

Mokena Burros

**Tackle, Flag and Cheerleading
2017 HAND BOOK**



**Mokena Youth Athletic Association
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HISTORY OF BURROS FOOTBALL

It all started in 1963 with guys like Duan Niemann, Brian Knierim, the Patterson boys, Ray and Billy, Mark and Toby Krueger, Dewey Moses, Steve Sorenson, Scott Holladay, Duane Pierson, and a few others. George Krueger would haul the kids over to Lincoln-Way field and have a football game every Saturday afternoon that fall. It was a "choose up" side thing, and George began to have a few dreams when he saw the enthusiasm of these kids. They pressured him to start a real team, and with the help of a few parents, including Norm Patterson, Bob Pierson, Bob Fortman, Jim Kraft, and Chuck Swanberg, the Burros were formed in 1964.

The idea for the Burros name was given to Mr. Krueger as he watched a parade and the local Colt baseball team was using a little Burro for its mascot. That little Burro seemed so unhappy and was almost uncontrollable. Mr. Krueger liked the spirit of the little guy, and thought it might be a great symbol for a kid's football team. It would be different. As far as he knows, the Burros of Mokena are the only Burros.

On September 10, 1964 the Burros played their first game ever against the Kankakee Moose team in Beckman Park in Kankakee. Bill Widham, Kankakee's coach gave the Burros and George much assurance and help in getting started. That year the Burros won 2 and lost 6 with their first win coming at Downers Grove with Terry Ryan scoring the winning touchdown.

Krueger saw a need for organized play and in 1965 entered his Burros in the Southwest Midget Football League. Only the Heavies and Lights were officially entered. Krueger's Lights won the league championship by upsetting the Tinley Park Bulldogs 14-7 at Mokena Park in the last game of the year. John Ryan coached the heavies to second place that year. A Pee Wee team was formed in 1965 and Jim Lillie was the coach. His team went undefeated. Jim must have had a secret weapon that year, because he was overheard many times telling the defense captain to switch to the 6-3-3-1 defense.

After the Burros got their start, other towns in the four county area began to spring up, seeing that small towns can support a Pop Warner team. In 1965 and 1966 Mokena was the smallest town in America with an official Pop Warner team.

Foster Tekotte joined the coaching staff in 1966 and led the Pee Wees to another great season, winning the Goblin Bowl game in Bloomington on Halloween. Our two other teams won also. In league play in 1966, the Pee Wee won the unofficial title. The other teams both finished second.

The Burros played unattached in 1967 with Dick Mansell and Gene Hug joining the coaching staff that year. Both had great success with everything they did for the Burros. Hug was made head coach later, and Mansell had a heavyweight championship team.

In 1968 the Burros took on the class of the Chicago land Pop Warner teams. Krueger and his coaches joined the George Halas league. The league was comprised of teams in the big suburban affluent cities. The Burros Varsity won the title of the league in 1968 with a 19-13 win over Franklin Park. Krueger said that was his biggest thrill. The Burros stomped a team that had an average 48 points per game with no points scored against them all year. The star of that game

was a boy who had to be coaxed to stay on because he thought he was really not much good. Pat Loftus made 12 solo tackles that day. The Lights came in second that year and were coached by Gene Hug. 1969 was the last year for Mr. Krueger, his team took second place. Again Hug's team took second in a very competitive league.

Every year they took the whole team to a college game. The sites were Notre Dame, Northwestern, Northern IL, and Soldier Field. They all had a ball at those games. They saw Army play the Air Force one year. In those days, there were many problems that the organization doesn't have today. Who would run the line machine each game? Who would buy the paint? Who would hold the equipment till next season? Who would run the chain gang? Would we get anyone to work the concession stand? How would we raise money in a town with no rich people? Where do we keep the bus?

Back then the team owned all of the football shoes. Each boy was outfitted with a pair. The team owned about 120 pairs of shoes. The first few years there was no entry fee charged to the boys. It was nothing for a coach to work during the game. He would go to work in the concession stand, clean up the field, or do whatever was needed to be done.

Guys like Ron Naples, Rich Fronek, Julius Sandy, the Ericksons, Fortmanns, Pattersons, and so many others kept teams alive during rough times.

Jim, of the 1968 team, had tryouts with the Chicago Bears and Denver Broncos and came close to making it. He was the most valuable player on his college team, was a scholastic All American, and one year was the most valuable player for the Joliet Fire. He went to work in insurance and is now an executive.

While playing with the Burros in 1968, Blake Tekotte was named on the Pop Warner All American team. That was quite an honor.

Russ Dickerson, a fine boy on the 1966 team now has a very high position with the German government as a scientist. He has degrees from the University of Chicago, and the University of Michigan. He lives in Mainz, West Germany.

All of the boys Mr. Krueger coached he remembers most are the ones who need that little push to believe in themselves. They were his greatest challenge. What a time it was with guys like John Majewski, Kevin Quinn, Billy Clegg, Pat Loftus, Richie Fronek, Bob Dickens, the Thomas boys, Hentschel, Brad Miller, and Zuggy. Krueger feels these guys made the grade, and made it big for him - to show him they could do it!

As a famous sportsman once said, "Sport doesn't develop personality, it reveals it." – George Krueger.

If children don't leave the field with the feeling that they had a great time doing something they love, then the program is a failure. It's for the kid's to learn a little sportsmanship, football savvy, what injustice is, but most important it is for them to have some fun with their friends and parents.

We would like to thank Mr. George Krueger for his history on how the Burros started. We thought it interesting enough to tell the story. So if you are one of the many people who have been involved in the past, please write and tell us your story.

BURROS FOOTBALL, CHEERLEADING and FLAG PROGRAM

The Mokena Youth Athletic Association (Burros Football) is a non-profit organization formed to provide area youth with the opportunity to participate in football and cheerleading. Our goals are to promote and instill self-confidence, good sportsmanship, camaraderie, physical and mental development while learning the techniques of football and cheerleading.

