



Hiram Ruritan Club, Inc.

Hiram, GA

Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service



Dear Parent(s):

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for registering your child with the Hiram Hurricane Youth Football and Cheerleading Program. If you are new this year we welcome you and if you are returning this year, we are glad you are back. The start of the season is Monday, July 24th and we will be staggering the start dates of our programs this year. Included in this welcome letter will be practice information and other important facts and items that will assist in making your 2017 season a success.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS

We encourage everyone to park in the grass parking lot, provided by the Lutheran Church, located off of Seaboard Avenue, which can be accessed by taking a left at the 4-way stop on Oak Street and going till it dead ends and turn left. The entrance will be on your left. No parking is allowed in the paved Church parking lots of Sweet Home located on Oak St or the Lutheran Church on Seaboard. Illegally parked cars in these areas will be towed at the owner’s expense. On game days, the gravel parking lot on Oak Street will be closed. Please do not block either gates located at the gravel parking lot or the grass parking lot and when parking please make sure that you are not blocking exits or other cars that are parked.

Practices and games will be held during the week that Paulding County has their Fall break. There will be games on the Saturday before and after the week that students are out of school and practices will be held as normal during this week. Also, the league will hold games Labor Day weekend, so please make arrangements for participation on Saturday, September 2nd. We will NOT hold practice on Monday, September 4th.

The Hiram Ruritan is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is composed of volunteers that dedicate their time to the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities and the organization of all programs provided. Together we share the same goal and vision to provide the most competitive and instructional sport programs to the youth of Paulding and other surrounding counties.

Our program is not supported or maintained financially by County or City park funding. The registration fees collected for participation covers the expenses of operating costs, maintenance expenses, facility and field’s upkeep along with all league fees, insurance and uniform expenses associated with each program provided. The Hiram Ruritan Club, Board of Directors and the entire coaching staffs of all programs provide these services on a 100% volunteer basis after they have completed their normal work day. Anyone interested in helping as a volunteer, will always be welcomed and appreciated for any assistance that can be provided on work days, game days or during practices.

Home of Hiram Hurricanes Youth Sports

www.hhyathletics.org

Hiram Ruritan Club, Inc. – P.O. Box 563 – Hiram GA 30141

Eric Bradley – President	2017 Board of Directors	Matt Irons – Vice President
Jennifer Prater - Secretary	Cliff McGrady – Director	Kathie Stancil – Treasurer
Eric Stancil - Director	Kevin Harvey – Director	Selina Bradley - Director

PRACTICE START DATES

Tackle Football - Ages 5 – 12 will start on Monday, July 24th, at 6:30.

Cheerleading – Ages 5 – 12 will start on Monday, July 24th at 6:30.

Tiny Tots Football and Cheerleading – Ages 3&4 will start on Tuesday, August 8th, at 6:30.

More detailed practice information for each of these programs can be found under their section of this Welcome Letter.

GENERAL RULES OF THE PARK

- **No outside food is allowed** – Our concession is open during all practices and games.
- **No Smoking** – We do allow if needed smoking to be done in our parking lots only.
- **No Pets** – Our Park is for our players and cheerleaders.
- **Parking** – Please do not park in the paved parking lots of the Churches. Do not block right of ways and be courteous and do not block others in. Grass parking lot only on games days.
- **Children SHOULD NEVER be left at practices or games unsupervised** – Our coaches are not offering a child sitting service. Should an emergency arise that requires you to not be in attendance during a game or practice, please make sure arrangements have been made with another adult on site and the head coach of your child's team has been notified of such.
- **Good SPORTSMANSHIP is always expected** – Participants, Parents, Coaches and Spectators should demonstrate good sportsmanship. The use of profanity is not tolerated.
- **Take pride of your surroundings** – Trash cans are provided throughout our park and parks you will visit. Please make sure that all trash in your area, to include the parking lots, is cleaned up prior to you leaving your practice area or game day locations.

