



# NYO Football 2023 Season



Former NYO Player Truman Jones was recently Named National Scholar Athlete of the Year. Truman graduated with honors in Biomedical Engineering from Harvard University. Prior to attending medical school he has signed to play for the Kansas City Chiefs.

*“How successful will the boys be?”*

**This question was asked by a parent interested in learning about the upcoming season to the head coach of Gilman High School, a nationally ranked program. He responded,**

*“I won’t really know how successful they’re gonna be till they come back to visit in twenty years. Then I will be able to see what kind of husbands they are. I’ll be able to see what kind of fathers they are. I’ll see what they’re doing in the community.”*

**A quote from the book, Season of Life.**

### **III. General Information about NYO Football**

Topics follow in an alphabetical sequence:

1. Character Development
2. Communication by Coaches to Parents
3. Drafting of Players
4. Equipment provided by Parents
5. Equipment provided by NYO or Team
6. Game Schedules
7. Game Schedules Changes
8. Goals for NYO Football
9. Learning to Coach at NYO
10. Learning to Parent a Youth Football Player
11. Officials
12. Organization of League
13. Player's Age
14. Playing in a Younger Age Group
15. Playoffs
16. Practice Schedule, Times & Frequency
17. Responsibilities of Coaches
18. Responsibilities of Parents
19. Volunteers are Needed
20. Weather

#### **Character Development:**

Youth football coaches (& parents) have a great opportunity to influence the character development of their players and the likelihood of them wanting to continue playing in future seasons. The influence we have on players is the most important part of coaching youth football. Following below are suggestions that may be of help:

1. Questions to Consider prior to the Season:
  - Why are you coaching?
  - Why do I coach the way I do?
  - What does it feel like to be coached by me?
  - How do I define success for my players or my child?
  - Are my objectives for my child's participation appropriate?
2. Get more Information – The Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) is an organization which has great information on the proper role coaches should play. Check out their website: [www.positivecoach.org](http://www.positivecoach.org). USA Football also has good material on this topic. A great book for coaches is “Season of Life” by Jeffrey Marx about NFL all pro Joe Ehrmann’s approach to youth coaching and “Our Boys” by Joe Drape.
3. Outside Speakers – Jim Easterling was a very successful NYO coach. Now his focus is helping NYO coaches integrate character lessons as part of the instruction of their teams. Encourage your players to hear the speaker who will address NYO on the evening of September 11, 2022. Jim will also arrange for outside speakers to address individual teams.
4. Life Lessons – On a scheduled basis during the season Jim will send information about selected life lesson / principles to coaches and parents. Coaches and parents should then instruct their players / children regarding the importance of these lessons.
5. Be intentional about speaking individually with your players - At each practice make a point of calling each of your players by name. Coordinate with your assistants a plan to briefly speak individually with a different player after each practice
6. Accountability Partners – Make an arrangement with a coach on your staff and perhaps a coach from another team to provide feedback about your conduct. Parents on the sidelines should do the same.

7. Character lessons – At each practice or perhaps each week choose a character principal to emphasize to your team. These are good points to cover during weather delays. Some options include the following:
  - a) Value of hard work
  - b) Never quitting
  - c) Being a good team mate
  - d) Properly dealing with officials calls
  - e) Respect for competition
  - f) Respect for following rules
  - g) How to react to winning
  - h) How to react to losing
  - i) What is being a good sport
  - j) Importance of schoolwork
  - k) Difference between being hurt & being injured
8. Seek out other coaches – As a group, the men who coach at NYO are great guys; many are excellent coaches. Make a point of meeting & learning from other coaches. Knowing one another makes the whole process more fun and reduces unnecessary tensions.
9. Learn how to be Positive with less talented players – The PCA organization reports that studies show that coaches should make five positive communications for each negative one. It is easy to be positive toward talented players. The challenge is being positive with players of less ability while not giving false praise. For players that are not great performers, plan how to praise effort & improvement. For these players try to establish attainable goals. Nonverbal support such as hand clapping often works fine.

We are all lucky to be part of a great group that is benefitting these young players. Stay focused on doing what is most important as well as encouraging each other. If you have some suggestions on this topic please share them.

