



# Atlanta Colt Youth Association

## 2011 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### 1. What is the football league structure?

The ACYA has a grade based league structure. Players will be placed in the league based primarily on their grade for the 2011 – 2012 school year. They must also meet the age criteria. Please note the age cut-off date is August 31, 2011.

The **Intra-League (IL)** is comprised of five leagues with players from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. All of these teams play at Murphey Candler Park. The typical IL roster will have between 15 and 17 players.

The **Division 1 Atlanta Colts** are part of the North Metro Football League (NMFL). The Colts compete against teams from other parks throughout the metro Atlanta area (Alpharetta, Roswell, Sandy Springs, and Forsyth County).

2011 Season (grade & age as of 8/31/11)	
Flag	K & 1 <sup>st</sup> grade 6 yrs old or younger
Pee Wee IL	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grades 8 yrs old or younger
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade IL	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade 9 yrs old or younger
4 <sup>th</sup> grade IL & 4 <sup>th</sup> grade Colts	4 <sup>th</sup> grade 10 yrs old or younger
5 <sup>th</sup> grade IL & 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Colts	5 <sup>th</sup> grade 11 yrs old or younger
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> grade IL	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> grades 13 yrs old or younger
6 <sup>th</sup> grade Colts	6 <sup>th</sup> grade 12 yrs old or younger
7 <sup>th</sup> grade Colts	7 <sup>th</sup> grade 13 yrs old or younger

### 2. How do I sign up? What is the deadline?

Go to [www.atlantacolts.com](http://www.atlantacolts.com) to register online. Regular registration ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. You can also register during in-park registration days or download a registration form from the website. Registration will be limited to a maximum number of kids per

league for both cheerleading and football. When the limit is reached, a waitlist will be formed. There were many kids left on the waitlist in 2010. Don't get left on the sidelines.

### 3. What is the regular registration fee?

Flag Football = \$95
*Cheerleading = \$160
Football = \$310

*\*Cheerleaders will be required to purchase a uniform package (\$60 for Intra-League, \$225 for D1 Colts).*

*Late fees apply after May 31st.*

### 4. When does the season begin/end?

The Calendar of Key dates is available at [www.atlantacolts.com/calendar.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/calendar.php).

The tentative schedule is below.

#### June 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Late registration begins

#### Late July:

- FB conditioning begins for 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grades
- Colt Cheer practice begins

#### Early August:

- FB Evaluations begin for 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grades
- IL Cheer practice begins

#### Mid August:

- FB Evaluations begin for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grades

#### Early September:

- Flag players begin

Games begin late August/early September. Regular season games will end in late October followed by Playoff and Championship games in mid November.

**5. What am I responsible for purchasing? What does the league provide?**

**Flag Football:** ACYA provides team shirts and flags. Players can wear football cleats or athletic shoes.

**Tackle Football:** ACYA provides team jerseys and use of shoulder pads, helmets, chin straps and team decals for each player. It is the player's responsibility to purchase a mouthpiece, practice jersey, practice and game pants with thigh and knee pads, socks and cleats. It recommended each player wear an athletic protector/jock strap and/or a protective cup.

**Cheerleading:** ACYA provides a t-shirt and shorts set which is the **required** uniform for practice. Cheer uniforms must be purchased separately through the park. All cheerleaders should have a separate pair of shoes for practice.

The cost of the Colt uniform package is \$225. It includes a uniform, body suit, bloomers, warm-up suit, socks, shoes, and hair bow.

The cost of the Intra-League uniform package is \$60 and will include a uniform and bloomers. The cheerleader will need to purchase plain, white, leather athletic shoes for games.

**6. What other expenses should I expect?**

The team/squad on which your child plays or cheers will ask you to contribute "dues" - usually \$20 to \$60 per child. The dues increase with the age of the child. These dues are used by the team/squad to pay for incidentals, coaches' gifts, a team party at the end of the season, etc. The collection and disbursement of dues is the responsibility of the team/squad parent.

**7. Does my child need experience to play or cheer?**

No, ACYA welcomes children at all levels of experience.

**8. Is financial assistance available?**

Financial aid is available on an as needed basis. ACYA asks for an agreed upon contribution toward the fees. Apply for a scholarship by mail, during an in park registration day, or by emailing [feedback@atlantacolts.com](mailto:feedback@atlantacolts.com). *The scholarship does not cover team dues, cheer uniform, or necessary equipment. These are the responsibility of the scholarship recipients.*

**9. Can my child play football and fall baseball at MCLL?**

Generally, yes. The schedule of practices and games will be expanded this season. There may be an occasional conflict between a MCLL event and an ACYA event.

**10. How is the registration fee used?**

In addition to the equipment for each individual player/cheerleader, the registration fee is applied to the operation and maintenance of ACYA's use of Murphey Candler Park. While Murphey Candler is a DeKalb County park, ACYA pays for virtually all of the operating costs. This includes field maintenance, utilities, insurance, officials, and cleaning supplies. In addition, ACYA funds the majority of capital improvements through sponsorships.

**11. What is expected of me as a parent?**

A parent, guardian, or care giver is expected to stay at the park with your child during all practices and games. Every parent is expected to volunteer. ACYA is 100% volunteer organization.

**12. What if a player misses part or all of evaluations?**

ACYA understands that football starts long before the summer is over. If your child will miss part or all of evaluations, please contact the appropriate league director. Contact information can be found at [www.atlantacolts.com/board.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/board.php).

