

## **Jr. Dragons Youth League – Information for Parents**

*August 2023*

### **Jr. Dragons Youth League Mission Statement**

We introduce players to football fundamentals, teamwork, and sportsmanship while preparing them for future play at PCMS and PHS while helping them develop love for the game.

### **What is Jr. Dragons Youth League?**

Jr Dragons Youth League is a volunteer-led league open to students in grades Pre-K/K-6 in USD 250, and introduces players to football while preparing them for future play at PCMS and PHS. Teams compete against teams in other cities across southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri. We offer flag football and tackle football for grades 3-6.

### **How the league is led and managed**

This is an all-volunteer league. We have a board of directors that run the day-to-day operations of the league, led by Matt Rush (president). Other board members are Joshua Lattimer (head football coach at PHS), Bryan Mahnken (head football coach at PCMS), Jeff Staley (athletic director for PHS), JJ Karlinger (vice president), James Ryan, Nicole Striplin, Travis Hinspeter and Chasidy McDade. We are also dependent on parent volunteers for coaching positions and gameday operations. If you'd like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Matt Rush (contact info on the Facebook page).

### **Communications**

Facebook is the primary league-wide communications platform (@jrdragonsyouthleague). You can email or message the league and Matt from there, and you can also find Matt's phone number on the Facebook page. You can also find the August calendar (and September and October when they're ready) on Facebook and the website. Each team's coach will also use Remind or text group (app/text) to maintain a team-specific communication. The website where we handle registration and store important documents – jrdragonsyouthleague.com

### **Registration**

Each player must complete online registration. Tackle players must turn in a completed physical. Physicals are required prior to the start of practice on August 14.

### **Why we collect fees**

Fees are used to buy insurance, pay referees, and purchase/maintain equipment for our players. 100% of all money collected for registrations, gameday gate fees, and any fundraising/sponsorships goes to the league to ensure our players have fun in a safe way.

### **Equipment**

Flag football players will be issued a t-shirt that they keep at the end of the season. Tackle players are each outfitted with approximately \$300 worth of gear – helmet, shoulder and pants pads, game pants, and game jerseys. Players in tackle will keep their jersey after the season is over. If your child's jersey still fits next year, you do not need to spend the \$40 next season, as you can reuse it. Tackle players must provide their own practice pants, practice jersey, and cleats. Flag players must provide their own cleats, and black shorts for game days. Please wash practice pants and jerseys after each practice, scrub mouthguards, and disinfect pads and helmets with disinfecting spray or wipes.

## **Coaches and teams**

Coaches all go through background checks and USA Football Heads Up training, and will be CPR certified. Tackle coaches go through a coaching clinic with PHS/PCMS football coaching staff, and flag coaches have a similar clinic with league leadership. A draft for tackle teams will happen on Sunday, August 6 using evaluation data gathered at the camp to ensure teams are split equitably. Teams will be announced at the first practice on Monday, August 14. Flag teams will have their teams formed by August 13 and be announced at their first practice on Tuesday, August 21.

## **Leagues**

Tackle teams are part of the SEK League, which also includes St. Mary's Colgan, Frontenac, Arma, Parsons, Columbus, Baxter Springs, Neodesha, Coffeyville, Oswego, and Independence. Flag teams are part of the SEK Flag league, which includes Frontenac and St. Mary's Colgan.

## **Game Schedule**

Games will be on Saturdays. For tackle, start time for grades 3/4 is usually 10:00, followed by 5/6 at noon. All home games will take place at Hutchinson Field at Pittsburg Community Middle School. Tackle games will be played on the turf field, and flag games will be played on the grass fields to the east of the main turf field. The schedule of games is not complete. We'll have it to you ASAP. Gate fee for tackle games will be \$3.

## **Booster Club**

We now have a way for parents, grandparents, and other family members to support our league. Please consider joining our booster club. Membership for families is \$25 and can be completed at [jrdragonyouthleague.com](http://jrdragonyouthleague.com).

## **Photos**

We have a new picture day plan for photos this year. More details to come.