### **Communication by Coaches to Parents:**

It is essential for coaches to have effective communication with parents. Get advice from experienced coaches about this. It is important to immediately communicate with parents to establish the proper tone for the season. Team mothers can assist with general communication with parents, getting volunteers (two parents per team, per game) to work the chains and score board during games and organizing team parties. It is essential to:

1. Have a team meeting at the beginning of the season with your parents to discuss your plans and what you expect from the parents
2. Send a letter that outlines your objectives for the team, expectations of players and parents, your practice schedule and when and in what manner you want to receive communication from parents. Examples of these letters are included at the back of this documents.
3. Finally continue with regular and systematic communication as necessary during the season. It is very important that you communicate your practice schedule. The practice schedule is up to the coach but be punctual with whatever schedule you establish and avoid last minute changes.

Please reference the Addendum section at the end of this section for two introductory letters used by NYO coaches in the past to communicate with parents. Poor communication by coaches is a top complaint by parents. Be sure to include the **CONCUSSION HOT LINE - (404) 785-5437** which is a service provided by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, in your letter to parents.

**Drafting of Players:** Players are assigned to teams by means of a draft which is attended only by coaches. The following sections explain the draft process:

#### **Which players are eligible?**

To be eligible for the draft, players must have registered and been accepted by NYO and then must have attended Training Camp and Tryouts. If a player cannot attend Training Camp and / or Tryouts that player should attend the Make up Tryout. If a player cannot attend the Tryout or Make Up Tryout, that players must be timed and weighed by a Football Committee member prior to the draft.

#### **How should teams evaluate players?**

New coaches should seek assistance from a coach with prior experience with NYO Football or have the League Director assign a mentor for this important process. Teams will be provided the following information about players eligible for the draft:

- a tryout list in Excel format will include name, date of birth, weight and 40 time and indication whether that players participated in NYO's football program in the prior season,
- a report with information provided by last season's coaches will be distributed in early August about players that participated at NYO last season
- the opportunity to observe players during Training Camp and Tryouts

How are sons of coaches drafted and which players can be "protected"?

"Protected" players are coaches' sons who will be automatically placed on their fathers' teams. "Slotting" is the process NYO follows for determining in which round of the draft protected players must be selected. Protected players must be identified in writing prior to the beginning of tryouts to the League Director. Protected players must participate in NYO tryouts. In the event of a legitimate injury, protected players must still be present during tryouts unless this is not medically possible.

- In the Bigs, which is for players in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, only the son of the head coach can be protected during the draft. If the head coach does not have a son, then that team will have no protected players. The sons of assistant coaches cannot be protected. Commissioner Olsen will have discretion in this process. It will be the responsibility of each team to select in sufficiently high rounds of the draft the sons of other assistant coaches. Immediately upon completion of the draft, trades to acquire the sons of other assistant coaches drafted by other teams will be allowed but not required by the League.
- In the leagues involving players in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades the son(s) of the head coach and the son of one assistant coach may be protected during the draft. It will be the responsibility of each team to select in sufficiently high rounds of the draft the sons of other assistant coaches. Immediately upon completion of the draft, trades to acquire the sons of other assistant coaches drafted by other teams will be allowed but not required by the League.
- Experienced NYO football coaches, meaning those that have coached in the program for multiple years will not be permitted to protect the son of a new assistant coach if that player is slotted in the top three rounds of the draft.
- Coaches are discouraged from protecting more than one player slotted in the top two rounds. Such protection may be disallowed by the League Director. Where such protection is permitted, the League Director will implement appropriate remedial measures to promote competitive balance. As an example teams that have in rare occasions been permitted to protect two players in the first round have typically not selected another player until the 5<sup>th</sup> round or later. League directors will determine the draft order of teams with any players slotted in the first two rounds. The draft order of the remaining teams will be determined by pulling names from a hat.
- In order for any player to be "protected" that player's father must attend and actively coach as much as any other coach on that team. There have been periodic situations in the past where a player is protected and the player's father ends up not being an active coach. If a protected player is drafted by a team and the father is determined not to be actively coaching as much as any other coach associated with that team, the team will be barred from participating in the playoffs.
- The ranking of protected players by each team will continue to be used as one item of information by each League Director in the slotting process. Prior to the draft the rankings will be shared with all teams.
- In all matters with respect to the draft and protected players the League Director will have absolute authority to make any decisions, within his sole discretion, to promote competitive balance within the league.

