



EARN YOUR WINGS

***** 2021 HINSDALE FALCON FOOTBALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN *****
PLEASE GO TO WWW.HINSDALEFALCONS.COM TO REGISTER.

Hello Potential 2021 Hinsdale Falcon Football Families!

WE ARE BACK!!!

We want to welcome you to the 2021 Hinsdale Falcon Football program. Although our teams won't be hitting the gridiron until later this year, there is already a lot of activity in preparation for what we know will be another outstanding Hinsdale Falcons season – even more than usual given the unfortunate COVID-related cancellation of the 2020 season last year.

By way of introduction, Hinsdale Falcon Football is a non-profit, 100% volunteer, community-based youth travel tackle football program for 2nd through 8th graders. We have operated in and served Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, Burr Ridge, Westmont, Willowbrook, Oak Brook and surrounding communities for decades. The program emphasizes football fundamentals, safety, teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline, and fun.

We look forward to you and your Falcon helping us and our dozens of outstanding volunteer Board members and coaches continue to provide what we feel is the pre-eminent youth travel sports program in the area. While we are always excited about our on-field success, we continue to be most proud of our relationship with the forward-thinking and safety-conscious Bill George Youth Football League (www.bgyfl.org) and our membership and participation in USA Football's League Excellence football program (<https://usafootball.com/programs/league-excellence-program/>).

The BGYFL is the strongest and most respected youth football league in the Chicagoland area. And it just got stronger ... the league welcomes newcomers the Oak Park-River Forest Huskies, the Bensenville Raiders, and the Park Ridge Falcons beginning this season.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to **PLAYER SAFETY AND FUNDAMENTALS**, although we cannot (nor can any contact sport organization) guarantee player health and safety, including from COVID or other communicable disease. However, as part of our over-arching commitment to your Falcon:

- We will monitor, adopt, implement, and observe relevant COVID protocols for the coming Fall 2021 season. Among other resources for parents, USA Football provides an informative summary of recommended guidelines and measures as we and our fellow BGFYL towns, as well as leagues around the state, prepare for the 2021 return of youth football (<https://usafootball.com/resources-tools/return-to-youth-football/for-parents/>).
- All our 2021 football coaches will again be required to complete an annual coaching certification/re-certification course through USA Football, as well as to submit to a background check.

- We will continue to provide professional athletic training staff at all Falcons home games in partnership with Achieve Orthopedics (www.achieveorthosports.com).
- All Falcon football players again will be required to complete a mandatory baseline test prior to the first contact practice in early August 2021. Achieve Orthopedics will conduct the testing, and the cost will be borne by the program. All you will need to do is schedule and complete the testing. More details will follow, including the testing process/protocol, where/how to schedule an appointment, how long it takes, what to do if you already have a baseline test, and (although we hope it never becomes relevant) how to access/utilize your baseline test.
- We will continue to use the padded helmet covers at practice. The covers, which are manufactured by Guardian Caps (www.guardiancaps.com), have materially reduced the risk and incidence of practice-related concussions and other head injuries. The padded helmet covers are one-size-fits-all and are washable. They are easily attached (for practice), removed (for games), and re-attached (for practice).

2021 REGISTRATION

As noted above, online registration for the upcoming 2021 season **IS NOW OPEN**. Registration is processed through our new-look website at www.hinsdalefalcons.com.

Please note the following important information related to 2021 registration:

- Per league rules, please be aware there is an August 1 birthday cut-off for each level. The vast majority of Falcons will be rostered with their grade level, but those that are older for their grade (i.e., born prior to August 1), will be rostered with the grade above. In addition, while there is no weight limit at any level, there is a cut-off weight above which a player must “stripe” and play the offensive/defensive line. The 2021 BGYFL Weight Chart will be posted on our website when available.
- Levels will be limited, and potentially closed, as soon as numbers are filled for each level. If a level is filled, your player’s registration will be placed on a waitlist. **Accordingly, we strongly encourage registering early as we anticipate registration numbers beginning to fill up by early-to-mid June.**
- For your registration to become effective, you **MUST** pay the registration fee online through PayPal or with a credit or debit card. If you do not pay the registration fee, your player’s registration will not be processed, and your player will not be rostered on a team and will not be eligible to participate.
- 2021 registration fees are per the table below, and we are happy to report that this season’s rates are unchanged from 2020 rates. **Please note, however, that the registration fee you pay is based on the date you complete your registration, including payment.** In other words, you cannot “lock-in” your registration rate simply by starting the registration process online on a certain date; you must complete the payment process. Registration fees are payable via credit card or PayPal.

