

IHM Football

IHM Football Registration is fast approaching. Every year, as we approach Football Registration, we hear questions about our program and the league. I would like to attempt to address some of the commonly asked questions so that you will be informed prior to registering your son for football. First, it is important to outline some foundational information about the league. The league was formed 6 years ago and is governed by the representatives of the participating schools in accordance with the by-laws that were formed by this same governing body. The GCYL~~is~~ offers four levels of play: Varsity (7th and 8th grade combined), Reserve (6th and 5th grade combined), Pony (4th and 3rd combined) and Bandit (K through 2nd). Of the 28 member programs, the vast majority field teams at these four levels only. Additionally, and where possible, some programs offer 3rd grade only and/or 5th grade only teams, also known as 'odd grade' levels. As we have seen at IHM, the league has seen a decline in participation which has resulted in fewer 'odd grade' teams. With this as the backdrop, I want to answer some of the typical questions that I hear each year. If you have additional questions, please contact one of the Football Representatives listed below.

Q1. What level will my son play this year?

A1. Each year, our goal at IHM is to field a team at each grade level. As we have seen in recent years, it has not always been possible due to low numbers at certain grades. While fielding a team at each level is our preference, we have also learned that merged teams can have many benefits as well. Unfortunately, we cannot confidently answer this question until we complete registration and have a firm understanding of how many players we have in each grade. Our recommendation is to register your child so we can determine the number of players we have at each grade level. We always do what's in the best interest of all players with a focus on ensuring that all have a place to play.

Q2. When will it be decided what teams we will be fielding this year?

A2. Football Registration concludes on April 30. Immediately after, we will assess where we stand with respect to each grade and participation levels. We will determine the best course of action regarding team alignment with grades. Our next step is to inform the league as to our intentions. Our first priority is to have a team at each level the league offers, i.e. Varsity, Reserve, Pony and Bandit. If we have enough registered players, at that time to create a third grade and/or fifth grade team AND that is the right decision to make for our organization, we will inform the league of our intentions. Our deadline to submit our intentions to the league is May 8. Again, our goal is to make sure that everyone at IHM who wants to play football has an opportunity to play. You can help us by promptly registering your son to play.

Q3. What happens if I don't register by April 30th?

A3. As you can tell it is extremely important that we have final details about registration by the end of April to construct our teams. Once decisions are made about the number of teams we will offer and the levels we will offer, there is limited opportunity to change with the league. **Late registrations may be accepted based on availability.** For example, if we have to merge two grades together, the result may be that team has a large roster. It is very difficult to ensure that a team with a large roster is successful in terms of playing time allocations and overall participation experience. In the event that a team is at a maximum level, we may not be able to

accept a late registration for the team. Again, the recommendation here is to register, between April 1st and April 30th, so that you will be ensured a spot on a team.

Q4. When will I know the teams that we will offer at IHM?

A4. Once we have submitted our teams and have approval from the league, we will communicate what teams we will be fielding. We expect to communicate something to you by the end of May.

Q5. What if I end up in a situation that I am not happy with and do not want to participate.

A5. We certainly will do our best to arrange the teams in a way that is best for everyone involved across our entire program. However, in the event that you are not satisfied with the best arrangement for everyone involved, we will give you a full refund. We do ask that you take the time to understand the rationale behind any decisions that are made and maintain a long term view of the program and your son's participation. At the grade levels of our programs, the players' development is a process, and each step of the journey is important.

Q6. What level of competition will we be facing this year?

A6. Based on the strong performance of several teams this past year, IHM will be aligned with the Division 1, East programs this year.

Q7. Will we have enough in the 7th and 8th grade to field a Varsity team?

A7. Based on the 'word of mouth' survey that I have informally conducted, we should have enough to field our own Varsity team this year. Again, back to the comments above, if you are interested, please register your son. The only way we will know for sure is if **everyone registers who is interested. Please do not wait to see if we will have a varsity team.** This will only result in low numbers and cause us to seek alternative options.

Q8. What happens if we do not have enough to field a Varsity Team?

A8Q9 In the unlikely scenario we do not have enough to field a team at the Varsity level, we will work with the league to find a solution. In similar situations the league has worked to find a fair opportunity to merge programs together at individual levels. While this is not ideal, it does provide a place for kids to play and develop. Again, please do not let this detract you from registering. As mentioned in Q&A 5 above, in the event that you are not satisfied with a solution, we will refund your money in full. Our only ask is that you seriously consider the solution.

We have had many discussions and meetings about the football program and want to promise that you have our commitment to provide the best solution for your son and all participants in the IHM Football Program. We understand that there are many unanswered questions at this time which makes registering difficult. However, it is dependent upon all those interested in playing to take the necessary action to register on time. As in past years, our commitment is to provide the best football playing experience for all participants. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We enjoy

running this program for the children of IHM, if there is anything we can do to help you feel more comfortable about the program, we want to help.

With questions, please feel free to contact any of the Football Representatives below.

Again, please do your part and register on time!

Thank you and have a great day.

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