### How are Protected Players Drafted?

By **August 1, 2023**, each team should notify its League Director which player(s) on its team will be protected. Immediately after tryouts NYO will obtain comments from all coaches in the league regarding the sons of coaches who will be protected and slotted during the draft. Based on those comments and other factors, including but not limited to age, size, speed, experience and position, the League Director will assign ("slot") those players in the respective round of the draft as determined in his discretion. The protected players will then be drafted in the assigned round. The assigning of players will be determined before the draft and all coaches will be advised. This will be handled in the fairest possible manner, however, the decisions of the League Director are final. The League Director may also assign the specific order of the draft for certain teams. If a team has two protected players assigned in the first round the League Director will establish appropriate remedial measures such as, but not limited to, prohibiting that team from making another selection until at least the fifth round or later.

### Who can Attend the Draft?

Only the head coach and one assistant coach for each team can attend the draft. If an assistant coach has a son in the draft, who has not been assigned a draft round in advance, that assistant will not be allowed in the room until after his son is drafted.

### Drafting Brothers

Most families want brothers to play on the same team and NYO normally complies with this arrangement. Prior to the draft we will identify brothers in the draft and reach a consensus about how many rounds apart the brothers should be drafted. Then, once a brother is selected, the other brother must be selected by the same team in the appropriate round thereafter. On occasion, brothers have not been allowed to play on the same team or remedies such as not allowing another selection until the fifth draft round or later may be imposed to seek to promote competitive balance.

### Draft Order

Coaches will draw lots to determine their selection order. The first round will begin with the first pick and go through the last pick. The second round will go in reverse order and so on until the draft is completed. The League Director, in his sole discretion, may alter the draft order to seek to promote competitive balance with respect to protected players. Typically, there is an uneven # of players. To address the fact that there are an uneven # of players, teams may select in any one round, not to select a player.

### "No Pick"

Normally, the number of players in the draft will result in some teams having an uneven # of players on their rosters. Therefore, during the course of the draft teams are given the option of either selecting a player or "no pick". The team choosing a "no pick" would lose the benefit of choosing a player by selecting a "no pick" but that team would have a smaller roster which some coaches feel is an advantage. In this example, four "no picks" could be used during the draft with a limit of one "no pick" per team.

### Trades

Trades are permitted only in the following manner. Immediately following the draft and before teams leave the draft room, teams may trade players by communicating the trade to the League Commissioner. No earlier arrangements about trades can be made. The League Director has the sole and absolute authority to veto any trade if, in his sole discretion, it will have a negative impact on competitive balance within the League.

### **Equipment provided by Parents:**

(Not applicable to Flag football)

Players must wear: molded rubber cleats, a high quality helmet, mouth piece, shoulder pads, mesh practice jersey and white football pants with leg & hip pads. Arm pads, hand pads, towels and eye shields are optional. If worn eye shields must be clear and towels must be small and white. Supplementary head gear provided by companies such as Guardian and Protech may be worn in practice and games. NYO normally has an "Equipment Day" at which quality equipment can be purchased and fitted. Unfortunately, this event will not be held in 2023 due to the low supply of helmets and should pads. Dick's Sporting Goods offers a discount to NYO families for purchases on **July 28, 2023 through July 31, 2023**. Parents should purchase equipment only from sources that can properly fit equipment on players. This is particularly important for helmets and shoulder pads.

**Equipment provided by NYO or Team:** (Not applicable to Flag football)

NYO provides jerseys; all other equipment is provided by the player. Teams are not allowed to purchase their own game jerseys. Most teams have their players wear these jerseys at practices as well as the games. Coaches should distribute a jersey to each player at the beginning of the season and, once games start players are prohibited from rotating jerseys during the season. Due to the similarity in jersey colors between teams the league may periodically issue generic game jerseys to provide more color contrast. NYO will issue to each team two balls and a kicking tee.