Mandatory Family/Volunteer Participation Tackle and Cheer Only

In order to accomplish our goals, we rely on the assistance of parental volunteers. Therefore, we have a Mandatory Family/Volunteer Participation System. There is a deposit in the amount of **\$50.00** refundable at the end of the season if you have at least two signatures with dates from a Board Member(s). Each family can get the participation/signature form off of the Mokena Burros Website (www.mokenaburros.com). In order to receive your deposit back, each family is required to perform two (2) volunteer assignments during the season and obtain a Board member's signature with date of completion. There are no "half" refunds. Refunds **ONLY** available at equipment/uniform hand in . . . Listed are some of the Family/Volunteer options we are considering for this season. Please keep in mind, they are subject to change:

Field Setup	Split the Pot	Announcing/Spotter
Field Takedown	Burros Fest	Concession Stand
Scoreboard Operator	Field Cleanup	Chain Gang
Burros wear	Traffic/Parking	Homecoming
Cheerleading Mats		

All parents and fans are asked to help us keep our field clean before, during, and after all Practices and games. Please do your part and dispose of all trash properly.

Your child's sense of achievement will be heightened if he/she has your support. We encourage you to come to practices, as well as the games, to see your child's progress.

Team Parents

Team parents are an important part of our coaching support staff. At least one team parent is needed for each team/squad. At least one team parent must be present at each practice and game. These parents are responsible for taking attendance, handing out notes, collecting permission slips, and making necessary emails and phone calls. The Team Parent is responsible for the allocation and tracking of Family/Volunteer Participation assignments for each family within their Team/Squads. Team Parents work closely with Team Parent Coordinators to keep the lines of communication flowing.

Fees/Registration

Tackle Football Players, Cheerleaders, Flag and Jr. Burro:

Tackle:	\$250.00 (includes jersey which player keeps)
Super Lightweight Tackle:	\$175.00 (includes jersey which player keeps)
Cheer:	\$270.00 + (\$40 Homecoming clothes)
Flag:	\$135.00 (includes which player keeps)
Super Lightweight Cheer:	\$145.00 + (\$40 Homecoming clothes)

***THE BURROS ORGANIZATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST TICKETS
NO REPLACEMENT TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED.***

\$10 Varsity Big Raffle ticket.

All Varsity Lightweight, Varsity Heavyweight football players and all Varsity cheerleaders will be given thirty additional \$10 Big Raffle tickets to help offset costs for the varsity trips. Tickets will be distributed at a Trip Meeting and must be paid for at time of receipt, dates and times to be announced. **ORIGINAL TICKETS WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST.** Participants going on the trip, may be required to pay additional monies to cover the overall cost of the trip.

***Registration fees and raffle tickets are not refundable
THE BURROS ORGANIZATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST TICKETS
NO REPLACEMENT TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED.***

Fund-raisers

Fund-raisers are an important part of the Burros program. These are necessary in order to keep the participation costs down. These are some of the fund-raisers we are considering for this season. Please keep in mind, they are subject to change:

- **Each FAMILY will receive \$100 in raffle tickets to sell. The \$100 is charged at registration. Sell the tickets and pocket the money, they are already paid for. If you do not sell the tickets, you place your name on them and try to win a prize in the drawing. For each additional ticket you sell after your first \$100.00, keep \$5 of every \$10 ticket sold. For each 10 additional tickets sold your participant will receive one chance for a prize. 2016 prize was an X-Box 1. Drawing date to be determined.**
- **Varsity Big Raffle** – Thirty \$10.00 raffle tickets, with a grand prize. The drawing will be held at the Burros End of the Year Banquet.
- **Split the Pot** – This is our 50/50 game where you can win half the pot! This is available at all Burros Home games/events.
- **Sponsor Banners** – This fundraiser is targeted towards businesses in our community. Businesses, with minimum sponsorship, that sponsor the Burros will have a 4' x 3' banner that will be displayed around the football field during our home games. Information is available on the documents page of the Burros Website.



While at Mokena Main Park



Dropping off and picking up your child for practice

- Please **do not** make arrangements to drop off or pick up your child at the LaPorte Road entrance to Main Park near the Park Office. This is very dangerous for the children. Children should be dropped off at the concession area only!
- Obey the attached traffic flow diagram at all times when entering or leaving Main Park.
- Obey Burros traffic marshals. Remember, they are present for your safety and your child's safety.
- Limit your speed in the parking lot to 5 mph.
- Whenever possible, especially during summer practice, car pool with friends and neighbors.
- Be patient when leaving the park; the five minutes you gain by rushing is not worth an accident.
- There is NO parking for Burros functions in the lot adjacent to the Park Administration Office. That area is reserved for people attending Park District classes or meetings at the Park Office.
- Parking is not allowed in the grass, in the islands, or along the curbs by the concession, playground, or fire lanes, marked or un-marked. The Mokena Police Department will issue tickets.
- Park only in designated parking spaces or risk ticket or towing.
- Additional parking is available only at the Oaks, just East of Main Park.
- Cheer Parents carrying cheer mats must **PARK** their vehicle and walk the mats to the practice area. You are NOT permitted to stop in the drive lanes to unload your mats.

While at Mokena Elementary School

- Obey all traffic patterns in parking lot
- Keep the parking areas clean
- The asphalt access road to the West of MES is for emergencies **ONLY**. **DO NOT** use this road to drop off your child. **Do NOT** park in the vicinity of the access road entrance, Emergency Vehicles will need clear access if necessary.
- There is no parking on any grass areas.
There is NO smoking (including e-cigs) or drinking at all SD159 facilities.
- Parking is limited

While at United Methodist Church Flag Football

- Obey all traffic patterns in parking lot
- Keep the parking areas clean
- There is no parking on any grass areas.
- Parking is limited

Please notify grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and anyone else dropping off or picking up your child of these parking and traffic guidelines.

