



2010 SEASON INFORMATION PACKET

March 2010

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Cave Creek/Carefree Association for the 2010 season!

We are looking forward to getting re-acquainted with you who are returning, as well as getting to know those of you who are new. This packet of information contains very important information related to the upcoming season. Please carefully read it to make sure you are up to speed.

Please note that this season there continues to be the opportunity for 7 & 8 year olds to play tackle football. Please be sure to let your friends know about this exciting tackle football opportunity!

This year promises to be exciting and we expect it to be as fun and rewarding for our participants as last year. As always, we are in need of additional help and volunteers so please consider getting involved with *your* Association.

Our website should be easy to remember: www.cavecreekfootball.com. Please check it out as it contains even more information about your Association and the upcoming season. If you should have any questions or suggestions, or are looking to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact any CCCF Board Member or email us through the website.

Sincerely,
Your 2010 Board of Directors
Cave Creek/Carefree Youth Football Association

Cave Creek/Carefree Association
P.O. Box 7464
Cave Creek, AZ 85327-7464

www.CaveCreekFootball.com

Info: lid@cavecreekfootball.com





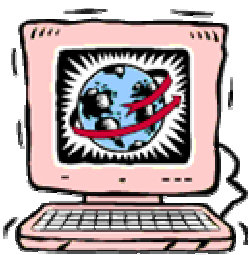
The Cave Creek/Carefree Association (CCCF)

Our Association has been operating since 2002. With a motto of “Kids First,” we strive to make our players our utmost concern and make the program fun for all of our families. Last year, we had 16 football teams.

Our Mission Statement

CCCF exists to

- ▶ inspire youths, regardless of race, color, creed or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship and physical fitness;
- ▶ provide interested youths the opportunity to participate in a supervised, organized and safety-oriented program of tackle football and flag football;
- ▶ bring area youth together by means of a common interest in sportsmanship, fair play and fellowship; and
- ▶ teach all participants the fundamentals of the game and keep the welfare of the children free of any selfish adult ambition.



The CCCF Website

Our website, www.cavecreekfootball.com, is our primary means of disbursing information about our football programs. Please visit it on a regular basis.

One of the great features of the website is the ability to send emails through its ‘Announce List.’ This List of email addresses will only be used by CCCF and only for things that are of a general interest nature to our participants. Upon registration, your listed email address(es) will be automatically subscribed. If you would like to subscribe additional email addresses to the List, please go to the website and follow the easy steps. If you would like to communicate with the Board, please go to the ‘2010 CCCF Board’ page under the ‘Key Info’ tab of the website and click the appropriate Board member to easily send an email.





Background and Organization

CCCF is proud to be a charter member of the Central Arizona Youth Football and Cheer League, Inc., (CAYFL), which has jurisdiction within the boundaries of Maricopa County, Arizona. CAYFL, whose website is www.cayfl.net, plays under American Youth Football (AYF) national guidelines.

AYF, headquartered in Miami, Florida, was established in 1996 as an international youth football organization to promote the wholesome development of youth football programs. The National Football League has recognized this firm commitment and has made AYF a “national youth partner.” AYF is one of the fastest growing youth organizations in America and, within just six years, has become active in 44 states with over 350,000 participants.

Several seasons ago, both the San Diego and Tucson metro areas made a switch from an affiliation from the Pop Warner program to AYF. Like CAYFL over the past year, they both have seen huge growth and success at both the local and national levels, and have been helpful with the development of CAYFL.

Please visit the AYF website at www.americanyouthfootball.com for more information.



Finances

As you can imagine, running a football program is an expensive undertaking. As compared to other sports, expenses related to items such as uniforms, equipment, and referees are quite a bit higher. Each year, we seek to balance that fine line between limiting the costs to participate with the need to assure adequate funding for the whole season. Our income generally falls into 3 major categories:

- (1) Sponsorships/Fundraising;
- (2) Fees from Participants; and
- (3) Concessions.

▶▶▶ Sponsorships/Fundraising

Three years ago, we began a concerted effort to raise money through sponsorships from businesses and other area benefactors. This year, we will continue to seek to provide additional avenues to acknowledge the generosity of our donors. For example, in 2006, we began a program requiring our teams to obtain team sponsors. Tackle teams were required to obtain at least \$800 in team sponsors and flag teams at least \$400. This program was very successful and we had a number of teams who exceeded their minimum sponsorships. Accordingly, we are keeping this program in place for 2010. Please consider sponsoring your child’s team this season. Sponsorships start at only \$400. To find out more about how you can help sponsor the Association or your child’s team, please visit the Fundraising tab on the website. If you have any other creative ways to increase the funds we can raise in this manner, please email our Fundraising Director at fundraising@cavecreekfootball.com.

▶▶▶ Fees from Participants

This is by far our largest source of revenue, and rightly so. There are two types of fees that are charged to participants: a Registration Fee and an Association Fee.

