

The Golden Bears Football Program

General Information - 2015

The Golden Bears Football Program is a collaborative effort of the St. Gabriel, Mother Theresa, and St. Michael schools and St. Johns and St. Maximillian parishes. The program participates in the **Greater Catholic Youth League**, which is made up of all the catholic school and parish teams in the Greater Cincinnati area. The GCYL is not part of CYO; however it does abide by Archdiocese rules that govern youth sports. All league information, including schedules, standings and rules can be found at www.GCYL.org. While the GCYL is a resource, please direct any questions or issues to the head coach or coordinator.

The program generally fields a Pony Team (3rd and 4th grade combination), a Reserve Team (5th and 6th grade combination), and a Varsity Team (7th and 8th grade combination). Per league rules, a program must field a Pony or Reserve team before it may field a 3rd grade or 5th grade only team. If registration yields a sufficient number of players (more than 17) as of April 30th, consideration for multiple teams will be made. We are also planning on a Bandit Team (K, 1st, 2nd) which is instructional and no score is kept.

Who are the Coaches for 2015?

The program strives to place non-parent head coaches for each team whenever possible. Assistant coaches are generally parents however the majority of coaches were non parents in 2014.

Varsity – Ralph Perdrix

Reserve – Joe Toepfer

Pony – Kevin Harris

Bandit - TBD

Are there try outs?

No. All players will make the team.

Will my child be guaranteed playing time?

Unlike CYO, the GCYL is a competitive league that does not have a playing time requirement. However, every effort will be made to log playing time for all players and the Pony level teams will work towards the new Archdiocese rule for “equal playing time.” Combination teams present a challenge in that some player’s age and weight will put them at a disadvantage. Large rosters will also present challenges. We fully understand the importance of playing time to both the parent and the player and the future of the program.

It will be the coaches' responsibility to place players in positions that best benefit the team not where the player or parent wants him to play. We expect all players to compete for and earn a starting position since only 11 players play at any one time. It is our goal to play as many players as the game dictates and is the head coach's decision.

The amount of playing time depends on:

- * overall attitude,
- * acceptable behavior at practices and games,
- * paying attention at practice and games,
- * being on time to practice and games,
- * practice and game attendance,
- * improvement and growth,
- * player safety,
- * respect for other team members and coaches,
- * interaction with team mates, and
- * evidence of growth of great sportsmanship.

We are aware that some parents expect their child to play no matter what, even though the above requirements are not fulfilled.

Our goal, over playing time, is to teach the fundamentals of football, responsibility, accountability, competitiveness, good sportsmanship, playing to and above one's own ability, and to never give up.

If you do not agree with the above criteria and goals, then the program may not be for you and your child.

Are there Weight Limits?

Yes, Pony 120lbs, Reserve 140 lbs, and Varsity 170lbs.

What does the registration fee cover?

All player equipment (except jersey), practice equipment, balls, tees, liability insurance, field rentals (practice and home game), just to mention a few.

Refunds

Registration guarantees a roster spot on a Golden Bear team. Refunds are granted for health issues or moving out of the area only. Once practice starts refunds are not granted.

Do parents have to volunteer?

Yes, all parents are required to volunteer up to two hours for one to three home games depending on the number of players enrolled in the program. Any youth group is built on volunteers and fundraisers to totally fund the expenses associated with playing otherwise registration fees would be prohibitive for most families.

When will Practice Start?

Practice usually starts 30 days before the season begins, which is generally Labor Day weekend. Hence, practice starts July 31st this year.

How often do the teams practice and where?

From the first practice, till school starts, there are 4-5 practices per week, including preseason scrimmages. This is the time for conditioning and teaching skills. Beginning the first full week of school: Pony and Reserve practices Tues/Thurs/Sat while Varsity practices Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat. Bandit will practice Tues/Thurs. Practices are held at Landmark Baptist.

How many games and where are games played?

There are generally eight regular season games and a minimum of one playoff game. Home games at Middletown Fenwick. Away games at other league teams' fields.

When are games played?

Most games are played on Sunday however there are occasional Saturday games.

How do the playoffs and Championship games work?

All teams in the GCYL make the playoffs. There are playoff divisions determined by program size and record. The Division I playoffs will generally include the larger programs who have the best win/loss records. Divisions II, III, and IV will include progressively smaller programs with lesser records. The Bears often earn Division I status but will also "challenge up" to play the best competition possible.

Are the Coaches Trained?

Yes. All coaches are required to fulfill the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Decree on Child Protection which requires background check, fingerprinting, and VIRTUS training. As required by law, all coaches must be certified by the State on concussion awareness. The GCYL is a USA Heads Up league and every program has a player safety coach.

What are the Parent's Responsibilities?

Parents and players must sign the GCYL release and waiver form, the head injury awareness form, field release and waiver form. All fees must be current as of the first practice. A payment plan can easily be arranged in the case of financial difficulties.

Help needed or volunteering?

Absolutely, please contact us if you would like to help. We always have plenty to do to improve our program. Steve Broughton at stevetbroughton@gmail.com