



JUNIOR HILLTOPPER FOOTBALL HANDBOOK

Mission

Our mission is to teach boys who intend to go to Marquette University High School (MUHS) the game of football in adherence with the MUHS mission of creating men for others and in line with the Catholic identity of the school.

Eligibility

The program is for 5th through 8th grade boys who are seriously considering attending MUHS. As such, the following rules are in place:

5th through 7th grade: A player is automatically eligible if they a) attend a Catholic grade school b) have a brother who currently attends MUHS or a father who has graduated from MUHS.

If these two qualifications are not met, the parents must indicate that they are seriously considering MUHS for their son. This requirement does not bind a player to attend MUHS, but if a parent knows that they will choose a different path for their son we respectfully request they utilize that football program.

8th grade: A player must have completed the MUHS application and be enrolled to take the entrance exam prior to August 25th of the year. Players who do not do that will be dismissed from the team.

These rules are meant to both fulfill the mission of the program and adhere to our league rules regarding the recruiting of players who do not intend on going to a school. In fact, our public-school counterparts limit eligibility to boys who live in their school district as such the league wants to ensure we are not gaining a competitive advantage by having players who do not intend on going to the school. Parents are on their honor to comply with these rules.

Players must play in their grade at school and will not play up. Exceptions can only be made if an older grade needs additional players to have a functioning roster.

Please note, participation in this program does not guarantee admission into MUHS.

Team Sizes

5th and 6th Grade: Our 5th and 6th grade plays 8 on 8 football and team sizes are limited to 16 players per team. We typically field 2 teams at these levels.

7th and 8th Grade: Our 7th and 8th grade teams play 11 on 11 football and team sizes are limited to 35 players per team. We usually field one team at these levels.

Positions

Coaches will evaluate the players and determine what positions your son will play. While boys are encouraged to try out for positions when practice starts the coaches have final say on the positions they will play at. It should also be noted that the position they play now has no bearing on what they might play in high school. Boys develop and grow at different rates and we do not know what the future holds for any of them.



Registration

To guarantee a spot on the team, returning players must complete their registration by December 31. Registration will then open up to all as of January 1 to April 1. Should we exceed team limits a player will be placed on a waiting list and added to the roster if a) an existing player drops out or b) we have enough players and coaches to field an additional team at that level.

Cost

The cost to play in the program is \$300. If you have a financial need that limits your ability to participate there are scholarships available of \$150 per player. An application for aid must be submitted to Eamon Holahan at MUHS. Players will also be responsible for their own padded game pants, padded practice pants, game socks and practice jersey. These items will be sold through Burghardt's and are expected to cost about \$75. These items can be used multiple years if they fit. Players will also be expected to provide their own mouthguard.

There will also be a refundable \$50 volunteer fee. At equipment pickup parents will drop off a \$50 check made payable to Marquette University High School. The check will be voided once a parent fulfills their volunteer obligation. The parameters of volunteering will be discussed below.

Fundraising

In odd numbered years, 2023 is the next year, we do a fundraiser with Anodyne Coffee. Players must either sell 10 bags of coffee OR parents can do a buy-out of \$75. The purpose of the fundraiser is to pay for our game day jerseys, which players get to keep.

Equipment

The program will issue the players the following equipment:

- Helmet
- Shoulder pads

New players to the program and those entering 5th and 7th grades will be issued a game jersey by the program.

Practices

Teams will begin practice the first week of August. The practices are held at the Washington Park. Coaches can practice anytime between 5:00 and 7:30. The first 3 weeks practices are Monday through Friday. Following that, we practice Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 5:00 and 7:30. In these weeks the maximum a team can practice is 6 hours. As we move through the year, practices may start as early as 4:30 to accommodate the lack of daylight. If available, we may use Takton Field at Marquette periodically during the season.

Practice Attendance

Football is a team sport and players should attend all practices if possible. Should a player miss for vacation, to play another team sport or other unexcused absence their playing time will be limited by the coach. If you have a player who will miss a substantive amount of practice you should discuss your situation with your coach to determine if this is the right fit for your son.



Physicals and Payment

A player physical must be on file with MUHS and all payments made to MUHS prior to a player participating in practice. Forms can be found at:

https://www.muhs.edu/uploaded/Athletics/Jr_Hilltopper_Programs/Junior_Hilltoppers_Physical_Form_2022.pdf

Contact Rules

Players must participate in 10 hours of practice before engaging in full contact drills.

League and Games

We play in the Classic Football League with Catholic Memorial, Menomonee Falls, Burlington, Waukesha West and several other programs in southeastern Wisconsin.

Games are played on Saturday and usually start the last week of August and run through October. Teams will play 7 or 8 games. There are no games on Labor Day weekend.

Our home games are played at Hart Park and the road games are generally played at our opponent's high school site. Road games tend to be played in the morning or early afternoon and our home games run from the afternoon to the night.

Team Rostering

In the event that we have multiple teams at a grade level the coaches will be tasked with creating two equal teams in terms of ability. We cannot and will not honor requests for a player to be assigned to a certain team.

Playing Time

The goal of 5th and 6th grade is to have all kids play at least 50% of the game. Exceptions can be made for disciplinary reasons, safety or missing practices. Parents should note that there are some instances where a child may not get 50% of the playing time that is out of a coach's control. For example, a player may be assigned to defense in one quarter and our offense had the ball for the majority of that quarter. If you have issues with your child's playing time, we ask that you respectfully address it with the coach.

The goal of 7th and 8th is to have all children play at least 25% of the game. The same exceptions that apply to 5th and 6th grade are applied here.

Volunteers

Our program is run by volunteers and as such parents need to volunteer in the following roles:

- Head and assistant coaches
- Equipment handout and returns
- Scoreboard operator
- Chain gang
- Announcer
- Field Marshall on gameday



Parents filling one shift in any of these roles will have their volunteer fee waived.

We would also like to fill the following executive roles in the organization:

- Vice President
- Equipment Manager
- Gameday Field Operations
- Fundraising
- School Outreach/Marketing

Any parent serving in these roles will have their volunteer fee waived.

Coaching

If interested in coaching, please reach out to the Club President, Mike Bark. Coaches must complete the Archdiocese's "Safeguarding Our Children" course and also be certified with USA Football. If interested, information will be provided to complete these requirements. Head coaches will be named for each of the grades and they will assist the Club President in choosing assistants for the teams. While there is no set number of coaches for any grade, we usually need at least 3 per 5th and 6th grade team fielded and at least 4 for each 7th and 8th grade team fielded.

Grievances

If you have an issue with a coach, we ask that you attempt to first address it constructively with them. If that cannot be accomplished, please reach out to the President or Eamon Holahan.