

GRACEAC

Grand Rapids Area Catholic Elementary Athletic Council



FLAG FOOTBALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fall 2020

Mission Statement: The GRACEAC Flag Football program introduces organized football for 3rd/4th grade student athletes. The focus of this program is to learn the basics of the game and most of all to have FUN. It provides a team opportunity, and extends GRACEAC's reach for its Catholic fellowship ministries to participating youth and adult volunteers.

Coaches need to be especially attuned to the age and need for a less competitive nature. Coaches are to encourage all players to play numerous positions on both offense and defense. This makes the game more fun and interesting, and grows enthusiasm for future participation in this great sport. Encourage parents to attend practices and games and to be supportive and good sports.

GENERAL INFORMATION on FLAG FOOTBALL

1. The season will run from September after Labor Day through mid to later October.
2. The season will consist of two events per week for a maximum 1.5-hours each. One of the weekly events will be on Saturdays
3. The first weeks of the season before the first game will be dedicated to practice. Subsequent weeks will consist of one week-day practice and one practice/game event on Saturdays.
4. All details and communication about season events, expectations and notices will be through GRACEAC's TeamSnap app/website.
5. Flag football is a non-contact sport, but there may be inadvertent contact.
6. All coaches will be overseen by GRACEAC staff and must pass State of Michigan background checks and be register as completing VIRTUS training and other requirements as directed by GRACEAC and the Diocese.
7. To best achieve the objectives of the program, playing time in games and practices will be distributed as equally as practicable. Each player should run the football as equally as possible. It is the responsibility of the Coach to make sure that each player gets to act as a running back. The same standard applies to passing and catching.
8. Games will be officiated by Referees to be assigned by GRACEAC. Referees may include high school students or volunteers designated by GRACEAC. Please be respectful of all officials.
9. Game scores will not be broadcast on scoreboards or other devices. There will be no record kept of wins/losses.
10. Coaches must abide by the rules of Flag Football established by the GRACEAC.
11. As with all GRACEAC sport programs, prayer will be integrating into all practices and contests at the direction of coaches.

CONTEXT FOR PARENTS

GRACEAC's goal for your child is to nurture a love for the great game of football. To that end, all parents are expected to behave in accordance with the Diocese' *Standards of Ministerial Behavior*, and exhibit respect for all coaches, other players, parents, and officials. We respectfully request parents consider the following quotes that help to define the spirit of our league:

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. –Albert Einstein

I've grown most not from victories, but setbacks. If winning is God's reward then losing is how he teaches us. –Serena Williams

Reminders from you Child: 1) I'm a kid, 2) It's just a game, 3) My coaches are volunteers, 4) The officials are human, 5) No college scholarships will be handed out today.

Your kid's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are... But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient and who tries their best is a direct reflection of your parenting.