

Bloomingtondale Bears FAQ

Who are we?

-The Bloomingtondale Athletic Club is a non profit 501© corporation run entirely by elected volunteers. We run and operate the Bloomingtondale Bears youth football and cheerleading teams. We have belonged to the Bill George Youth Football League (BGYFL) for over 50 years!

-The Board of Directors meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Village of Bloomingtondale Village hall at 7:30pm (8:30pm) during the season. We encourage all interested parties to attend our meetings.

How much does it cost?

-Tackle football registration is \$290

-Cheerleading is \$290

-Flag Football is \$150

*All families are also required to pay a \$150 fundraising fee. With this fee you get \$200 in raffle tickets to keep, or to sell to recoup \$200. All families also receive 2 complimentary tickets to our annual BAC dinner dance.

-Note, All team managers do collect approx \$40-\$60 per player, to establish a slush fund for homecoming parties, team activities, players and coach gifts, etc....

-Note, Some cheer competitions may incur additional cost.

What are your age/weight levels?

-Tackle football is for 7-14 year olds (8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, and Varsity mainly 8th graders)

-Cheerleading is for K-8th grade

-Flag football is for 5-6 year olds (limited number of 7 years olds who don't turn 8 until after November 1st, may be able to play and are 69 lbs or less)

-Please see the current weight and measure guide.

When does your season start? How long is it?

-All levels of tackle and flag football begin practice on the Monday that incorporates the first week of August. (In 2019 that is July 29) Practice in August is 5 days a week for Tackle (6-8pm). Flag football is 3 days a week (6-7:30pm). Towards the end of August, tackle practice moves to 3 days a week and flag football goes to two days a week. The Head Coaches of each team determine the days.

-Football Games begin towards the end of August and are played once a week on Saturday's or Sunday's. The season can be 8-9 regular season games, plus playoffs and championships. All teams are finished by mid-November or earlier.

-Cheerleading practice begins the second week of July at cheer kick-off. Cheer practice is 1.5-2 hours a day, twice a week. Cheer squads follow their paired football teams through the season.

Where do we play our games? Where is practice?

-Our home games are played at Circle Park in Bloomingtondale, located at 163 Fairfield Way. (adjacent to Westfield Middle School)

-Football practice can be at either Circle Park South (located immediately south of the game field) or at Stratford Middle School park located at 251 Butterfield Dr. Bloomingtondale, IL.

-Cheer practice can be located outside at Circle Park, or at a number of different inside facilities including Rockin Jump- 485 Mission Ct. Carol Stream, Trinity Lutheran School/Church- 405 Rush St. Roselle, or at Waterbury School- 355 Rodenburg Rd. Roselle.

-Away games can be located at any of the other 16 member towns of the BGYFL

When does the game schedule come out?

-The football/cheer game and competition schedule is put out by the BGYFL league officers. Many details go into arranging the schedule and a number of teams are added and/or dropped by member towns once practices start. Expect the schedule to be released around August 20th.

Where can I get more information?

-Please visit our website at www.bloomingtondalebears.com for the most current information. We **strongly** encourage you to view our "Important dates" and our "2019 Rules and regulations" links for more specific information. And don't forget to like us on Facebook.

What can I do to help?

-Our program doesn't run successfully without the help and support of many volunteers. Each team whether tackle or flag football and each cheer squad, need help in multiple areas. Each team has a designated "team manager" to help and assist each head coach with organizing and communicating with the parents and players for their particular team. Especially during homecoming activities, team functions, and end of year parties. Each team also needs help during games with snack scheduling for halftime and after games, announcing games over the intercom, video taping games, working the scoreboard, working chains and down-markers, field set up, field takedown, and garage removal. Each team is also required to produce volunteers for before or after their games to work concessions and/or our bear wear store (merchandise sales) Please review our "Rules and Regulations" area of our website for further details. As a member of the BAC booster club (which ALL parents or custodians are) volunteering for positions to help is mandatory and not an option. If all parents follow the regulations, it comes out to helping out at 1-2 games a year.

How do I know what dates we have events on?

-You should check our website on a regular basis and review the Important dates for the season. The season calendar is typically posted in January for the upcoming season for your planning purposes. You should review NOW and then again and again throughout the season.

Can I request that my child play for a specific coach? Or be on same team as a friend?

-The Bears cannot guarantee requests for a specific coach or to be placed with friends. The teams are determined by a draft system which does not always allow for this. These requests are also complicated by the various levels and skill of play. There is no assurance that a player is in the same level or skill for a specific coach.

Can I request that child be on the same team as a sibling?

-Yes. If siblings are playing at the same Level, the coaches will make every attempt to place the siblings on the same team if requested.

What are the BGYFL Levels?

-Players will be placed in a Level based upon age. The ages for flag football is 5-6 year olds, (some 7 year olds are allowed with weight restrictions) Tackle football levels are 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U and Varsity (8th Grade).

What if I don't want to play at that level?

-You can request to have your player play up a level but you cannot play down a level. Board approval is required.

What does my registration fee pay for?

-The registration fee goes to pay for our league fees, cheer competition fees, referees, park district fees, indoor practice facility fees, electricity for the lights at the practice fields, insurance (fire, theft, liability etc..) supplemental health insurance, training equipment, installation of goal posts, game field aerated, over-seeded, fertilized and stripping of the fields, cleaning supplies, bath rooms cleaned, and equipment/uniforms (For Cheer- cheer uniforms, warm-ups, socks, bows, competition shoes, For football- (helmets, pant pads, rib guards, shoulder pads, games pants, as well as practice jerseys, and personalized home and away jerseys which players keep at the end of season)

Does everyone play?

-Yes! At the flag level, all players will play a minimum of 20 minutes per half. (There are two 40 minute halves) At the 8U tackle level, all players are guaranteed a minimum of 20 plays per game. At the 9U and higher levels, all players are guaranteed a minimum of 10 plays per game.

Do I need to purchase additional equipment, other than what is provided?

-Yes, Tackle football players are responsible for their own cleats, long red game socks, girdle (with or without hip and tailbone pads), practice pants (with or without thigh and knee pads, cup with supporter, chin strap and mouthpiece with tether for helmet. Flag football players will only need cleats (any type), long red game socks, mouthpiece with tether, and cup and supporter.

What if we can't pick up equipment on the scheduled equipment handout dates?

-Please make every effort to be at one of our scheduled handouts. If not possible, there may be a delay on getting your equipment on time for practice and game jerseys issued. Please see your head coach for options.

What should I do if equipment seems to be mis-sized or there is a specific problem with the issued equipment?

-Please see your coach who will inform our Equipment Manager to get any issues resolved.