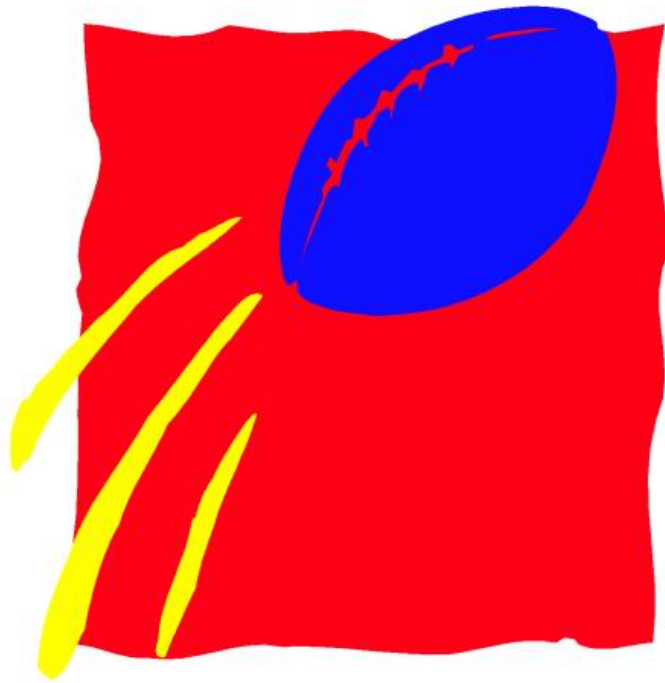


# **Haverhill YMCA Youth Flag Football League**

**Parents and Players are required to read this handbook.**



## **2010 Family Handbook**

**YSPORTS™**

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Haverhill Youth Flag Football League. We are so glad you have decided to join us for a great and rewarding football season! This season we will strive to create the safest and most fun experience for players, parents, volunteers and the Haverhill YMCA.

The beginning to a great season involves making sure that all participants and families are aware of the procedures and rules of this flag football program. This packet contains useful information and answers to many common questions about the league. Please read it carefully and thoroughly and if you have any comments or questions about the information or the program itself, please contact the **League Director**:

**Matthew Chmielewski**  
**Sports & Adventure Director**  
**Haverhill YMCA**  
**(978) 374-0506**

**[chmielewskim@northshoreymca.org](mailto:chmielewskim@northshoreymca.org)**

**League Information:**

**[www.northshoreymca.org](http://www.northshoreymca.org) > Haverhill > Programs > Sports  
or call 978-374-0506**

## **YMCA PHILOSOPHY**

The youth sports programs at the YMCA are geared to help young people develop social skills for group and team interaction. The YMCA's motto is to "Build strong kids, strong families and strong communities," and it's our hope that the youth sports program will be an opportunity for young people to develop themselves not only as an athlete, but as a person. The emphasis at the YMCA is on having fun and learning to enjoy the sport. We also emphasize learning skills of the sport, as well as the lifelong values of sportsmanship, self-respect, respect for others, and positive attitudes about winning or losing. Competition is a part of our program, however, how you play and how you feel about yourself is more important than winning or losing. We hope that you and your child will walk away from this YMCA flag football league having learned more than just skills for the game, but skills for life.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration ends **Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Registration forms are available at the Haverhill YMCA and on the YMCA website: [www.northshoreymca.org](http://www.northshoreymca.org). Please be sure all registration forms are filled out completely, without the registration form your child will not be placed on a team (the emergency information is necessary prior to the start of the season).
- **DIVISIONS:** (Grade as of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010)

Division #1:	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Division #2:	3 <sup>rd</sup> through 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
- Age divisions may be combined or split based on registration numbers
- Participants will be placed on a team with a volunteer coach. Teams will meet for 1.5 hours on Saturdays. The teams will have one hour of field time consisting of a 30 minutes preparation and a 40 minute game with a break between halves. Haverhill YMCA rules will apply.
- Any player registering after **September 1<sup>st</sup>** will be placed on a wait list. Players on the waitlist may miss the first week of games and practices.
- All participants will receive a team t-shirt. All t-shirts will be distributed by coaches at the first game.
- On game day, all participants should bring sneakers, comfortable shorts, and a water bottle (No cleats).
- Coaches will contact all participants by Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to confirm the first scheduled game time and location. Schedules will be handed out to teams on the first day of games. The full game schedule will be available online at [www.northshoreymca.org](http://www.northshoreymca.org)
- If your child decides to withdraw from the program **BEFORE** the first games of the season, a YMCA credit will be given. If your child decides to withdraw **DURING** the season the YMCA will issue a credit based on the amount of time the child will miss during the league. **Should you register and then decide not to play, \$20 of the registration fee is non-refundable;** the remainder will be given as credit.
- These leagues are for everyone - regardless of income. The YMCA provides scholarships for families who are not able to pay the full program fee. The appropriate information packet can be picked up at the front desk of the Haverhill YMCA.

