



# PYSA

## TACKLE FOOTBALL FAQ

### TACKLE REGISTRATION

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

Answer: Online registration for PYSA TACKLE Football will begin April 1, 2024 and is scheduled to end on May 31, 2024. Divisions are limited in size; therefore, like past seasons, some divisions are subject to filling up prior to registration ending and could be subject to a WAIT-LIST at various points.

**Question: What grade can my child start participating in the PYSA TACKLE program and up to what age?**

Answer: Participants who are eligible to attend a Prosper ISD 2nd Grade class in the fall of 2024 can begin playing in the TACKLE program via PYSA. PYSA offers the TACKLE program to Prosper ISD eligible participants who will be entering the 2nd through 6th grades in the fall of 2024.

**Question: If I live in another ISD other than Prosper, can my child participant in PYSA?**

Answer: Participants MUST attend a Prosper ISD school or live within Prosper ISD boundaries to be eligible to register. There will be no exceptions. TYFL will require school and address verification from the head coaches to ensure compliance.

**Question: What is included in my PYSA TACKLE program registration fee?**

Answer: PYSA TACKLE program fees include practice & game field related costs, etc. as well as other costs subject to PYSA through its operation within the TYFL. All uniform and equipment (helmet, pads, etc.) are the responsibility of each player.

**Question: If I have more than 1 child participating in PYSA, is there a multi- child discount?**

Answer: Unfortunately, there are no multi-child discounts available via the PYSA FLAG & TACKLE program.

**Question: What form of payment is accepted at registration?**

Answer: Payment is accepted at the time of registration via any major credit/debit card, there are no payment plans, no post-dated checks.

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

Answer: Yes. Please note that refunds DO NOT include any tangible items (i.e., uniform, equipment, etc.). To request a refund, send an email to the Tackle Commissioner at [pysataackle@gmail.com](mailto:pysataackle@gmail.com) to process the refund.

Refund schedule is as follows:

- April 1st to July 22nd – Refund of registration fee paid, minus a \$35 processing fee
- After July 22nd – No refunds will be processed

**Question: Does PYSA register players by age or grade?**

Answer: PYSA registers players by grade and then by their age on September 1st of each year for any further limitations as it relates to assignment of players to specific divisions.

**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: As part of the TYFL, participants who do not wish to return to their previous team have the choice of joining another team within its applicable division (provided that the Head Coach of the new team accepts the request) or the player may enter the unassigned player pool. If there is not a team available for a player transfer within its applicable division, the player can either return to the prior year's team or withdraw from the league and receive a full refund by July 22nd.

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

Answer: The PYSA commissioner will compile a waiting list of players that would like to play in our league, but for whatever reason have missed registration. These players are placed on a standby waiting list. Any potential placement to teams would be based on the number of players participating in each division, and the level of assignment within that division. Waiting list players are not guaranteed spots on rosters until the wait list participant is officially assigned by the PYSA Commissioner once a formal determination is made by the PYSA Board. The waiting list is first come first serve and will be closed at the discretion of the PYSA Commissioner and Board regardless of any roster size.

**Question: Why is there a difference in price between FLAG & TACKLE football?**

Answer: The FLAG & TACKLE programs incur different cost structures as it relates to field rentals, game official costs, etc.

# PYSA & TYFL LEAGUES

## **Question: What teams participate in the TYFL?**

Answer: Teams scheduled to participate in TYFL for 2024 include Anna, Celina, Denison, Denton, McKinney, Melissa, Paris, Princeton, Prosper, Sherman & Van Alstyne and Ardmore, OK.

## **Question: Where will games be played each week?**

Answer: Based on the projected teams in each division from each TYFL member town, sites will be needed to host 70+ teams. This likely requires 3 – 4 sites each weekend. TYFL's plan is to host games in clusters from week to week to provide a fair driving situation from site to site for all competitors. For example, TYFL games may be hosted in Prosper, Celina & McKinney one week, and the following week the games may be in Melissa, Princeton & Anna, then the following week games may be held in Van Alstyne, Sherman & Denison. PYSA cannot guarantee home games and asks families to be prepared to travel, sometime even to play another Prosper team. While the PYSA tackle commissioners work hard to bring as many home games to our town as TYFL will allow, it is ultimately up to TYFL as they make the league game schedule.

