

## Slinger Youth Football Kickoff – Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Introduce the Mission, Board, Key Contributors

Recognize all Youth Coaches in all grades

Concussion presentation & baseline scheduling: Mike Reinke, Aurora LAT

Why Slinger Youth Football?

- Player development is our primary goal.
  - Winning is fun, but it doesn't equate to success by our program's definition.
  - Focus: Helping players grow in their love for the sport so as many as possible move on to play at Slinger High School. (Goal: 40 freshmen every season)
  - Playing time
    - Equitable (not equal) & meaningful – both halves, both sides of the ball
    - Managed by coaching staff during the games
    - "Splitting" grades to increase playing time (done at end of first full week of practice)
- Safety is paramount in the players' experience.
  - Heads-Up enrolled program (discussed in a moment)
  - Greatly reduced the amount of "full" contact to reduce incidence of player injuries
  - Alignment with WIAA Acclimatization protocols at the start of each season
  - First 10 hours – no contact (AAYFL rule)
  - Aurora Athletic Trainer at all home games, 1/week at practices
  - Ambulance on call for all home games
  - Board member or appointee in attendance as well to help with any situations
- Family & Faith – Academics – Athletics
- Results: Strong registrations for third year in a row – 171 players! (5<sup>th</sup>=37, 6<sup>th</sup>=50, 7<sup>th</sup>=45, 8<sup>th</sup>=39)

USA Football Certification (<https://usafootball.com>)

- The NFL's standard for youth football player safety and coaching certification
- Heads Up Tackling, Heads Up Blocking and other contact techniques
- Progressions are vital in forming safer habits on the field
- Coaching certification includes several safety topics (concussion recognition & response, heat preparedness & hydration, Sudden Cardiac Arrest response, proper equipment fitting)
- Annual background checks through Trusted Coaches (<https://www.trustedcoaches.org>)

Notes & Highlights

- Jose A. Rivera, III Memorial Scholarship – First award to Class of 2020; more to come
- Active partnership with Slinger Recreation Dept. Flag Football program

- Additional helmets, shoulder pads; tackling rings, other field gear as required
- Reminder: “Hardship” (job loss) waiver (see Cheyenne for details)

#### UPDATED Fundraising strategy (see packet)

- NEW!! Slinger Business Awareness Program – “Get Carded” when you shop!
- “Cookie Dough” merchandise sale (starts 8/15/19)
- Triple S (Slinger Safety Sponsor)

#### Communication

- Website is becoming the primary means for getting information from the Board
  - Address: <https://slingergridiron.sportngin.com>
  - Look for updates and “refresh” in next few weeks! (Opportunity: Webmaster!)
- Like Gridiron on Facebook!
  - Facebook.com; keyword = “Slinger Gridiron Football”
  - Great place to keep up to speed, see photos and other team news
- All board meetings are open to the public
  - Typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 6:15 pm in the SMS Cafeteria
  - Schedule to be posted online with previous meeting minutes and current month’s agenda
- Interactions with coaches
  - Head coaches will email you with information
  - Encourage your coaching staff – this is a huge investment for their family as well
  - All issues (including playing time) should be taken to the Head Coach **ONLY**
    - Use the 24-hour rule to help calm emotions
    - Calmly take the issue to the Head Coach
    - Not satisfied? Then Bob Boden (Coaching Dir.), finally Coaching Committee
- On-field emergencies
  - Protocol similar to SHS protocol
  - On-site medical personnel are in charge – THEY determine if someone calls 911 and WHO makes that call
  - Athletic Trainers, Game Day Managers on-site for every home game

#### Season calendar

- Equipment handout – Monday, June 3 (SMS Gym)
  - Importance of getting fitted correctly
  - Burghardts rep available for girdle sizing; girdles & game socks purchased online
  - More directions provided as you enter
  - Coaches are there to take measurements and help with fitting our players
  - White practice pants no longer issued
    - Athletic shorts and knee pads
    - Can purchase knee pads through Burghardts online store or on your own
  - Apparel sale: While supplies last!

- Concussion baselines – Any time this summer (optional)
  - Establishes credible starting point for accurately diagnosing concussions
  - Having concussion symptoms does not equal having an actual concussion
  - FREE service offered by Aurora
  - Contact nearest Aurora Rehabilitation Center (Slinger, Hartford or West Bend)
- Football camps
  - Slinger Youth Camp: July 8-9, 1:00-4:00pm @ SHS football field (sign up through the Rec. Dept. by June 1; \$55) – *Highly recommended, not required*
  - Other specialty camps available – Check online – *Optional, not required*
- Practices start Monday, August 5
  - Monday, 8/5 – Friday, 8/9: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
  - Monday, 8/12 – Thursday, 8/15: 5:30 – 7:30 pm (Picture Night, Meet the Owls and fundraising kickoff – 8/15 @ SHS football field)
  - Same practice schedule for following two weeks
  - September & October: Tuesday – Thursday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
  - Practice ends earlier as sunsets get earlier (TBD by Bob Boden)
- Youth Night: August 30 (Varsity Game vs. Port Washington)
- Scrimmages (details to come)
  - Slinger scrimmage: Saturday, August 17 @ 8:00 am
    - Grades 5 & 6 – SMS
    - Grades 7 & 8 – SHS
  - Germantown scrimmage: Saturday, August 24
- Youth Games
  - Every Saturday after Labor Day in September & October
  - Specific times & locations are in progress with the league
  - Games in SE Wisconsin; many against current HS conference opponents

#### Parent participation opportunities

- Minimum of six hours per season to avoid additional participation fees
- Plenty of committee opportunities (fundraising, equipment, apparel etc.)
- Game Day volunteering: SignUp Genius; go through our website

#### Game jersey laundering & equipment care

#### Viewing game footage online

- Had been using Hudl (like SHS); becoming too costly
- Game footage has become increasingly important over the last few years (trade footage with other programs, skill evaluation, etc. – PLEASE sign up to shoot film!)
- Parents: GREAT way to connect with your players and encourage their growth and learning – KEEP IT POSITIVE!

#### Q & A / Wrap-up