**Uniform Limitations** - NYO limits supplemental uniform items regardless of whether the items are paid for by coaches or parents. Therefore, each team is allowed, but not required, to supplement the NYO supplied jersey with only the four items noted below. No additional uniform related items will be permitted:

1. Helmet painting & decals – Helmets may NOT be disassembled during the painting process
2. Socks – Matching socks
3. Scrimmage vests / jerseys – generic, sleeveless pullovers to be worn over jerseys for distinguishing offensive and defensive teams during practices and scrimmages OR generic unmarked mesh jerseys with a cost not to exceed \$10.
4. Game pants – Teams may decide to purchase pants of an alternate color.

**Helmet decor** – Helmets may be decorated with paint and/or decals. Options for painting helmets include: Maaco, and Andy Anglin at 404-957-8964. Maaco has several locations: Buford Hwy near Pleasantdale I-85 exit, and one inside 285 on Buford Hwy and near Atlanta RD. Maaco usually charges \$20 per helmet with a minimum of 12 - 15 helmets. Andy Anglin also has done helmets for NYO as well. He will pick up and deliver but charges about \$35 per helmet. His contact information is 404-957-8964. Team mothers will hopefully assist with this process. A couple of suppliers for providing helmet decals are Decals4Pros at 888-776-3322 and [www.footballamerica.com](http://www.footballamerica.com) and [www.ProHelmetDecals.com](http://www.ProHelmetDecals.com). Sources for helmet decals is Bryan Wikse, 410-997-2658 ext. 103, [bryanw@boltathletics.com](mailto:bryanw@boltathletics.com), [www.boltathletics.com](http://www.boltathletics.com) and separately [www.Awarddecals.com](http://www.Awarddecals.com).

HELMETS CANNOT BE DISSAMBLED DURING THE PAINT PROCESS! – Nothing inside the helmet should ever be removed:

- For traditional helmets the face mask can be removed during the paint process
- For helmets which have faces masks integrated with the interior of the helmet the face mask should not be removed. For these helmets the faces mask should be taped while being painted.

**Filming/Videotaping:** (Not applicable to Flag football)

The firm that provides video services at NYO is HiFive Productions. The contact person is Sherilyn Fiveash, who can be reached 404-723-5923 and [hifiveproduction@aol.com](mailto:hifiveproduction@aol.com).

**Footballs:**

Two balls and a kicking tee are provided to each head coach at the beginning of the season. Most coaches find it is helpful to get a couple more balls for use during the season. In terms of the size of the balls used during NYO games, the flag and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade leagues use a “PeeWee” size ball. The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> grade leagues use a “Junior” sized ball. During games it is permissible for teams to alternate either rubber or leather balls while they are on offense provided they are the correct size.

**Game Schedules:**

Flag games for players in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are scheduled on Friday afternoon and primarily Saturday morning. Games for the older age groups are primarily scheduled during week day evenings; there will be some games played on Saturdays. The regular season will run through early November followed by playoff games. Game schedules will be announced once the final number of teams is determined. All schedules and scores will be available through the NYO website, [www.nyosports.com](http://www.nyosports.com).

**Game Schedule Changes:**

Changing game times should be avoided if possible. If a team must change the time for one of its games, the head coach of the team needing the change should contact the League Director or Commissioner about available times at which time the game can be rescheduled. Excluding Flag games, make up games are normally scheduled on Saturdays. The coach needing the change should contact the opposing coach to attempt to work out a new game time. In this situation the opposing coach is encouraged to cooperate with the rescheduling request but is not required to do so. In the event that a game is cancelled due to bad weather, both coaches should follow this same procedure. Once a new game time is scheduled be sure parents are notified.



### **Goals for NYO Football:**

There are three primary objectives of the NYO football program:

1. Teach sound fundamental football skills
2. Encourage as many young players as possible to continue playing football in later years.
3. Use football as means for teaching character lessons as mentioned on above.

To accomplish these objectives the program relies upon volunteers who are good coaches and more importantly fine men to lead impressionable players.

