



2021

**BIG LAKE YOUTH FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION**

PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK

**TACKLE
4th/5th/6th GRADE**

The information contained in this Big Lake Youth Football Association Player Handbook will provide our football players, Coaches and Parents/Guardians with a general outline of the rules under which the program is structured. It is the Parents/Guardians responsibility to become familiar with this information. We are happy to welcome all Players, Coaches and Parents/Guardians to the 2021 Big Lake Youth Football program.

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**2021 CONTACT INFORMATION
BIG LAKE YOUTH FOOTBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Board Position	Name	e-mail	Cell Phone
President	Sarah Markfort	smarkfort@biglakefootball.org	651-248-2816
Vice President	Chris Caswell	ccaswell@biglakefootball.org	763-245-6394
Secretary	Tiffany Caswell	tcaswell@biglakefootball.org	763-269-1097
Treasurer	Mike VanValkenberg	mv@biglakefootball.org	763-482-4776
Tackle Director	Michael Fajardo	mfajardo@biglakefootball.org	
Equipment Coordinator	Dan Lidberg	dlidberg@biglakefootball.org	217-530-1584
Registration Co-Coordinator	Krista Hillyard	khillyard@biglakefootball.org	
Registration/Volunteer Coordinator	Alicia Horn	a.horn@biglakefootball.org	763-443-9507
Concessions Co- Coordinator	Ashley Pula	apula@biglakefootball.org	
Apparel/Fundraiser Coordinator	Rene Lidberg	rlidberg@biglakefootball.org	651-410-7624
Communications/Website Coordinator	Angie Spaeth	aspaeth@biglakefootball.org	763-639-8442
Concessions Coordinator	Jessica LaRoche	jlaroche@biglakefootball.org	612-222-1932
Safety Coordinator	Rachel Strader	rstrader@biglakefootball.org	763-438-2675

BLYFA VISION STATEMENT

Developing our youth to achieve individual success through teamwork, sportsmanship and character building that will guide them both on and off the field and into our community.

BLYFA MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Lake Football Association's mission is to foster a program that is dedicated to providing the youth of Big Lake an environment that is fun, safe and educational to learn and succeed in the game of football. We will achieve this through:

- Providing a safe and nurturing environment for the players
- Coaching to help them develop the skills needed to succeed
- Fostering an environment where respect to ones-self, teammates, opponents, officials and coaches are demanded.
- Providing our coaches with the tools, resources and support they need to succeed
- Embracing the diversity of our community and the communities around us
- Encouraging the continued involvement of the parents

BLYFA TACKLE DIVISION RULES AND KEY INFORMATION

Division Specifics

The BLYFA Tackle Division is a competitive youth Football program that participates in the Twin City North League. Our players will compete against other teams from other youth associations in the Twin Cities north west suburbs. There will typically be one to two Big Lake teams for each grade in this division, dependent on registration enrollment numbers. Teams will be formed by a player draft that will be held after registration is closed by the designated Head & Assistant Coaches for each Grade. Each team in this division will play 9-10 regular season games from the beginning of September to the end of October. Due to League scheduling requirements & our lack of lighted playing fields, home games will be minimal (2-3 games) & will take place on Saturdays.

Registration

Player Registration & Payment for the BLYFA Program should be done online at <http://www.biglakefootball.org> via Sports Connect

2021 Registrations dates are as follows:

Online Registration April 2nd – July 3rd.

Open Registration & Uniform Ordering:

(You will be required to enter your registration information online so please do so prior if at all possible)

Open Registration Dates:

Sunday, May 16th from 2-6pm in the Independence Elementary Cafeteria

Wednesday, June 9th from 5:00–8pm in the Independence Elementary Cafeteria

Registration Fees for this division for 2021 are **\$175.00**

Any registrations submitted after July 3rd will be considered **late**. Any late registrations and enrollment will be strictly at the discretion of the Board of Directors & will be subject to a **\$75 late registration fee**. Any registration payments that are being made offline must be done at one of the open registration dates.

