

BELOW IS A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY LETTER THAT WE RECOMMEND YOU ADAPT AND SEND TO ALL OF YOUR TEAM PARENTS. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE INCLUDED SOME OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES YOU SHOULD ADDRESS WITH YOUR FAMILIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Welcome everyone to [year][season] flag football. My name is [name] and I will be coaching your child's team this season. *[Also, helping me will be name and name.]* We are looking forward to a fun and competitive season, but before we hit the field, it is important to address a few things. First, we would like to stress to all parents that this is a recreational league and for some kids it could be their first year of organized sports. While we will be teaching individual skills, the importance of teamwork and game strategies, it is important to remember that we will ultimately stress fun over all else.

The keys to getting the most out of football this season is to focus on continued learning and improvement of skills and to not let mistakes (or fear of making mistakes) stop the kids from improving. As a parent or guardian, you can help by appreciating your child's effort above all else; get him to talk about his play rather than providing your critique of his performance. Avoid giving advice right after a game, especially a tough loss and please avoid discussions of any other child's performance. Although this all seems like common sense, it can be easy to forget after a tough day on the field.

Coaching youth sports is a team effort and we encourage all parents to help out on gameday by keeping the kids focused, encouraging effort and cheering good play on both sides of the gridiron. Many of the referees in this league are kids only a few years older than the children playing. **Never** protest a referee's call. If a call is wrong in your opinion, please be silent and don't blame a loss on a bad call.

All rules, program information, field locations, etc. can be found on the 78th Youth Sports web site (www.78youthsports.org) under the "Resources" tab.

Lastly, please make sure that someone is there after practices and games to pick up your child.

Play Ball,
[coach name]

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Scheduling practices – when and where.
2. Choose assistants to help with:
 - a. communication with parents;
 - b. track lineups and playing time during games;
 - c. assist with practices;
 - d. manage uniforms and equipment pick up and drop off.
3. Instruct everyone to download the Crossbar app to their phone. Each team's schedule will be posted and updated there. Coaches and team admins will also be able to access roster information and the entire team can communicate via the app.
4. Please encourage your players and parents to support 78 Youth Sports through sponsorships; fund raisers like picture days and 78 YS-promoted Cyclones games; and volunteering for non-coaching roles as part of a field crew, a school liaison or even joining our Board.