### **Learning to Coach at NYO:**

Regardless of your background in football there is a steep learning curve to be an effective coach at NYO. The challenge for new coaches is teaching what they may already know about football in context with players of these ages. Please take this learning process seriously. Pete Secret and Charles Pledger are members of the Football Committee and are responsible for the education of new coaches. Please contact them with questions. New coaches should get help by the following means:

- **Mentor Coaches** –New coaches will be assigned a mentor coach who has experience in coaching at NYO. New coaches must communicate and rely on the advice of these guys to help understand what is necessary in order to have a successful draft, well organized practices and appropriate communications with parents. If new coaches do not get actively involved with one of these former NYO coaches, their teams will most likely perform poorly. Speak to your League Director or John Woods about this.
- **Coaches Clinic(s)** – All new coaches (head coaches and assistants) are required to attend a clinic(s) lead by NYO's most experienced coaches which focuses on the information that new coaches need to have a productive season at NYO. The **2023 clinic will be on July 30 in NYO's gym.** Attendance is mandatory.
- **USA Football** is an excellent source of information about all facets of youth football. Use it.
- **Coaches Certification** – NYO is a member of USA Football which provides a variety of excellent coaching aids. All NYO head coaches and assistant coaches must be certified annually by completing the online course provided by USA Football certification follows. An expanded version of these directions begin of p. 48.
  - Go to [USA Football Youth Certification](#)
  - Be sure to that your organization (Northside Youth Organization) has been entered. It is important USA Football knows you are part of NYO in order for NYO to pay for the course fee and that your certification will be forwarded to NYO.
  - Click on "Get Certified"
  - Select either Tackle or Flag
  - Alternative Promo Codes:
    - Certification course for TACKLE football type in promo code: **250773** or
    - Certification course for FLAG football type in promo code: **06A795**
  - Click "Update Price"
  - Click "Sign Up For Course!"
  - Start Certification

**If you encounter any issues while registering or certifying, contact the Member Services team at USA Football at 1-877-5-FOOTBALL (1-877-536-6822) or the Help Desk: [Help Desk](#)**

### **Officials:**

NYO utilizes an organization of high school officials to call our games. While coaches, parents and officials often disagree, your conduct and that of your players' parents toward the officials is a model for your players so be responsible. It is important for coaches to maintain the conduct of your players' parents during games. Keep in mind the following:

- With almost no exceptions, game officials understand high school rules much better than most NYO coaches.
- Even for highly experienced officials, it is challenging for the officials to balance enforcing the rules and not calling penalties every play due to the disorganized nature of youth football and
- High school games are officiated by a crew of approximately six men versus NYO games which are called by two officials. Naturally, some things will be missed.

**Organization of League:**

NYO's Football program is organized into six leagues. The six leagues are referred to as:

League	Comments
Grades K & 1 <sup>st</sup>	For Kindergarten & first grade players. Players who turn 7 prior to March 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year shall be required to play in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade league.
Second Grade Flag League	Players who turn 8 prior to March 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year shall be required to play in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade league.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade League	Players who turn 9 prior to March 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year shall be required to play in the 4 <sup>th</sup> grade league
Fourth Grade League	Players who turn 10 prior to March 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year shall be required to play in the 5 <sup>th</sup> grade league
Fifth Grade League	Players who turn 11 prior to March 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year shall be required to play in the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade league
Bigs – 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade League	Players who turn 13 prior to September 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year shall not be permitted to participate except as follows: Certain 13 year old players will be permitted to register provided that these players: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in NYO's football program in the prior season</li> <li>Turn age 13 no earlier than June 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>Weigh no more than 140 lbs., and</li> <li>Will be permitted to play in the offensive backfield only if they weigh no more than 105 lbs.</li> </ol>

**Playing in a Younger or Older League:**

NYO does not allow players to participate in a younger age group. Certain younger players will be required to play in an older league due to their size and a small number of players have requested to play up to an older age group. The Football Committee will evaluate these situations individually.

**Playoffs:**

Upon completion of the regular season, all teams will qualify for the playoffs. Based on regular season records, League Directors will seed the teams and announce the playoff brackets.

**Practice Schedule, Times & Frequency:** A Practice Schedule will be distributed to coaches during the summer that will outline alternative times and field locations when each team can schedule its practices at NYO's Chastain fields and offsite fields. Teams will still have latitude as to which days they can practice but location (either at Chastain or an off-site field) will vary based on the Practice Schedule. Practices can begin the day following the draft. Each League Director will establish the schedule prior to the commencement of practices. During the pre-season (before September 6<sup>th</sup>):

- Bigs (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade) league, Fifth grade league and fourth grade league can have four practices a week. Third Grade leagues can have three practices a week, and
- Flag teams can have two practices weekly.

