

HRYP 2022 Season Handbook

Welcome to the 2022 season of the Huron River Yellow Jackets Jr. 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 new and updated information that you will need.

We look forward to another AWESOME season!

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WHO ARE THE HURON RIVER YELLOW JACKETS?

Boys ages 7 to 13 and girls ages 5-13 participate in the organized football and cheerleading team activities. Children from the school districts of Airport, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Huron, Jefferson, Monroe, Trenton and Brownstown as well as others make up the squads.

The Yellow Jackets’ home is called “THE HIVE.” It is located at Ash Park on Horan St in Carleton.

YELLOW JACKET MISSION STATEMENT

The Huron River Yellow Jacket Football organization is organized primarily for the improvement and development of the capabilities of individuals and to encourage certain types of sports and athletic endeavors.

This organization wishes to promote the physical, mental and moral development, and the well being of boys 7 to 13 and girls from 5 through 13 years of age.

To the children of our community, we dedicate this organization.

We the parents strive for perfection in giving you this organization based on fairness of competition, the righteousness of pure sportsmanship and the capacity to grow strong through camaraderie, hard work and the ability to enrich each other's life experiences.

WHO IS IN CHARGE? YOU!

The Yellow Jackets are run solely by parents and volunteers. It is imperative that everyone does his or her fair share to make this a great organization.

Each year at the Annual meeting of members an Executive Board is selected from the parents by the parents.

The E-board consists of the PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, REGISTRAR, LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, EVENTS COORDINATOR, CONCESSIONS DIRECTOR, and a CHEER DIRECTOR.

The executive board presides over monthly Board Meetings, which are held yearround. Meeting notices are posted on our website, Team App, and our Facebook page. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Additionally, there is a general board comprised of Yellow Jacket parents who are members in good standing and are committed to the success of the organization.

These are all volunteer positions and no money is ever exchanged for board services.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- President Stacey Gabriel
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer Tara Pelland
- Registrar
- Cheer Director Kristy Dudley

- League Reps

Ray Gabriel
Kirk Pelland

- Athletic Director
- Events Coordinator
- Concessions Director
- Volunteer Coordinator

HEAD COACHES

FOOTBALL

CHEERLEADING

Freshman	Brian Banks 734-274-3861
Junior Varsity	Rich Malec 810-919-0442
Varsity	Reece Wieckowski 734-693-1286
Mascot	

VOLUNTEERS

Your Yellow Jackets need YOU! A fair volunteer policy has been implemented so that all families share some responsibility in the program. Because the Yellow Jacket parents run this organization, each parent/guardian is expected to volunteer for FOUR duties during the season. It is imperative that you sign in with the volunteer coordinator at the Concession Stand at the start of the event for which you are scheduled to volunteer. Please contact_____, our Volunteer coordinator, with any questions. We are asking families have their volunteer positions designated no later than Monday, September 5, 2022.

Fines and Penalties

Failure to sign up for your volunteer requirements by the Monday following the first game will result in a \$100 fine. Failure to complete a volunteer requirement that you have registered for will result in a \$50 fine. **Your player will not be permitted to participate in games or competitions until all fines are paid in full.**

Failure to fulfill volunteer requirements will result in:

THE LOSS OF VETERAN STATUS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

VETS WILL NOT RECEIVE AWARD AT THE BANQUET.

WHO ARE THE TEAMS OF THE DOWNRIVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE?

The DJFL is comprised of 14 teams:

Allen Park - Bulldogs
Dearborn Heights - Raiders
Grosse Ile - Devils
Huron River - Yellow Jackets
Lincoln Park – Jr. Rails
Melvindale – Cardinals
Riverview - Pirates
Romulus - Flyers
Southgate - Vikings
Taylor – Seahawks
Washtenaw - Maize
Woodhaven - Elite
Wyandotte – Indians
Ypsilanti - Braves
There are 2 Conferences

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 HRYJ program are primarily covered by registration fees, one mandatory fundraiser per season, other voluntary fundraisers and sponsorship by local business and individuals.

Registration cost to participate with the Yellow Jackets is:

1st child - \$175.00

Each Additional Child - \$150.00

(6) Year Veterans - Free

(5) Year Veterans - \$25.00

12 and 13 years old Football and Cheerleaders \$50.00

Mascots - \$150.00

Ball boys - \$50.00

Approximate replacement costs of uniforms are:

-Football uniforms: \$500.00

-Cheer uniforms: \$275.00

You are responsible to return all borrowed equipment in good condition.