## **Practices**

Unless otherwise notified, all practices will happen on the PHS practice field on the back side of the high school every Tuesday and Thursday. Pre-K / K normally only practice on Tuesdays. Please be 5-10 minutes early to ensure your player is ready. Practices will start exactly on time. Players must provide their own water. Please check the calendar or check with your coach for practice times. Times may need to be adjusted due to heat, etc.

## **Questions and discussions**

If you'd like to talk to a coach for any reason, please do so AFTER practices. Talking to a coach before practice could delay its start. Please do not interrupt practices – let coaches coach. If we have issues, we will ask that parents either drop off, or wait in the car for the duration of practice.

## **Volunteers**

As we said earlier, this is an all-volunteer league and we depend on volunteers to make things run smoothly. On every home gameday, we need volunteers for:

- **First down chain crew for games:** This is working on the field during games to track down numbers and mark distance to first downs. It's a great way to see the game from the field, so sometimes parents volunteer for this task during their own child's game (though not required).

- **Gate attendants:** This is staffing a table at one or both of the entrances to Hutchinson Field before games and collecting admission fees. You will not be asked to do this during your child's game, but it is a good idea to volunteer for this before or after your child's game.
- **Post-game stands clean-up:** This is staying after the last game of the day to help ensure the stands at Hutchinson Field are clear of litter left by spectators during the game. It's not a pretty job, but someone has to do it!
- **Scorekeeper for Flag Games:** Will be near to the field during games, just keeping score!

Volunteer signup will be available as soon as we know our game schedules. Please plan to give your time at one or more of the games – our players depend on it.

### **Shirts**

Jr. Dragons Youth League shirts will be available for sale for players, parents, grandparents, and fans. More information will be announced about this on Facebook soon. Shirts will be available for the first game.

### **Events**

We'll have a Jr. Dragons Youth League night at a PHS home game – date TBA. Please also know that players who wear their flag team shirt or jersey get in free to all PHS Friday night home games. We will participate in the PSU Homecoming parade. We will participate in the Ron's Pitt State Pep Rally Day on August 26th- More details to come

Caiden Barber Award

## **Jr. Dragons Youth League Parent's Code of Conduct**

- I will be responsible for my own personal behavior as well as for the behavior of those who attend the game/practices as my guest.
- I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parent's Code of Conduct.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship (win or lose) by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sporting events.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win. I will be in control of my emotions and I will remain in the spectator area during games/practices.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all. And I will not advise the coach on how to do their job, nor advise the coach on what position my child should be playing.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs and alcohol and refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will not drink alcohol at a game/practice or come after having been drinking.
- I will remember that the game is for our youth – not adults – and that participation in youth sports is a privilege, not a right.
- I will always show respect for all participants and I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child and I will not instruct him to harm any other participants.
- I will not coach my child during the game/practice.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of gender, race, creed, color, nationality or ability.
- I will not make insulting comments to players, parents, officials, or coaches, or other teams.
- I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching, or volunteering whenever possible.
- I will thank coaches, officials, and other volunteers who have conducted the event.
- I will have my child attend all practices and games and will notify my coach if my child cannot.
- I will not make negative remarks, or remarks that could be construed as condescending or negative, regarding the team's organization, coaching, directing, officiating, or management over any source of social media; to include but not limited to: Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Blogs, etc.
- If situations arise that require clarification or justification, I will follow proper protocol in terms of following "chain of command" as outlined on the JDYL website and Parent info packet; understanding that the first rule is to calmly approach and communicate with the head coach of the team.
- I understand that the Jr. Dragon Youth League is in no way associated with Crawford County, nor USD 250 schools. JDYL plays with the permission and cooperation of USD 250, I understand that it is a "club sport" and Jr. Dragons Youth League is a completely separate entity.

**\*\*I understand that if I do not uphold these above statements that my child may be disqualified to participate within the organization – as deemed necessary by the coach, board of directors, or president. I further understand that no reimbursement of monetary funds or otherwise will be issued to me as a parent for the actions of myself or other family members of my participant that contradict the working or spirit of the above parent's code of conduct.\*\***

I have read the above Parents Code of Conduct and agree to uphold the agreement.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_