



Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) Q: What is the cost per participant?
A: Registration Fee for the 2011 season is \$160 for all Divisions/Ages.
- 2) Q: Is there a payment plan offered?
A: No, but credit cards are accepted (only for online registration).
- 3) Q: What does the registration fee include?
A: Entry to league, use of uniform/equipment, practices, and games with officials.
- 4) Q: Do players get to keep uniform or equipment after season?
A: Jerseys will have players name on the back. Jerseys and socks are kept while helmet, shoulder pads and pants must be cleaned and returned.
- 5) Q: Does the player's family pay for equipment or uniform if it breaks?
A: No, except in case of extreme negligence.
- 6) Q: In which League does Thunder Youth Football (TYF) play?
A: We play in the Northern Illinois Football Conference (NIFC). The TYF Board made this decision based on common core values with the NIFC. More information can be found at www.nifcfootball.org.
- 7) Q: Location of practices?
A: Belvidere Central Middle School.
- 8) Q: Time and duration of practices?
A: This is up to each individual team coach and may vary. Typically, Monday through Thursday (either after school or early evening) and possibly Saturday. Practices are typically 1.5 to 2 hours depending on the age of the players.

- 9) Q: How many practices per week?
A: Typically 3-4 days per week during the season. Some coaches may practice 4-5 days per week during the four week pre-season.
- 10) Q: Start and end date of practices?
A: The NIFC league sets the earliest start date for practices. For the 2011 season the first day of practice is Monday, July 25th.
- 11) Q: Start and end dates of season?
A: For the 2011 season practice starts Monday, July 25th. The first game is Saturday, August 20st. Typically one game per week on Saturday. There is the possibility of a couple weekday evening games. There are typically eight regular season games (plus playoffs), depending on number of teams in league.
- 12) Q: Location of home games?
A: Belvidere Central Middle School.
- 13) Q: Location of away games?
A: The 2011 season should be similar to last season: Rockford (Christian Life), Rockton/Roscoe, Sycamore, Genoa, Winnebago, Pecatonica, Dakota and Rockford. The longest drive from the Belvidere area to an away game is about an hour.
- 14) Q: Are there other “costs” besides initial registration fee?
A: There are no other direct league costs (see equipment deposit and personal gear below).
- 15) Q: Is there a deposit for the equipment and uniform?
A: Yes; A \$100.00 check for each player. TYF will hold the check, it will not be cashed. Check will be returned to parent upon return of equipment in good condition. Reasonable wear and tear is expected.
- 16) Q: Requirement of additional personal equipment required:
A: Cleats, practice jersey and a cup. Game pants may be used as practice pants. Players may purchase a second pair of football pants with integral pads from TYF for practice.
- 17) Q: Is there a discount for multiple children from one family?
A: No.
- 18) Q: How can parent become a coach?
A: Complete the coaching application process (application, interview, and background check). Details are posted on our website at www.thunderyouth.com.
- 19) Q: Does team/league have insurance if child gets hurt at game or practice?
A: Yes. It will pay after your personal insurance has paid.

- 20) Q: Age limits and cut off birth date?
A: Flyweights: 7 & 8 years old. Cannot turn 9 before August 1, 2011.
Lightweights: 9 years old. Cannot turn 10 before August 1, 2011.
Middleweights: 10 years old. Cannot turn 11 before August 1, 2011.
Heavyweights: 11 & 12 years old. Cannot turn 13 before August 1, 2011.
- 21) Q: Are there weight limits?
A: The NIFC league has weight restrictions. Weights shown are while wearing jersey, football pants and cleats.
Flyweight = 107 pounds with max ball carrier weight of 85 pounds.
Lightweight = 132 pounds with max ball carrier weight of 110 pounds.
Middleweight = 142 pounds with max ball carrier weight of 120 pounds.
(NIFC may increase weight for Middleweight since this Division was new in 2010.)
Heavyweight = 172 pounds with max ball carrier weight of 140 pounds.
- 22) Q: Do I have to go to a certain school to play on the TYF teams?
A: The TYF Board's goal is to create an opportunity for kids to play together now and through middle and high school. We will run the Belvidere Central Middle School/Belvidere North High School style playbook and use their terminology. However, we will accept kids from other schools if they feel other programs do not fill their needs.
- 23) Q: Is there a tryout?
A: No. All players "make the team" and will see playing time in every game.
- 24) Q: What is the refund policy if a child signs up to play and then changes his mind?
A: Full refund up through the Sunday after the first week of practice.
- 25) Q: Do school grades affect status on team?
A: No. Parents are encouraged to use their own judgment on this matter.
- 26) Q: Informational Meeting date & time?
A: Wednesday, March 2nd starting at 6:30 pm @ Belvidere Central Middle School cafeteria. The purpose of this meeting is to again review our philosophies as an organization and answer questions for new players/families. Returning players and families are welcome but not required to attend.
- 27) Q: Registration date & time?
A: Monday, March 14th 6:00 to 8:00 pm @ Belvidere Central Middle School cafeteria.
- 28) Q: Are the coaches allowed on the field with the players during games?
A: Only for Flyweights (ages 7 and 8).

- 29) Q: Can credit cards be used for payment of registration fee?
A: Yes, only for online registration and with an additional processing fee of \$9.00 above the quoted registration fee (this is the amount the credit card companies charge us). We are not set up to take credit cards the night of registration.
- 30) Q: What should I bring to the Registration?
A: 1) Check, Cash or credit card for registration fee.
Checks are to be made out to Thunder Youth Football.
- 2) Photocopy of child's official Birth Certificate (Note: The photocopy itself dose not need to be notarized. Also, this must be the official County birth certificate, NOT the hospital birth certificate.)
- 31) Q: How many players will be on a team?
A: This will depend on the number of players who register and the number of qualified coaches. Our goal is 26-28 players per team.