THE BURROS PROHIBIT ALCOHOL AND SMOKING AT ALL PRACTICE AND GAME FACILITIES. THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY! DOGS, CATS OR OTHER PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY BURROS GAME OR PRACTICE. IF YOU BRING YOU PET, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE WITH IT. Violators will be asked to leave the Facility. Code of Conduct will be enforced.

Parents are encouraged to assist with traffic control throughout the season. Please see your Team Parent or contact a Burros Board Member if you would like to assist.

Lightning Prediction System – Main Park

If threatening weather sets in during practice, please come to pick up your child immediately. We do not practice when it is lightening. No shelters are available at the park during this type of weather.

LIGHTNING is a severe hazard that must be viewed seriously. Players should STOP PLAY and SEEK SHELTER when lightning threatens them, even if a signal has not been sounded.

Mokena's Main Park is equipped with a Lightning Prediction System. This system sounds ONE prolonged HORN BLAST signaling suspension of all activities. All patrons should IMMEDIATELY SEEK SHELTER in major buildings or vehicles. THREE five-second HORN BLASTS signaling PLAY MAY BE RESUMED. If you hear a warning and continue to play, you do so at your own risk! Please keep in mind that there are two audible warnings:

- **Lightning Imminent: ONE prolonged HORN BLAST.**
- **Reduced Danger: THREE five-second HORN BLASTS.**

PLEASE BE PROMPT IN PICKING UP YOUR CHILD

Injuries

1. Any child injured during a football season that requires medical attention must have a signed doctor's release to participate in subsequent practices or games for the current season. This release must be turned in to the Athletic Director (AD) for football, Cheer Director (CD) for Cheer or Flag Director (FD) for flag football.
2. Any child who contracts an infectious disease (other than a cold or the flu) during a football season must have a signed doctor's release to participate in subsequent practices or games. This release must be turned in to the AD, CD or FD.
3. It is the responsibility of the parents to contact the AD, CD or FD to obtain league medical forms in the event that there's an injury during a Burros game, practice, or event. This should be done immediately following the injury and before the end of the season. This insurance is a secondary policy to offset costs not covered by your insurance. There is a co-pay with this secondary insurance.

Due to safety concerns, League regulations, and insurance requirements, no one except the players, coaches, Board members and Board authorized personnel will be allowed beyond the barricades on surrounding the field at Burros home games at Main Park, or inside the fence at any High School. Parents and spectators are not allowed on sidelines with players and coaches at any time during any game.

Conduct

1. All players, parents, and fans are to adhere to the rules and regulations of the Mokena Park District in regards to traffic, field usage, and alcohol/tobacco usage. This also applies to other Parks and Facilities that we visit while on the road.

2. Due to safety concerns, League regulations, and, insurance requirements, no one except the players, coaches, Board members and Board authorized personnel will be allowed on the East side of the field at Burros home games at Main Park or inside the fenced area at any High School. The same applies to player/coach designated areas at away games. Only players and coaches for the current game, Board members and Board authorized personnel are allowed inside the roped off field area.
3. Parents are not allowed on sidelines with players and coaches at any time during any game.
4. Parents and visitors are to park in designated parking spots only or as directed by a Burros Board member or the visiting town.
5. Parents are responsible for making sure that their child is on time for practices/games and that they are picked up on time following all games and Burros events. Participants that are allowed by parents or guardians to walk home shall notify the Head Coach or Team Parent in writing or email. This practice is **HIGHLY** discouraged by the Mokena Burros for the safety of all our kids.
6. All members are to use good sportsmanship and conduct.

Cleaning Instructions

Football:

Jerseys should be cleaned in cold water and hung up to dry. Do not bleach or use fabric softener. Pants should be cleaned in warm water with no bleach and dried in the dryer on permanent press. Pads and helmets should be wiped down with a damp cloth, water only. Do not throw the knee, hip, or thigh pads in the washing machine or dryer! **Do not use any cleaning solvent, soap, or waxes of any kind on the helmets.**

Cheerleading:

Shells, skirts, uni-fits, and socks are to be washed in cold water and hung to dry. Do not iron/dry clean.

Equipment Turn-In

Equipment turn-in will be after the season ends. All uniforms (excluding football player's jerseys and cheerleaders wind pants/pullover jacket) are the exclusive property of the Mokena Youth Athletic Association (Mokena Burros) and must be returned at or before the scheduled turn-in date. Uniforms must be returned clean, on time, and in good condition. **Any lost, damaged, or non-returned uniforms will be billed at the current replacement cost. If equipment is not returned or paid for, the family is ineligible to play or cheer until restitution is made. No awards or trophies will be awarded if equipment is not turned in before the due date or banquet. Anyone, who returns equipment later than 30 days after the due date or does not return all issued equipment without making immediate restitution, will not be allowed to sign up the following season unless a full equipment deposit is made for the full cost of all equipment (refundable when all equipment is turned in).**

Burros Wear

We offer a special collection of Burros logo items, ordered before the first game of the season. There may be limited Burros Wear available at home games under the Burro Tent.

Notes

The Burros web site will be updated throughout the year with important information, games, schedules, maps, etc. Visit us at www.mokenaburros.com. **Participants are required to ensure the Burros have current email addresses so information can be distributed via email. Team Parents and Coaches will utilize email for all pertinent information throughout the course of the season. It is the parent or guardians responsibility to ensure they are receiving these emails.**

Homecoming

Homecoming will be scheduled after we receive the game schedule for the River Valley Football League. We try to plan events to make this a special weekend for the kids, such as a pep rally, bonfire, dance, and or a special performance by all of our cheerleaders.

Cheerleading Competition

The Squad will compete in IRCA sponsored competitions. Those Squads that receive a State Competition Bid may be required to pay additional costs for this Competition. State Competitions are not a Burros sanctioned function.