GATE FEES/GAME DAY

On game day (including jamborees), all parks including ours will charge a gate fee to assist in the expense of the officials for the day. The league has increased the amount that can be charged at the gates to \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for non-participating students. During playoff games, the Hosting Park may charge \$7.00 per adult admission and \$1.00 for students. Super Bowl gate fees will be charged as follows, Adult admission \$10.00, Non-participating students \$1.00 and children under 4 free. Football Players and Cheerleaders, and Coaches that are participating at the park of attendance for any of these events do not have to pay a gate fee.

We encourage all of our participants to enjoy the entire day of football and support all of our teams, so tents are allowed at our park and most others.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Hiram Ruritan uses the same notification system "One Call" that Paulding County Schools utilizes. When information is delivered from either the park or coach, it will be sent by phone message, text message and email. This includes any notifications regarding weather conditions.

In the event a practice needs to be cancelled, a decision will be made by 5:30, at which time a call out will be done. It will also be posted on our website, www.hhyathletics.org. In the event you have not received a call by this time, please make arrangements to be at your practice as normal. Every attempt will be made to have practice. If the weather worsens after 5:30 a decision will be made at the park based on the conditions as they present.

Game Day weather delays normally do not occur, but in the event they do, it is the responsibility of the home park to notify the visiting park. In the same manner as with practices, if you have not received a call you must be at your required location at the required time.

Tackle football WILL PRACTICE AND PLAY in the rain as long as severe weather is not a threat, while other programs are sometimes cancelled just for rain.

TINY TOT FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

This year we will start both tiny tot football and cheerleading practices on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30. Practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30. The practice schedule may be modified once games start. Your head coach will advise you prior to the start of a modified practice schedule.

The first practice on Tuesday, 8/8/17 will start in the registration building with a quick parent meeting, where coaches will be announced and practice locations given. We will also do uniform sizing at this time.

Tiny Tot Football and Cheerleading participants should bring their own water bottle, labeled with their name, to practice and games. Tee shirts, shorts and shoes should be worn to all practices. Football players may wear rubber soled cleats, but they are not required.

During all practices and games we ask that ONLY certified coaching personnel and team mom are allowed in practice areas and on the game field. All parents, siblings and spectators remain outside of fenced areas.

Games will be held on Saturday's and will be called by paid officials, so gate fees will be collected on game day. The game schedule will be released as soon as the league releases the master schedule. The tiny tot game schedule is based off of the league schedule for all of our tackle football games to be held at our park.

Each football player will receive a jersey and pants, and cheerleaders will receive a cheerleading uniform, all of which is theirs to keep at the end of the season.

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading practices will start on Monday, July 24th at 6:30. At this time everyone will meet in the bleachers on the 80 yard football field for a parent meeting and completion of uniform sizing. Practice dates will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00. Cheerleading will not have practice on the evening of July 27th due to open house. Practice schedules may be modified once games start. Advance notice will be given by the head coach prior to any schedule changes.

Cheerleaders should dress comfortably in shorts, t-shirt and tennis shoes. No jewelry and if needed have their hair pulled back. We ask that they bring their own water bottle labeled with their name.

Cheer uniforms are provided as part of the registration fee and will be the property of the cheerleader at the end of the season. Game day shoes, are to be purchased separately and more information will be given out during the parent meeting as to what style of shoe and where to purchase.

Game day Cheer Schedules will be released as soon as we receive the schedule as presented to our park by the football league in which we participate under.

Cheerleading squad sizes and age qualifications are based on the total number of participants per age group. It may be required, as in the past to combine age groups into one or more squads. Based on the number of squads the assignments of games are made based on these groupings.

TACKLE FOOTBALL

Monday, July 24th at 6:30 will be the official start of our 2017 season for tackle football. Practices will start at 6:30 and last till 8:30 on Monday's, Tuesday's and Thursday's. Practice on Thursday, 7/27 will be a modified practice schedule due to open house. Head Coaches will notify you on schedule for this date.

The first three scheduled practices the week of July 24th are considered "Helmet Only" practices. Players are required to show for practice in t-shirt, shorts, cleats, and helmet that should have attached their mouth piece and chin strap. Gel chin straps with a "D" ring are recommended for use. Mouth pieces should not be clear in color and should attached to the face mask of the helmet.

