

St. Anthony Village

SPORTS BOOSTERS



YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Dedicated to building better players.....Today's pups are tomorrows Huskies

Parent and Player Handbook

2011

July, 2011

Dear St. Anthony Booster Football Players and Parent(s)/Guardians:

Welcome to another season of Booster Football! The following pages provide helpful information regarding our program, in addition to expectations and guidelines for players and parents/guardians.

St. Anthony Booster Football offers programs for the following grade levels: 2/3 through grade 8. We participate in three different leagues determined by the grade level, and we are dependent on a volunteer coaching staff. We want the football experience to be a positive, successful one for our players.

Keeping this in mind, we have high expectations of our athletes. We emphasize character, sportsmanship, hard work, and respect. The teams achieve the most when players play by the rules, positively support each other, exhibit respect to all and do their best. We want our players to be more than good football players but to be recognized by opponents, referees and spectators as respectful, classy young people.

Parents/Guardians, the Booster Football program relies on your support and volunteerism to ensure a successful season. Please be as involved as you can and help where you are able. We want everyone to have a positive experience.

Thank you again for participating in our program. We are looking forward to a great season!

Regards,

Mark Wald, President, on behalf of
The St. Anthony Booster Football Advisory Board and Coaches

Purpose of This Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general policy and procedure information about Boosters Football and the operation of the program. Detailed information can be obtained by logging onto the football website at www.orgsites.com/mn/huskyfootball.

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Boosters Football Advisory Board

The Boosters Football Advisory Board (BFAB) was formed in 2011 with the primary purpose of executing the duties of the Football Commissioner(s) of the St. Anthony Village Sports Boosters. This is a voluntary board.

2011-2012 Boosters Football Advisory Board

President	Mark Wald
Vice President	Sheri Wald
Secretary/Treasurer Representative	Andrea Scamehorn
Fields Director	Rob Deacon
Equipment Director	Dan Spriggs
Equipment Director	Doug Snyder
Fundraising Director	Duane/Karen Arens

Monthly Meetings

- Regular meetings of the Boosters Football Advisory Board (BFAB) are held on the second Thursday of the month, 7 PM unless otherwise noted. BFAB meetings are open to the public.
- Please check the Boosters Football website for meeting dates, times and past minutes at: www.orgsites.com/mn/huskyfootball.

Boosters Football Website

www.orgsites.com/mn/huskyfootball

- Dedicated website for the St. Anthony Sports Boosters Football program
- List of current Booster Football Advisory Board members with email addresses
- Parent/Player handbook, code of conduct forms for all grade levels
- On-line Registration
- Copies of Booster by-laws and other operational documents
- Link to the Boosters website and other community football websites

Registration

- Dates for registration will be published on the football website, noted on flyers given out at schools and in school announcements, and in the St. Anthony Community Services Spring and Summer bulletin. Registration begins in mid-May and closes at the end of June.

Fees

- St. Anthony Sports Boosters is a non-profit organization. All fees that are paid to participate in Boosters Football are used to support programming and equipment. Costs to support the program include but are not limited to, tournament and/or league registrations, equipment, insurance, coaching certifications, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Football Program

A. Purpose. The purpose of the Tackle Football Program is to provide an opportunity for youth to play the game of football with emphasis on sportsmanship, fundamentals and teamwork.

B. Teams. The Tackle Football Program may provide for teams according to school grades two (2) through eight (8). The BFAB Board of Directors will annually determine the number of teams to sponsor based on the following:

1. The number of registrants.
2. The availability of facilities and funds to operate such facilities.
3. Availability of acceptable coaches.
4. The ability to partner with another football association or organization (i.e. Twin Cities North Youth Football League)

C. Player Limitation. Youth not meeting the eligibility requirements as defined in Article II, Section B, may participate in the Tackle Football Program only if their participation does not prevent participation of a player who does qualify to participate under the SASB By-Laws. This will be waived after the registration deadline passes.

No player may be on the roster of two (2) or more SASB Football teams concurrently, regardless of residency, enrollment, or location.

D. Coaches. The BFAB will provide one head coach per team. The head coach must be approved by the BFAB and abide by the policies and procedures of the BFAB.

