

# Union Grove Youth Football Organization Building a foundation, developing a future

### **2025 Parent Meeting Highlights**

Founded in 2012, the Union Grove Youth Football Organization (UGYFO) is an organized club dedicated to those children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades that play youth football in the greater Union Grove area. We are an independent non-profit organization run by a four-member board:

President: Paul Keeku, Jr Vice President: Mark Towne Treasurer: Abbie Ramon Secretary: Amanda Obermeyer

Fundraising Committee: Amanda Funk & Renee Hechimovich Concessions Committee: Open

Board meetings are typically the third Wednesday of each month at 1175 at 6:00pm, posted on Facebook. We are always looking for new families to join and participate, all are welcome! If you have an active interest in joining the board, or learning more, please let us know.

Our Website: www.ugyouthfootball.com UGYFO Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/UGYouthFootball

SEYFA League Affiliation League Website: www.seyfa.org (where rules are posted)

Elkhorn, Westosha, Stateline, BGC Kenosha, Oak Creek, Racine Youth Sports (Lutheran, Rebels, Saints), Waterford, Johnsburg, Muskego, and Grayslake. Please pay particular attention to rules around ball carrier weights, quick reference guide: Officials Reference Guide

<u>Coaches</u> All coaching staff are required to be USA certified and have background checks. In season, they are your primary point of contact. Unique to many other youth sports is our close collaboration with the high school program and coaching staff. Our plays are based off of the same play program as the high school in effort to prepare your player for future participation at the high school level.

We are looking for more coaches at the ¾ and 7<sup>th</sup> grade level. Please reach out to the head coach if you are interested. The more coaches we have participating, the more successful practices and gameday operations run. **We thank all the coaches who volunteer their time to the sport and to all our players, we cannot thank them enough for it.** 

<u>TeamSnap</u> app is our primary source for communication, scheduling etc. Please RSVP on your teams calendars for events and practices. Team chats can be used for full team or you are able to make individual messages to coaches or player families for rides, etc. More communication=better. If you have issues with setting up the app, please email ugyouthfootball@gmail.com.

**Equipment** Will hand out: game pants, game jersey, black socks, pink socks (and other items that were told on order) Pink Socks provided by the fundraising committee to be worn for October games in support of breast cancer awareness. Helmets, Guardian Caps & Shoulder Pads are to be returned at the end of the season. If you have equipment issues, please work with your coaching staff. They have a small tool set to help with helmet repairs, if needed. Families are to provide football cleats, a protective cup, tethered mouth guard, and lots of water. Label items please. Special notes new this year:

• We will only issue one pair of pants, which can be used for both practice and games. However, we do have a supply of used pants on hand, if you would like an additional pair and did not notify us when you picked up



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pants tonight, please email ugyouthfootball@gmail.com with player team and player name and we will get you an additional pair at an upcoming practice.

- Guardian caps are required for practices. If you would like to opt out of your player wearing the Guardian Cap in games, we ask that you complete an opt out request at: <a href="https://forms.gle/26hbES7KksnnGNmP7">https://forms.gle/26hbES7KksnnGNmP7</a>
- Prior to the jamboree, we will be issuing out the game jerseys and pants.

<u>Season Schedule</u> Game schedule is being loaded, subject to change for weeks 1-7. Weeks 8 & 9 are playoffs and not typically known until after week 7 games have finished. The Superbowl is 11/1, if your team does not make the Superbowl then there isn't a game. New this year, each team will have a bye week, so you will get 8 games in total.

<u>Weather</u> In some instances at coach discretion adjustments will be made for weather conditions, but for the most part we run **rain or shine**. Watch TeamSnap for updates if you think weather might impact the schedule.

#### **Special Events**

**Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> Jamboree** (scrimmage) at Stateline, times TBD and includes official weigh-ins. If you cannot make it, they will need to be completed prior to the first game.

#### Friday August 29<sup>th</sup> Youth Night at Bronco Varsity Game

Players wear their jersey and participate in pre-game and half-time activities including Bronco Jacks. It's fun!

#### Saturday September 6th Bronco Day and Community Punt, Pass & Kick Competition

All teams will play at home, we encourage teams to watch other grade level games. We will end the game day with a community Punt, Pass & Kick event in partnership with the High School teams and Kiwanis. More details as this day of fun gets closer including raffles, Community State Ice Cream Camper, and much more fun for all ages and abilities!

