



## **Edina Football Association 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Letter: 2011**

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Edina Football Players and Parents,

Welcome to the Edina Football Association's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade program for 2011! We look forward to another exciting season of providing the best football experiences, for your boys and your families.

My name is Mike Hutson and I am the 4<sup>th</sup> grade coordinator this year. My contact information is as follows:

Cell phone: 612.281.6542

Email: [bmhuts@earthlink.net](mailto:bmhuts@earthlink.net)

If you have any questions about the EFA program, please contact me, or your coaches, once they're assigned.

There will be a total of ten Edina 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams this season. You will receive your team roster, coaches' information and your game schedule, once our teams are selected the second week of practice. All practices will be held at the artificial turf field at Valley View Middle School and games will be played at Van Valkenberg Park.

Rules for Edina 4<sup>th</sup> grade football are posted on the EFA website at [www.edinafootball.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, is **90 pounds** and over.

### **Practice and Game Schedule**

**The season begins on Monday, August 15. Players are to wear helmets only the first week of practice and then full gear from then on.** Before the school year begins, practices will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 on the following days:

First Week: August 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 (weigh in, timing, skills evaluations).

Second Week: August 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 (continued evaluations, up to draft).

Third Week: August 29, 30, 31, 9/1 (first team practices) w/ Friday off.

Fourth Week: September 6, 8, 9 (6:00-7:30) 1st game on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Beginning Monday September 12, weekly practice schedules will usually be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with games on Saturdays. Practices will start at 6:00 and end at 7:30. Later in the season, practices will shift earlier, to accommodate for loss of sunlight.

### **Team Selections**

The EFA uses an equi-draft to place players on teams. 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 issues. Matters that cannot be resolved by your coach should be addressed to me.

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. Ten 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams of approximately 12 to 13 players will be selected via the equi-draft system. During our initial practices, 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 goal of which is to spread the talent as evenly as possible. Once fair and balanced teams have been selected, no more than 2 registered coaches per team may trade for their own sons to be placed on their team. Absolutely no other changes or swapping of players between teams is permitted. The EFA takes the equi-draft very seriously, because we want all the teams to have an equal chance to compete and experience success.

The Edina Football Association and your coaches are determined to make sure 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. Players who show commitment to football will be rewarded.

### **EFA Objectives for 4th Grade**

The EFA's primary objective is to help all our players achieve the following goals:

- \*Have fun playing football;
- \*Learn football fundamentals and improve player skills;
- \*Learn teamwork skills, sportsmanship and contribute to your team.

To accomplish these goals we need our players to:

- \*Attend all practices and games;
- \*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;

Player safety is always on our minds. Players without proper equipment will not be allowed to practice or play in games. This includes mouth guards, which tend to be lost frequently by our younger players. Please help your player manage his equipment.

Equipment is available at many local sporting goods stores, including: **General Sports**, 5025 France Avenue South, (612) 925-4010 **Metro Athletic Supply**, 7129 Washington Avenue South, (952) 942-8525.

## Other Key Dates to Remember

The **Meet the Hornets** event will be held on Saturday morning, August 27th at Kuhlman Stadium. All 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, featuring a BBQ dinner before the Edina Hornets' home opening game vs. Minneapolis Southwest. 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!

More info on all events will be posted on the EFA website. Please check the website for all necessary information.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Hutson  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Coordinator