E. Limit on Football Season. The period in which a team may participate as a member of the SASB Football program in practice and league games will be limited to the first day of team practices and the end of the season tournament games.

Players will practice and play under a set of rules set forth by St. Anthony Sports Boosters.

Team Coaches

Coaches will be selected as outlined by the St. Anthony Sports Boosters Football Program Coach selection process. The entire document can be found at http://www.orgsites.com/mn/huskyfootball/BFAB_Coach_Selection_Process.pdf

The BFAB will provide one head coach per team. The head coach must be approved by the BFAB and abide by the policies and procedures of the BFAB.

Only one head coach is allowed per team. The head coach may select his or her own assistant(s).

1. Head coaches must be 18 years of age or older
2. Head coaches must have a clear criminal background check.
3. Must read, sign and abide by the SASB Coaches Guidelines
4. Head coaches and assistant coaches must sign and abide by rules of the Coaches Code of Ethics.

2011 Coaches are:

2nd/3rd grade - Bill Ballot
2nd/3rd grade - Antonio Johnson
4th grade -Trent Nelson
4th grade - Todd Franks
5th grade -Steve Christoff
6th grade -Heath Galyon
7th grade -Randy Peterson

Formation of Teams

If there is a need to expand to two teams per grade because of a large number of participants, players will be chosen by a “blind draft” type of system. Link to the Team Formation Policy:

http://www.orgsites.com/mn/huskyfootball/BFAB_Team_Formation_Policy_2011.pdf

Until this season, the roster for grade 2/3 and 4 was considered FULL at 20 players. The roster was FULL at 23 players for grades 5-8. Extra players were put on a waiting list. In fact, this was worded on the 2011 registration form. As the waiting list grew for the 5th and 6th grade teams, the BFAB passed a resolution to allow all registrants up until the June 30 deadline. If a player registers after that date, individual team coaches may allow additional players on their teams with the approval of the BFAB President.

The consensus from the BFAB is to favor inclusion of players on teams as opposed to limiting team size at a maximum of 23 players on 11-player teams. Players may become fatigued during a game, and it is essential to have strong numbers to keep a full roster of players. It is very important to include players who are interested now, as players may not continue playing as they get older.

Obviously, adding additional players to the roster affects the amount of playing time. Please carefully read the following section on “Playing Time”.

Playing Time

Each player is guaranteed reasonably balanced playing time, regardless of any league affiliation or team size. Coaches are expected to play the players best suited for each situation and should create practice situations best suited for individual player development as required. Coaches may make adjustments to the reasonably balanced playing time rule under the following circumstances:

- Violation of SASB Coaches Guidelines/Player code of conduct
- Modify team composition on the field. For example to match speed, size and skill sets against the opposing team.
- Player having excessive penalties
- Substitutions for injury or illness
- Lack of depth chart at specific positions (i.e. players needing to play both ways or players reluctant to play at a specific position)

Coaches are obligated to “Balance” playing time by allotting or restricting individual player involvement according to four priorities:

1. A coach's first priority is to protect the health and safety of all players by insisting that all of the activities in practice, games and scrimmages are conducted for the best psychological and physiological welfare of the players rather than the vicarious interests of adults.
2. Secondly coaches have the obligation to learn the strengths and weaknesses of all players in order that they might place them into situations where they have maximum opportunities to achieve success and develop football skills and acumen.
3. Thirdly, Coaches have the responsibility to foster and grow a love for the game of football in each player. This responsibility includes creating opportunities for players to enjoy the football experience and have fun.
4. The final priority for coaches is to keep winning in perspective. While it is a reasonable goal of every football team to win games and win the championship, this goal is not to be attempted at all cost. Playing the best players in situations required to win games is acceptable only after all other priorities are reasonably satisfied.

Playing Season

The period in which a team may participate as a member of the SASB Football program in practice and league games will be limited to the first day of team practices and the end of the season tournament games.

The season typically is defined as August through November, and is run in conjunction with different leagues depending on the grade level. Games are held on Saturdays, Sundays and week nights depending on the grade level.