Refund Policy

There will be no uniform refunds issued after the uniform order has been placed with our supplier - **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Registration fees are eligible for a refund if cancelled before July 3rd. Please contact the BLYFA Registration Coordinator if you choose to withdraw from the program. Any requests for registration cancellations & subsequent refunds after July 3rd are strictly at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Any refunds that are issued will be net of any administrative costs incurred by the BLYFA.

Scholarships

The BLYFA Board has a limited number of scholarships available that parents may apply for based on need. You will be required to submit a scholarship application due ON or before the scholarship deadline. Scholarship applications are on our website or can be emailed upon request. Scholarships will be awarded based on needs and funds available. If awarded, you agree to work an **additional 3 hours** (per family). All Scholarship application information will be kept strictly confidential.

Code of Conduct

All players registering to play in the BLYFA Association are required to read, understand & sign a Player Code of Conduct (see below). All parents/guardians of registered players are required to read, understand and sign a Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct (see below), in addition they are also responsible for advising all invited visitors/spectators of this Code of Conduct and ensuring that they adhere to it as well. All Code of Conduct forms will be collected at the mandatory parent meeting before the beginning of the season.

Practices

Practices for tackle will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at the 4-plex starting the week of August 2nd. Once school begins, practices change to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. The fundamental skills taught at practice each week may vary. New skills are learned, problem areas are corrected, and new plays are taught. Your child will be at a disadvantage by not regularly attending practice or not arriving on time. Players missing practices may affect game play time. Additionally, please make sure that the players are picked up on time at the end of practice so that the coaches can go home to their families. Practices run from 6:00 – 8:00pm, unless an issue

Coaching

All coaches in the BLYFA are strictly volunteers. Parents/guardians interested in coaching for the BLYFA are required to submit a coaching application & will be required to submit a background screening every year. Coaching assignments are strictly at the discretion of the BLYFA Board & decisions are based on information provided on their application and background check. All Coaches that are appointed by the BLYFA Board, must attend and gain certification from USA Football's coaches training program, as well as sign and agree to abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct.

In Game Playtime

Playtime in this division is governed by the Twin City North League Rules. All coaches are required to play, to the best extent possible, all players in at least one-half (1/2) of each game. Teams with 22 or less players should therefore start each player on either offense or defense. Teams with more than 22 players are required to devise an equitable system to assure that all players participate in as close to one-half (1/2) of the game as reasonably possible. ***(Discipline and attendance issues may affect player game play time.)*** Player playtime for tournaments will be at the discretion of the team's head coach based on game & player position needs. If players are missing practice or not learning plays, this may also reduce play time in games due to safety concerns.

Player Positions

To be successful, a player must study the playbook and understand all of the positions and responsibilities of the football team. During the first few weeks of practice the coaches will assess the most appropriate positions for each player. A player's attitude, effort, and ability play a large role in the position that they are assigned. Modifications will be an ongoing process with the goal of making the team more effective.

Tournaments

In that event that BLYFA hosts a tournament or scrimmage, all BLYFA eligible teams will be allowed to participate free or at a discounted rate. No BLYFA team participation in any competing tournament or event during the same timeframe will be permitted. All player tournament participation will be considered optional & all team tournaments will be determined

by the teams head coach & must be approved by the BLYFA Board of Directors prior to the team registering. BLYFA sponsorship of any team tournament registration fees will be at the discretion of the BLYFA Board of Directors & will be based on funds available & funds will be awarded equally amongst all tackling teams participating in tournaments.

Playoffs

Playoffs for this division are scheduled to take place during the last week of October & the first week of November. Due to prior years scheduling conflicts with regards to league playoffs & out of town tournament participation the BLYFA Board of Directors are required by the Twin City North League to designate by grade whether our team(s) will be participating in playoffs or will be opting out in favor of tournament play. For 2021 this designation will be announced for each team/grade at the mandatory parent/player meeting.