WE HAVE A "NO REFUND" POLICY – Refunds will only be granted under exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the Executive Board. Once the season starts – no refunds!

CLUB EXPENSES

Club expenses include field usage fees, field maintenance/lighting, building and equipment maintenance, official fees, DJFL membership, insurance, equipment and uniforms, etc. Once a player or cheerleader registers with the Yellow Jackets, any refund of registration fees requires approval by vote of a majority of the Board of Directors, at any general meeting of the Board, or a special meeting of the Board. A request for refund must be submitted in writing to the Treasurer.

FUNDRAISER

Each season, players and cheerleaders will participate in one fund-raiser. Due to the high costs involved with running a junior football program, the DJFL allows for one fund-raiser to be **MANDATORY**. This means that each player and cheerleader must participate as required in order to maintain their position on the team.

The 2022 fund-raiser is a Raffle. The price of each ticket is \$1. Each Yellow Jacket family **MUST** sell raffle tickets as follows: \$200 are to be sold per Football player, Cheerleader, and Mascot. The maximum requirement for an individual family is \$300 regardless of the number of children participating in the organization.

Tickets are distributed to families at or shortly after registration and the money for the raffle tickets **must be paid** at equipment issue or equipment will not be received.

"THE BUZZ"

The Buzz is our weekly email. It will come out in the TEAM APP!

YELLOW JACKET WEBSITE

We have a website to provide you with all the information you may need throughout the season:

www.hryj.net

We can also be found on Facebook.

We send out Alerts on Stack Team App.

We will be using a communications APP – Stack Team App.

We are constantly updating these pages with helpful information including away game locations with maps, helpful links, etc. **CHECK IT OUT!!!**

SPIRIT BOOTH

Spirit wear items will be available for purchase daily during practices at The Hive. Items will also be available at home games. Some items will require special order.

EQUIPMENT ISSUE

It is important that all paperwork, physicals, required fees, etc. be turned in at equipment issue. Please remember that players and cheerleaders are not permitted to go on the field for camps and/or practice until all paperwork and raffle ticket money is turned in. There will be **NO exceptions** to this rule. Equipment issue is held at The Hive. Siblings may come with older brothers or sisters.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Jewelry and make-up may NOT be worn by any football player or cheerleader during any practice or game. Medical Alert Jewelry is permitted but must be taped.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS- A complete uniform will include:

PROVIDED TO YOU:

Helmet, game jerseys, practice jersey, game pants, practice pants, belt, game socks and all pads except hip and tailbone pads. We also provide rib pads for players wish to use them.

PROVIDED BY YOU:

Protective athletic cup, girdle (with hip thigh and tailbone pads), mouth piece and football shoes/cleats.

Football Uniform Rules

Molded and Screw in Cleats are both permitted. **Screw in Cleats must be ½" size and must be replaced if any metal is showing**, METAL CLEATS ARE NOT PERMITTED. Tennis shoes, running shoes and/or turf shoes are NOT allowed. Gloves, Hand Warmers, 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 (not white or clear). Mouthpieces can be purchased at any sporting goods store. Additional clothing may be worn for warmth for cold weather. Additionally, any prescription glasses, eye shield or visor attached to any player's helmet must be clear in color. TRANSITION LENSES are only accepted with

documentation from prescribing physician. Please consult with your Head Coach if you are unsure about an item's legality.

CHEERLEADERS - A complete cheer uniform will include:

PROVIDED TO YOU:

Cheer shell (vest), skirt, socks, hair bow, warm-up jacket and pants, practice uniform (t-shirt and shorts), raincoat

PROVIDED BY YOU: *Your Coach or Cheer Director will advise you on the required items and where to purchase them.*

Practice Shoes, Game/Competition Shoes, Body Suit, and Cheerleading Briefs.

Cheer Uniform Rules

SHOES:

The DJFL requires all shoes to have arch support. Shoes must be clean at game time. The Cheer Director can provide more information regarding shoe requirements. NO flat bottom shoes, NO metal, NO loops and MUST have laces, NO velcro.

CLOTHING:

When weather requires warmer clothes, the girls should wear fleece sweats with no pockets. The DJFL require that practice shirts/jackets have no pockets, hoods, buttons, zippers, or snaps.

