



BRIDGEWATER YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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BYFA – INSTRUCTIONAL FOOTBALL POLICIES

1. **COACHING:** Expert coaching is available at all levels. The Head Coaches have several years of experience teaching Football Fundamentals and Teamwork. All Coaches are required to teach in a constructive manner that develops confidence.
2. **EQUIPMENT:** BYFA provides all equipment except athletic supporter, appropriate cleats (metal cleats are not permitted), and practice jerseys. This equipment is very expensive (approximately \$275/player). Each year the equipment is inspected and we purchase new nearly ¼ of our needs annually in order to protect each child properly.
3. **PRACTICE:** We strive to educate, motivate, and encourage each child with practices that are well organized, interactive, safe, and fun. Practices are designed to maximize each child's potential and put them in a position to be successful as a TEAM. The first 3 weeks (prior to start of school) we practice Monday–Friday. Once School starts we practice Tuesday, Thursday & Friday evenings from 5pm – 7pm.
4. **GAMES:** There are generally 2-3 Scrimmages; 7 to 8 Regular Season Games and potentially 1 Playoff Game and a Championship Game. The Games are generally played on Sunday (at times on Saturday night). We strive to play every child in every game. We play on average 6 JV Games on Saturdays for inexperienced players & non starters which allows them to improve their skills in game conditions.
5. **BENEFITS:** Children learn the value of Team Work & Team Spirit. Importantly prepare for High School Athletics.
6. **THE ORGANIZATION:** BYFA is a not-for-profit organization. BYFA is made up of dedicated individuals as Directors, Coaches, and many others that volunteer their valuable time and resources to ensure the integrity of the program and safe guard each child's experience.

BYFA 2007 INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR PARENTS

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of BYFA to provide instructional football to all children that meet the age and weight requirements. We feel that every child should have the opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability and desire to play youth Football in the Town of Bridgewater. This means the Coaching Staff will do their best to instruct each child. Please be patient as this can be a sizable task if the Teams are large. This instruction is provided by qualified Coaches. The Board of Directors of BYFA supports the Coaches in their decision as to what position, how often, and when a child will play. Their decision is based on their observation of each child's abilities and strengths. Football is a physical, contact sport, and our goal is to allow each child to progress at his/her own pace, learn about Football, have fun, and remain healthy. Safety is a major concern for the Coaching staff and much of their decisions are based on the welfare of each child. Proper tackling techniques are a must. All Children must master proper tackling techniques prior to playing. Parents concerns must be addressed either directly and privately with the Head Coaches or BYFA's Board of Directors. We will not condone comments or ridicule from the sidelines at games or practices.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES: We expect Parents to be fair, objective, and interested in your child's experience and development. Your personal encouragement is a critical component to your child's effort and confidence. Be the type of fan that will make Bridgewater Youth Football the example for other communities to emulate.

PARENTS' CONCERNS: Any concerns Parents have with our Organization and/or Coaching Staff must be presented to a "Designated Board Member" who will have responsibility for a specific team: Mites, Peewees, and/or Midgets. Due to prior experience and unfortunate examples of violence in other towns Parents will not be allow to confront any Coaches during or after a practice or a game. Emotions have proven to run too high and irrational conversations have been the result. We hope you understand this is for the protection of all involved: the children, the parents, and the coaches.

PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITIES: All BYFA Players (if in School) are expected to be at practice. Players (Parents) are expected to contact the Head Coach if they are going to miss practice. Players can endanger their Teammates if they have not learned their role. All Players are expected to do their best in School. Jewelry (rings, necklaces, ear rings, etc) is banned while at practices and games for the safety the child, their Teammates, and Opponents. BYFA Players that are involved with disciplinary issues while at school or in the community will not be part of BYFA. Any BYFA Player involved with Tobacco, Drugs, and/or Alcohol will be removed from BYFA. All Players represent themselves, their family, the BYFA Organization and are responsible for their actions.

BYFA ADDED INCENTIVE & BENEFIT: BYFA takes great pride in developing the future players for Bridgewater-Raynham High School. We feel an obligation and strive to be the best "Feeder" program in Massachusetts. We work in cooperation with Bridgewater-Raynham Head Football Coach – Dan Buron and his talented staff, which provide coaching clinics, strategy, drills, and advice to our staff. We have incorporated B-R's base offensive and defensive philosophies to ease the transition of our BYFA Players to the B-R High level of play.