



SOUTHERN MAINE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Information Packet

This information packet is provided as a quick overview of the Southern Maine Youth Football League (SMYFL).

SMYFL MISSION STATEMENT

Provide an instructional youth football league to encourage and nourish the physical and mental growth of young athletes by offering an organized tackle football program with the sole purpose of instruction and fun.

SMYFL ORGANIZATIONS

SMYFL currently consists of teams from the following communities/schools:

Biddeford, Bonny Eagle, Falmouth, Gorham, Greely, Kennebunk, Marshwood, Massabesic, Noble, Portland, Saco, Sanford, Scarborough, South Portland, Wells, Westbrook, Windham and York

Several SMYFL organizations are school affiliated, though most are club organizations supported by their own booster programs and local contributions. The majority of the organizations do work closely with their local schools or recreation programs for use of quality facilities for practice and games.

SMYFL PROGRAMS

Middle School

- Grades 7 and 8
- 17 teams participating in 2015, each team fielding an A (varsity) team and B (junior varsity) team
- More than 600 football players and over 150 cheerleaders in 2015
- Teams are divided into two divisions, roughly determined by school population
- Seven or eight game regular season schedule (depending on division)
- End-of-season playoff brackets where each division competes for the Gold Ball trophy.

Pee Wee

- Grades 5 and 6
- 9 teams participating in 2015, each team fielding an A (varsity) team and B (junior varsity) team
- Approximately 500 football players and nearly 250 cheerleaders in 2015
- Pre-season jamboree with all teams. Eight game regular season schedule.
- No playoffs, emphasis at this level is strictly on instruction.

Mite

- Grades 3 and 4
- 8 teams participating in 2015, each team fielding an A (varsity) team and B (junior varsity) team
- Pre-season jamboree with all teams. Seven or Eight game regular season schedule.
- No playoffs, emphasis at this level is strictly on instruction.

Other Grades

- Several organizations within SMYFL offer flag football for Grades K-2, with occasional travel games to play each other.
- Some organizations offer tackle football program for Grade 2, and play games with each other weekly for six weeks.

Cheering

The majority of teams have elected to field cheering programs in support of their various football teams. While SMYFL does not regulate cheering, these programs are an integral part of many organizations within SMYFL.

RULES/GAMES/OFFICIALS

SMYFL games are governed under the same rules as Maine high schools, using the rules defined in the [NFHS](#) rule book. These rules are extended in SMYFL bylaws to add supplemental rules pertaining to specific grade levels, such as weight limits and defense restrictions for Pee Wee, and the “Gentlemen’s Rule” which emphasizes that coaches must strive to keep the level of play between teams even once a certain difference in scores is reached during a game (24 point difference in Pee Wee/Mite and 36 points in Middle School).

Each team receives a copy of the current year’s version of these rules before the season begins. All games are played under regulation time, not running time. Game are scheduled on weekend dates, with the majority of games taking place on Saturday afternoon or night (under the lights!) or on Sunday afternoon. Games which are affected by weather are rescheduled to happen at the earliest possible date.

SMYFL contracts our officials from the same pool of officials that are used by the southern Maine high schools. Each year SMYFL hires an official as our Head Assigner, whose job is to line up certified officials to officiate all games/scrimmages/playoffs for the season and post season.

SMYFL GOVERNANCE

SMYFL is governed by a Board of Directors that meets approximately six times a year to manage league business. The Board of Directors is made up of one representative from each organization in SMYFL, where each organization has one vote. Four officer positions – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer – are elected each year. The office of league President has a one year term limit, with the Vice President moving up to the President position after serving a term as Vice President.

WEBSITE/MAILING LISTS

SMYFL maintains a website at <http://SMYFL.com> on which all team information, game schedules, game results, standings, playoff brackets, bylaws, history and the latest news are made available to all participants throughout SMYFL. Current contact information for SMYFL Board members and all involved teams can be found on the SMYFL website.

Email mailing lists are used to keep all head coaches and representatives in touch with each other throughout the year. The mailing lists are used for notifying teams of meeting reminders, schedule changes due to weather, scores of games as they are reported weekly, passing along valuable training/safety articles, and any other business as needed.

FEES/SECONDARY INSURANCE

SMYFL does set a fee each year that organizations pay toward upkeep of the league. In 2015 this fee was \$175 per organization, with the fees used to pay for our Head Assigner fees, rule books, trophies and championship game expenses, meeting room costs, website fees, [NRPA](#) membership, and other administrative costs as needed.

SMYFL does offer a secondary insurance policy to teams that participate. This policy's intent is to aid in the event of a catastrophic injury to a player. It only covers costs after primary medical insurance has been used, and cannot be used as a primary insurance. SMYFL does not offer primary insurance to individuals or families.

QUESTIONS?

Please check our CONTACT US page on our website for the list of this year's Board of Director's officers, or look under the TEAMS links for names and contact information for coaches of specific teams with whom you would like to make contact.