Varsity Trips

Varsity Cheerleaders and Varsity Football players will attend a separate Varsity Trip. There is an extra cost per participant for these trips in addition to all players on these teams purchasing/selling a total of thirty \$10.00 Big Raffle tickets. Additional fees to cover costs of the trip may apply and be the responsibility of the participant.

Awards Banquet

After all the games are played and the season is just a memory, we have our year end banquet to recognize the achievements of all the tackle football players and cheerleading participants. Reservations are needed for this banquet. Information and costs for the banquet will be distributed/mailed to each participant/family. (Time/Location TBA)

BURROS FLAG FOOTBALL POLICIES

Mission Statement

The mission of the Burros Flag Football program is to teach young children ages 6 through 14 the basics and fundamentals of football while promoting the values of good sportsmanship and teamwork. Above all, the objective of the program is to provide young children the opportunity to have fun and make friends while learning the game of football.

Eligibility

The Traditional Flag program is open to all children (boys and girls) ages 6, 7, and 8 years old. Children who are 8 years old must weigh less than 80 lbs. and cannot turn 9 years of age before August 31st.

The 8-10 year old Flag Passing Program. This is open to all boys and girls aged 9 – 10 or 8 year old weighing more than 80 pounds. Participants cannot turn 10 years old before August 31st of the season year.

The 11-13 year old Flag Passing Program. This is open to all boys and girls aged 11-13 ONLY, Participants cannot be in high school or turn 14 years old before August 31st of the season year.

Players must show proof of age by birth certificate. Each player must be present at fitting day to be weighed and sized for jerseys.

Draft

Flag Draft will be coordinated by the Flag Director, at his discretion, to ensure equality between teams to the best of his ability. No Parent requests will be allowed for specific Teams.

Requests for specific days a participant will practice will be dependent on the Team they are placed on and will be honored to the best of our ability. There are no guarantees to practice days.

Teams

Team composition will consider the age and size of each player, the intent is to have all teams equal in age and weight to promote competitive play. Once you are on a Team, you will remain on that team as long as you participate in each age League.

Participation

Each player will play in every game. Player positions and substitutions are up to the discretion of the coaches. Team roster sizes are designed to allow for minimal substitution and player absences. It is important that players make every attempt to attend all practices and games.

Games

Games will be held on Saturday mornings, or as determined by the Burros, with the first game scheduled to be played in Mid-August. Games will be played at either Main Park or behind Mokena Elementary School, or as designated by the Flag Director. The official game schedule with dates and times will be given out at the start of preseason practice.

Practice Traditional Flag Practice will start at the beginning of August. Practices will be held behind United Methodist Church, LaPorte Road in Mokena or Mokena Intermediate School. Flag teams practice twice a week: Monday's and Wednesday's, or Tuesday's and Thursday's from approximately 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM. Once team rosters have been established, team coaches will notify each player with information on their specific practice dates/times. 9-10 and 11-13 Flag will practice up to 3 days per week. Practice day to be determined. Practices will be from 5:30PM to 7:00pm. Coaches will notify each player with information on their specific practice dates and times. Any Participant in the 8-10 year old level may also participate in Tackle Football with the corresponding age group. To play in both leagues, the participant must first register for tackle football. Once complete, the participant shall notify the Athletic Director and Flag Director for special instruction on registering for the 8-10 year flag program. There are reduced Flag registration rates for participating in both programs. If a participant in both programs quit the Tackle Program at any time, they will also be removed from the Flag Program.

Equipment

Each Flag Player will be furnished with a jersey, flag helmet, mouth guard, and set of flags. The helmet must be returned, players are allowed to keep their jersey and flags. Jerseys will have the player's last name printed on the back of the jersey, so it is important to have the correct spelling of the last name given at registration. Gym shoes or football shoes are required. Metal spikes are not permitted. Football pants with belt loops are also recommended.

Parking

When dropping off and picking up your children from practices and games, please use extreme caution and avoid your child having to cross the street or walk between cars to get to your vehicle. Parents are asked to share this information with anyone responsible for dropping off or picking up their child. See page 6 for additional information on parking.

Flag Bowl

The Flag Bowl is a special event that marks the end of the Flag season. The Flag Bowl is a single-elimination tournament involving all flag teams. Each player will receive a Commemorative Medallion. The Flag Bowl winners receive a championship medallion. The Flag Bowl will take place in early October. Exact dates, times, and location will be announced once the season begins. Teams are encouraged to make this a special day for the participants and have a team tent for the day. Each Team is encouraged to have food and non-alcoholic beverages available for the families, at the families cost.

Flag Pro Bowl

The Flag Pro Bowl is an additional game played by all 8year olds from the 6-8 year old League. The game is designed to be fun and showcase our 8 year old Flaggers. Each Pro Bowl participant will get a Pro Bowl Jersey.

BURROS TACKLE FOOTBALL POLICIES

Mission Statement

The mission of the Burros Tackle Football program is to teach children ages 6-14 the basics and fundamentals of football while promoting self-confidence, good sportsmanship, camaraderie, physical, and mental development. Lightweight through Varsity play in a competitive environment while the Super Lightweight level focuses on development and competition.

Eligibility

1. Participants may reside outside of the Village of Mokena.
2. Player age 6 and 7 on or before August 31 of the season have to play on the Super Lightweight level. Players age 8 and 9 on or before August 31 with a weight that exceeds 110 pounds can only play on the Lightweight Level. Players age 10 who weigh more than 136 pounds can only play on the Junior Varsity Level.
3. Registration is on a first come first served basis, with alumni receiving priority, so that as many children as possible can participate. A waiting list will be established after maximum registration is reached at each level. Maximum registration shall be determined by the Athletic Director (AD) each year, with River Valley dictating no more than 50 players per roster.
4. Players must show proof of age by submitting a *birth certificate copy* to remain on file with the Burros. This is a league requirement. If there is not a birth certificate on file, the player will not be able to weigh in.

