

Cornelius Parks and Recreation Department

YOUTH NFL FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME

Thank you for registering for the 2021 NFL Youth Flag Football League!

The Cornelius Parks and Recreation (CPR) Department offers this youth program for boys and girls ages 6-14. The purpose of this league is to provide a fun, non-contact football program that will teach and reinforce the basics for individual skills development, team play, and football strategies.

This information packet has been prepared to help guide you through the season.

SIGN-UPS & SIGN-UP LOCATIONS

The fastest and most convenient way to register is through our website: www.cornelius.org/pr. You can also register in person at the Cornelius Parks and Recreation Department, located on the 2nd floor of Cornelius Town Hall, 21445 Catawba Ave, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

REGISTRATION DATES & FEES

Registration opens on Wednesday, July 28. Registration closes on Friday, August 27, at noon.

Fees: Cornelius resident \$85.00 & non-resident \$105.00, per participant.

Please make all checks payable to: Cornelius Parks and Recreation Department.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship opportunities are available to Cornelius residents on a limited basis and are typically aligned with the CMS Free & Reduced Lunch guidelines. To apply for a scholarship, begin by completing the scholarship application form and providing CPR with a copy of your CMS letter. Other proof of need will be considered.

REFUND POLICY

If a child cannot participate in the NFL Youth Flag Football League division in which he/she is registered, the refund policy is as follows:

- A 90% refund will be issued when requested by Monday, August 9.
- A 75% refund will be issued for cancellations made between Tuesday, August 10, and Sunday, August 15.
- A 50% refund will be issued for cancellations made between Monday, August 16, and Thursday, August 26.
- No refund will be given beginning Friday, August 27.

1. **Please see the Team Assignments section for additional information regarding team assignment requests.**
2. **Note: Our inability to meet your requests does not alter our refund policy.**

AGE DIVISIONS

All players will register into the same league "pool". Based on participation, once registration has concluded, age divisions will be determined using a combination of factors. Sample divisions listed below may be combined and/or modified, in order to provide a safe and fun program experience while ensuring that as many participants as

possible have an opportunity to participate in the program. Ideally, age divisions will be built as follows but these are examples only and are in no way guaranteed:

POSSIBLE **Division A:** Ages 6-7, coed (Age 6 by September 1, 2021)
Practices and games will be scheduled, along with post-season "bowl" game play.

POSSIBLE **Division B:** Ages 8-10, coed (Age 8 by September 1, 2021)
Practices and games will be scheduled, along with post-season play.

POSSIBLE **Division C:** Ages 11-14, coed (Age 11 by September 1, 2021)
Practices and games will be scheduled, along with post-season play.

PARENT'S CODE OF ETHICS

All parents are required to read and sign a Parent's Code of Ethics at the time of registration, pledging to provide positive support and encouragement for children in the program, as well as for coaches, officials, and spectators.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

Registration fees include a jersey and a flag belt with flags. Mouth guards are MANDATORY for all participants in games and practices. Participants are required to provide their own mouth guards. Footwear can be tennis shoes or rubber cleats. Metal cleats are **not** allowed.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

One of this season's modifications will be the construction of teams within an age division through a process of randomization. This process will take the place of traditional skills assessments and in-person, coach-led drafts. Furthermore, this modification will allow the department to reduce in-person gatherings for staff, volunteer coaches, players, and their families.

Participants within an age division will be assigned a random number and that number will be chosen entirely by chance. There is equal probability of teams having a random assortment of players of any talent level. This method will generate a non-biased representation of the "total population" within the participants of an age division.

Please be aware of the following facts:

CPR **WILL NOT** consider nor honor any requests for coaches, teammates, or carpools, as team assignments will be random.

CPR **WILL** consider requests for practice time and/or night.

CPR **CANNOT GUARANTEE** we will or can honor any of the above requests.

Coaching partners (max two per team) will still have their children assigned to their teams. Siblings will also be assigned to the same team. These assignments will be in place automatically unless otherwise communicated to CPR as a transaction note during the registration process.

CPR reserves the right to modify the Team Assignment process as needed. Team Assignment protocols and procedures are subject to change based upon total registration.

COACHING INFORMATION

Volunteer coaches are needed! All coaches are required to complete a coach's application and attend one (1) of the two (2) the coaching certification meetings (location TBD). Coaches' meetings will be held:

- Saturday, August 21, from 9am until 10am
- Wednesday, August 25, from 7pm until 8pm

At the coaches' meetings, we will discuss detailed information pertaining to the upcoming season, league rules, practice and game schedules, important safety protocols and more.

LOCATIONS FOR GAMES & PRACTICES

Games are usually played on Saturdays at James Hoyt Wilhelm Park, 19018 Smith Circle (behind Cornelius Elementary School).

Generally, our goal is to host all league activities at James Hoyt Wilhelm Park but participation numbers and athletic field availability may necessitate the use of the multi-purpose field at Smithville Park, 19710 S. Ferry Street.

PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Team practices will held on weeknights beginning the week of Monday, September 6. Practices will last approximately one (1) hour and teams will have the ability to practice once per week. There will be two practices and one scrimmage game before the regular season begins.

LEAGUE GAMES

On Saturday, September 11, there will be one scrimmage game for teams.

League games for all divisions will begin on Saturday, September 18.

For all divisions, teams will be scheduled to participate in six (6) regular season games followed by either:

- a "bowl" game for A division only,
- or a single elimination post-season tournament for all other divisions.

The Athletic Program Manager, or his designee, reserves the right to modify the total number of games and regular season and post-season schedules as needed so that the season can end in a reasonable amount of time.

League games may also be scheduled on weeknights in the event of schedule changes or postponements. Please be prepared to play on weeknights for tournament play.

INCLEMENT WEATHER HOTLINE

In the event of inclement weather or other factors that might place events in question, Cornelius Parks and Recreation will provide an updated message on the weather hotline. Please call this number on weekdays after 4:00pm and on Saturdays after 8:00am. **704-896-2460, ext. 290**

LEAGUE AWARDS

League certificates will be awarded to players in A division. Players in B, C, and D divisions will participate in a post-season tournament. Players on teams that advance to the championship game in their respective divisions will receive either a championship or runner-up award at the conclusion of the game.