



## **ASA FOOTBALL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Question: When will registration begin/end?**

**Answer:** Returning player registration typically begins in May. Returning player registration is the first registration period and is for players who played in ASA last fall and want to return to their team for the upcoming season. All players who want to return to their team **MUST** register during this time. Regular registration opens as soon as returning player registration closes and is open for all players, either new to the league, recruited, or players who are going into the draft to change teams.

### **Question: At what age can my child start participating in the ASA Football program? And up to what age?**

**Answer:** Eagle Division players must be 4-years-old when registration begins on May 1. Starting in the second grade and going through 6th grade it is tackle football. ASA Football does not accept 7th graders, in our tackle program.

### **Question: What is included in my registration fee?**

**Answer:** ASA registration fees pay for the use of fields and stadiums, the cost of officials, scoreboard operators, field lining, field equipment, lights, and many other items used during the football season. The cost of registration does not include any equipment or uniforms. Players must provide all equipment and uniforms.

### **Question: What form of payment is accepted for registration?**

**Answer:** Visa, MasterCard, Check and Monday Orders – NO CASH IS ACCEPTED. Payment for registration is due by the last day of registration. All payments must be made online or at the ASA office. - Please note that payment by anything other than credit card must be submitted in person at the ASA Office.

### **Question: Is financial aid available if I cannot afford for my child to participate?**

**Answer:** Yes. ASA evaluates families requesting financial aid assistance. Each family who applies for financial aid are evaluated on a case by case basis by the ASA Office staff. This is a private matter and is not discussed with coaches, or anyone outside the family that is requesting assistance. ASA prides it's self on

being able to provide an environment for all youth to play the great game of football. Financial Aid submission dates are posted on the registration page. Financial aid only covers the cost of the registration fee and does not include equipment or uniform costs.

**Question: Can I get a refund if something should change (i.e., my son changes mind or we move)?**

**Answer:** While open registration is currently open – You can get a full refund minus the \$30 non-refundable administrative fee. After open registration has closed – There are no refunds. To request a refund: A form is available at [www.allensports.org](http://www.allensports.org) under “forms.”

**Question: Outside of the registration fee, are there any additional fees that may incur before or once the season begins?**

**Answer:** Yes. For each child participating on a given team, additional costs should **NOT** exceed the following for uniforms/team expenses. All players must provide their own equipment which can run from \$100-250 per player in addition to uniform/team expenses.

**\$75 FLAG Football**

**\$125 TACKLE Football**

All teams are encouraged to find team sponsors to keep the costs down, however it is not the team’s responsibility to pay for the additional cost. Any ASA Football fundraising program that is done by the league is not mandatory. We encourage all teams to participate in the league fundraisers but it is not required. There are at times, contests and awards given to teams who participate in league fundraisers, so teams who do not participate can not be considered for any award.

**Question: Does ASA Football register players by age or grade?**

**Answer:** ASA registers players by 2 check points- Grade first, then age. The specific grade and age requirements are located in the ASA Football Rules. In order to verify grade and age requirements for all players they will be required to attend player certification and show the league a birth certificate and report card.

**Question: My child does NOT want to return to his former team, what are our choices? Can my child pick a different team to play on for the upcoming season?**

**Answer:** Participants who do not wish to return to their previous team are placed in open registration also known as the draft pool. Players/Parents may NOT choose who they will play for in the upcoming season- they will be placed by draft or as needs of the league by the Football Board.

**Question: If I want my son on another team can I just sign up to coach that team and my son can move onto that team?**

**Answer:** No. Players may only change teams by draft or at the discretion of the football board. ASA does not have a “coach” rule that allows players to change teams.

**Question: If I register late or move in from out of town can I still be placed on a team?**

**Answer:** ASA Football compiles a waiting list of players that would like to play in our league, but for whatever reason have missed registration. ASA Football holds a draft to place all players on a team. If you sign up after the draft you will be put on a wait list and the coaches in your division will be contacted to see who needs players. All attempts will be made to find your player a home. Waiting list players are not guaranteed spots on rosters until they are assigned by the Board. The waiting list is first come - first serve and will be closed prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the season.

**Question: Does ASA Football have a ball carrying weight limit?**

**Answer:** Yes, in the tackle divisions there is a weight limit for those that will be carrying the ball, playing in the backfield or lining up as a wide receiver. The players official weight that is used is the weight recorded at the league weigh in. Players may weigh in one time and the weight stands for the season. Players over the limit will have a sticker on the back of their helmet indicating as such. Weight limits for each age group are available in the official playing rules.