Parent Volunteer Hours

All parents/guardians of registered players will be required to complete 6 hours of volunteer time per family. Volunteers completing the hours must be at least 16 years of age. A deposit check of \$150 will be required per family & will be collected at the parent meeting/equipment handout. The check will be returned at the end of the season upon successful completion of hours. **NO player will be allowed to start practice without a volunteer deposit check being turned in. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Any parent/guardian wishing to opt out of doing their volunteer hours may choose to do so & will need to designate this on their volunteer check or send a written communication to the Volunteer Coordinator of the association. If you have been assigned a volunteer shift that you do not show up for without expressed permission from the Volunteer Coordinator beforehand your check will be cashed. Any families not completing their volunteer hours by the end of the season will have their volunteer deposit checks cashed on October 26th 2021.

The BLYFA is strictly a volunteer organization & without the volunteer assistance of our parents/guardians, the Board of Directors would not be able to successfully run our association or events. Any parents/guardians that are willing to donate additional volunteer hours are encouraged to do so and will be greatly appreciated; inquiries should be made with the Volunteer Coordinator or any board member. An e-mail communication will be sent out to all registered parents from the volunteer coordinator notifying them of volunteer hours that they may sign up for once they become available. The only exceptions to this are Board Members, certified and registered coaches & parent reps. Parent volunteers that help at practices & volunteer to run the chains at games are required by the league & while these volunteers are greatly appreciated by the Association, this will not count towards your volunteer hours unless they are listed on the volunteer site & you have specifically signed up to work them.

Equipment

All BLYFA players are required to wear an athletic supporter with protective cup, a mouth guard that is attached to their helmet, rubber cleated shoes (no metal cleats will be allowed), helmet, shoulders pads & each player will need to provide a practice jersey.

Parents/guardians of registered players that would like to use BLYFA helmets & shoulder pads will be required to complete an equipment deposit form. A deposit check of \$200 will be required per player. Checks will be collected at equipment hand-out and will be returned at the end of the season upon return of equipment in good condition. Any families not turning in their equipment by the end of the season will have their deposit checks cashed. All equipment will be handed out at the mandatory parent meeting before the beginning of the season. You will be notified by

the BLYFA director of the meeting date & time. No equipment will be handed out with a signed equipment deposit form & a deposit check being received-NO EXCEPTIONS!

Due to insurance requirements, BLYFA player equipment may not be utilized by players for events that are not specifically specified in this handbook and/or approved by the BLYFA Board of Directors.

Uniforms

All BLYFA players in this division are required to purchase a game jersey through our apparel partner during open registration. Shiny black football pants with built in pads & long black football socks. In order to reduce costs the association uses the same uniforms for all of our traveling teams this can be used year over year as long as it still fits. All uniform pieces are sold individually so they can be replaced as needed. All uniforms MUST be purchased from our designated vendor; you may purchase pants and socks where you choose, though they will be available through our designated vendor. **If your player is new to the association or requires a new jersey you will need to attend one of the open registration dates to get sized, pay for and order your uniform. All Incoming 4th Grade Players will need to purchase a new jerseys.** All players in the tackle division will be assigned a unique jersey number by grade from available numbers based on the player's choice. These are assigned during the open registration dates and are on a first come first served basis. This will be your player's number for the remainder of their seasons in 4th – 6th grade. In the event that a jersey is passed down from one sibling to another or a player comes back after not having played the prior year, their jersey number needs to be specified at registration and will only be allowed if that number has not already been assigned to a different player in the same grade.

Fundraising

Association, team and Individual fundraising opportunities will be presented by our fundraiser coordinator via an e-mail blast or to each teams parent rep liaison throughout the season. Player participation in these initiatives is strictly voluntary. Any fundraising that is done in the name of the Big Lake Youth Football Association must be approved ahead of time by the BLYFA Board of Directors & all funds along with the corresponding documentation collected during this fundraiser must be turned into the fundraiser coordinator and the BLYFA Treasurer for distribution to the teams and/or individuals. Individual funds raised will be logged by the treasurer & will be paid out on behalf of the player to reimburse for any football related expenses. Ex. BLYFA Registration & Uniform fees, out of town tournament expenses related to travel, lodging, meals, fees, & player purchased equipment. If you are requesting reimbursement on personal football related purchases, detailed receipts of the appropriate item will need to be submitted to the BLYFA Treasurer for approval and reimbursement. Individual balances that have not been paid out in full in a given season will be carried over to the following season. Any 6th graders with a remaining balance at the end of their career can have funds roll down to a sibling or the funds will be rolled into the BLYFA scholarship fund.

