



HAJFL



Howell Area Jr. Football League

Facts & Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to Howell Jr. Football! Did you know you're a member of one of the largest junior football leagues in the state of Michigan? We're happy to have you, and are looking forward to another exciting year of Howell Junior Football.

These frequently asked questions have been put together to hopefully answer some questions you might have from now until the start of the season.

Facts about HAJFL

- We are a non-profit organization. All board members & support staff are volunteers!
- We are a part of the LCAJFL (Livingston County Area Jr Football League). We play other teams in the LCAJFL (Brighton, Fowlerville, Byron, Milford, Lakeland, Hartland, Pinckney, South Lyon, Hartland, Whitmore Lake, and Webberville, etc).
- We have 6 division colors...Black, Gold, Green, Red, Silver & White. Once you're placed on a color, you (and any siblings that play or cheer in the future) stay on that color.
- We play full tackle football, even in the instructional level of 1st & 2nd grade.
- Our league is self-supporting. Our home field at Three Fires Middle School is fully maintained by the league. We play all games on Saturdays at Three Fires, Parker High School and periodically at Howell High School. We pay rent, utilities & maintenance for use of the fields.
- All football equipment was/is purchased by the league, and is maintained & inventoried by the Equipment Director.
- Game rules are set by the LCAJFL and can be found on their website, www.lcajfl.com, along with all the teams game schedules. (Game schedules aren't released by LCAJFL until mid-August).
- All coaches are interviewed, receive background checks and are voted in by the board.
- League newsletters, game schedules, board meeting calendar and other important league information can be found on our website www.hajfl.com.
- A \$100 refundable deposit is required when you pick up your football and cheer equipment in June. You will get this money back, providing you fulfill your volunteer time and bring your equipment back in good condition in the fall.



Frequently Asked Questions....



Are registrations taken by age or grade?

- Registrations are taken by grade under LCAJFL rules. Teams will be formed as follows (weights are guidelines, not restrictions):
 - 1st & 2nd Grade - Instructional (no minimum weight limit)
 - 3rd & 4th Grade - Freshman (weight guidelines 65-125lbs)
 - 5th & 6th Grade - JV (weight guidelines 75-150lbs)
 - 7th & 8th Grade - Varsity (weight guidelines max 220lbs)

How are rookies placed on teams?

- The Howell Jr. Football board holds a blind draw for new football players & cheerleaders in May. Rookies are randomly selected by the Livingston Cty Area Jr. Football League President and placed on the next team with an opening, by blind draw. Howell Board members do not make selections. Once drawn to a color, you stay on that color.

What are the fees?

- Football & Cheerleading have the same fees.
- \$210.00 per player due on registration day (\$170.00 participation + non refundable \$40 fundraiser fee)
- Included in your registration fee: you get four \$10 discount cards that you can sell to family or friends and make \$40 back, taking your real cost to \$170! Sell those cards!!
- \$100.00 refundable equipment deposit will be due at equipment pickup in June. (Volunteering & return of equipment is required to get \$100 back)

How can I register my child online?

- Online registration is available on our website, www.hajfl.com for veteran HAJFL members only.
- Rookies to the league must sign up at our in-person registration day.
- Veteran instructional players moving to 3rd grade can sign up online – selecting the FRESHMAN levels and then UNASSIGNED, unless you have a sibling currently playing on a color, then you would select that color.

What do I need to bring to registration?

- Registration form needs to be completed – including contact information, insurance information, and 3 jersey number choices for football players.
- 4 documents will be required the first day of practice; Physical form, medical form, copy of report card and copy of birth certificate.

When do we pick up the equipment?

- In mid June, parents and players come to pick up football equipment and cheer uniforms at the Barnard Recreation Center on Barnard Street in Howell between 6pm-8pm. \$100 refundable deposit, (cash check or charge) will be due at that time. Check the website for details.



What is included in the “equipment” for football and cheer?

- Football players receive a customized game jersey with your child’s name and number (arrives mid-August), helmet, 1 mouthguard, chin-strap, shoulder pads, game and practice pants, girdle and all padding for pants, belt and game socks.
- Cheerleaders receive cheer skirt, pants, vest.

What will I need to buy?

- Cleat & cup will need to be purchased, they are not provided.
- Practice jerseys for each color are available for sale for \$13 at equipment pickup & at practices; but they are not mandatory.
- Used cleats will be for sale while supplies last, for \$5 at equipment pickup.

What’s the Refund Policy?

- Drops before 5-1-11, full refund.
- Drop before 6-1-11, full refund minus \$25
- Drop before 2nd Friday of practice begins, minus jersey cost, and \$25.
- No refund after 2nd Friday of practice.
- No refund for the fundraiser
- \$4 non refundable fee for registrations taken online

Does my child need a physical?

- Every football player must turn in a completed physical form signed by a doctor and HAJFL medical release form on the first day of practice – give it to your team mom or coach. For your child’s safety, no player may practice until they’ve turned in these forms. Physicals are valid for one year – so if you have one from another sport extending past October 23rd, that will suffice. Forms are available on the HAJFL website.