**Question: What is the point of the ball carrying weight limit?**

**Answer:** The majority of the reason the rule is in place is for fair play among the younger divisions. While these 7, 8 and 9 year olds are learning football fundamentals, we want to be sure that the playing field is as level as possible. Football is a contact sport and we want all our younger players to get a comfort level with the contact while ensuring their safety and building their confidence. The Safety of our ASA players is our utmost concern; however, limiting the size of players on offense does not ensure the overall safety of our participants. The safety of our players is ensured by our coaches whom we implore to teach proper fundamentals, by our officials who officiate our games and lastly by the players who play the game within the confines of the fundamentals they are taught and the rules of the game. As our players progress through ASA we stair step our rules. Early on, we have many restrictions and then lessen the restrictions as they get older and have developed their fundamental football base.

**Question: I coached last year and plan on returning, do I have to register again as a coach?**

**Answer:** Yes. Each coach must be approved each season by the Division Director and the Football Commissioner in order to advance each season with their team. Once approved- Yes, each coach must re-register every year. This includes Head Coach and all Assistants. Each coach must also attend the Mandatory Coach meeting that is held each season prior to the start of the season.

**Question: Can I be a football coach if I have never played football before?**

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question: I am the Head Coach and I will be out of town during Draft, can I send someone else in my place?**

**Answer:** Yes, you may send one of your designated Assistant Coaches to the Draft in your place.

**Question: I am a coach and I will be out of town for the mandatory coaches meeting. Is there another date to complete this?**

**Answer:** Both Head and Assistant coaches must attend the mandatory coach meeting in order to be certified to coach for the season. Each season we have one class and one make up class. Coaches who can not make either class are encouraged not to coach for that season as the time required to coach is a lot- and if it is difficult to make the coach meeting, then you have to ask if it will be difficult to effectively coach the team.

Football is a sport unlike any other we must have coaches who can invest the time to teach proper safety and teach the game.

**Question: A new kid moves in to town and I really want the child on my team. How can I make this happen? How does recruiting work?**

**Answer:** To encourage participation in ASA football, players who did not play in ASA football in the previous season may be recruited to join a team with the following exceptions-

1. Players who had previously played in ASA- (except for the previous season) and who left as an individual player and not part of a team who left can be recruited.

Example- Tim Smith played for the Division 3 Vikings in 2007- he went to play Division 4 with friends in another league for 2008 and he wants to return to play in ASA for Division 5 in 2009 that player can be recruited. He left ASA as an individual player and not part of a team.

2. Players who left as part of an ASA team that left the league to play in another league who want to return can only return and be placed by draft- This applies to Teams that were put together in a way that violates ASA team formation rules. Players on these teams can not return as a team and any player on those teams can only return and be placed by draft, or at the discretion of the Football Board.

Example- Coach Parcels coaches the Bears, Coach Ditka coaches the Cardinals- after a season they get together and decide to take a few "good" players off of each team and make a new team and leave the league to play in another league. Since that team was not put together or formed in accordance with ASA team formation rules that team is not allowed to return to play in ASA as a team. The players on that team can not return as a team, they can only return as individuals and be placed by draft, or by the football board.

This is commonly referred to as "cherry picking" a coach or coaches get together pick the best kids off of 2 or 3 teams to build a team and go and play in another league. This violates several different rules and impacts the players not selected to go be part of the new team.

ASA is a recreational program and picking the best kids off of several teams and building a team in not part of a recreational program, and will not be tolerated in ASA football.

3. Players who left as part of a team and their coach is not eligible to return to coach in ASA football can only return and be placed by draft

Example- Coaches who cherry pick and put a team together and leave the league can not return to coach in ASA football. The players on these teams are always welcome to return to play in ASA football and upon return will be placed by draft.

Parents or Coaches who have any questions about the eligibility of a player should contact your Division Director or the Football Commissioner.

**Question: I was involved with a team last season and I want to start a new team- what can I do?**

**Answer:** Any parent who wants to take his son, and other players from his previous team may start a new team with Board approval. We do not want to encourage teams to split up, but we do understand that at times an environmental change is needed. Splitting of a team allows for a new team to be created and allows for the original team to be able to recruit players or add players to the team from the draft.