Mandatory Parent Meeting

A mandatory parent meeting will be scheduled for **August 2nd**, in conjunction with equipment handout. The director will discuss all BLYFA policies, procedure, rules & answer questions that you may have. If you have any questions prior to this meeting, please contact the appropriate board member listed above.

Questions

If you have any questions that were not answered in this document, or not available on our website <http://www.biglakefootball.org> please feel free to contact the appropriate board member listed above. If you are unsure whom to contact, please check with your teams parent rep and they can assist you.

Concerns/Complaints

If you have a concern or complaint, please contact your Teams Parent Rep liaison first & then your team's head coach to resolve. If you are not satisfied with the resolution of the issue, please discuss the complaint with the BLYFA League director listed above who will work with you to resolve when possible, otherwise he will bring the concern to the attention of the BLYFA president and/or Board of Directors. If you would like to bring an unresolved issue before the entire board, you may do so at our monthly board meeting. Please notify the President of the association listed above, in writing of the issue you would like to discuss at least one week prior to the scheduled board meeting so that it may be placed on the board meeting agenda. BLYFA monthly board meetings take place the first Sunday of the month at 6:00pm in the Senior Center inside of Big Lake City Hall, unless otherwise specified on our website/social media. <http://www.biglakefootball.org>.

Rules

All BLYFA registered players will adhere to the 2021 Twin City North Youth Football League as spelled out in Part 3 except as specifically stated above or where tournament rules are in effect.

BIG LAKE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my player and their team participating in youth sports with the Big Lake Youth Football Association by following this Parents code of conduct:

1. I will understand, support and help enforce the Player Code of Conduct for my player.
2. I will lead by example for my player and team and treat other players, parents, coaches, fans and officials with respect and good sportsmanship. This includes no public ridicule and/or verbal abuse of any sort; this includes all social media platforms.
3. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my player and their team ahead of any personal desire to win.
4. I will demand a sports environment that is free from profanity, drugs, alcohol and tobacco and refrain from their use at all games, practices and tournaments sponsored by the Big Lake Youth Football Association.
5. I will ensure that my player is dropped off and picked up on time for team events. I understand that if my player misses practices, it may affect their in game playtime.
6. I will promote the emotional, physical, academic and athletic dimensions of my player.
7. I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child, I will not force my child to play a sport.
8. I will do my best to remember that the game is intended to be fun and the game is for children to learn and develop in the sport they want to play.
9. I will treat all players, parents, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
10. I will practice open communication with coaches, players, parents, team parent reps & Big Lake Youth Football Association Board of Directors. I will show discretion when speaking with my player, another player, the coach or another parent with regards to any problems that may arise. I will wait the **24 hour cooling down** period before engaging my Parent rep or Coach if an issue arises.
11. I will make an effort to be aware of the Big Lake Youth Football Association & League rules, for every game and event that my player participates in and will respect and adhere to these rules and require my player to do the same.
12. I agree that I have read and fully understand the Big Lake Youth Football Association Parent Handbook Policy and that I will follow the guidelines spelled out in it to bring up any concerns through the proper channels and will do so in a dignified manner.
13. I will read the Big Lake Youth Football Association Policies and do everything in my power to assist the organization to implement and enforce them.

All Big Lake Youth Football Association parents/guardians/spectators are expected to adhere to the code of conduct and display good sportsmanship. Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may include, but are not limited to, removal of the parents/guardians/spectators from a practice(s), game(s), league/tournament suspension, or possible expulsion from Big Lake Youth Football. I acknowledge that I have read and understand this code of conduct policy and that I and all other Parent/Guardians/Spectators of the Big Lake Youth Football Association player listed below will abide by this code of conduct.