<u>Team Photos</u> A Lens & Elaine will do individual & team photos (digital download link). Cost was built into registration. Details on dates/time for photos, probably prior to a practice or game, will be shared via TeamSnap.

#### **Game Day Operations**

We try to make home games an exciting family friendly event. We have a very supporting high school that allows us to use their facilities. Some communities do not have this privilege. We leave the field and facilities in same if not better condition than when we arrive. Based on volunteers, will have an open concession stand during games.

Parents are welcome to stay and watch practices. If you bring siblings with, make sure they are supervised and in designated spaces where we are practicing. NO ONE should ever go on the softball or baseball fields. As you can see, there is construction underway, please plan extra time accordingly for practices and events, as well as exercising caution in the parking lot. Also, you can only park in marked parking spots, if the lot is full, you should use the dog park, or alternate street parking. We intend that the main entrance for the grandstands will be open by first home game.



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#### **Code of Conduct**

In the registration process, you all signed off on parent code of conduct. We have a zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior, fighting, etc. Each year we see reports of issues with game day conduct in SEYFA, we do not want one of those to be Union Grove. Game officials, board members and other designees have the right to remove individuals who cannot adhere to this from being at our games.

Things to keep in mind, we are not the NFL, none of our children will have scouts in attendance for some SEC, Big 10 or other College affiliate, we are a youth sports program intended for kids to have fun. Sometimes bad calls will be made, but we have to remain respectful.

#### **Player Play Time**

Given the size of our teams, it is important to emphasize the rules on playing time & expectations. We expect every child to get 2 qtr minimum playtime assignments on each team for all levels. That said, if your child is scheduled for an offense position in Q2 but the other team uses most of the quarter with defense out, that might impact their time. Since we cover a lot of material in practices, missing practices may impact playtime. Please discuss with your coach if you have any questions.

#### **Protocol for Issues**

During games, the official is the refs and then the Field Marshall which is designated by the home team. We ask that concerns be addressed to your head coach. If you cannot resolve with head coach, then deferring to the President.

<u>Fundraising</u> As you have seen through prior communications, we have adjusted our fundraising efforts being mindful of the time commitment and burden it puts on our families. This year's efforts include raising money through T-Macs Meat Raffle Benefit this past spring, partnerships with Kiwanis & Lions Club, and business sponsorships. If you have interest in your business sponsoring our program or know of other area businesses, sponsorship can be completed: <a href="https://www.ugyouthfootball.com/sponsors/">https://www.ugyouthfootball.com/sponsors/</a>

Spirit Wear Ruma Sports is our vendor for spirit wear. This should be live by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of practice and sent via TeamSnap

<u>Volunteers</u> The success of our program is run on volunteers. NEW THIS YEAR, we implemented a refundable \$100 volunteer deposit per family. Should you/family complete three volunteer shifts, that deposit will be refunded to your account. After practices start, we will be working with teams through signup genius for volunteer assignments that we need filled. This will include help with: Coaching, Concessions, Field Chains for home games, Fundraising Presentations, Bronco Day & Punt/Pass/Kick or other adhoc asks we send out.

#### Post Season Tournament Play

Some teams, typically 7th-8th grade level consider travel games/tournaments following the season. These discussions will be lead by specific teams after the season is underway as we navigate various opportunities and consider fundraising efforts for families interested.



### **UNION GROVE YOUTH FOOTBALL ORGANIZATION**

### BUILDING A FOUNDATION, DEVELOPING A FUTURE

#### Possible 2026 or beyond opportunity

We *might* have the opportunity to have some of our youth Broncos scrimmage at Lambeau Field for Packer Family Night or a Pre-Season Game *next* summer or soon after. We mention because this would be something we would plan in a short-turnaround but want you to be aware of. From what I understand, we would receive an allotment of family tickets for us to watch. **FULL DETAILS once we are officially selected and we will try all efforts to make this happen in 2026, no promises though.** 

#### **End of Season Survey**

We send out a survey at the end of every season. This survey helps us plan for the following season and helps us understand our community needs.

**Thank you for your time and support of our organization**, coaches should be your primary contact for team questions you may have. However, you are welcome to reach out to the board as well, as you see fit.

We look forward to a great season with you all, Welcome to the 2024 season!

Union Grove Youth Football Organization Board <a href="mailto:president@ugyouthfootball.com">president@ugyouthfootball.com</a>