## **Question: How are divisions created within TYFL?**

Answer: With an estimated 70+ teams for the 2024 season, TYFL offers a variety of options for PYSA to field teams. TYFL has historically offered grade pure divisions such as 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades as well as combined divisions such as 3rd/4th Grade & 5th/6 Grade. These multiple division options allow each team a variety of opponents to fill its slate of games during the regular season. For instance, a 3rd Grade division may consist of 5 grade pure teams and a 4th grade division may consist of 5 grade pure teams. All the while, there may be a combined 3rd/4th Grade division of 5 other teams. In this scenario, TYFL would likely schedule the 3rd Grade pure teams to play one another yielding 4 regular season division games and 3 other regular season (non-division) games may be scheduled against the historically less experienced 3rd/4th grade combined division teams while the 4th grade pure teams will also play one another yielding 4 regular season division games and the remainder of their schedule will be played against the historically stronger 3rd/4th grade combined teams. This allows for a wider selection of opponents for all 3 divisions involved while maintaining a relatively balanced competition level. Playoffs would be held for each separate division by playing and crowning a separate division champion for 3rd Grade, 4th Grade & the 3rd/4th Grade Combined teams.

## **Questions: What divisions will PYSA offer within TYFL?**

Answer: PYSA's team formation will be completely dictated by the final registration figures for each grade. PYSA's intent is to produce as many grade pure teams as possible while understanding the value of also being able to combine divisions, if necessary, due to unbalanced registration figures in combined divisions. Typically, for every 15-18 players for each grade, a complete grade pure team can be produced to participate in the TYFL. In the event, say for example, the 5th grade division produces 23 registrants, and the 6th grade produces 24 registrants, TYFL would allow PYSA the flexibility to either enter the league with 1 grade pure team for the 5th grade division and 1 grade pure team for the 6th grade division. On the other hand, TYFL would allow PYSA to create grade pure teams with say 16 players for 5th and 16 players for 6th grade while also creating a combined 5th/6th grade team

comprised of the remaining 7 players from the 5th grade and the remaining 8 players from the 6th grade.

**Question: How many regular season games are anticipated and is there a playoff scenario?**

Answer: TYFL traditionally schedules 8 regular season games and caps the year with a single-elimination playoff for each applicable division. If there are 8 teams in a division, TYFL will traditionally split it into two divisions representing a North and South bracket to create more parity.

**Question: Will Prosper play Prosper if there are multiple teams in one grade level division?**

Answer: In previous years, efforts have been put forth to avoid playing against one another in order to maintain one Prosper champion per grade level. However, as our town continues to grow and we have more teams from Prosper competing, there is a chance we will have interplay, just as we saw in 2022.

**Question: What are the obvious advantages to playing in the TYFL?**

Answer: PYSA's partnership allows Prosper to serve as host on multiple weekends at our various middle schools going forward. The ISD vs ISD format structure allows PYSA to promote a more cohesive environment and culture within each grade/division. This also provides kids the opportunity to play in participating towns high school stadiums. Another advantage is that kids get to play with other kids that they will play with in middle school and high school. As noted previously, the TYFL partnership also allows for more flexibility in forming teams and allows for a potentially stronger pool of coaching candidates. TYFL traditionally recognizes a Regular Season MVP for each division as well as Super Bowl MVP for both Offense and Defense for each division. Since PYSA is an official member, all PYSA players are eligible for the Regular Season honors.

**Question: What is the TYFL game day experience like?**

Answer: TYFL requires that each host site collect gate fees each game day for those in attendance. No fees are charged to TYFL players in uniform, TYFL cheerleaders in uniform or children not yet in school; however, there is a standard gate fee of \$6 for adults and \$3 for students. These gate fees are necessary as the host site is responsible for paying the referees for each game as well the field rental & operation costs for each game day. The participating members of TYFL do not institute any type of equal playing time or fair play rules. All TYFL participants are aware of this and acknowledge this at registration.

**Question: Does your TACKLE football league have a weight limit?**

Answer: TYFL institutes a weight limit for players eligible for running/advancing the ball on offense for safety purposes. However, there is no weight limit for participation on teams in the league. TYFL sets the ball carrier weight limits prior to each season and all PYSA/TYFL participants will be required to attend a weigh-in prior to the season beginning in order to be eligible to carry the ball on offense.

- 2nd Grade: 90 lbs
- 3rd Grade: 110 lbs
- 4th Grade: 110 lbs
- 5th Grade: 140 lbs
- 6th Grade: 140 lbs

**Question: Who is responsible for purchasing equipment & uniform related items in the TACKLE program?**

Answer: PYSA does not furnish players their equipment (i.e., helmets, shoulder pads, cleats, etc.) for the season. The Head Coach for each PYSA team will direct the players for each team as to how to handle the acquisition of equipment as well as any practice and game uniform related items. Each participant is responsible for the cost of these items. Equipment and practice uniform related costs can vary from season to season depending on which items need to be replaced if you are a returning player. Tackle game uniforms (game jersey/game pants) typically range in cost from \$100-\$200 each season. It is not mandatory that each returning player purchase a new game uniform at the start of each season as long as each player's uniform fits properly and matches the team uniform. Again, these costs are the responsibility of each player and not part of the registration fee.

