

AJAA FOOTBALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The AJAA Football program is designed to provide an instructional and fun experience for boys in Washington Township to play organized football. Our coaches and coordinators work to provide a positive experience in which the kids are being taught age appropriate fundamentals in all levels. The competitive level grows as the kids advance through the program but the main goal of the program is to keep the kids interested in football by providing a positive experience that encourages them to continue playing the next year. All leagues, with the exception of All-Stars, have strict rules in place for a minimum participation level by each member of the team.

Our volunteer coaches attend many required and optional coaching clinics throughout the year to improve their skills and learn more about the Avon football program. Our program is blessed to have a tremendous level of support from Dave Shelbourne, Head Coach of the Avon HS Football team and his staff as evidenced by their accessibility and support throughout the entire year. We strive to coach the same techniques as utilized by the school programs to provide a consistent, strong football program.

The following section briefly describes each level of football offered by AJAA:

FLAG FOOTBALL – Our flag football program is open to boys in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. It is a good introduction to football at a very basic level teaching kids about different positions, rules, and fundamentals of the sport. The teams play 9 against 9 and there is minimal contact with flag football as the ball carrier is “tackled” by removing one of the flags from his belt. No special equipment is used...just a mouthpiece and cleats. The field is narrower and shorter in flag football which creates plenty of scoring in which the goal is to have as many kids score a touchdown as possible and play all positions. No score is kept and FUN is emphasized.

2ND GRADE TACKLE – For our 2nd grade players that have played 1 or more years of flag football and would like to experience an introduction to tackle football, AJAA offers 2nd grade tackle football. The teams play 10 against 10 and start to get introduced to playing in equipment with a more contact (tackling) and additional fundamentals are introduced. Again the field is modified to provide for more scoring opportunities. Score is kept for these ball games and it is a little more competitive than flag football. A team win-loss record is kept and determines playoff seeding for the end of season tournament. This is the first level that introduces weight limits on ball carriers and playing certain positions.

MINOR TACKLE – Our minor tackle football program is 3rd and 4th graders playing on teams together. Playing full team, full field football for the first time the players are introduced to more of the terminology, position fundamentals, practice methods, and plays that are used in our high school football program. The games become more competitive and team win-loss records are kept and determine playoff seeding for the end of season tournament. Most games are at held on the Avon High School practice field with the exception of a possible weeknight game for 2 of the teams each week. Weight limits are in place for this age group to help prevent injuries.

MAJOR TACKLE – Our major tackle football program is 5th and 6th graders playing on teams together. More of the plays, fundamentals, terminology and practice drills from our high school program are introduced and more preparation for “school” football is emphasized. Most games are at held on the Avon High School practice field with the exception of a possible weeknight game for 2 of the teams each week. Weight limits are in place for this age group to help prevent injuries.

ALL-STAR FOOTBALL – For each grade level (3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th) AJAA selects and field an “All-Star” team for some post-season, travel competition against other all-star teams throughout the area. Teams are selected by the coaches in the Minor and Major football programs and the all-star coaches are nominated and selected by their peers. The teams will typically travel to various tournaments in the Central Indiana area for an additional few weeks after the regular season is concluded. AJAA football equipment continues to be used by the All-Star players but uniforms and entry fees are typically an additional expense to the parents.

Outline of Weight Restrictions by League

Players UNDER these weight limits can play at any position on offense and defense and have no other restrictions

Age Group/Weight Limit	Offense/Special Teams Limitations	Defense Limitations
2 nd Grade Tackle Single Striper 75 to 90 lbs.	May not possess ball at any time; must play on the line	May play a "back" position but cannot be the deepest defender on the field
2 nd Grade Tackle Double Striper 90.1+ lbs.	May not possess ball at any time; must play on the line and line up not more than 2 positions from center (Center, Guard, Tackle)	Must play on defensive line and cannot line up further than the outside shoulder of the oppositions offensive tackle.
Minor Tackle Single Striper 90 to 110 lbs.	May not possess ball at any time; must play on the line	May play a "back" position but cannot be the deepest defender on the field; can return a fumble or interception
Minor Tackle Double Striper 110.1 + lbs.	May not possess ball at any time; must play on the line and line up not more than 2 positions from center (Center, Guard, Tackle)	Must play on defensive line and cannot line up further than the outside shoulder of the oppositions offensive tackle. Cannot return a fumble or interception.
Major Tackle Single Striper 110 to 140 lbs.	May not possess ball at any time; must play on the line	May play a "back" position but cannot be the deepest defender on the field; can return a fumble or interception
Major Tackle Double Striper 140.1 + lbs.	May not possess ball at any time; must play on the line and line up not more than 2 positions from center (Center, Guard, Tackle)	Must play on defensive line and cannot line up further than the outside shoulder of the oppositions offensive tackle. Cannot return a fumble or interception.

*other limitations apply as outlined in the AJAA Football Rules

For more information please contact Gail Bradley, Director of Football, at avonfootball@att.net. More information is also available on the AJAA website at www.ajaaonline.com.