Beginning **September 4, 2023**, teams in the four full contact leagues can have no more than two practices a week; flag teams can have no more than one practice weekly. The week will run from Sunday through Saturday. After the Monday of the first regular season game, if a team has an off week with no game then that team may add a practice in lieu of the game. Practices cannot be "saved" in one week for later use.

**Rules limiting contact during practices:**

- 1) During pre-season practices full contact drills shall be limited to 30 minutes during any permitted practice.
- 2) During regular season practices full contact drills shall not be allowed on any more than two consecutive days and shall be limited to 40 minutes during any permitted practice.

In teaching tackling and blocking graduate the distance between and the speed of your players.

**Red Devils Program** – Red Devils teams are composed of NYO players & coaches which participate in one or more post season games against teams from other parks usually around the Thanksgiving week-end. Coaches are selected by the Red Devils Directors, John Woods and Chris Payne, in conjunction with the Director for each League. Players are nominated for Red Devils teams by each of the NYO head coaches. The final selection of players is made by the



respective Red Devils coach for each team. If you are interested in coaching on a Red Devils team contact Chris Payne or your League Director.

The name “Red Devils” is borrowed from past NYO teams coached by the acclaimed coach Bob Blackwell who won 7 National Pop Warner championships. The large lower field on which Bigs games are now played is named for Coach Blackwell.

**Responsibilities of Coaches:** Coaching at NYO football team is a challenging and an extremely important role. As a group NYO is blessed with many fine men who have done a fantastic job of coaching football and building young men. NYO coaches are expected to be role models for the young players for whom they are accepting responsibility. By agreeing to coach you accept the following responsibilities:

1. Promote Safety – There are risks to players participating in football. Your top responsibility to minimize the risk of injury to your players by effectively learning what is outlined within section VII of this document and by what is taught by USA Football.
2. Be a Great Teacher – As a coach you are called to first be a student of the sport. USA Football offers many good courses and NYO will provide clinics and mentor coaches to help you learn. Ultimately, great football coaches are normally great teachers. You must be an excellent teacher to explain, demonstrate and motivate your players to learn proper individual fundamental techniques and how to execute as a team.
3. Communicate Effectively with Parents – It is essential to communicate clearly with parents and have a team meeting very early in the season. Having the parents’ confidence, support and enthusiasm is important to a successful season.
4. Compete to Win – Winning is not all important and there are other objectives for players participating in NYO Football. Nevertheless, winning is important! You are charged with teaching your team how to effectively compete in a manner to win games. Recognizing that your players will have different levels of ability, you must appropriately define what winning means for each player that does not necessarily involve the scoreboard.
5. Be Positive – You are to be positive with your players, game officials and other coaches. The old school coach who screams at his players the entire practice does not have a place at NYO. Provide more affirmative communication (verbal and non-verbal) than criticism. Be prepared to positively motivate your players including those who are not athletically gifted. You are a role model to your players, your player’s parents and fellow coaches! Decades from now your players will remember you; make sure those memories are positive. A key objective for each NYO coach should be to interact with their players in a manner that will encourage them to continue playing football in subsequent years.
6. Follow the Rules – Learn and follow the rules of NYO’s football program.
7. Thing not to do - There is no tolerance for taunting, cursing, harassment of officials, abusive behavior, and any other form of un-sportsmanlike conduct. Coaches must keep their emotions in check knowing in advance that game conditions at NYO are chaotic. Never have unauthorized contact with players away from NYO w/o the involvement of team parents. Do not use bad language, tobacco or alcohol at any team function. Unfortunately, several coaches have lost the privilege of coaching at NYO due to their behavior.
8. Build Character – NYO believes that youth football provides unique opportunities to demonstrate important life lessons and that the sport can contribute to the character development of its players. Be mindful that many parents are nervously setting aside their fear of the sport in the hope that this is true. As a coach you are responsible for teaching these lessons. NYO’s Football Committee will help with this process but you must commit time to what many believe is the most important reason for youth football which is building the character of its players.