**Question: What are the typical uniform related costs for a TACKLE participant?**

Answer: Each NEW PYSA TACKLE team, and player, participating in the TYFL will have to purchase a gameday uniform as well as a practice uniform. For each child participating on a given TACKLE team, game uniform costs (game jersey & game pants) typically should not exceed \$200 each season. All other items such as cleats, socks, mouthpieces, helmets, shoulder pads, padded shirts, practice pants and practice jerseys are other items that are essential items to participate in the PYSA TACKLE program and most any other similar TACKLE program – those costs could vary depending on many factors. Please see the 2023 PYSA Tackle Uniform specs on the PYSA website for more specific cost related information.

**Question: Is there a common vendor that PYSA uses?**

Answer: PYSA has partnered with Riddell for the past several years. They offer us uniforms and equipment at a discounted rate. PYSA will host two uniform fittings prior to the start of practices to ensure equipment and uniforms are delivered in time for the beginning of practices and the start of the season.

## TEAM FORMATION/COACHING

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

Answer: Coaches are asked to limit rosters to 18 players. Numbers ultimately depend on the final registration numbers as well as the number of volunteer Head Coaches. This number is not determined until after final registration is complete and teams are formed. Any addition, over 18 players, is at the coach's discretion but needs final approval by the tackle commissioner.

**Question: Can my child play on the same team as their best friend/neighbor?**

Answer: The PYSA team formation rules do not allow for friend requests. The only guarantee that your child can play on the same team as their friend is if you as the parent, or the friend's parent volunteers to serve as the Head Coach of a newly formed team, and you request that player. The creation/formation of a new team must be warranted and approved by the PYSA Tackle Football Commissioners.

**Question: Can my child return to his previous team or does he get placed on a new team every year? How can I secure confirmation of returning to the prior year's team?**

Answer: Incoming FLAG players are not considered a "returning player" in TACKLE. All returning TACKLE players who played in TYFL last season wishing to play with their previous team will be allowed to do so if they played on that team the previous fall and the team qualifies as a recognized returning/legacy team by PYSA. In order to secure your child's spot on a returning/legacy PYSA team, you must reply to your Head Coach's email confirming your child's intent to return to last year's team. The Head Coach should reply with receipt of confirmation. The Head Coach will be sending an email requesting your child's intent prior to registration opening. You must reply within 7 days of the Head Coach sending the email request. If there is no response received by the Head Coach, then the returning spot is no longer guaranteed. Additionally, the returning/protected player must also register early to officially secure status as a returning/protected player on that team's roster.

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

Answer: The PYSA TACKLE program would anticipate identifying and forming teams for each applicable division prior to June 1st. PYSA asks that the coaches contact their players immediately after team formation as uniform fittings need to be scheduled as early as possible in order to ensure that game uniforms are ordered and delivered prior to the first game.

**Question: What happens if my child does not want to play for a team he was assigned to in the process?**

Answer: Players are not allowed to choose who they play for if they are subject to the draft pool. No changing of teams will be allowed without consent of the applicable Head Coaches involved, PYSA Commissioner & PYSA Football Board.

**Question: How do I sign up to be a coach?**

Answer: Send an e-mail to the PYSA TACKLE Commissioner ([pysatackle@gmail.com](mailto:pysatackle@gmail.com)) and complete a coaching application online during registration. The registration application includes a nominal background check fee. Your application will be considered by the PYSA Board and you will need to complete the necessary certification process through USA Football. This coach approval applies to ALL coaches that will be part of the team. ALL COACHES (HEAD AND ASSISTANTS) ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK AS WELL AS COMPLETE THE USA FOOTBALL COACHING CERTIFICATION.

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

Answer: Yes, each coach must re-register every year. This includes the Head Coach and all Assistants.

**Question: As a coach, how do I qualify as a "Returning/Legacy" TACKLE team within PYSA?**

Answer: Incoming FLAG teams are not considered "Returning/Legacy" TACKLE teams. You will qualify as a Returning/Legacy team within PYSA TACKLE provided that 12 players or more from last season's team elects to return. In that situation, your team will be considered a qualified Returning/Legacy team for team formation consideration purposes. However, there must ultimately be enough players within each applicable division or combined division to yield a proper roster size to form an eligible PYSA TACKLE team to play within TYFL.

