



WYANDOTTE INDIANS

2016

SEASON HANDBOOK



Welcome to the 2016 season of the Wyandotte Indians Junior Football and Cheer program! We continue to have many exciting things in store for our players and cheerleaders this year. Please review your handbook carefully for information that you will need.

WHO ARE THE WYANDOTTE INDIANS? Boys and girls of league age participate in the organized football and cheerleading team activities. Children from the city of Wyandotte and Wyandotte School District students make up the squads.

WYANDOTTE INDIANS MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Wyandotte Indians Junior Football League is to provide a safe, fun learning environment for the youth of our community. We strive to create an opportunity for kids to work together as a team toward common goals. We emphasize sportsmanship, teamwork and respect for authority figures (Board Members, Coaches and Game Officials). While we are not a farm system for high school football programs, we recognize the impact we may have on these programs. Our focus is on developing good life skills through the sports of football and cheerleading.

The purpose of this league is to provide a democratic means for administrating a junior football program from 3rd through 8th grade levels, the building of character, citizenship and a spirit of cooperation and sportsmanship among its teams and players, both on and off the field, and to provide the youth an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the game of football.

WHO IS IN CHARGE: YOU! The Wyandotte Indians are run solely by parents and volunteers. It is imperative that everyone does his or her fair share to make this a great organization. The annual election of the Executive Board with the general membership shall be held in the month of November within the City of Wyandotte. These are volunteer positions and no money is exchanged for board services. The 2016 Executive Board Consists of:

President-	Pat Amos
Vice President-	Mark Tomczyk
Athletic Director-	Joe Beaubien
Treasurer-	Kristie Baran
Secretary-	Bridgette Barton
Registrar-	Angie Zavalney
Volunteer Coordinator	Kristi Beaubien

Cheerleading Director-	Shannon Gatteri
Fundraising Chair-	Timeia Lee
Concession Chair-	Betty Calhoun
League Directors-	Mark Tomczyk Charles Lee
Alt. League Director-	Pat Amos

The Executive Board presides over monthly Board meetings, which are held the third Thursday of each month, except the month of December. **ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

2016 HEAD COACHES:

	Football	Cheerleading
Freshman	Steve Mauritho (734-301-6905)	Shayna Predhome (734-286-2181)
Junior Varsity	Paul Kurdi (734-626-2347)	Amber Langley (734-934-2931)
Varsity	Ron Nestman (734-552-7086)	Charmaine Grant (734-934-8571)
Mascots		Allison Langley (734-934-0160)

VOLUNTEERS: Your Wyandotte Indians need YOU! A fair volunteer policy has been implemented so that all families share equally in the program. Any adult family member is required to work at least three (3) events per calendar year January through December. This applies even if the child quits the organization one week prior to the first game OR anytime thereafter. Family members may take a buyout option of the 3 volunteer events. The buyout amount is \$150.00. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of banquet attendance **AND** the loss of football player and/or cheerleader veteran status.

If you are unable to make it to a volunteer position that you have signed up for, it is your responsibility to find a suitable adult replacement and inform the Volunteer Coordinator of said replacement. If you do so, the replacement will be counted as one of your volunteer requirements. It is imperative that you sign in with the Volunteer Coordinator at the start of the event for which you are scheduled to volunteer. Failure to sign in means you will not receive credit for your volunteer time for that event! The Volunteer Coordinator for the 2016 season is Kristi Beaubien. Please contact Kristi with any volunteer questions at 734-716-4916.