**Question: When is the draft and how will I know what team my child has been chosen by?**

**Answer:** The ASA Draft typically follows 3 to 4 weeks after the final registration date. We ask that the coaches contact their players immediately after the draft. You may also log into your child's Sports Pilot account to see what team drafted your son.

**Question: What happens if my child does not want to play for a team/squad he/she was drafted by?**

**Answer:** Players are not allowed to choose who they play for if they are in the draft. No changing of teams is allowed unless by draft.

**Question: As a coach, if my team is short on players due to injuries or players leaving the program, can I solicit new players from my neighborhood, school, etc., etc.?**

**Answer:** No. If a team needs players after the draft is held, coaches will be referred to the wait list for players. If there are no players on the wait list then the Football Board will review the situation and make a determination as to placement of the player.

**Question: As a coach, do I have to accept all returning participants or can I put them on another team?**

**Answer:** No child can be denied by a coach if the child wants to return back to their previous team. As long as the player registers during the returning player registration period that player is guaranteed a spot on the roster.

**Question: What is the skills evaluation tryout?**

**Answer:** The Skills evaluation is an event in which the athletes are tested in various speed, power and agility drills in order to determine physical ability.

Stations generally include: 40 yard dash- throwing/catching a football- agility course

The results of the tryout are used by the coaches who need players. This information, combined with DOB, height and weight is used by the coaches in their selection of players during the draft process.

There is no pass or fail and there is no right or wrong- all the coaches are looking for is physical ability and no matter how a player does at the tryout they are still selected and will be placed on a team.

**Question: My player is out of town on the date for the skills evaluation. Is there another date he can complete this?**

**Answer:** No. If a player is registered and can not be at the skill evaluation then he will be blind drafted to a team.

**Question: How many practices a week are allowed for both the flag and tackle divisions?**

**Answer:** For 2009 all teams will go into pads at the same time. Starting June 8<sup>th</sup>- 2009 teams may meet to do voluntary workouts and conditioning work only. During this time no pads and no contact are allowed.

Starting July 20<sup>th</sup>- Teams may meet and have full pad/contact practices at the Head Coaches discretion.

After the Jamboree- all practices become subject to the 4 events per week rule, meaning that a practice can not last past 8 PM, and the league suggestion is to have 2 Full contact practices per week, one walk through- no contact practice and one game per week.

**For the Flag Divisions:** Before the Jamboree, flag teams may practice at the Head Coaches discretion. After the Jamboree Eagle division teams may practice once per week and no more than an hour and a half. Division 1 teams may practice 2 times per week for no more than an hour and a half per practice.

**Question: When and where are practices?**

**Answer:** Practices are held in any area that is a city park or open field area that is allowed by the City of Allen. Practices are not allowed on City game fields. Your teams coach may also have an area that is available to be used. Practice days, and locations are subject to the head Coaches discretion.

**Question: When and where are the games played?**

**Answer:** Games are played on Saturdays at various locations- Ford, Jupiter, Lovejoy, Allen High School are all possible locations. No specific division is assigned a specific field, or a specific game time. From time to time we have an odd number of teams in a division. When that happens that specific division may play weeknight games.

**Question: How many players are on a team?**

**Answer:** Team Numbers depend on the registration numbers. This number is not determined until after late registration. As a general rule Coaches must return 12 Players and we attempt to limit teams to no more than 18 players. Coaches can choose to have up to 24 players on their roster.

**Question: Do all football teams have cheerleaders?**

**Answer:** Not all football teams have cheerleaders. This is due to the registration numbers of football players compared to the registration

numbers of cheerleaders. If your son's team does not have cheerleaders you are welcome to recruit girls in the same grade as the boys and a cheer coach to cheer for the team. For more information about cheerleading please contact Cheer Commissioner Erika Montgomery at [cheerleading@allensports.org](mailto:cheerleading@allensports.org)

**Question: How long is the season? How many games are played? Are there playoffs? Do all teams qualify for playoffs?**

**Answer:** Practices for the season begins in July, games begin in August and playoffs run through the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Every team plays an eight (8) game regular season. Playoff format is decided based on the number of teams in each division- the format usually includes one playoff game with the winners advancing to the Super Bowl.

**Question: Is there a Pro Bowl for football?**

**Answer:** No.

**Question: Does ASA offer tackle or flag football in the Spring?**

**Answer:** Yes. ASA offers a Spring Flag football program