

Slinger Youth Football Kickoff – Monday, May 14, 2018 (UPDATED)

Introduce the Board, Key Contributors

Recognize all coaches in all grades

Why Slinger Youth Football? Remarks by Coach Bill Jacklin & current Varsity players

Quick announcements

- Need CURRENT t-shirt sizes for proper game jersey fitting – see Gwen after
- Pick up an order form for “camp apparel” – great value!

Philosophy & priorities

- Grown for second year in a row – 182 players! (5th=55, 6th=47, 7th=41, 8th=39)
- Player development is our primary goal.
 - Winning is fun, but it doesn't equal success in our program.
 - 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.
 - Safety-Medical Director – OPEN BOARD POSITION!
 - Heads-Up qualification (discussed in a moment)
 - 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-site at all home games
 - Board member or appointee in attendance as well to help with any situations
 - Greatly reduced the amount of “full” contact to reduce incidence of player injuries
- Family & Faith – Academics – Athletics

Heads-Up Football

- The NFL's standard for youth football player safety and coaching certification
- Heads Up Tackling, Heads Up Blocking techniques
- Progressions are vital in forming safer habits on the field
- Coaching certification includes several safety topics (no more PSC requirement)
 - Concussion recognition & response
 - Heat preparedness & hydration
 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest response

- Proper equipment fitting

Highlights / New this season

- Partnership with Slinger Recreation Dept. – Flag Football program
- New helmet design!
- Additional helmets, shoulder pads, Shadowman, tackling rings
- Updated “hardship” (job loss) waiver (see Cheyenne for details)

Communication

- Website is the primary means for getting information from the Board
 - Address = www.slingergridiron.com
 - Brand new look and big upgrades in functionality – continuing to improve
- All board meetings are open to the public
 - Typically the 3rd 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, finally Bill Brewer
- Like Gridiron on Facebook!
 - Facebook.com; keyword = “Slinger Gridiron Football”
 - Please follow our site rules (provided at this meeting and posted on our page)
- 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 on-site for every home game

Season calendar

- Equipment handout – Monday, June 4 (SMS Gym)
 - ***Camp apparel forms & payment due – No Exceptions! (get forms tonight, in email)***
 - 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
 - NEW this season: White practice pants no longer issued
 - Athletic shorts and knee pads
 - Can purchase pads through Burghardts online store or on your own

- Apparel sale: Discounts on previous seasons' apparel to make room for more!
- 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 11-13, 1:00-3:00pm @ SHS JV soccer 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
 - Saturday, August 4: Day One
 - First practice: 8:00 am – noon
 - Casino Night @ Kettle Moraine Bowl (Adults only): Looking for businesses & sponsors for prizes; more details to come
 - Monday, 8/6 – Friday, 8/10: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
 - Monday, 8/13 – Thursday, 8/16: 5:30 – 7:30 pm (Picture Night? ; Meet the Owls, 8/15)
 - 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 17 (Varsity Game vs. Whitefish Bay)
- Scrimmages (details to come)
 - Slinger scrimmage: Saturday, August 18 @ 8:00 am
 - Grades 5 & 6 – SMS
 - Grades 7 & 8 – SHS
 - Germantown scrimmage: Saturday, August 25
- Youth Games
 - Every Saturday after Labor Day in September & October
 - Specific times & locations are in progress with the league
 - Likely conference opponents (Tier 1 of league alignments): Mequon-Thiensville Red, Whitefish Bay, Oshkosh West, Cedarburg, Grafton

Parent participation opportunities – Gwen Benz

- The importance of volunteering
- Minimum of six hours per season to avoid additional participation fees
- Plenty of committee opportunities (fundraising, equipment, apparel etc.)
- Each game = 1.5 hours
- Game Day volunteering: Either SignUp Genius or Dibs; go through our website

Game jersey laundering & equipment care – Gwen Benz

Hudl (online game footage) – Working with vendor to keep price reasonable

- Gridiron purchases an annual membership
- Game footage has become increasingly important over the last few years
- Able to trade footage with other league programs through AAYFL
- GREAT way to connect with your players and encourage their growth and learning – KEEP IT POSITIVE!

Q & A

Wrap-up

- We NEED your CURRENT t-shirt sizes!! – see Gwen
- Interested in Safety/Medical Director? – see me
- Participation/Volunteer opportunities – see Gwen
- Meet & speak with your coaches if you would like
- BEFORE we dismiss – BREAKDOWN!