WHO ARE THE TEAMS OF THE DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE? The DJFL is comprised of 18 teams:

Allen Park Bulldogs	Lincoln Park Jr. Rails	Romulus Flyers	Washtenaw Blue Jr. Wolverines
Dearborn Hgts. Raiders	Melvindale Cardinals	Southgate Vikings	Washtenaw Wolverines Maize
Grosse Ile Devils	River Rouge Panthers	Taylor Seahawks	Woodhaven Warriors
Huron River Yellow Jackets	Riverview Pirates	Milan Big Reds	Wyandotte Indians
Ypsilanti Lincoln Railsplitters	Ypsilanti Braves		

The DJFL has a board that governs Rules and Eligibility of all member teams. Strict guidelines have been established with the primary focus on the safety and well-being of the children. Fines are imposed on teams who violate the rules and guidelines of the DJFL.

PROGRAM COSTS: All costs associated with running the Wyandotte Indians are covered by registration fees, mandatory fundraiser, other voluntary fundraisers, sponsorship by local businesses and donations.

Registration cost to participate with the Wyandotte Indians for the 2016 season is:

Players and cheerleaders - \$145.00	Mascots - \$125.00
Varsity players and cheerleaders(league age) - \$60.00	Water boys - \$50.00
6 year players - \$30.00	Family maximum - \$350.00 (not including deposit)
	Equipment/Uniform Deposit - \$75.00

Failure to return equipment and/or uniforms, clean and in good condition, and/or any outstanding monies owed to the organization will result in forfeiture of the required deposit.

CLUB EXPENSES:

Other club expenses include field usage fees, field maintenance, official fees, DJFL membership insurance, equipment and uniforms, etc. Once a player or cheerleader registers with the Indians, a request for refund must be submitted to the Treasurer.

FUNDRAISER: Due to the high costs involved with running a junior football program, the DJFL allows for one fundraiser to be MANDATORY. Each player, cheerleader, mascot and waterboy must participate as required. Failure to comply will result in benching of player/cheerleader until they comply with the mandatory fundraiser.

WYANDOTTE INDIANS WEBSITE: We have a website to provide you with information. We are constantly updating, CHECK IT OUT! www.wyandotteindiansfootball.com We can also be found on Facebook (Wyandotte Indians Jr. Football)

COMMUNICATION AND WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Our communication and weekly newsletter is sent via REMIND. Every Thursday evening throughout the season you will receive a REMIND with the newsletter attached as a PDF. ALL information pertaining to upcoming games and events can be found in this newsletter. **It is up to the parents to make sure they get this each week.** The newsletter will also be available on the website. If you do not have email or texting, a limited number of newsletters may be available in the concession stand during Friday's practice. It is your responsibility to make sure you get this newsletter each week. It is also your responsibility to make sure that you are signed up for and receiving the REMIND messages. If you are having trouble, there is a trouble shooting guide on the REMIND app and website.

****To sign up for REMIND, text 734-219-6837 with the message: @wyindians***

or

For REMIND via email, send an email to: wyindians@mail.remind.com You can leave the message blank

WEARABLES: Spirit wear items will be available for purchase during most practices and at all home games.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS: Jewelry may NOT be worn by any football player or cheerleader during any practice or game!

Football equipment provided to you: helmet, game jerseys (home and away), game pants, practice jersey (the player gets to keep), practice pants, belt, game socks and all pads except hip and tailbone pads. This also includes rib pads.

Football equipment provided BY you: protective athletic cup, girdle (with hip and tailbone pads), mouthpiece and football cleats. Cleats should be 1 piece molded cleat soles or 1/2in plastic screw in cleats with NO METAL SHOWING. Metal cleats are NOT permitted and tennis shoes, running shoes and/or turf shoes are not allowed. Neck rolls, forearm pads and other optional protective devices will be allowed if they meet the guidelines of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and meet the approval of the officials. Mouthpieces are to be SOLID in color. White or clear mouthpieces are NOT allowed. Mouthpieces will be available for purchase at the concession stand during practice. Additional clothing may be worn for warmth during cold weather. Any eye shield or visor attached to any player's helmet must be clear in color. For any player wearing prescription eyeglasses, transition prescription lenses are acceptable with documentation from the prescribing physician presented to the officials prior to each game.

