

PLEASANT YOUTH FOOTBALL 2020 SEASON UPDATE

7/17/2020

Spartan Parents & Guardians:

Members from the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference Youth Football League met today and discussed the upcoming season. These six teams include Delaware, Galion, Harding, Pleasant, River Valley and Shelby and cover four different counties. After a lot of discussion, regrettably, the unanimous decision was made to cancel the 2020 youth football season for the MOACYFL. The league wanted to wait until the last possible time as we held out the possibility of a season, but it became apparent that it wasn't feasible this year.

Among several factors, one of the largest was the unknown. We don't know what orders may be in place from the State of Ohio that limit competitions as a contact sport. As the most recent order stands today, a COVID-19 test "must be administered to each athlete and team staff member participating in the competition no more than 72 hours prior to the start of the competition" (07/16/20 - [Director's Order to Extend the Expiration date of Second Amended Order that Provides Guidance for Contact Sport Practices and Non-Contact Sport Competitions, and Contact Competition, with Exceptions](#)). Everyone agreed that, if this order remained in effect, it would be impossible for our teams to comply with the testing. Additionally, if one player tested positive, no one could participate. Spectators are also not permitted in the stadium under this current order.

Two of the four counties are currently under a Level 3 (Red) alert ([Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#)) that the State of Ohio has put into place. This level requires a decrease in-person interactions with others, to consider only necessary travel, and to limit gatherings of any number. We don't know what August, September and beyond will look like.

All the teams agreed that it was important for the kids to be involved in something because sports are so important for kids as they develop mentally and physically. For many, it's been too long since they've participated in a sport. Based on the decision to cancel tackle football, Dayspring Wesleyan Church is considering expanding the flag football season to include 4th-6th grade this year. That could always change, too, if flag football was determined to be a contact sport. If that is something your son may be interested in, please follow their [Facebook page](#) for updates.

This isn't what any of us wanted. Ken and I both have 5th graders who look forward to football year-round as I'm sure most of your sons do. It didn't make sense for us, however, to continue with so many unknowns based on what we do know now.

Thank you for your understanding and realizing that this decision was not taken lightly.

Go Spartans!

Jon Shaffer
Ken Hall