

## Parent's Guide to the Varsity League Combine and Draft

Please visit the WYB website for further details: <http://www.worthingtonfootball.org>

### Background/History

Due to issues/growing concerns regarding competitive balance in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Football League, WYB implemented a player evaluation and team draft process. Historically we used elementary school attended and special requests as the primary means for team formation. Unfortunately this model created significant discrepancies in talent (and success) from team to team. It also created unnecessary administrative complexities while trying to accommodate special requests.

Initially the Combine/Draft process was met with some apprehension and animosity; however it is now regarded to be an extremely successful and structured process. During the first year we saw significant improvements in competitive balance.

### The Process

WYB conducts two Combine (Player Evaluation) Days. At these Combine Days, players will participate in several football related drills modeled after the NFL Combine, but slightly modified for players of this age group/caliber. We will have representatives from the league on hand to record results for each drill, which will then be used by our coaching staffs to select players (based on need) in the WYB Player Draft prior to the season.

During the Draft, the coaches will select players based on school attended, height/weight, and Combine scores (no player names will be used).

In order for this to be a "true" draft – **NO SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR TEAMS/COACHES WILL BE GRANTED**. The coaches are free to choose whichever player he wants, based on whatever criteria he chooses to use.

Also, there will be **NO PLAYING UP** (4<sup>th</sup> Grader playing in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade league), regardless of experience, physical attributes, age, or ability. We have leagues to accommodate players from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Players still will be separated by high school to be attended. (There essentially will be two drafts – one for players who will attend Thomas Worthington High School, and one for players who will attend Worthington Kilbourne High School.) This is to help them begin to learn the "system" at each high school as our teams use common playbooks and terminology relative to the high school they will attend.

### FAQs

**Q – How long does the process take?**

**A – We have found that the entire skills circuit can be completed in approximately 20 minutes.**

**Q – Do we have to stay the entire time?**

**A – No. Once you have completed the skills circuit, you are free to leave.**

**Q – Do we have to attend both Combine Days?**

A – No. We conduct two days to help accommodate schedules. Our expectations are for your son to participate in either day. They can participate in both days, but the drills are the same, and therefore it's completely unnecessary to attend both.

**Q - Does my son have to participate in the Combine?**

A – No. If your son doesn't wish to participate, he doesn't have to. He will still be subject to the draft, however the coaches will have very limited information to base their selection on (i.e. Elementary School attended, height/weight).

**Q – Does my son have to complete every drill/skill station?**

A – No. They can participate in as many or as few skill stations as they want. If they choose not to partake in a particular station the result/score will be reflected as an "N/A".

**Q - Will my son return to the team he played on last year (if he is a returning 6<sup>th</sup> grader)?**

A – Yes, If he chooses. If your son does not wish to return to the same team please indicate on the registration form under previous coach/team "Draft", and he will be re-entered into the draft. However, he still has the chance that he will be selected by his "old" team.

**Q - Can returning players still participate in the evaluation, even if they intend to return to their previous team?**

A – Yes, they can participate; their times/scores will not impact their current situation with their team.

**Q - Does my son have to be registered to play in order to participate in one of the Combine Days?**

A – Yes. We will confirm that the player has previously registered, or there will be a booth set up onsite to accept "in person" registrations.

**Q - What information will the coaches see during the selection process?**

A – In order for the coaches/staff to remain completely subjective, everything will be done as anonymously as possible. At the Combine Day the player will receive a participant number, and all times/scores will be linked to that number. On draft day, the coaches will not see any player names, they will see a player number, Elementary School attended, height, weight, grade, a composite score, and all individual scores for the drills completed. Essentially the coaches will be selecting by scores/statistics only. This limits the possibility of favoritism or evaluation tampering.

**Q - How will you determine each player's "score" in any particular drill?"**

A - We will write down/track individual results. These will then be sorted with all other players' results. The top third of the "class" will be given three stars, the middle third will be given two

stars, and the lower third will be given one star. So the number of stars given will be in direct relationship to the player's performance compared to the rest of his class.

**Q - Is this a try out process? Can my son be eliminated/refused participation based on the evaluation?**

A – Absolutely Not! Our intention is to bring more competitive balance to the league, give the players a taste of the “tryout” process, and above all to have fun. We have selected drills that correlate to the NFL Combine, this also allows us to measure several, wide-ranging skills needed to play football. (A player may not have elite speed, but may have an above average “throwing arm”). We have selected drills that will help us identify players' strengths, and areas of opportunity for the coaches to improve/teach.

**Q – I have two sons, one in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and one in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Can they be drafted by two separate teams?**

A – Only if you want them to be. As long as they are identified as siblings (or players residing at the same residence) we will keep them together, unless you indicate otherwise. So if a coach selects one of the siblings, he will automatically get the sibling, and will then lose his next round selection to compensate.

**Q – Does this affect the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade League or Flag Football?**

A – No. Those leagues will follow the traditional team selection process, which is players assigned to a team based on elementary school attended (we will also take into account the team's median weight to ensure some parity).

**Any further questions please contact:**

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