5. All players must be present at fitting day to be weighed and sized for jerseys.
6. Each Player shall weigh in before EACH game as required by The River Valley Football League

Team Placement

The River Valley Football League regulates teams. Age and weight classifications are strictly enforced as follows and subject to change by the League.

- Super Lightweights – 6-7-8 year olds.....up to 80 pounds bare weight
 - Striper 6-7-8 year olds.....up to 85 pounds bare weight
 - Double Striper 6-7 year olds....unlimited
 - Age 9.....58 pounds or less
- Lightweight – 8-9-10 year oldsup to 103 pounds bare weight
 - Striper 8-9-10 year olds.....up to 108 pounds bare weight
 - Double Striper 8-9 year olds.....unlimited
 - Age 11.....74 pounds or less
- Junior Varsity – 10-11-12 year oldsup to 123 pound bare weight
 - Striper 10-11 year olds.....up to 134 pounds bare weight
 - Double Striper 10 year olds.....unlimited
 - Age 13.....up to 91 pounds bare weight
- Varsity 12-13-14 year olds.....up to 161 pounds bare weight
 - Striper.....up to 192 pounds bare weight
 - Double Striper.....up to 228 pounds bare weight

Note: Age is determined by the child’s age as of August 31 of the current year. Weight matrix subject to change by River Valley League

Official Weigh-in

Each Tackle Football player shall weigh in before each game at the Game Location.

- It is the parent’s responsibility to make sure that the child attends each weigh in prior to the game. Failure to weigh in will cause the player to be ineligible to play in the game.
- No child can be moved to a team that exceeds his/her age and/or weight classification, unless he/she has permission by his/her parents and the Athletic Director. The AD should then bring this issue to the Board of Directors. A mutual decision as to what is best for the player will be discussed. If the decision is for the child to be moved to a team that exceeds his/her weight, the parents will then be notified and will sign waivers of insurance and responsibility.
A Player may be made a striper or double striper for a game if his weight exceeds the requirements of the League.
- The Mokena Youth Athletic Association, Burros Football, does NOT condone any weight loss to make a specific team.
- Players not making weight (being over the maximum for the team they are rostered on) at the first weigh-in will have the opportunity to play on a heavier weight team (if available), but only with the permission of the parent/guardian, and approval of the Athletic Director.

Participation

1. A player cannot be dropped from a Team for any reason unless there is Board approval.
2. All participants are required to attend Friday practices (or the last practice before a game). Unexcused absences will be addressed in the following manner:
 - Football players - cannot participate in the opening series of the game. For offensive players this would mean the first offensive series. For defensive players this would mean the first defensive series. For players playing both ways this would mean no participation in both the first offensive and defensive series.
3. Attendance will be taken at all practices and games.
4. Each Player is required to play in a minimum of 5 plays each Saturday, including 5th Quarter games
5. Each parent must agree to the Burros Parent/Player Code of Participation form stating that they have read and agree to this Code of Participation.

Games

Game schedules will be handed out as soon as the River Valley Football League establishes them. You can most likely expect one preseason game, eight regular season games and playoffs of up to 3 games. Depending upon the team, your game day may vary. Games are played on Saturday OR Sunday games. Wednesday Games are played for player development (except Varsity). Players and parents need to be flexible as changes to the schedule may occur. Always refer to the Mokena Burros Website for any changes or additions. Visit The River Valley League Website for more game information and formats

A Team with a significant number of players may participate in a Fifth Quarter game prior to the start of the regular season game. This gives every opportunity for every player to see playing time. If there is a need, Wednesday Night games may be scheduled to give even more opportunity for players to see playing time. Both the Fifth Quarter and Wednesday games are designed to increase the potential of the participant

Practice

Practices will be held at Mokena's Main Park and/or behind Mokena Elementary School. Depending upon the team, you may be required to practice at another park at various times throughout the season. Practices will be 5 nights per week from 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. during the month of August. Once school starts, practices will be reduced to 3 nights per week. Exact practice dates will be dependent upon your team and will be staggered to alleviate congestion at the Park. Practice times may change as the season progresses according to daylight hours. Only the Athletic Director can change practice times or locations, with sufficient notice.

PARENTS: You must be on time to pick up your player at the end of practice. If you are going to be late make sure other arrangements are made, BUT it's the parent responsibility to contact the designated team Parent or Coach.

COACHES: MUST NOT leave until they are certain all the kids on their team roster are picked up. "No Kid Left Behind".

Equipment

Each football player will be issued a helmet, shoulder pads, thigh pads, knee pads, black game pants and black calf high socks. Pink socks may be handed out to be worn during October in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness. Equipment hand out will be announced on the Mokena Burros Website. You will be notified of the exact date and location. Your child will be fitted at

that time for proper size. Pads will be used for practice and games. Present season GAME JERSEY and GAME PANTS are not to be worn for practice. In addition to the equipment we provide, your football player will need:

- White practice pants and belt.
- Good fitting spikes (no metal or screw-in types)
- Football Girdle with pads
- Athletic Supporter and cup, required
- Tee shirt or jersey to wear over their pads during practice.
- Cold weather gear to wear under their pads when the weather turns cold.

The Burros have continually worked to supply participants with quality helmets and shoulder pads. The Burros have replacement bladders and chin straps for Burros equipment ONLY. If a participant has their own helmet and or shoulder pads, a waiver will need to be signed acknowledging the use of their own equipment. It will be the parent/guardians responsibility to ensure the equipment is properly fitted and in good condition at all times during the course of the season. The Burros will NOT be responsible for any damage to or injury resulting from improperly fitted participant supplied equipment. All helmets must be reconditioned every 2 years by a reputable company to ensure they are safe to use.

