

Dearborn Lions Email Newsletter for August 2, 2010

Purchasing Raffle Tickets

The Downriver Junior Football League allows each member organization to conduct one fund-raising activity each year in which the football players and cheerleaders are required to participate. The Dearborn Youth Football Association's mandatory fund-raiser is our Roaring Raffle.

Each football player and cheerleader is required to sell 20 raffle tickets at a cost of \$5 apiece. The purchase of Roaring Raffle tickets is one of the nine required steps in our registration process. Once purchased, parents may sell the tickets to recoup the \$100 cost, or they may simply fill our and turn in the stubs to become eligible for the prize drawings.

Parents may purchase their raffle tickets on-line (www.dearbornlions.org) with a credit card until 5 p.m. Monday, August 9, or they may purchase them at the Mandatory Parent Meetings August 9 and 10. (See below) Parents must, however, pick up their raffle tickets at the Mandatory Parent Meetings.

Completing the Registration Process

There are nine steps in our registration process, and if you are receiving this email newsletter, you have completed at least the first three, which include (1) submitting a DYFA registration form, (2) paying the registration fee, (3) posting or rolling over a security deposit.

By now, you should have also completed the next four steps, which include (4) submitting a Downriver Junior Football League (DJFL) registration form, which includes verification of a physical examination, and have it notarized; (5) submitting a DJFL Medical History and Information form; (6) providing proof of Dearborn residency (a copy of your drivers license, gas or electric bill showing current address) and (7) providing a copy of your child's birth certificate. If your child is a returning player, you should have already submitted proof of residency and a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Paperwork required for these four steps must be mailed to the DYFA at PO Box 1995, Dearborn, MI, 48121-1995. We will **NOT** collect this paperwork at the Mandatory Meetings.

Dr. Abdullah, former DYFA President, will conduct sports physicals on equipment hand-out day (August 15) at a cost of \$15. If you plan to have Dr. Abdallah perform your child's physical on August 15, you may submit that form at equipment hand-out. All other forms must be submitted by mail.

The final two steps in the registration process are (8) reading and signing the Parent Contract, which will only be available at the Mandatory Parent Meetings and (9) purchasing—at a cost of \$100 per child—your raffle tickets.

Only children who have completed all nine registration requirements will be issued equipment on August 15.

New Registrations

If you know of a football player or cheerleader who hasn't registered or re-registered, please encourage them to do so immediately. Blue Freshman, Blue

JV and Silver JV are already closed and a \$25 late registration fee begins August 11 for the remaining teams.

From this point on, all registrations—both new registrations and re-registrations—must go through the PO Box. When practice begins on August 16, we will **NOT** accept registrations at the field. Football registration will close no later than Saturday, August 21.

Parent Service Time

Since we, as parents, expect our children to dedicate their time and effort to the program, it's only fair that we, as parents, make a similar commitment. Consequently, parents are required to provide two-games worth of Parent Service Time (PST) for each child they have in the program.

Parent Service Time will be performed at our home games. Blue plays home games on September 11 and 25 and October 9 and 23. Silver plays home games on September 11 and October 2, 16 and 23.

The first opportunity to sign up for Parent Service Time will be at the Mandatory Parents' Meetings and we encourage you to do so. Sign up opportunities will also be available during the pre-season at the team trailers at both Hemlock and Ford Field. If you have not signed up for your Parent Service Time by Thursday, September 2, our Volunteer Coordinator will assign you Parent Service Time at two games. **Failure to fulfill your Parent Service Time obligation will result in the immediate forfeiture of your \$100 deposit, and you will be required to post a second \$100 deposit prior to the next practice session.**

Homecoming

As always, the Dearborn Youth Football Association will have a booth at this year's Homecoming festival, selling pop, water, candy and glow-in-the-dark products. Please stop by. All proceeds go directly to the DYFA, helping maintain our registration fee at the current level.

If you would like to fulfill some or all of your Parent Service Time requirement by working at our Homecoming booth, call our President, Sein Berry, at 580-8007. You may work two hours to fulfill half of your requirement or four hours to fulfill all of it.