Cheerleading uniform provided to you: cheer shell (vest), skirt, crop top (this replaces the bodysuit for under the cheer shell)

Cheerleading equipment provided BY you: boy cut brief (navy blue in color) and shoes

Clothing items with zippers, hoods, snaps, loose fitting v-neck openings, and pockets may not be worn during practice when stunting. In order for flyers to stunt, legs must be bare from the knees to the ankle and socks must be pushed down. No glitter of any kind shall be worn.

Shoes: The DJFL requires all shoes to have arch support. NO flat bottom shoes. NO metal. NO loops. Shoe MUST have laces. Shoes must be clean at game time. The Cheerleading Director can provide more information regarding shoe requirements if needed.

Hair: The DJFL requires that the girls wear NO metal of any kind in their hair. Shoulder length and longer hair must be pulled back away from the face and off the shoulders. Hair control devices can only be ribbons, ponytail holders with NO metal, and rubber bands. At no time can bobby pins, metal or plastic clips or barrettes be used in the hair. Hair glitter is NOT allowed.

Nails: Fingernails must not be visible when looking at the palm of the hand. Nail polish and artificial or acrylic fingernails shall not be worn at any DJFL event.

Face: At no time shall any cheerleader's face and/or body be covered with costume paint. No glitter of any kind shall be worn.

All cheerleading requirements are in place for the safety of our cheerleaders. Our rules come directly from the DJFL. The DJFL will fine the Indians if any of these rules are not followed. The Coaches, Cheerleading Director and Executive Board will strictly enforce all rules.

PRACTICE: Our first practice is Monday, August 15, 2016 at Pulaski Park from 5:00pm-7:30pm. **ALL paperwork for players, cheerleaders, mascots and water boys must be turned in to the Registrar before they will be allowed to participate in practice. All monies must be turned in, including fundraiser, before they will be allowed to participate in practice.** Before Labor Day, we practice Monday through Friday at Pulaski Park from 5:00pm-7:30pm and Saturday 10:00am-12:30pm. After Labor Day, we practice Tuesday through Friday at Pulaski Park 5:00pm-7:00pm with a game on either Saturday or Sunday. Please be sure to check your newsletter, our website and our Facebook page once the season starts for specific times and completed information in case there are any changes.

Players and cheerleaders are expected to be at ALL practices. The Head Coach must be contacted if a child is going to miss practice. Two missed practices without a note is an automatic benching of any player or cheerleader for a minimum of a half game. Two missed practices with a note will be up to the discretion of that particular head coach. School and church functions will not be counted as an absence providing the coach is informed ahead of time. All players and cheerleaders must present a statement from a physician when out for seven or more calendar days for an injury on or off the field.

All players and cheerleaders should be in full gear and on the field ready to practice at practice start time. Parents that choose to stay and watch practices will be required to stay within a permitted area. Siblings are NOT permitted to remain at the practice field unless they are under parental supervision. Please note, pets are NOT allowed at practice. Practice may be cancelled at any time due to weather conditions. Please return to the practice field immediately if the weather gets bad.

GAME TIME: Players and cheerleaders are expected to be on time and in full gear for games. Any child may be benched for not being in the proper attire. Players should arrive 1 ½ hour prior to game time. Cheerleaders should arrive 1 hour prior to game time.

All players will weigh in before each game. Weight limits are specified by the DJFL. Once a player weighs in at a game, he or she CANNOT add or remove any clothing. The weight maximums for the 2016 season are:

Freshman:	120 lbs
Junior Varsity:	140 lbs
Varsity:	165 lbs

*Our children are working very hard on the field and cheering on the sidelines. It is important that as fans in the stands, we do our part to stay positive and cheer them on to do their best. The officials do have the authority to take away sportsmanship points should a fan become belligerent. **The Wyandotte Indians Executive Board also possesses the right to ask ANYONE to leave the practice and/or game field should a person's behavior not be in the best interest of the children.***

FOOTBALL SEASON: The DJFL requires every player and cheerleader to complete 4 days of "conditioning" their first 4 days of practice. This pre-season conditioning does not count towards this. **There are NO exceptions to this rule.** Football players will begin contact drills on their 5th day of practice providing they have completed the required conditioning requirements.