1. Any lost, damaged or non-returned equipment will be billed at the current replacement cost. If equipment is not returned or paid for, a family is ineligible to play until restitution is made. No awards or trophies will be awarded if equipment is not turned in before date due or banquet. Anyone who returns equipment any later than 30 days after the due date or does not return all issued equipment without making immediate restitution, will not be allowed to sign up the following year unless a full equipment deposit is made for the full cost of all equipment (refundable when all equipment is turned in.)
2. Uniforms must be clean and look presentable in order to participate in activities on game day. **Players must wear black over the calf socks for games as provided by the Burros.** A pair will be issued to each player at equipment hand-out.
3. Any player found to have altered or not have the proper equipment will not be able to participate in practices and games.
4. The Equipment Director will distribute game jerseys during practice prior to the first game of the season. All equipment is to be kept in good condition. Any problems should be reported to the Equipment Director immediately.
5. No stickers other than the “MB” or “B” shall be placed on the helmet without Board Approval.
6. No alterations to the current year game jersey allowed during the current season.
7. Players are encouraged to wear their game jersey to school on Fridays preceding games.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- I. To teach and instruct players in strict adherence to the objectives in article 1 of the Mokena Youth Athletic Association bylaws. *Objective: To promote and instill self-confidence, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie, physical and mental development while learning the techniques of football and cheerleading.*
- II. To attend practices and games on time or make provisions to have suitable replacement personnel attending in your place.

- III. To always remember that you are instructing young athletes and your instruction must be geared for youth in regards to language and physical instruction.
- IV. To teach the game of football in a tough, intense manner, without instructing purposeful injuring or "loop holing" rules of play.
- V. To adhere to the laws of the Mokena Park District and Mokena School District 159 in regards to traffic, field usage, alcohol/tobacco usage. This also applies to other Parks and Facilities that we visit while on the road.
- VI. To always try to be a positive influence on those we instruct and make their time in our program a fun and enjoyable experience.
- VII. All Coaches will be required to sign a code of conduct letter which will be held on file with the Sgt-At-Arms
- VIII. All Coaches will be required to submit to a back ground check as determined by the Burros Board of Directors. The cost of this will be at the Boards expense.

BURROS CHEERLEADING POLICIES

Mission Statement

The Mokena Burro cheerleaders are committed to promoting spirit and enthusiasm in a positive way to reflect upon the Burros Football Organization, and to promote healthy group interaction among its members.

Our purpose is to acquaint young girls with the basic fundamentals of cheerleading and to encourage them to stay in shape physically and mentally. We hope to encourage sportsmanship, fair play, and cooperation through practice, performance at all home and away games and by participating in competitions. We hope to offer them the skills necessary to be competitive at the high school level if they so desire.

Squads may be combined depending on the number of participants and will be designated with their corresponding football team prior to the start of the season.

Practice Dates and Time:

Practice will begin first week of August, exact date and time will be posted on website at www.mokenaburros.com. Practices will be held at Main Park in Mokena or behind Mokena Elementary School. Cheer squads will practice Monday through Friday from 5:30-7:30pm (unless otherwise indicated by your team's head coach) until the start of school. After the start of school practices will go down to two or three days a week (noted by your team's head coach).

Indoor competition practices will begin sometime after Sept. 1st. Competition practices take place at various facilities in the Mokena area. When space is limited, Main Park will be utilized for practice. Competition practice times will vary between 5:00 – 9:00 pm with the older squads usually having the later time slots. No more than six hours a week will be allowed for competition practices. Indoor practices please wear cheer shoes.

If you attend Religious Education, please notify your head coach of the date.

Outdoor practices: Please be sure your child is prepared for changes in the temperature. In the event of bad weather, the Cheer Director will make a decision by 4:45pm whether or not to hold

practice. All cancellations will be posted on the Mokena Burros Website:
www.mokenaburros.com.

Rule of Thumb: If the football players are practicing / playing, the cheerleaders are cheering.

Practice Guidelines:

Parents are encouraged to watch the girls practice, off to the side when outside. Parents are not to interfere with the coaches and or team moms and what they are trying to accomplish. Anyone disrupting practice may be asked to leave. Friends and siblings are not allowed at practice unless accompanied by cheerleader's parent. Parents are not allowed at indoor practice. Practice is more effective with fewer distractions especially where indoor space is so tight.

Appearance / hair: Hair MUST be in a high pony tail and pulled away from the face.

Dress for practice: Stretch type shorts or leggings are appropriate for practice. Girls cannot practice in jeans or tight clothing (no zippers). No excessively oversized clothing is allowed as correct body position cannot be determined. No rolled up shirts of any kind/half shirts will be allowed at practice. Proper undergarments are to be worn at all times. Cheer shoes are allowed. No sandals or sling-back gym shoes are allowed. No jewelry of any kind including body piercing. Religious medal and medic alerts are allowed and should be taped down inside the shirt. Excessively long, real or artificial, fingernails are not allowed. No zippers on any article of clothing are allowed. If dressed inappropriately, girls will not be allowed to practice but will sit with the team moms. These girls will be responsible to learn what is taught at practice.

Food: Will not be allowed during practice, half time or games. Please eat prior to coming to the park, at the park but before practice/games, or after practice/games. No food or drink (except water) will be allowed at indoor practices. Teams in violation will have their indoor practices revoked. (Only medical reasons brought to the coach's attention is food allowed).

Water Bottles: Should be brought to practice/games. Please label all water bottles and remember to take them home.

At the Cheer Directors discretion, judgment calls will be made about these rules without board approval.

Dropping Off and Picking Up:

For outdoor practices, the girls practice Mokena Main Park, or Mokena Elementary School or other location as determined by the Cheer Director. Girls are not to wander off from their squads – they are dismissed as a group.

Parents carrying Cheer Mats for practice MUST park their vehicle and walk the mats to the practice location. You are NOT ALLOWED to stop in a drive lane to unload or load cheer mats. Violation of this policy may get a child injured and will not be tolerated.

Chronic lateness in dropping off and/or picking up will not be tolerated.