Practices

- Teams practice at least twice per week during the regular season and more depending on the grade level and weather permitting. Coaches will provide players with the practice schedules after they are set.
- Scheduling for the practice fields is handled by the Boosters Football Fields Director (Rob Deacon) and Boosters Football President (Mark Wald). Coaches should contact either Rob or Mark to gain additional practice time. Please note ***we will not reimburse anyone for paid use of field time elsewhere without prior approval from the BFAB.***
- We expect that all players and coaches respect all fields and equipment. Please do not use any equipment that has not been authorized for use or willfully damage fields.

Parent Manager

Each team would benefit from at least one parent manager to assist with the following:

- Collect necessary forms from players/coaches (Conduct, photo, etc)
- Facilitate communication between parents/coaches (email – phone list)
- Be responsible for the scheduling of parents to “run chains” for each game
- Provide information on games/photos for the BFAB website

Equipment / Use

Each team sponsored by the SASB during the season will be granted use of the following items:

- 1) Footballs (two game balls and several practice balls)
- 2) Tackling dummies
- 3) Blocking pads
- 4) Medical/First Aid Kit
- 5) Practice "pennies"
- 6) Kicking tee and kicking block (if necessary)
- 7) Ice packs, Ace bandages, and athletic tape
- 8) Cones
- 9) Various items for equipment repair/replacement
 - a) Helmet screws
 - b) Shoulder pad straps, clips and laces
 - c) Chin straps
 - d) Jaw pads in various sizes
- 10) Other equipment deemed necessary by the SASB and/or BFAB

Each player will be issued/granted the use of the following for the Football season:

- (1) Helmet
- (2) Shoulder Pads
- (3) Game pants and pads
- (4) Mouth guard
- (5) Jersey
- (6) Pair of game socks

NOTE: Player will be expected to provide personal protection and cleats.

Important Dates

March 2011	Coaches Selected
May-June 2011	Player Registration
July 2011	Equipment pick-up
August 2011	Football Camp, <i>St. Anthony High School</i>
August 2011	Practice Starts
	Jersey Numbers Due From all Teams
September 2011	Games Start
September 2011	Photo Night (Central Park)
Late Oct – early Nov 2011	Tournaments – vary by grade level
November 2011	Equipment Return

Our Team's Coach: _____

Our Coach's contact information: _____

PLAYER Expectations and Guidelines for Conduct

(Parents and guardians, please review these with your player and have them sign it.
Return signed copy to Coach)

We want to have a positive and successful season, so please read over these important guidelines. If everyone understands the expectations ahead of time, we know the season will go well! Most of the time our players behavior is not an issue. However, we want to be clear about what we expect and what the consequences will be if bad behavior occurs.

NOTE: All Boosters Programs expect and require players to be respectful of coaches, teammates, opponents, officials and fans. Players will not cause any type of disruptive or unruly behavior during either practice or games. Disruptive or unruly behavior will be classified as: name calling of teammates or opponents, swearing, fighting, arguing with referees, teammates, or opponents, not listening to coaches, etc.

As a player on a St. Anthony Booster football team, I will not act in a disruptive manner in either a game or practice. If I am disruptive and behaving inappropriately during a practice, I understand my coach will take disciplinary action appropriate for the incident. If there is a second occurrence during the same practice I will be told to leave the practice, and my parents will be contacted and may be requested/required to be in attendance at future practices at the coaches' discretion. If there are multiple occurrences or disruptions during two consecutive practices, I will be benched for no less than the first quarter of the next game, and parents will be required to be at practices. **If disruptions continue, the BFAB will be contacted and will make a determination to drop me from the football program for the year.**

I understand that if I cause multiple disruptions during a game, the situation will be dealt with as follows: initial problem, I will sit out one quarter of that game. Multiple disruptions and unruly behavior during a game will have the following actions taken: I will sit out a minimum of 1 week, up to being suspended for the balance of the Football season.

As a player on a St. Anthony Booster Football team, I agree to:

- Be on time for practices and games with all of my equipment. I will be mentally ready, and I will listen to what my coaches expect of me and follow their direction.
- Have a positive attitude and support my fellow players and coaches.
- Always be respectful of others. This includes referees, opponents, parents, spectators, teammates and coaches. This means no foul language, no put-downs and no back-talk!
- Talk with my coach if something is bothering me – a call by a referee, comments or actions of teammates, or behavior of an opponent. I will let the coach handle the situation.