## SEASON INFORMATION

- Season length is 6 weeks plus a championship week.
- Season will begin Saturday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>**.
- On September 11<sup>th</sup> players in the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade division will be briefly evaluated and then placed on teams in an attempt to ensure parity. Grades 1 & 2 will not have evaluations and will be placed on teams randomly.

Please be aware of which division your child should play in, so that he/she attends the correct evaluation session. The age groups for each division are provided in this packet.

<b><u>DIVISION</u></b>	<b><u>Sat. September 11<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
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Grade 1 & 2 Practice & Game		JG Whittier Middle School @ 10:00am
Grades 3-5 Evaluations & Game		JG Whittier Middle School @ 11:30am

- The team selection process will involve having YMCA staff, head coaches and volunteers present at the first practice. The players will be ranked from 1-3, with one being the highest skilled. There will be an even amount of 1's, 2's, and 3's placed on each team immediately following the evaluation session. This will reduce the chance of one team dominating the whole season, or from one team never getting a chance to win.
- If necessary as determined by the league coordinator or director, teams may be combined or changed throughout the course of the season.
- Head coaches will be randomly assigned to a team. If for some reason a child needs to be switched from one team to another (i.e. their parent is a coach of another team), they will be traded for a player of the same skill rank. The Director and the Advisory Committee will ensure that the team selection process will be as fair and positive as possible.
- **End of Season Celebrations:** All players will be rewarded for their hard work and enthusiasm at the end of the season during a league celebration event. All players are recognized despite team record at the end of the season.
- **Player conduct:** Players are expected to show sportsmanship at all times. This involves: respecting the other team, respecting yourself, cooperating with the officials, and cooperating with your coach and respecting the fans. This also means that all players, coaches, and parents must abide by the rules set by the YMCA and the Advisory Committee. If by chance a player's behavior is unacceptable, they will be given a verbal warning by their coach or the official. If the behavior continues, the player will be taken out of the game immediately, and not be allowed back in for the rest of the game. If the behavior still continues the child and the child's parents will

meet with the Sports Director and a disciplinary action will be decided. As a last resort, the player will be removed from the league for the rest of the season.

## **ROLE OF THE COACHES**

All of the coaches in this league are volunteers. Some of the volunteers have been coaching for years, and for others, this is their first experience as a coach. A coach's clinic will be held on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The clinic is required for all coaches (head and assistant) despite previous coaching experience in the league. This is to ensure a quality program and a positive experience for all participants. **All coaches will also be required to undergo a CORI background check to guarantee the safety of all participants.**

The role of the coaches is to teach the players the game of basketball while demonstrating the YMCA character values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. The coaches are committed to attending practices and games on time and prepared, as well as ensuring that their team exhibits the YMCA character values and follows the rules of the program.

Please remember that coaches are volunteers, and they are putting a lot of time and effort into your child's team. Please respect the coaches and their decisions. If for some reason you are ever dissatisfied with a coach for any reason, please contact the Director so that the situation can be reviewed and resolved.

As a volunteer coach you are responsible to attend all meetings, evaluation, team selections, practices, games and communicate appropriately with players and league advisors.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

The Haverhill YMCA Youth Flag Football League is designed to be a family program. Parents are encouraged to come to all of the games, cheer on all the children and get involved. Parents are expected to follow the same rules as the players in the league and respect the coaches and officials that are working for the YMCA. The example that you set as parents during the games and practices will contribute to the success of this program. Parents are always welcome to help the teams throughout the season and in planning the end of the season team events.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** There are many volunteer opportunities available for parents and families within this large football program. Some examples of areas in which volunteers are essential are: coaching, score keeping, and help with the end-of-the-year banquets. Please contact your child's coach or the Director at the YMCA if you are interested in getting involved. We can involve anyone willing to help whether it is once a week, or just once throughout the season.

## **LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION AND ADVISORY BOARD INFORMATION**

Matthew Chmielewski, the Sports & Adventure Director will be administrating the Haverhill YMCA Youth Flag Football Program.

The Advisory Committee consists of volunteer coaches who have shown a great interest in developing the flag football league into a better all-around program. The members of this committee are involved in the policy-making decisions, as well as the direct involvement of coordinating individual divisions within the league.

We will have at least one member of the Advisory Committee assigned to each division. If any disputes or problems or concerns develop during the season within your team or your division, please first contact the advisory member responsible for your division. If you find the matter is not resolved, then you may contact the sports director for further assistance. The advisory names by division will be made available to all coaches when the league starts. If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee and a part of creating a great basketball program, please contact the director at the YMCA.

### **CLOSING**

We hope that this information packet has answered many questions regarding the Haverhill Youth Flag Football program. If an issue has not been addressed, please call the YMCA at anytime. Let's have a fun and successful 2010 season!