather than "exclusive". We don't have "A Teams" and "B Teams", nor do we "cut" players to form teams. All players have a starting position. Six 6th grade teams of approximately 15-18 players will be selected via the equi-draft system. During the initial practices and pre-season grading, players will be weighed and timed. Coaches will also take notes on individual agility, physical assertiveness, throwing and catching.

All coaches then conduct a draft, the object of which is to spread the talent evenly. Once fair and balanced teams have been selected, no other changes or swapping of players between teams is permitted. We take the equi-draft very seriously because we want all the teams to have an equal chance to experience success.

The Edina Football Association and your coaches are determined to make sure that all team members get an equitable amount of playing time. Please realize that playing time includes practices, scrimmages and games. The football season is very short compared with other sports in Edina. Please try to make football your number one sports activity this fall.

Key Dates

The **Meet the Hornets** event will be held on Saturday morning, August 27 at Kuhlman Stadium 9 am to noon. All 4th – 8th grade EFA players are invited to watch the Edina Varsity scrimmage five area teams. After the scrimmage, EFA players will go on the field to meet the players, get their autographs and enjoy a free lunch together.

EFA Night will be held on Thursday, September 9th featuring a BBQ dinner before the Edina Hornets home opening game vs Chanhassen. Get there early as this event is

always a sellout. Reminder that EFA players wearing their new team jersey receive a FREE BBQ dinner plus FREE admission to the game!

Objectives

EFA's primary objective is to help all our players achieve the following goals: Have fun playing football; Learn football skills; Learn teamwork skills, sportsmanship and contribute to your team.

To accomplish these goals we need our players to:

Attend all practices and games as possible; Listen to your coaches and ask questions; Be a supportive teammate, encouraging all members of your team; Be prepared to have fun, win or lose... football is a great game!

Equipment

Please bring a water bottle with your name on it to ALL practices and games! The EFA provides game jerseys. You will be responsible for the following equipment:

- *NOCSAE approved helmet with face guard
- *Hard plastic helmet chin strap
- *Mouth Guard
- *Shoulder Pads
- *Cup and Supporter
- *Black Football Pants with Pads.
- *Shoes (molded cleats only, screw-in cleats not allowed) and socks

Equipment is also available at:

General Sports, 5025 France Avenue South, (612) 925-4010

Metro Athletic Supply, 7129 Washington Avenue South, (952) 942-8525

We look forward to another fun year of Edina Football! See you August 15th.