X

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

BIG LAKE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my team participating in youth sports with the BLYFA by following this Coaches' code of ethics:

1. I will be a consistent role model. I will maintain personal and professional integrity both on and off the field. I will lead by example and I promise to win and lose with dignity and integrity.
2. I will promote the emotional, physical, academic and athletic dimensions of the player.
3. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the player ahead of any personal desire to win.
4. I will not participate in or allow any players to participate in actions that intimidate, ridicule, or verbally and/or physically abuse any player.
5. I will practice open communication with players, parents, team parent reps and the Big Lake Youth Football Association Board of Directors. I will show discretion when speaking with a player or parent with regards to any problems that may arise.
6. I will keep the game and practices fun as well as challenging and provide a positive athletic experience for my players to grow in their athletic abilities.
7. I will practice good sportsmanship by demonstrating fair play, comply with Big Lake Youth Football Association player playtime guidelines appropriate for the grade I am coaching, and provide positive support for the players, parents, coaches, volunteers and officials at every game.
8. I will demand a sports environment that is free from profanity, drugs, alcohol and tobacco and refrain from their use prior to and at all games, practices and tournaments sponsored by the Big Lake Youth Football Association.
9. I will be knowledgeable in the Big Lake Youth Football Association and League rules, for every game and event that I coach, and will respect and adhere to these rules & require my team to do the same.
10. I will treat all players, parents, coaches, fans & officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
11. I will be on time to all games and practices, or I will communicate to another coach or Team Parent Rep my delay or absence in a timely manner to allow for other coaching arrangements to be made.
12. I will supervise the arrival and departure of all players or ensure that another qualified person does so.
13. I agree to act as representative of the Big Lake Youth Football Association and in doing so I acknowledge that I have read the Big Lake Youth Football Association Parent/Player Handbook, by-laws, conflict of Interest Policy and the League Rules and guidelines and I agree to abide by them.
14. I agree that under the Big Lake Youth Football Association Parent Handbook Policy that I will bring my concerns to the proper board member and will do so in a dignified manner.
15. I agree that I, or another fellow Team Coach or Team Parent Rep will represent my Team and our interests at all monthly Big Lake Youth Football Association Board meetings.

All Big Lake Youth Football Association coaches are expected to adhere to the code of conduct and display good sportsmanship. Failure to adhere to the code of conduct or failure to disclose any other legal violations that occur after background screening but during their coaching assignment may include, but are not limited to, removal of the Coach from a game(s), league/tournament suspension, or possible expulsion from Big Lake Youth Football. I acknowledge that I have read and understand this code of conduct policy and that I will abide by it.

If for any reason my coaching duties are not fulfilled and I leave as a BLYFA coach prior to the end of the season, my volunteer hours will not be fulfilled, and I will be responsible for completing the required 6 hours of volunteer time.

X

Coach signature

Date

BIG LAKE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will treat my parents, coaches, teammates, opponents, property of others and game officials with the same respect that I would like to be treated regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
2. I will practice good sportsmanship by demonstrating respect both on and off the field. Destructive or inappropriate behavior, during or after a game or practice, will not be tolerated & may affect in game playtime.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free from profanity, drugs, alcohol and tobacco and I will refrain from their use at all times.
4. I will practice and play to the best of my ability at all times.
5. I will study the playbook provided by my coaches and work to better understand the game of football.
6. I will be on time (as assigned by my coach) to all team events. I understand that missing practices may affect my in game playtime.
7. I will recognize football as a team sport and will put the interests of the team over my own individual interests and personal desire to win.
8. I will not intimidate, ridicule, or verbally and/or physically abuse any player.
9. I will not criticize officials, coaches, parents, teammates or opposing players.
10. I will not attempt to deliberately injure another player(s).
11. I will agree to abide by all Association, League, & Tournament rules.
12. I will wear my team uniform and equipment with pride and treat it with respect.
13. I will keep up with my schoolwork by balancing my time and school assignments with games and practice schedules.
14. I will follow the Hornet Way both in the classroom, in our community and on the football field.

All Big Lake Youth Football Association players are expected to adhere to the code of conduct and display good sportsmanship. Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may include, but are not limited to, removal of the player from a practice(s), game(s), league/tournament suspension, or possible expulsion from Big Lake Youth Football. I acknowledge that I have read and understand this code of conduct policy & that I will abide by it.

X

Player signature

Date