"I have read the Players Football Player Expectations and Guidelines for Conduct, and agree to abide by them."

Players Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS Expectations and Guidelines for Conduct

PLEASE READ!

Thank you for your participation in the Booster Football program! Parents play a key role in the continued success of our players and coaches. The BFAB has created this document with the help of both coaches and parents to best help you understand your role with our Husky teams. Please review this document completely, keep a copy of it and return a signed copy to your coach. Remember, there is an additional "Player Expectations and Guideline for Conduct" that players need to review and sign too.

What we expect of parents:

- a. Provide the basic equipment needs that your child requires (cleats, athletic supporter, practice clothes, etc.). If you are unable to provide this, talk to the coach who may be able to help with this.

- b. Have your player to practices and games on time. "On time" will vary depending on the coach, but typically would mean having your player to practice dressed and ready to go by the scheduled start of practice and to games typically up to one hour prior to scheduled kickoff. Please pick your child up promptly at the end of practices and games for safety reasons and out of respect for our coaches. Our coaches are volunteers, and we don't expect them to provide supervision after games and practices.

- c. Be a positive parent. Praise your child's and the team's efforts. Do not focus on the outcomes of the games. If watching practices or the games, find moments where your child or the team excelled and point that out when you talk about the game/practice with your child.

- d. Do not talk poorly about the coach, other players, or other parents. Remember that you are a role model to your child. Your child will likely do as you do.

- e. During games, cheer for your team and remember that these games are not life and death. Officials, coaches, and players will make mistakes. Keep your comments and cheers positive. **Let the coaches coach, the players play, and the officials officiate. Please refrain from coaching your child from the sidelines during games – shouting at players only confuses them and detracts from the instruction the coach is providing.** Remember, Parents are there for positive support. Everyone needs to know and accept their role.
Note: If you disagree with the referees, please contact and discuss the concerns with the coaching staff.

- f. On offense, there is only one football and that means that only one person can have the football at a time. Depending on the grade, 8 to 10 other players on offense will be working to make the one person with the ball successful. Keep the

big picture of team success in mind. Most of the players on offense at any one time will be attempting to block the defense. Encourage your child to accept whatever role is assigned and to work as hard as possible to do the best possible job with that role.

g. Your coaches will play the boys at the position he feels they are best suited to play in order to make the team work as well as possible. The players will all get opportunities to try different positions, but a request for a specific position may not be granted depending on the needs of the team.

h. If you would like to speak to your child's coach about any issue with the team, there are good and bad times to do this. The most ideal time is after practice. Try to let the coach know ahead of time that you would like to speak with them after practice. Bad times to approach a coach about issues are before and after games. The coaches will have a lot on their minds during these times and the conversation may not be the highest priority for the coaches during these times. Each coach will let you know the best way to communicate with them (email, phone conversation, direct conversation after practice, etc.)

i. The only people that are to be on the sideline during games are the coaches, players, and any parents that were invited by the coaches to be on the sidelines. If an injury occurs, the coaches will summon you if you are needed.

j. If your child is having behavioral problems that adversely affect the team, you will be made aware of the situation, and the coach will work with you to set guidelines of what will be tolerated. Your child is just as important as the other team members, but if the coach is spending excessive time getting behavioral problems controlled with your child, it is time taken away from the rest of the team. It is a privilege to be part of a team and not a right.

NOTE: The SASB has a specific Disciplinary Process they have outlined for our coaches. For an athlete who demonstrates problem behavior:

“Coaches should discuss issue with the player, reduce playing time if necessary, but contact parents before playing time is reduced. If the situation continues, the coach may dismiss the player from the team after first consulting with the sport specific board of directors (Boosters Football Advisory Board).”

k. Lastly, if you have concerns regarding a Coach, please contact BFAB President Mark Wald.

“I have read the Parent/Guardian Expectations and Guidelines for Conduct and agree to abide by them”

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Player grade:_____

Signature: _____

Date:_____