Players will participate in at least one pre-season scrimmage. Scrimmage details will be provided as soon as they are available.

The Wyandotte Indians will have 8 regular season games. 3 games will be played on our home field. Our home field is at the Wyandotte Roosevelt High School. 4 games will be played as away games. This year, we will have one of our home games played at University of Michigan. Away game information will be provided in the weekly newsletter, on our website and Facebook page. Information regarding playoff and championship games will be made available when they are needed.

CHEERLEADING COMPETITION: The DJFL sponsors a cheerleading competition each season. Competition is attended by all of the DJFL cheer squads. Cheerleaders work very hard all season to prepare all season and are expected to attend. Everyone is encouraged to attend the cheer competition to support our cheerleaders! More detailed information will be provided during the season.

TEAMS: In addition to the Head Coach and Assistant Coaches, teams may include the following:

Junior Coaches: Junior coaches are youth coaches that are no longer eligible to play junior football/cheer because of their age. Junior coaches are ages 14 to 17. They will work closely with the head coach and assistant coaches. Players and cheerleaders are expected to show the same respect to a junior coach as they would any other coach. Parents are asked to direct all questions to an adult coach only.

Mascots/Water Boys: Mascots and Water Boys must be a minimum of 6 years of age in accordance with the date of league ages provided by the DJFL. Mascots and Water Boys are selected at the discretion of the head coach of each squad. Mascots and Water Boys are required to have all the necessary paperwork submitted to the Registrar before they will be allowed to participate in practice. Mascots will be issued a mascot uniform and will participate in practices and games. Mascots are NOT permitted to participate in the cheer competition per DJFL rules.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

Coaches: Coaches are volunteers that coach our players/cheerleaders within the rules of this franchise and the DJFL. All coaches should be aware of all the rules in our league. Head Coaches are responsible for all of their assistants, players/cheerleaders, mascots/water boys and team activities. The Head Coach has the final decision on the offensive/defensive coaches and players to be used in those positions. The consumption of alcoholic beverages, using illegal drugs or any form of tobacco products WILL NOT be tolerated at any practice or game.

Parents: The consumption of alcoholic beverages, using illegal drugs or any form of tobacco products WILL NOT be tolerated at any practice or game. There will be no tailgating at any event hosted by the Wyandotte Indians at RHS or Pulaski Park. **The Wyandotte Indians Executive Board also possesses the right to ask ANYONE to leave the practice and/or game field should a person's behavior not be in the best interest of the children.**

Any complaint resulting from an incident concerning the practice field shall be directed to the Athletic Director. Any complaint resulting from an incident concerning the game field shall be directed to the League Director(s). Please do not approach a coach about an incident after a game, make sure to speak with the League Director(s). Your issue will be handled by the League Director(s) 24 hours after the game. There are two reasons to respect this rule. First, it removes the discussion away from presence of the children, who are our main focus. Second, it allows all parties to have time to put things in perspective and to "cool off" if necessary.

EQUIPMENT TURN IN: It is imperative that your child turns in their equipment/uniform on the scheduled turn in date. All equipment/uniform must be returned in the condition it was issued. You will be held financially responsible for the cost of any missing or damaged items.

ANNUAL BANQUET: Our annual banquet is usually scheduled for the first week of December. Each player, cheerleader, mascot and water boy will receive a ticket. Parents and family members will need to purchase tickets in order to attend. Tickets will be distributed and sold at equipment turn in. No banquet tickets will be distributed or available for purchase at the banquet. No child is to be dropped off at the banquet. All children are to be accompanied by an adult. Each Indian who has completed the season will receive a trophy.