The **Registration Fee** is set by CAYFL and is the same for all Associations. The Registration Fee is due at the time a participant registers for the upcoming season. This season, there is a discount for earlier registration at the tackle level.

The **Association Fee** is established by our Association and is determined based upon expected revenues and costs for the upcoming season. The Association Fee and will be due in one payment by August 22nd. (In order to keep the Association Fee as low as possible, CCCF will likely continue to conduct Association-wide fundraising events and will ask all participant families to be involved. However, these events will have no bearing on the Association Fee.)

The Participant's Fee Structure is summarized in the table below. Please note that these fees do not fully cover the actual per participant costs for the season. Please ask any Board Member if you have any questions about the fee structure.

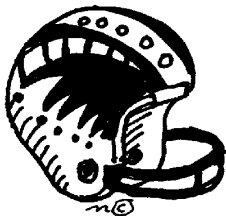
Participant	Registration Fee (Due upon Registration; established by CAYFL)	Association Fee (Due on Aug. 22)
Flag Football	\$125	\$85
Tackle Football	\$135 (before April 17th); \$155 (before May 15th); and \$175 thereafter	\$175

▶▶▶ Concessions

Sales by CCCF of items such as Association t-shirts (generally available at Registrations), novelties and, of course, items from our snack bars also generate funds for Association operations. While these items are also intended to be a convenience benefit to our participants, we do plan on a portion of our operating needs to be met through their sale. Accordingly, we ask all parents and participants to strongly consider supporting the Association through by frequenting the snack bars and other concession sales whenever possible.

▶▶▶ No Refund Policy/Bank Returned Check Policy

NO FEES (Registration or Association) will be refunded unless a child does not qualify for any division of play. **NO EXCEPTIONS; No Hardships.** All checks returned by our bank will be assessed a \$25.00 fee.



Equipment

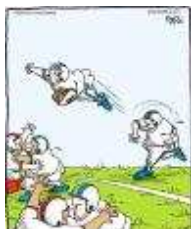
The fees paid by participants provide for usage of the following items:

FLAG: game jersey, flag belts. Not covered are athletic supporters, mouthpieces, socks and shoes.

TACKLE: helmet, shoulder pads, practice pants, game pants and game jersey,

girdle, hip pads, thigh pads, tail bone pad, and knee pads. Not covered are athletic supporters, mouthpieces, and shoes (which are all required items). NOTE: Clear or white mouthpieces are NOT permitted under AIA rules. Please make sure your player has a colored mouthpiece.

ALL ASSOCIATION EQUIPMENT MUST BE RETURNED AT THE END OF THE SEASON OR, IF A PARTICIPANT LEAVES THE TEAM, IMMEDIATELY. If a participant's equipment is not returned, the parents will be held responsible for the cost to replace the equipment and the team may have use of their funds restricted until it is returned.



Practice

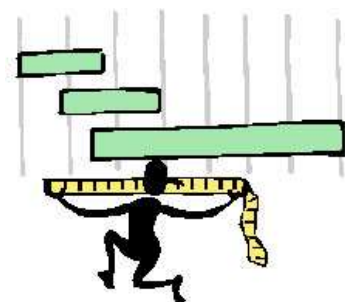
Practice schedules and structures as well as required hours of practice are very strict in American Youth Football for. Pursuant to AYF rules, participants must have submitted a Medical Clearance Form completed by their doctor before they will be eligible to practice with the team or even step onto the practice field. (The Medical Clearance Form is available on our website.)

Attendance at practice is critical in order to obtain the required number of hours to participate in games.

► Tackle practice is expected to begin on August 2nd; practice will be 5 times per week, 2 hours per night tackle practice for the first 4 weeks.

► Flag practice is expected to begin on August 16th.

After the initial 4 weeks, tackle practice will likely occur three nights a week, with games played during the day on Saturday. Note: Mighty Mite practice will be twice per week during the season, as will flag.



Certification

LEAGUE-WIDE Weight Certification must take place for August 14th. Certification is the official weigh-in of tackle participants for FINAL placement on a team. CAYFL has a strict age/weight requirements and any participant who is even 1 pound outside the requirements for the division of play they have been practicing with must be moved to the correct division. All participants must be certified and appear on the certified roster of the team in order to

play.

If any time after you register and before certification you believe a change of division is necessary due to weight, please contact the Association through its President at president@cavcreekfootball.com immediately so that the participant can be reassigned and practice where he/she will play. Weigh-ins are conducted prior to each and every game for weight requirements and participants will be disqualified from a game should they fail the pre-game weigh-in.

CAYFL also has strict rules regarding out of area placement of participants on teams. In the event of a participant changing home addresses, please immediately notify the Business Manager of your child's team, so that we may complete the necessary paperwork with the League. Failure to comply could result in the forfeiture of games played by your child's team.

