



## WARREN COUNTY YMCA CO-ED YMCA FALL FLAG FOOTBALL Fall 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to FALL FLAG FOOTBALL at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you so much for signing your child(ren) up for flag football programs! This clinic is a starting point for your child's learning of/or refamiliarizing to the game of football! This clinic will run from 9:00am-10:30am. All the kids will be split up into several groups and they will participate in multiple stations working on many of the following exercises: Throwing/Passing, Catching, Route Running, Guarding, Blocking, Flag Pulling, Basic Rules, Teamwork/Sportsmanship and much more. Each station today is being run by members of the 2024 Monmouth College Fighting Scots Football Team, Head Coach Chad Braun and his staff who were kind enough to volunteer their time to us again this year! THANK YOU, SCOTS! During station work, my staff and I will be walking around "scouting" players. This is to better get a feel for each player that will compete in this program, which will ultimately help us build teams that are (hopefully) as evenly balanced as possible, so each week's games are fun, exciting, and memorable for the players, as well as for parents watching. Following this clinic, I will spend the weekend building teams and preparing for the coaches' meeting next week.

Volunteering - Parents, we ALWAYS need any help that you are able to provide. I still need volunteer coaches for both age groups for multiple teams to help coach the kids! I would like to have 2 coaches per team so that one parent is not stuck with all the responsibility, especially with everyone having busy work, family lives. This is a big ask and is a big use of some of your free time, but the help is extremely needed and appreciated to allow our programs to run as best as possible. Y sports programs cannot run to their fullest without volunteer coaches. If you are interested, please let me know here at the clinic or as soon as possible this weekend/early next week by calling the Y at, (309) 734-3183 or emailing me directly at [ben@warrencountyyymca.org](mailto:ben@warrencountyyymca.org). You can also call or text me personally at 309-973-6882. The coaches' meeting will take place Tuesday, September 3rd @ 5pm in the AP Room at the Y. The Y will be closing at 5pm that day due to the Prime Beef Festival in town, but I will still hold the meeting. If you cannot make it to the meeting, but are interested in coaching, please reach out to me about meeting 1 on 1. After this meeting teams will be set up and coaches will notify you and let you know what team your child is on, and when they plan to hold practices.

Games - As of now, the plan is to have the following game times on Saturdays: @8:30am, @9:30am and @10:30am. These are subject to change. The more kids that sign up, may mean the more teams we have, which in turn, means more games. Games are scheduled for 6 weeks on the following Saturdays: 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, and 10/26. The initial plan is for each team to have at least 6 total games. There will be one make-up date (if needed) which is currently TBD. We will ONLY cancel games due to severe weather that is deemed dangerous (storms/lightning/extreme heat/extreme cold, etc.) or if the field is deemed unplayable due to heavy, long rainstorms. I(Ben) will make this call and will do so with the safety and wellbeing of your kids in mind. The call will also be made as late as possible in hopes of getting the games in as sometimes the weather changes quickly. Please bear with me. Wait for my mass texts and texts from coaches before calling the Y as the desk will not know until I tell them just before I send out the message.

**Communication – I (Coach Ben) will send messages out as needed during the program. These messages could be reminders, changes to the program schedule, cancellations, etc. These will either come from myself personally, from your child’s coach, or from Daxko Engage (our messaging system at the Y). Engage has the ability for me to send out mass text messages to program participants. I strongly ask that you “opt in” to receive messages from Daxko Engage as it helps me immensely get info to you much quicker than adding each person’s phone number into my phone. To “opt in”, text WCYMCA to 54539. There is no charge to do this. If you choose not to, that is fine, but if I send out a cancellation message for example, and you did not opt in to get messages, you will not see it. This will be important for quick communication for our programs and more moving forward at the Y! You can “opt out” at any time.**

**Picture Day – Shyvel’s Photography will be returning to take team pictures this season for us! Pictures are planned for September 28<sup>th</sup> before your child’s game. More info to come.**

**Staffing/Refing – Reminder, as in years past, I will have Y staff members and college interns who will be helping referee games again this Fall. I will be here each week for the majority of games as well, unless I am needed in Galesburg for our league soccer teams. If I have to leave, my staff will be in charge for me. Whether I am present or not, PLEASE be respectful to ALL referees. All of them but me are part time employees or volunteering and doing me a huge favor and helping this program out. Please remember, we are not professional refs. Some calls will be missed accidentally. It’s ok, it happens. Some calls will not be made, if minor, to keep the games moving. Remember, this is a fun league where the kids are still learning how to play.**

**Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child’s team, the cost for the flag football season is \$200. This helps offset t-shirt, equipment, and staff/referee costs for the youth sports department. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of ALL the teams’ shirts for the season. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork by Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. As a thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence for the remainder of 2024.**

**Again, special thanks to Coach Braun and the Fighting Scots Football team for lending their time to help these kids have a great memory to look back on! After our games this Fall, head over to Monmouth College and root on the Scots!**

**See you on the field!**

**Ben Davis  
Youth Development Director**

**Thank you to our Youth Sports Sponsors so far in 2024:**

**eCard Transactions – Jenks Family Farms – Shyvel’s Photography – Dame Fine Coffee  
Advanced Plumbing & Mechanical, LLC – Midwest Bank – Porter Hay Insurance – Quality  
Roofing Pro – Clark & Glasgow LLC – Smithfield Foods – HPOD Transport LLC  
ADM (Archer Midland Daniels Company) – Designed to Restore – Jensen Farms  
Lenz-Doherty Families – Freedom Roller Rink – Black Flag Tinting  
IHC Heating & Cooling LLC – Environmental Road Solutions – Waymaker Travel**