



# ACYA 2011 Tackle Football Season

Welcome to the 2011 Season of ACYA tackle football. Evaluations and practices will start very soon. Please take time to read the following to ensure a successfully start to the season. It contains information concerning:

- Weather
- Evaluations
- Practices
- Drop off and Parking
- Text and Email messages
- Miscellaneous Items
- ACYA Code of Conduct
- Points of Contact

## Weather

As in years past, the weather is going to be a factor each day, especially the heat. ACYA monitors the temperature and relative humidity before and during practices. Necessary precautions will be taken by ACYA officials and coaches including practicing without pads and/or helmets and taking frequent water breaks. Players should start hydrating now and get acclimated to the heat and humidity.

Football practices and games are **RAIN OR SHINE**. ACYA has a Lightning Prediction system in place which

provides advanced warning of a lightning hazard. Horns and strobe lights are located on the Colt football grandstands and the lower baseball field scoreboard. If there is a lightning risk near the park, you will hear **ONE 15-second horn blast**. Upon hearing the horn, everyone should seek shelter immediately. The strobe lights will activate and remain active while under a weather alert. When conditions are safe to return to activities, there will be **THREE 5-second horn blasts** to indicate the all clear and the strobe lights will turn off.

## Evaluations

### WHEN DO EVALUATIONS BEGIN?

The first day of evaluations will be staggered based on your child's grade in school. Evaluations start at 6pm.

#### 4th to 7th Graders:

- evaluations begin Monday, Aug 1<sup>st</sup> on Mustang Field
- evaluations will be Monday to Thursday for two weeks
- teams will be drafted on Aug 13<sup>th</sup> (coaches only)
- players will be notified by coaches on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>
- teams start practice Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, depending on the league and team

#### 1st to 3rd Graders:

- evaluations begin on Colt Field Monday, Aug 15th
- evaluations will be Monday to Thursday
- teams will be drafted on Aug 20th (coaches only)
- notified by coaches on Aug 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>
- teams start practice Tuesday or Wednesday depending on the league and team

#### Flag Football:

- No evaluations
- Teams selected by the league director

- Teams start practice on Wednesday, September 7th at 5:30pm on Mustang Field

Once teams are formed, practices will become less frequent. Coaches will provide times and locations of practices.

### WHERE ARE EVALUATIONS HELD?

**On Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, all 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade players should report at 6PM to Mustang Field. On Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, all 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade players should report at 6PM to the Colt Field.**

Players will be split into groups by grade and **then** sent to the various practice fields to start evaluations. Players should return to the specified fields the next day.

### WHAT EQUIPMENT DO PLAYERS NEED TO BRING?

All players should come in **FULL EQUIPMENT** ready to play. This includes the shoulder pads, helmet and chin strap provided by the park along with their own cleats, mouth guard, pants with pads, t-shirt, and practice jersey. There will be plenty of coaches to assist newer or first year players with their equipment, but **please arrive early if you need**

**assistance.** It is also best to have your son put on his equipment a few times in the days prior to the first practice. Pay careful attention to make sure that your son's chin strap has already been adjusted properly to his helmet and that he can put on and take off his helmet and button his chin strap on his own. He can practice this at home.

**IMPORTANT:** Using a marker or Sharpie, write your son's LAST NAME and grade (as of Aug 31<sup>st</sup>) in BIG letters **on a piece of athletic or masking tape** and place it on the front of his helmet over the facemask. *It should be big enough to be seen from a distance.*

**Players** who have not picked up equipment prior to the start of evaluation should arrive 45 minutes early. All players should bring plenty of water each day.

### **WHAT CAN PLAYERS EXPECT DURING THE WEEKS OF EVALUATIONS AND TRY-OUTS?**

Players will participate in a variety of individual and team drills. These drills are tailored to assess the ability of the individual players and are designed to allow our coaches to group players of similar size and ability. Evaluations will be from 6 pm until 8 pm Monday thru Thursday.

## **Practices**

### **WHAT WILL THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE BE DURING THE REGULAR SEASON?**

Regular season practice schedules will be distributed after teams are drafted. Once games begin, practices for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up will be reduced to two times a week for two hours. The practice commitment for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be reduced to one day a week for one and a half to two hours. Practices for Division I Colt players will be reduced to three times per week for two hours.

### **WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO BEFORE PRACTICE?**

**HYDRATION** is very important during this time of year. Have your player drink plenty of water in the days leading up to evaluations. Please do not wait until a few hours before practice to drink water. Each player should bring plenty of

## **EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

If you still have questions about evaluations or your player is unable to attend, contact your league director:

- Pee Wee League Director, Tim Binder, [tim@atlantacolts.com](mailto:tim@atlantacolts.com)
- 3rd grade League Director, Craig Kirkland, [craig@atlantacolts.com](mailto:craig@atlantacolts.com)
- 4th grade League Director, Doug Jackson, [doug@atlantacolts.com](mailto:doug@atlantacolts.com)
- 5th grade League Director, David Reid, [david@atlantacolts.com](mailto:david@atlantacolts.com)
- 6th/7th grade League Director, Grady Thrasher, [grady@atlantacolts.com](mailto:grady@atlantacolts.com)
- Flag League Director, Ron (RB) Burnstine, [RB@atlantacolts.com](mailto:RB@atlantacolts.com) (Flag does not conduct evaluations.)

water with them at the park as the days of August can be extremely hot.

**Sun Screen and Bug Spray** are recommended. Please apply to your player before you get to the park.

### **WHAT DO PARENTS DO DURING PRACTICE?**

Stay at the park - A parent or caregiver **MUST BE PRESENT** at all practices and games. No child should be left at the park unattended. The ACYA has the right to withdraw a child from program should they be left unattended and unsupervised.