Uniforms:

All Cheerleaders will be issued uniforms, which the Burros Organization provides, that consist of a shell, skirt, and uni-fit. The shell, skirt and uni-fit is to be returned clean and in the same manner in which they were loaned to you. There will be a designated uniform hand in date at the end of the season.

In addition to the equipment the Burros Organization provides, all cheerleaders will need to purchase the following items to complete the uniform requirements:

- Cheer Shoes - to be purchased through the Burros only. All levels except First Grade are required to purchase. They can wear white leather or vinyl low heeled gm shoes.
- Spankies – are to be purchased through the Burros.
- Warm up suits are to be purchased through the Burros and are mandatory for all Cheerleaders.
- Socks shall be purchased through the Burros
- Rain jacket
- Each squad collects \$30.00 per girl for Bows and additional items given throughout the season.
- Varsity Trip Wear – VARSITY ONLY – Camp wear will be announced for purchase at the Varsity Camp meeting (approx. \$60.00)
- Summer Camp Wear – if not attending camp, all cheerleaders/mascots are required to purchase - this will be worn during the homecoming halftime.

All equipment is to be kept in good condition – NO alterations can be made to the uniform. Any problems should be reported to the Cheer Director immediately.

Do not dry clean or place in dryer.

Failure to turn in uniform at the designated hand in date will be charged \$275.00 and will forfeit their Alumni status with Burros.

Note: Any Burros cheerleader caught wearing or loaning out her Burros cheerleader uniform for a costume at Halloween will be dismissed immediately from her squad and will forfeit her Alumni status with the Burros. Any football player associated with the Burros caught wearing a Burros Cheerleading Uniform for a costume at Halloween will be dismissed immediately from their team and will forfeit their alumni status with the Burros.

Games:

Cheerleaders will cheer every weekend from the middle of August until the beginning of October for both home and away games, Saturday or Sunday depending on the schedule, (Regular Season Games only) regardless of the weather. Always come prepared to cheer in all weather. Each team member will wear the same combination of Burros Issued Apparel (only) as decided by her team's Head Coach.

Game Appearance and Expectations:

Cheerleaders are to arrive one hour prior to their scheduled game time in full uniform unless otherwise directed by their coach(s). Only Burros issued clothing is to be worn. Girls are to prepare a "cheer bag" which will include each piece of their uniform and to be brought to each

game. Please allow driving time, traffic, and parking problems. If you know in advance you will be late, please call you coach(s) ahead of time. Girls arriving late for practice prior to a game will sit out of the half time performance for that day's game. No one will be allowed to participate in a uniform that is dirty or incomplete.

Girls are to remain with their squad from the time they arrive at the field until their game is over, they shake hands with opposing team's cheerleaders and cheer the next Burros Football team through the goal posts. Injured girls must dress for games in full uniform and sit with their team moms. Girls not in the appropriate uniform will be prohibited from cheering that game. All girls must be dressed alike while cheering on the sidelines and during their halftime performances. Blue, black or white hats, scarves or mittens can be worn in cold weather. We encourage parents to attend all the games or make arrangements for their daughter to be picked up promptly. The Burros are not responsible for girls left at the field after game.

All cheerleaders should have all pieces of their uniforms by the first game. Cheerleaders not in compliance with the uniform requirements will not be allowed to cheer until the requirements are met.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken at all practices and games. Each cheerleader should arrive on time and be willing to give 100%. Practice and games are crucial to cheerleaders. Girls are required to attend all practices and games:

1. Absences will not be tolerated
2. All cheerleaders are to check in with their team parents and be checked for appropriate attire.
3. All absences must be reported to the coach(s) prior to a game or practice. Report by telephone call is required. Emails and text messages to are not considered communication. Communication is essential.
4. Cheerleaders must attend the last weekday practice before their game in order to participate in halftime.
5. Any cheerleader with three or more absences (practice and/or games) per season can be dismissed from there squad unless she is injured or has a valid Doctor's excuse for not participating. Any cheerleader released from Burros due to attendance will have their Alumni status revoked. There are NO Refunds.

Cheerleading Conduct

1. Cheerleaders are first and foremost, BURROS cheerleaders.
2. Respect the sport of cheerleading, your coaches, yourself and your teammates.
3. All cheerleaders shall demonstrate lady like behavior and good sportsmanship at all practices, games and Burros functions.
4. Cheerleaders are to cooperate with their peers, coaches and team moms at all times.
5. No talking back to any of the volunteers.
6. Disputes between girls, coaches, team moms, or parents are not to interfere with the practices/games. All problems will be handled by the coach away from the other cheerleaders.
7. Any cheerleader creating a problem, disrupting a squad, or exhibiting a poor attitude, no effort or not trying, fostering a poor attitude in others will be dealt with immediately.

8. Be polite and attentive when watching routines of opposing teams at the field and at competitions.
9. Cheerleaders not willing to participate in practice will wait out the remainder of the practice. Continued unwillingness to participate will result in a suspension from the upcoming game. The cheerleader will be required to attend the game in full uniform and sit their team parents or coaches.
10. Foul language or gestures will not be tolerated. No hitting, spitting or purchasing will be tolerated. These types of behavior will result in immediate suspension for the next game and possibly the organization.
11. Smoking and alcohol is not prohibited. Coaches, team parents will not be allowed to smoke around cheerleaders.
12. Cheerleaders caught smoking/drinking at a Burro function will be dismissed from their squad, the organization have their alumni status revoked.
13. Stunting is allowed during scheduled practices and games in indicated areas as approved by coaches.

Parents and Cheerleaders, if at any time you feel you have a problem or feel you are being treated unfairly, the following steps need to be taken:

1. Notify Team Parent/Coach. If the matter still remains unresolved then
2. Notify the Cheer Director or Asst. Cheer Director –if unresolved then
3. Contact the Mokena Burros Board through the written grievance procedure.

Misconduct in items listed above will lead to a parent conference. In the event the problem persists the cheerleader will be dismissed from the organization with board approval.