<i>Registration Date</i>	<i>Registration Status</i>	<i>Registration Fee</i>
Through July 16, 2021	Regular Registration	\$ 575.00
July 17 – August 6, 2021	Late Registration	\$ 700.00
August 7, 2021	Deadline for Withdrawals/Refunds (see below)	

- Please note the following withdrawal/refund policy: (1) those that withdraw **prior to** our annual Equipment Handout (see below) will be subject to a \$50 non-refundable charge, and (2) those that do so **after** Equipment Handout and prior to the deadline date will be subject to a \$100 non-refundable charge.
- If you are new to the Hinsdale Falcons program or if your player did not play for the Falcons during the 2019 season (the last season of competition, since the 2020 season was cancelled), you will need to upload a PDF or JPEG copy of your player's birth certificate during the registration process in order to participate in the program. You will not need to upload a birth certificate if your player played for the Falcons in the 2019 season.
- Please ensure that all information input during registration is complete and accurate. **Also, please note that the grade level you provide at registration should be the grade level your player will be entering this coming Fall 2021 (i.e., not your player's grade level at the time you register).**
- If your player participated in the 2019 season (and has remaining Falcons eligibility), but you know will not participate this year, we would greatly appreciate your sending an email to that effect to us so that we can plan accordingly.

For questions regarding your registration, the registration process, the 2021 season, age/weight requirements, or Hinsdale Falcon Football generally, please email us at admin@hinsdalefalcons.com.

IMPORTANT NOTES AND DATES

- **FALCONS YARD SIGNS:** We would love for every 2021 registrant to put up a Falcons sign in their front yard. Every 2021 registrant that wants a Falcons yard sign will get one. Simply email us at admin@hinsdalefalcons.com to request a Falcons yard sign, and provide your address, and we will arrange to drop one off. Put it up as soon as you get it!
- **2021 EQUIPMENT HANDOUT:** We expect to hold our annual football Equipment Handout at Brook Park, Hinsdale, over the course of a single weekend in late June or July. The exact weekend and more information about the process and times for Equipment Handout will be provided to you well in advance. Equipment Handout is a challenge every year; we ask that you make every effort to pick up equipment on the scheduled Equipment Handout weekend.
- **2021 SCHEDULE:** The first day of permitted practice this season will be on **Monday, August 2**. Your team's actual practice start date and practice schedule will be communicated to you before then. The league schedule this year will be either an 8-game or 9-game schedule, and will be determined by the timing of the BGYFL Championship Weekend, which has not yet been confirmed by the league. That being said, if history is any guide, we would expect that the first game weekend will be **Saturday/Sunday, August 28-29**. That would mean the regular season finishes *either* with Week #8 on **Saturday/Sunday, October 16-17** or with Week #9 on **Saturday/Sunday, October 23-24**, followed by three potential playoff rounds over consecutive weekends culminating with the BGYFL Championship Weekend. For teams that advance to the BGYFL Championship Game at their level/division, the season will be complete no later than mid-November. The 2021 game schedule for each of our teams for the upcoming season will not be available until mid-August. Your team's coach or team manager/parent will communicate with you as to your specific practice start date/schedule/location as the season approaches and as to your game schedule when it becomes available, as well as other team-specific details and expectations regarding the 2021 season.
- **INFORMATION NIGHT:** You are invited and encouraged to join us for a virtual **Parent Information/Q&A Night on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 from 8:00-9:00 PM** to learn more about the Hinsdale Falcon Football program and the 2021 season. A few of our 2021 coaches and Board members will be participating, as will a representative of Achieve Orthopedics, our professional athletic training partner, to answer questions

about the Falcons program, including regarding player safety, baseline testing, and training services. We will send around a Zoom link with access details in a few weeks. Please distribute to your friends that may be interested in joining our Falcons family!

We look forward to a great 2021 season!

GO FALCONS! EARN YOUR WINGS!

Very truly yours,

The Hinsdale Falcon Football Board
admin@hinsdalefalcons.com

***** WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HINSDALE FALCON FOOTBALL. *****

***** PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH THOSE OF YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO
MAY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR PROGRAM. *****