Where & when do practices start?

- Practices start August 1, 2011. Instructional practices 3 nights a week, Freshman/JV/V practices practice 5 nights a week in August 1st through August 19th, and going down to 6 hrs of practice per week after the LCAJFL Scrimmage Day August 20th. Unexcused absences could effect playing time. Give your coach as much notice as possible if your child will be absent.

How do I get my \$100 deposit back? (VOLUNTEER POLICY IS BEING RE-EVALUATED, WE WILL NOTIFY MEMBERS OF ANY CHANGES TO THIS POLICY)

- To get your \$100 refundable deposit back at equipment turn in, every family has to 1) volunteer to work 3 two-hour spots during any of their home gamedays, and 2) return your equipment clean and in good order. Some of the “spots” include working the down-marker chains, selling 50/50 tickets, selling concessions, announcing a game, selling apparel, etc. Your equipment has to be returned clean, dry and in good shape and volunteering requirements met, no partial refunds. If equipment is turned in after the scheduled return date of October 29th, the refund will be reduced according to this schedule:



- Returned October 29th - full deposit
- Between October 30th to 1st board meeting- \$ 75.00
- After 1st board meeting to second board meeting- \$ 50.00
- Any time after second board meeting- \$ 25.00
- Failure to return equipment results in the inability to return to the league, and full replacement cost.

If I have more than one child in the league, how many times are required to volunteer?

- Each family is required to volunteer for 3 two-hour slots during any home gameday. Parents with one child, two or three still volunteer for 3 slots.
- We appreciate all families that jump in for extra help. Thank you!
- **(VOLUNTEER POLICY IS BEING RE-EVALUATED, WE WILL NOTIFY MEMBERS OF ANY CHANGES TO THIS POLICY)**

What does my football player wear the 1st day of practice?

- Shorts, cup, shirt, cleat, helmet & mouthguard only.
- First 3 days is helmet & cleats only, no contact. Full pads practice uniform for next 2 days with no contact. Hitting starts with full pads on the 6th day of practice.

What will we need to bring 1st day of practice?

- Water, water and more water! (Or Gatorade!)
- Copy of report card, proving what grade your child is in (can black out the grades – just need to be able to see what grade they're in).
- Copy of their birth certificate. (Returned to parents at the end of the season. If you don't want to release it to the coach you can show it to the coach and bring it with you every Saturday for the games in case the opposing commissioner requests to see it.)
- Signed physical form – nobody practices with out a physical form signed by a doctor.

How will I get the game schedule and league information?

- The League distributes a Newsletter every Wednesday to team moms, and they distribute it to you via email. www.hajfl.com is a great place to find lots of league information. Also, the County league site at www.lcajfl.com.

Are games only on weekends?

- All practices are during the week, all games are on Saturdays. Coaches will notify you of times/location. Games can be anytime between 8AM and 7PM; schedule varies.

What are “the Pods”?

- At the practice fields, you will see large white storage pods affectionately called “the Pods” used for storage of field equipment, football equipment, concessions and apparel sales.

When is HAJFL apparel sold?

- Apparel will be sold online, web link on www.hajfl.com
- Apparel is displayed & for sale at equipment pickup, and during the first week of practice.
- Custom apparel –hats/shirts are available to order online.
- Cash, check, Mastercard or Visa accepted.



Team pop donations?

- At the beginning of the season, each family is asked to donate a case of **GATORADE** or **POWERADE**, to be sold during games & practices. Tell your team mom when you've brought it in so your name gets checked off, and drop it off directly to the pods.

Will my child get a trophy?

- All players receive trophies at the end of the season.

What if my son's football equipment doesn't fit right?

- First step should be to have an assistant coach look at it. It might just need to be adjusted. If that doesn't fix it, come up to the pods and we'll switch the size for you until we find a good fit.

What does my player or cheerleader get to keep?

- Football players keep their customized game jersey, green socks, and belt. Cheerleaders get their poms and all fees associated with Invitational, which are paid by the league.

What does it cost to get into games?

- Howell charges \$3.00 for all visitors age 7 and up. Some schools charge \$4.00. For Home games – Howell football players, cheerleaders and football & cheer coaches (including a max of 4 student cheer coaches) do not pay. The entry fees collected helps each city's league maintain its' program. View the various community gate fees at www.lcajfl.com.

For Home & Away Games – can we tailgate?

- LCAJFL passed the rule that no tailgating is allowed on school grounds, at any of the communities. No setting up rv's, grills, no parties, no alcohol and no dogs.

When/where are the board meetings?

- Board meetings are every 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 off-season at MI Sports Academy-Livingston in Howell (across from the Pepsi Plant). During the season, meetings are every Tuesday, either at the Parker Bleachers, or at the Three Fires Bleachers after practice. Meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to attend. Agendas and meeting location details are posted on www.hajfl.com.

Is there a general phone #/email for the league if I have questions?

- www.hajfl.com. football questions to howelljrfootball@yahoo.com, cheer related questions to howellcheerleading@yahoo.com. Phone 517.518-2836.