*“When we get back to the hotel, I want you all to write a thank you note to the housekeeping staff because they don’t get a lot of thank you’s.” Bill Snyder*

*“One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it.” Knute Rockne*

### **Responsibilities of Parents Regarding Conduct:**

NYO is blessed with many great parents who do a wonderful job supporting their children and the program. At game time, please be a positive fan; your job is to clap for your team. Please keep in mind the chaotic conditions under which those that are coaching and officiating are working. The physical difficulty of playing football is an important factor in making the sport an effective learning process. We strongly suggest that it is in your child's best interest for you to always voice support for coaches and officials regardless of your opinion of their performance. Further, officiating and coaching youth football is a surprisingly difficult and time consuming activity. The men who coach at NYO as group do a wonderful job and are committed to providing their players with a positive experience. Please provide them with your support. There is no tolerance for bad behavior by parents while at NYO. A number of parents have lost the privilege of attending NYO events as a result of their behavior. If you have any serious concerns, please contact the Football Committee. As a condition for participation at NYO, each parent must commit to the Parent's Pledge which follows:

### **NYO's Positive Coaching & Parenting Alliance (PCPA)**

#### **Parent Pledge**

***Must complete in order to continue!***

#### **Did you know?**

- Kids care more about the slushy ticket than the final score!
- They love to play the game, but hate the criticism from Mom & Dad on the ride home.
- It takes 5 positive comments to make up for every negative comment I make to my child.
- Less than 1% of high school athletes will receive college scholarships and less than 1% of those will go pro!

NYO strongly supports the Positive Coaching & Parents Alliance, an initiative that was adopted over ten years ago to reinforce our commitment to provide a supportive and enriching experience for ALL KIDS who play at NYO. But it only works with your help!

#### **Our PCPA policy requires that all parents and coaches pledge to uphold our commitment to:**

- Honor the game by always respecting your team's coaches, the opposing coaches, umpires and referees, league directors and other volunteers, and your fellow parents; be a "team player" by always being on time to games and practices, and helping out where necessary;
- Always provide positive reinforcement and encouragement to our children, while refraining from expressing negative comments about their play, the officiating or other participants;
- Work to build the confidence and develop the character of all the kids by supporting good sportsmanship, teamwork, and effort, regardless of ability;
- Realize that we have an ongoing obligation to be positive role models for our young athletes. Remember, our kids are always watching!
- Report to NYO any incidents observed which are not consistent with this pledge (send to: [PCPAcommittee@NYOsports.com](mailto:PCPAcommittee@NYOsports.com) ).

With your help, NYO will continue to provide our families and children with great experiences, characterized by healthy and balanced competition in a positive, supportive setting. Thank you for your pledge to support the ideals of PCPA!

**I pledge to always support PCPA and the points above:**

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Electronic Signature

**Weather:**

As quickly as possible, announcements of game cancellations and field closings will be posted on the NYO website, distributed to coaches & parents by email and the telephone message at NYO's office will be revised with the weather update. Sometimes particularly early in the season NYO will close the fields, even if rain & lightning have passed, in order to avoid damage to the turf. If bad weather develops closer to game time, game officials will determine whether or not games can be played. At all times coaches need to use good judgment about bad weather concerning player safety and for avoiding damage to wet fields.

NYO is equipped with a lightning detection system situated above the press box overlooking the Bronco baseball field. If this horn goes off with a single loud blast, leave the fields quickly. You can monitor this system using the link: <http://nyosports.thormobile1.net/mobile/> which you should keep on your phone. Dugouts and pavilions are NOT safe options. If the yellow light is spinning on the top of the detection system that means the all clear has not sounded and all fields are closed. The system will provide three short blasts when it is safe to return to the fields. For further weather updates please reference NYO's office & website: (404) 256-1483 & [www.nyosports.com](http://www.nyosports.com).

In the event bad weather delays the kickoff of a game which is followed by later game(s), officials will delay the start of the first game for no more than 45 minutes after which time the first game will be cancelled and later rescheduled. See Game Schedule Changes concerning rescheduling games that are rained out.