Our booth will be open Friday from 2-11 p.m., Saturday from 2-11 p.m. and Sunday from 2-10 p.m.

Mandatory Parent Meetings

Each child in our program is required to be represented by a parent/guardian at one of our Mandatory Parent Meetings, which will be held at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center.

This year, our Mandatory Parent Meetings for parents/guardians of football players will be conducted Monday, August 9. Parents of returning players will meet briefly at 7 p.m., while parents of new football players will convene at 7:15 p.m. Parents of cheerleaders, both new and returning, will meet Tuesday, August 10, at 7 p.m.

One of the purposes of the Mandatory Parent Meetings is to discuss the Parent Contract, which all parents are required to sign and submit as part of the registration process. The Parent Contract will only be available at these Mandatory Parent Meetings.

Following each meeting, parents will be required to purchase—if they haven't previously done so on-line—their Roaring Raffle tickets at a cost of \$100 for each child in the DYFA program. Payment must be by check or money order, payable to the DYFA, or by cash. The purchase of raffle tickets is a registration requirement, and the tickets will only be available at the Mandatory Parent Meetings.

Equipment Hand-out

Equipment hand-out will take place Sunday, August 15, at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, according to the following schedule: Freshmen, 2-2:45 p.m.; Junior Varsity, 2:45-3:30 p.m.; Varsity, 3:30-4 p.m.

Only children who have completed the entire nine-step registration process and were represented by a parent/guardian at the Mandatory Parent Meeting, will be eligible to receive equipment. If you intend to have Dr. Abdullah perform your child's sports physical on August 15, please plan to arrive no later than the beginning of the time interval designated above.

The DYFA will provide football players with (1) helmet and chin strap, (2) one mouth guard, (3) shoulder pads, (4) practice pants, (5) game pants, (6) belt and (7) games jerseys (home and away).

Parents are responsible for providing their football player with (1) girdle and pads, (2) protective cup, (3) socks, (4) shoes—no metal cleats, (5) practice jersey. We will have used practice jerseys available for purchase at a cost of \$5 apiece. Parents will also be able to order a personalized practice jersey with their child's name on the back during the first week of practice.

Football players who fail to attend equipment hand-out will not receive equipment until Thursday, August 19.

Practice Schedule

Practice begins Monday, August 16, at 5:30 pm. Only children who have completed the entire nine-step registration process and were represented at the Mandatory Parent Meeting will be allowed to participate.

Our tentative practice schedule for the first two weeks is August 16-20, 5:30-8 p.m.; August 21, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; August 23-27, 5:30-8 p.m.; August 28, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For the first four days of practice, football players will wear shorts, athletic cup, t-shirt and football helmet, unless instructed otherwise by the head coach.

On Friday, August 20, football players will begin practicing in full gear—pants, shoulder pads, etc.

Please make certain that your football player or cheerleader brings water or a sports drink to practice every day. The DYFA does not provide water at practices.

Parents, siblings and by-standers are not allowed on the practice field, per DJFL rules. If you'd like to speak to your child's coach, please do so before or after practice.

Materials Fee

On Saturday, August 21, Team Moms will begin collecting the \$25 Materials Fee, which helps cover the costs of halftime snacks and drinks, materials for the Parent Day posters and post-season gifts for coaches. Although this is a voluntary contribution, please consider making this donation, since it directly benefits your child. Team Moms will collect this donation through September 2.

Picture Day

Picture Day will be Saturday, August 28. Photographs will be taken at both Hemlock and Ford Field, beginning at 10 a.m. All children are expected to be photographed, however, parents are under no obligation to purchase any photos.

E-Mail Newsletters

Once practice begins, e-mail newsletters will be sent out on either Thursday or Friday each week. This process will continue throughout the season.

Communicating with DYFA Administrators

If you have a question or concern, please contact us through the DYFA website at www.dearbornlions.org. This site allows you to send an e-mail to anyone on the DYFA Board of Directors. You may also call our President, Hussein Berry, at 313-580-8007.