Stay OFF the fields - Parents must remain off the fields unless asked to assist by a member of the coaching staff.

## **Drop off and Parking**

Patience is needed during the first few weeks of the season as the park is full on a regular basis. As the season progresses, practices and games are spread out and the parking will improve based on volume. ACYA will hire off duty DeKalb County police officers to assist with traffic as needed. Please carpool and ARRIVE EARLY.

**DROP OFF LINE** - If you want to drop your children off before parking, be prepared prior to entering the parking lot. Children should have all gear either on or in their lap as you pull up to the drop off line. Drivers should NOT get out of their car at drop off. This will help us keep the drop off line moving.

DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR VEHICLE OR UNATTENDED! In the past, cars have been broken into, even with the police presence.

Please be respectful of our neighbors and honor all No-Parking signs. Parking is available in the main lots, a secondary lot adjacent to the baseball complex, at Murphey Candler pool, and beside the big soccer field.

When parking legally on side streets, please be aware that cars can ONLY be parked on ONE side of the street. The first car to park, establishes the side on which cars can be lawfully parked.

## Text and Email Messages

Please sign up for the TEXT and EMAIL message alert systems. ACYA will text and email last minute weather related announcements. Standard text message charges apply.

Text - [www.atlantacolts.com/textalertssignup.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/textalertssignup.php);  
Email - [www.atlantacolts.com/notificationssignup.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/notificationssignup.php)

## Miscellaneous Items

### ACYA SPIRIT WEAR

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS and ACYA SPIRIT WEAR will be on sale at Martha's Shed during evaluations.

### CONCESSION STAND

The CONCESSION STAND should be selling drinks only during evaluations. Once the regular season begins, the concession stand will be open on a regular basis. The days and times will vary depending on customer base.

### WITHDRAWAL

You must request by sending an email to [feedback@atlantacolts.com](mailto:feedback@atlantacolts.com). Your request must be

received by ACYA on or before August 1, 2011. No verbal withdrawals from ACYA will be accepted. No refunds are issued prior to the return of equipment for football players. A \$25 withdrawal fee will apply to EACH CHILD.

### HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER?

ACYA is a 100% volunteer organization dependent upon your participation. In order for our program to operate our parents are required to volunteer their time to help with team and park activities. All volunteer positions must be assigned in advance of opening ceremonies when the uniforms are issued to the teams. No volunteers equals no uniforms - no exceptions.

## ACYA Code of Conduct

Everyone involved with the Atlanta Colt Youth Association is expected to follow the Code of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in removal from the program or other actions.

- I agree to encourage an environment that is positive, supportive, and healthy—both physically and mentally—while participants learn the sport of football/cheerleading.
- I agree that it is a privilege, not a right, for my child to participate with the Atlanta Colt Youth Association.
- I agree to encourage sportsmanship and fair play which are essential to all sports and activities.
- I agree that because children learn by example, parents, coaches, and volunteers need to exemplify the highest level of conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play. Personal conduct at games, practices, and other team events must be above reproach and represent the highest standards of morality and sportsmanship.
- I agree to support the coaches and referees. I agree to refrain from directing any abusive or profane language toward the coaches, players, umpires, or anyone associated with ACYA. I also agree to communicate any constructive criticism in a private, non-confrontational manner.
- I agree to not instigate or participate in any confrontations in front of the children.

Disagreements will be handled calmly in the absence of the children.

- I agree to refrain from alcohol consumption or tobacco use during practices or games.
- I agree that the overall objective is to provide a fun, sports-oriented experience for our children.

**If you witness a violation (or possible violation) of the Code of Conduct, you should contact ACYA immediately.** Email the League Director and/or ACYA President with the facts of the violation. More information about conflict resolution can be found at [www.atlantacolts.com](http://www.atlantacolts.com).

## ACYA Points of Contact

### Executive Committee

President and County Liaison, Allen Westmoreland,  
[Allen@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Allen@atlantacolts.com)

Athletic Director and D1 Coordinator, John Forte,  
[Jforte@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Jforte@atlantacolts.com)

Registrar, Cindy Allen, [Cindy@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Cindy@atlantacolts.com)

IL Football Director, Jim Owen,  
[Jowen@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Jowen@atlantacolts.com)

Colt Cheerleading Director, Laura Hogan,  
[Laura@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Laura@atlantacolts.com)

Intra-League Cheer Director, Vickie Rudder,  
[Vickie@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Vickie@atlantacolts.com)

### Administration

Flag League Director, Ron Burnstine,  
[Rb@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Rb@atlantacolts.com)

Pee Wee League Director, Tim Binder,  
[Tim@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Tim@atlantacolts.com)

3rd grade League Director, Craig Kirkland,  
[Craig@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Craig@atlantacolts.com)

4th grade League Director, Doug Jackson,  
[Doug@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Doug@atlantacolts.com)

5th grade League Director, David Reid,  
[David@atlantacolts.com](mailto:David@atlantacolts.com)

6th/7th grade League Director, Grady Thrasher,  
[Grady@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Grady@atlantacolts.com)

Women's Auxiliary, Laurie Heydt,  
[Lheydt@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Lheydt@atlantacolts.com)

ACYA Merchandise, Jenna Griffin,  
[Jenna@atlantacolts.com](mailto:Jenna@atlantacolts.com)

A complete list of ACYA Board Members can be found online at [www.atlantacolts.com/board.php](http://www.atlantacolts.com/board.php)

If you have questions about the ACYA program, please send an email to [feedback@atlantacolts.com](mailto:feedback@atlantacolts.com) or contact your league director.

