

# Western Iowa Youth Sports Inc.

3326 South 67<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68106

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Welcome to Youth Football 2009!

## The Organization

Western Iowa Youth Sports Inc. (WIYS) provides opportunities for South West Iowa youth to play tackle football at no cost. We finance the purchase of our equipment, field rental and other expenses through concessions, private donations, and our main fundraiser, our annual raffle. We have grown from one team in 1991 to thirty two (32) in 2008. We now have four (5) SW Iowa school districts outside the Council Bluffs districts participating and hope to have 32 teams this year. Players will report to their school district practice site and will be drafted by a team in that district. Players who do not live in a participating district will report to a Council Bluffs school district with the least amount of players or teams with the least amount of players as directed by league commissioner. We have a large group of positive volunteer coaches who enjoy working with children and coaching football. Their generous time and commitment have made this program successful and respected in the metro area.

WIYS is a non-profit Iowa corporation with 501(c)(3) classification granted by the IRS. This allows any individual or business to deduct contributions to our organization. We are also eligible for most employer matching funds programs. Please consider us for any program your employer may offer.

## Eligibility

Boys grade 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> with a ball carrying weight limit of 120 lbs. Unlimited weight for lineman.

Boys grade 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> with a ball carrying weight limit of 145 lbs. Unlimited weight for lineman.

7<sup>th</sup> graders can not turn 14 before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Proof of age

We need a copy of your child's birth certificate no later than August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

## Equipment Fundraiser

We will begin issuing equipment at sign-ups. When issued, players will be required to purchase 125 raffle tickets for \$125.00. Players need to sell the tickets to recoup the \$125.00. **This allows them to play at no cost if they get out and sell them. We have a special arrangement if anyone is unable to spend the \$125.00 up front. No player is turned away!** Raffle ticket stubs must be turned into the WIYS football office at 900 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street or to one of the coaches. **A player will not be issued a game jersey or be allowed to participate in any games until he has completed the raffle commitment.** Equipment remains the property of Western Iowa Youth Sports Inc. and must be turned in at season's end or upon request. **If a player decides to quit, raffle money is not refunded, but the former player can still sell the tickets to recoup the costs, provided all stubs are turned into WIYS.**

## Team Placement

Players will be observed during instruction and drills until Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>. A private draft meeting will be held that afternoon and the players will be informed on Monday which team within their school district that they will be playing for. Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>, the players will be called in alphabetical order when teams are announced and will not know if they were a first or last draft pick.

### Practice schedule

Because we have a relatively short period of time to develop both offensive and defensive units, we will practice Monday thru Thursday nights and Saturday morning until our league schedule begins. After our first league game we will cut back to two nights per week (check with your head coach to see which nights) and play our games on Saturday.

### Weigh-ins

Players will be weighed when they sign up and check out equipment. They will be informed at that time if they are eligible to carry the football.

### Southwest Iowa League

All grade divisions of the Southwest Iowa League will play four ten minute quarters. Every player is guaranteed at least six plays in both halves of every game provided they have made it to all required practices. Most league games will be played on Saturdays. Schedules will be distributed on picture day stating which field your child should report to. We will be able to play on the participating High School stadiums on select Saturdays. Each team may have a non-league game scheduled on a weeknight and possibly a Sunday afternoon to get the Southwest Iowa League teams some outside competition at away sites.

### Team Parents

All teams must have a team parent(s) who will help the Head Coach with communication and information. They will also organize the field responsibilities each team has on game days. Home teams provide the scoreboard operator and visiting teams handle chains. The first teams that play setup the field and the last teams take it down. If everyone helps we won't have to ask anyone for much of their time. Please let your Head Coach know if you can be a team parent.

### Post season play.

All WIYS teams will play a post season bowl game at sites to be announced after the regular season 8 game schedule is over. Bowl games may be used to settle final league standings. On the Bowl game weekends equipment will be collected after the game. Each player will receive a participation trophy when equipment is checked in. Please keep the weekends open through October 25<sup>th</sup> when signing up for winter sports and inform your winter coaches of this commitment. **We can not adjust game times for this event to accommodate other activities.**

I'm sure that you will find our organization somewhat unlike other sports activities your child has been involved in. It requires very dedicated parents and players because of the demanding practice schedule and conditioning involved. Our practices are very structured and disciplined but not without a lot of praise and FUN. We hope to earn your support through our association.

THANK YOU!

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