### 13. How are the football teams selected and cheerleading squads formed?

Following one week of evaluations, the Division 1 coaches select the Colt football teams. Participation on the Colt teams is by invitation only.

The IL coaches evaluate the remaining players and conduct a draft to ensure the equitable distribution of talent. To promote competitive balance and to ensure a safe experience for the boys, ACYA reserves the right to shift players to a league more befitting their size, speed or ability.

Once IL teams are drafted, IL cheerleading squads are formed. Girls will be placed on squads according to their grade in school as of September 2011. The only exception will be for the child of a coach, if the cheerleader is within one grade level of the squad grade.

When forming the squads, an exception will be considered for Colt cheerleaders if BOTH of the following conditions are met:

- Parent coach or sibling on a team or squad one grade up or down.  
AND
- Open spot on the target squad after May 31st.

### 14. I have more than one child in the program. Can their schedules be coordinated (i.e. same team & squad)?

Much depends on the grade and age differential between the siblings. The IL football teams are formed based on grade, age, and ability. While ACYA will try to accommodate special requests, the first priority is team equity. The Division 1 Colt teams are formed by invitation only.

All cheerleading squads are based on grade. Girls in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will cheer for our Pee Wee teams. Starting in 3rd grade, girls will cheer for the same grade teams.

### 15. Are there minimum play rules?

The IL rules call for each player to play at least half of every game. All of our Pee-Wee players are assured of carrying the ball at least one time during the season. There are no minimum play rules for the Colts.

### 16. Where can I find a copy of the football rules?

Intra-League rules are posted on the Football page of the ACYA website.  
([www.atlantacolts.com/football.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/football.php))

The North Metro Football League (NMFL) plays under the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules. These rules are used by all GA High Schools. You can find more information at [www.northmetrofootball.com](http://www.northmetrofootball.com).

### 17. How often, when, and where are practices and games?

#### Flag Football:

- Wednesday nights for 6 weeks
- Practices and Games on Colt or Mustang Field
- Games at 5:30 or 6:30

#### Intra-League: *Schedules are subject to change.*

- Practices are held on the baseball or softball fields at Murphey Candler.
- Games are played at Murphey Candler Park on Mustang or Colt Field.

Preceding the first game of the season:

- All IL football teams practice two to four nights per week for two hours.
- Cheerleaders will usually practice on Tues and Thurs nights for one hour.

Once games begin:

- Pee Wee football players and cheerleaders will only have two events per week – a practice and a game.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade leagues will practice two nights per week plus a game during the week or on Saturday.

#### Division 1 (ATLANTA COLTS):

- Football practice is three nights per week for two hours. There may be practice on Sunday.
- Cheerleaders practice three nights a week for two hours until the first game. Then practice is two nights a week for two hours.
- All Division 1 games are played on Saturdays starting as early as 10:00 and as late as 6:00.

**18. Will I have to provide my child’s birth certificate or proof of grade?**

These are usually only required for Division 1 football players but may be required for other leagues.

**19. Who should I contact if I’m interested in coaching?**

ACYA is committed to attracting and retaining coaches that will model behavior reflective of high moral character, ethics, and sportsmanship. To that end, ACYA will choose carefully the persons to lead and influence our youth. ACYA has instituted a mandatory coaching evaluation and training program.

For Football, contact the Athletic Director, John Forte ([jforte@atlantacolts.com](mailto:jforte@atlantacolts.com)) or our Intra-League Director Jim Owen ([jowen@atlantacolts.com](mailto:jowen@atlantacolts.com)), regarding your interest in coaching.

For Cheerleading, contact our Cheerleading Director, Laura Hogan ([laura@atlantacolts.com](mailto:laura@atlantacolts.com)).

**20. Who should I contact if I’m interested in volunteering my time, talents, or services above and beyond regular volunteering?**

Please contact any ACYA Board Member listed at [www.atlantacolts.com/board.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/board.php).

Once teams/squads are formed, contact your coach for fun opportunities like team parent, team reporter, video parent, women’s auxiliary, chain gang, game announcer, scoreboard, equipment, field maintenance, coaching, fund raising, publicity, sponsor, etc.

**21. What is the Women’s Auxiliary and how do I join?**

The Auxiliary is tasked with coordination and operation of special events at the park. This includes the spring cookout, in-park registrations, D1 Jamboree, selling spirit wear, homecoming, etc. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please contact Laurie Heydt at [LHeydt@atlantacolts.com](mailto:LHeydt@atlantacolts.com).

**22. Who should I contact if I’m interested in becoming a sponsor or making a donation to the program?**

Please contact Richard Jaynes ([rjaynes@atlantacolts.com](mailto:rjaynes@atlantacolts.com)) to discuss sponsor opportunities.

Donations can be mailed directly to ACYA, Suite 419, 3522 Ashford-Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30319.

The Atlanta Colt Youth Association, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation registered in the State of Georgia. Contributions qualify for tax deductions.

**23. Where can I buy ACYA merchandise?**

ACYA offers a variety of fan merchandise including hats, shirts, and tumblers. Our Spirit Shed will be open during in-park registrations, most practices and some games. You can purchase a limited amount of merchandise when you register online which will be available for pick up at the park during equipment or uniform fittings.