**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 returning to his prior team by a coach if the child wants to return, provided that the participant has affirmed their intent to return to the coach prior to registration and the participant registers prior to April 29th.

**Question: As a Head Coach, will I know prior to the last registration date which of my team members have elected to return to my team?**

Answer: The PYSA Commissioner will notify each Head Coach weekly as to which returning/protected players have registered for their team. It is up to the Head Coach to be in contact to make sure any returning or protected players have registered by the April 29th date to guarantee their spot on the returning/protected roster. Also, each member should have already notified you of their intent during the PYSA mandated notification period prior to registration opening.

**Question: Can I be a TACKLE coach if I have never coached before?**

Answer: Yes. PYSA requires all recognized coaches for any TACKLE staff to be certified with the proper education for the upcoming season which is facilitated through PYSA. Additionally, all Head Coaches are required to attend the PYSA Coaches Meeting. PYSA tentatively will co-host a coach's clinic with PISD high school football coaches. This would cover best practices in drills, player development and player safety guidelines.

**Question: Will I need a coaching badge?**

Answer: Yes, all verified coaches will have their picture taken at the TYFL weigh-ins. You must present this badge at each game for admittance and for the officials. Coaches are responsible for providing a lanyard. A good practice is to take a picture of your badge and keep it on your phone in case you misplace. Any coach without a badge will not be allowed on the field.

**Question: Can I or my assistants be removed as a coach?**

Answer: Yes. PYSA reserves the right to remove any coach, head or assistant, they deem unfit to continue to coach their respective team. The PYSA board and commissioner will address any issues before moving to that step. Any coaching complaints should be communicated to the PYSA Commissioner (pysatackle@gmail.com). Complaints are defined as being subjective and will always be reviewed by the commissioner. Therefore, action may or may not be taken upon further review. After review, the PYSA board will decide if action is required. Coaches are to be held to a strict code of conduct, just as parents are. Violations of this code of conduct **will not be tolerated**. For additional information regarding coaching violations and consequences, please see the Coaches Code of Conduct on the PYSA Tackle Football webpage.

# TACKLE SEASON

## **Question: How many practices a week are allowed for the TACKLE program?**

Answer: For the TACKLE program, a maximum of 4 practices per week are allowed until the season begins (which includes Saturdays). After the season begins, TACKLE practice is limited to 3 times per week.

## **Question: When and where are practices and when do they begin?**

Answer: Each team is assigned days, locations, and times of the week for practice by the PYSA Football Board. All PYSA practice locations are shared by multiple PYSA teams and other youth sports organizations located in Prosper. The Frontier Park turf fields are the main practice locations; however, locations could vary from Rucker/Eagles Landing, SWC of Frontier Park to various PISD middle schools. Official TACKLE practices begin the week of July 24th. The Head Coach and PYSA will coordinate the days of practice for each team. TACKLE practice times could potentially start no earlier than 5:00 pm during the week and could potentially start no later than 7:45 pm during the week. TACKLE practices held during the week will range between 90-120 minutes. The exact days, times and locations for practices will be determined once registration is closed, teams are officially formed, and practice slots are filled. Your assigned practice days, time and location will not vary during the week unless there is a conflict related to the ISD or Town of Prosper. Saturday practices are assigned to each team leading up to the start of the first game of the season. The Head Coach will determine whether a practice will be held on each Saturday. TACKLE practices on Saturdays will not last more than 120 minutes.

## **Question: Can our teams begin practicing before the week of Monday July 24th?**

Answer: PYSA will have a negotiated contract with PISD as well as the Town of Prosper. TYFL does not have a beginning practice date other than a limit on when players may begin using full pads. Any organized practices prior to July 22nd are not covered by the PYSA contract in any capacity, including our insurance coverage.

## **Question: When do games begin and where are the games played?**

Answer: PYSA & TYFL TACKLE game schedules are currently TBD. In years past, the first game is the last weekend in August. Saturday Game times could vary from 8 am to as late as 7 pm. TYFL will release the schedule 2 weeks prior to the first regular season game. Game locations will vary from week to week but will typically be played in rotating clusters of sites/towns participating in the TYFL.

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

Answer: PYSA's intent is for all TACKLE football teams to have a corresponding cheer squad. However, there may be a circumstance where not all football teams have cheer squads. This is determined by the registration numbers of football players compared to the registration numbers of cheerleaders for the corresponding divisions.