Friday, 7/28 at 6:30 all players should report to practice in full practice gear which should include, helmet with attached mouth piece and chin strap; shoulder pads with a practice jersey or oversized t-shirt over pads; practice football pants to include all required padding; and cleats. This will be the attire to be worn for the remainder of the season's practices. This practice will last till 8:30.

Teams may choose to have a Saturday practice from 9:00 – 11:00. Head Coaches will notify you earlier in the week of this decision.

The following week, practices will fall into their normal practice schedule of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 until 8:30. Wednesday and Friday nights are only used in the event of rain outs of normal scheduled practice nights.

ALL new players to the Hiram Ruritan, must provide their coach an **ORIGINAL** birth certificate for certification. It cannot be a certified copy. If you played at the Hiram Ruritan last year (2016) you will be certified from last years certification papers. If you played with the Hiram Ruritan previously but participated with another park last year, you will still need to provide the **ORIGINAL** birth certificate for certification. This is a league requirement and must be presented at the time the coach certifies his team for participation. The first practice after certification your coach will return the birth certificate to you.

Football equipment requirements as mentioned previously include the mouth piece and chin strap for the helmet. When purchasing the chin strap it is recommended to purchase a "D" ring with a high low hookup, usually manufactured by Adams or Schutt. This style of chin strap works the best with our helmets. Mouth pieces must be attached to the helmet and cannot be clear in color. Based on your child's sizing for game pants, it is recommended to either utilize a girdle that includes the hip pads, thigh pads, butt pad and the knee pads if not included will need to be purchased separately to be placed into the pants. Another option is to purchase a "7 piece snap" pad set. Either option is based on the style of practice pants you purchase. Game pants provided will have all pads included in the pants. Pads that are required to be worn during practice or games consist of 2 hip pads, 1 butt pad, 2 thigh pads and 2 knee pads. Shoulder pads should be worn with some form of shirt under the pads to work as a barrier between the pads and skin. All shoulder pads are to be worn with either a practice jersey or oversized shirt over the shoulder pads during practice. No player will be allowed to practice without this.

Only certified coaching staff will be allowed in the practice area and on the game fields on game day. Players should not bring their own footballs to practice. Water is provided during practice and games. Please make sure your child hydrates themselves properly the day before and day of practices and games.

Jamborees this year are in the process of being scheduled and may be scheduled on the following dates, August 12th, or August 19th. Division I football will start league scheduled games on August 26th and Division II is scheduled to start the week after, but may participate in a jamboree on August 26th.

Every attempt will be made to have our Game Day uniforms before the jamborees, but are guaranteed to be here prior to the start of the season on August 26th. Equipment issued will have equipment turn in dates that will be announced at a later date.

Our tackle football program participates under the guidelines set forth by the North West Georgia Youth Football League (NWGYFL). The schedule in which our games are played, is established and released by the league. Our

park has no bearing on the times nor locations of games to be played. Schedules may be released at the beginning of the season in part or completely, depending on various factors that must be considered by the league to release the most current version of the schedule. The league by-laws can be found on their website, www.nwgyfl.club.

Each player will be required to weigh-in on game day, one hour before scheduled game time. Coaches will notify their team of their arrival time prior to this scheduled time. In the event that a player does not weigh in at the scheduled time, they will not be allowed to participate in that day's game. Even if game times are running behind, scheduled weigh in times will run on time.

IN CLOSING

We hope that this letter has answered some of the questions you may have about the program your child is registered for. The Hiram Ruritan Board of Directors contact information can be found on our website and any of our Board Members or Coaches will be happy to assist with any questions you might have.

If you are interested in how you can be more involved, please contact your child's coach or one of our Board Members. Volunteers are always welcomed and there is always something that needs to be done.

Important information is updated regarding meetings, schedules and general knowledge on our website, www.hhyathletics.org.

We hope that 2017 proves to be a successful season for all of our participants, parents, spectators and volunteers.

With Warmest Regards and Sincere Thanks for the continuous support of our programs,

The Hiram Ruritan Board of Directors