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- II. To attend practices and games on time or make provisions to have suitable replacement personnel attending in your place.
- III. To always remember that you are instructing young athletes and your instruction must be geared for youth in regards to language and physical instruction.
- IV. To adhere to the laws of the Mokena Park District and Mokena School District 159 in regards to traffic, field usage, alcohol/tobacco usage. This also applies to other Parks and Facilities that we visit while on the road.
- V. To always try to be a positive influence on those we instruct and make their time in our program a fun and enjoyable experience.
- VI. All Coaches will be required to sign a code of conduct letter which will be held on file with the Sgt-At-Arms
- VII. All Coaches will be required to submit to a back ground check as determined by the Burros Board of Directors. The cost of this will be at the coach's expense.

Competition:

The Burro Cheerleaders compete in 1-4 competitions each season. Participation in cheerleading competition(s) is voluntary, not mandatory. Competition is open to all cheerleaders on the squad willing to commit themselves to their coach, their teammates and the desire to achieve to the best of their ability. Being on the competition squad does not mean additional practices. The normal

practice schedule will be followed except for a change in times, locations and practice format. Practice format will shift from preparation for halftime routines to learning and perfecting the competition routing designed by your coach based upon the squad's abilities. A final decision to commit to the competition squad will be required by the second week of August. Squads may qualify for State Competition bids. State competition is held in December. Participation is optional. Travel and related expenses are NOT covered by the Burros.

1. In door practices will start sometime after Sept. 1st.
2. Cheerleaders signing up for competition must be able to make a full commitment to yourself and your squad. Not only does the cheerleader need to commit, but the parent(s) as well, must be willing to make a full commitment to their cheerleader to and from each practice or make arrangements to do so.
3. There will be not tolerance for absences.
4. Any cheerleader with three or more absences per season, games or practices, can be dismissed from her squad unless she is injured or has a valid Doctor's excuse.
5. Must follow directions
6. Dedication to give 100% at practice, as well as, 10-20 min. on her own on off days with the exception of stunt routines will be required.
7. Chronic lateness or tardiness will not be tolerated.
8. Cheerleaders must commit to every scheduled competition for her team. They may not choose which competitions to attend.
9. Competitions will not be scheduled on game days.
10. Competitions will take place during the regular Burros season.

Trophies:

Each cheerleader completing a full season with the Burros is guaranteed to receive a participation trophy.

Cheerleaders participating in competition will receive a larger trophy with a plaque stating their accomplishments/winnings at competition.

Camps:

Summer Camp: All cheerleaders are offered an opportunity to attend this camp! The cheerleaders are taught a squad half time cheer and a 90 sec. Dance routine and specific stunts. This 90 second dance routine will be incorporated into the Burros Homecoming Halftime. The price of the camp will include Shirt, Shorts and Socks which will be worn during Halftime at Homecoming. Time/location/Date will be announced on the Mokena Burros Website.

Varsity Trip:

All Varsity Cheerleaders are invited to attend this camp. Time/Location/Date will be announced on the Mokena Burros Website and at a Varsity Trip meeting. At this time all cheerleaders are required to purchase their additional 6 Big Raffle Tickets.

All Cheerleaders should expect to purchase the camp wear to be worn each day of the camp. The cost is approx. \$40.00.

Homecoming:

One practice day a week will be dedicated to learning the Homecoming routine performed on the day of Homecoming. These practices will begin three weeks prior to our designated

homecoming date (TBA). All coaches and cheerleaders must attend all homecoming practice days in order to perform in the Homecoming show. All cheerleaders are required to perform in both homecoming performances as well as all games scheduled that day for her team.

Part of homecoming festivities is a Pep Rally and court announcements, which will be taken place the Friday before Homecoming. Parents are encouraged to attend – coaches are not responsible for cheerleaders/players. These festivities will take place weather permitting.

Cheerleading Practice Locations

Outdoor Practice Location

Lincoln Way East High School, La Grange Road,
Frankfort, Mokena Intermediate School, 195th Street, Mokena
Or as determined by the Board

Indoor Competition Practice Locations

Velocity All Sport, 9120 W. 191st Street, Mokena, IL

(Additional Indoor Practice Facilities may be added at Cheer Director Discretion)

General

- Alcohol and tobacco is prohibited at Burros practices, games and functions with the children present.
- Possession or use of illegal drugs or abuse of prescription drugs is prohibited.
- Any spectator, person, parent, guardian or participant in violation of the Burros Policy can be removed from practice, game or function. Violators can be removed from the program.

Should you have any questions or concerns, the Board members are here to assist you. Board members are at all practices and games. Please feel free to approach them at the field. Should a situation arise and you need to speak to someone immediately, their names are listed below – please contact a board member via email at info@mokenaburros.com:

Executive Board Members and Position

President	Joe Lentz, email President@Mokenaburros.com
Vice President	Jim Andresen
Treasurer	Bob Huscher
Secretary	Dan Canniff info@mokenaburros.com
Athletic Director	Pat Gill AD@mokenaburros.com
Equipment Director	Scott Linklater
Cheer Director	Heather Bon Cheer@mokenaburros.com
Flag Director	Drew Haverstock Flag@mokenaburros.com

SEE BURROS WEBSITE FOR REMAINING BOARD MEMBERS www.mokenaburros.com

Unless otherwise posted, Board meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Grace Fellowship Church or a location posted at www.mokenaburros.com website. All Board meetings are open to the Public. Anyone wishing to request to be scheduled to speak or make a general presentation to the Board may submit their request through any Board member to be forwarded to the Secretary, or, by e-mail 'info@mokenaburros.com'. Requests will be scheduled/confirmed by the Secretary, President or Vice President.

ANYTHING NOT COVERED IN THIS PACKET WILL BE DEALT WITH ON A CASE, BY CASE, BASIS BY /DIRECTORS AND BOARD MEMBERS.