Academics

In order to participate in AYF programs, all participants are required to prove scholastic fitness. Scholastic fitness is defined as a minimum of 70% overall grade average for the prior year in core subjects. The prior year school report cards, showing all the grading periods is required before certification and should be submitted to CCCF as soon as available. If the applicant is unable to meet this criteria he/she is required to obtain a current year school statement attesting that participation will not hinder his/her academic performance.



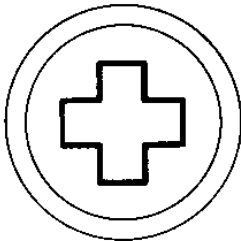
Scholar Athlete Program

All players who above age 8 who received report cards with letter grades are eligible for the CCCF Scholar Athlete Program. The Scholar Athlete Program recognizes excellence in academic achievement by identifying those who reach high standards.

Insurance

Accident insurance is provided only as a supplement to personal insurance for all participants and adult volunteers. It should be noted that this supplemental policy would not provide 100% coverage of all submitted expenses. The cost of this policy is paid by the CCCF Association through the League and is included in the fees paid by all CCCF Association participants.

Safety



The key element of this program is to maximize the safety of all participants. Each player for whom the game official calls an injury timeout during the game cannot return to the game unless cleared by a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner or paramedic. All Associations are required to have one of the above present at all games.

Each team is also required to have on staff at least two people certified in CPR or first aid and sports medicine by a CAYFL-authorized training clinic.

All Coaches are required to annually attend clinics at which game rules, skill development and fundamentals, youth football objectives, safety, and officiating is discussed.

In addition, only those approved for each staff and the CCCF Board are permitted within the designated areas of the game field. All others must remain in the area designated for spectators. During practice, only those designated as staff or those asked to assist with a drill are to be in the practice area. If you wish to speak to the Coach do so either before or after practice or as requested by your child's Coach.

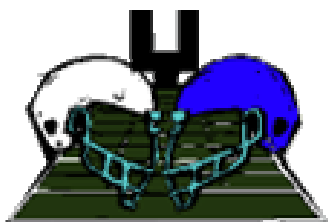
In the fall, some practices could be affected by inclement weather. Parents, please keep this in mind as practice could end early, and all the children are sent home. If there is threatening weather, you should make sure that you are immediately available by phone



if you do not remain at practice. If you are not back to pick up your child, their Coach will take your child to their home, and contact you to pick your child up there.

Guaranteed Playing Time

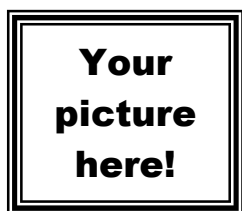
CCCF operates as a “no cut” program. There are no team tryouts or a draft. All children who properly register (and meet weight requirements) within our program will play at every game. Each player is guaranteed participation in each and every game provided that they are not on restrictions due to violations of team rules. Team rule violations can include, but are not limited to, attendance at practices, maintaining grades, and behavior issues. The number of plays guaranteed for each player depends upon the division and the number of certified team roster players that are at the game day weigh in. This could be a minimum of 6 to 10 mandatory plays per game. Coaches are not required to play any player more than the applicable minimum.



Travel

Away games are those scheduled to be played outside of the Cave Creek School District School fields. These games will usually be scheduled at various fields within the Phoenix Metro area, but they may include playing against other AYF-chartered groups in the Tucson area, Coconino County, or Northern Arizona. Costs of travel to these games will be the responsibility of the individual team and will not be paid for by CCCF.

The information about our game schedule will be made to you as soon as released by the League for the 2010 season (likely in early September).



Volunteers

Our Association is run totally by volunteers. Like most volunteer organizations, we can always use more helpers. Each participant's parents need to get involved with their child's team during the course of the season.

There are simply too many facets to the season for only a few people to take care of a team's needs. Similarly, we ask our parents to consider helping out at the Association level. Many times the assistance needed is just a willing attitude and a cheerful disposition. If you can make the time to get involved, please let us know (tell a Board Member in person or through the website—where there is an easy link to let the Board know you will help).

Since we are all volunteers, please remember that things may not always run smoothly (whether at the team-level or the Association-level). If things go awry or even in a way you disagree with, please remember that we are here for the benefit of the children and wish to present a healthy environment and act as positive role models for our children. Please try to find the missing information, or clarify a misunderstanding or resolve your differences with a Coach, volunteer or other parent on your own. Should this fail and you require assistance in your effort or wish to lodge a complaint, please contact one of the Board Members.

Remember, most of the information you may need will likely be available through the website, so please check it first.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to volunteer at the team, Association or League level, please contact any CCCF Board member.

Coaches

Candidates who wish to apply to coach, need to complete and return the necessary forms by the date posted at Registration. Interviews will take place in spring and all coaches will be selected no later than early summer.



GOOD LUCK AND HAVE A GREAT SEASON !!!