HAIR:

The DJFL requires that the girls wear NO metal of any kind in their hair. Ponytail holders only, barrettes, clips, hair pieces, hair glitter is NOT allowed. **Hair must be of a "natural" color.** Shoulder length and longer hair must be pulled back away from the face in a ponytail or braid.

FACE:

Cheerleaders may NOT wear make-up or fake nails of any kind. Nail polish is NOT permitted and nails must be kept trimmed. TRANSITION LENSES are only accepted with documentation from prescribing physician. All cheerleader requirements are in

place for the safety of the girls. Most of our rules come directly from the DJFL and the League will fine the Yellow Jackets if the guidelines are not followed. The coaches and Cheer coordinators will strictly enforce all rules. Failure to follow the rules will result in disciplinary action including sitting during practice and/or game, calling a parent to go home and may include removal from the squad.

Please consult with your Head Coach if you are unsure about an item's legality.

REGULAR PRACTICE

Our first Official practice is scheduled for Monday, August 15, from 6:00pm - 8:30 pm. All Yellow Jacket players and cheerleaders practice Monday through Friday from 6:00pm - 8:30pm and Saturday from 9:00am - 11:30 am for the first 2 weeks. After the first game, we practice Tuesday through Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm and on Friday from 5:30pm-7:00pm with a game on Saturday or Sunday. Please be sure to check The Buzz and the Website once the season starts for specific times and complete information! Yellow Jackets are expected to be at ALL practices **THIS IS MANDATORY**. The Head Coach must be called if a child is going to miss practice. Educational school and educational church functions will NOT be counted as an absence providing the coach is informed ahead of time. **Dances at school are not considered "School Functions."** If your child misses a practice other than for an educational school or educational church functions they may be "benched" for a quarter, a half, etc. of the next game. This is at the discretion of the coaching staff of that squad. **If a Yellow Jacket does not show up for a period of 3 consecutive days and they have not contacted the coach, they may be dropped from the program. A Yellow Jacket with ongoing attendance issues can be removed at coaches/eboard discretion. Attendance discipline is decided by head coaches!** A Yellow Jacket must finish the season in order to receive a trophy. Yellow Jackets should be on time (i.e. in full gear and on the field) ready to practice at the start time specified. Practice may be canceled at any time due to weather conditions. Please return to the field immediately if the weather gets bad. Siblings of Yellow Jackets are NOT permitted to remain at the practice field unless they are under parental supervision.

GAME TIME

Yellow Jackets are expected to be on time and in full gear for games. A Yellow Jacket may be benched for not being in the proper attire (see uniform requirements).

All players will weigh in before each game. Weight limitations are specified by the DJFL.

Here are the weight maximums for the 2022 season:

FRESHMAN 125 LBS.

JR. VARSITY 145 LBS.
VARSITY 170 LBS.

Once a player weighs in at a game, he or she cannot add or remove any clothing (i.e. sweatshirt under jersey). Players and cheerleaders must remain with their squad during half time. Yellow Jackets will have an opportunity to have a drink and use the bathroom, accompanied by a coach.

Our Yellow Jackets 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 and stay positive and cheer them on to do their best, win or lose. The officials do have the authority to take away Yellow Jacket Sportsmanship points should a fan become belligerent.

The Yellow Jacket board also reserves the right to ask anyone to leave the practice or game field should a person's behavior not be in the best interest of the children.

FOOTBALL SEASON

The DJFL requires every player to complete 4 days of "conditioning" their first 4 days of mandatory practice. There are NO exceptions to this rule. Football players will begin contact drills on their 5th day of practice providing they have completed required conditioning requirements.

Players will participate in pre-season scrimmages. Scrimmage details will be made available as soon as they are confirmed.

Yellow Jackets will have 8 games during the regular season, 4 home and 4 away. Post season play could add a potential 2 weeks to our schedule.

Generally, the 1st home game and 1st away game will have a minimal admission charge for anyone 16 years of age and older.

The Yellow Jackets home field is the Airport High School field. Away game information will be available in The Buzz (TEAM APP) and on our Yellow Jackets website.

Parents that choose to stay and watch practices will be required to stay within the permitted area.

CHEERLEADING

Our cheer philosophy is to treat cheerleading as the sport it is. Conditioning and discipline are important elements in our cheer program.

The DJFL sponsors a cheerleading competition each season. Cheerleaders work hard all season to prepare and are expected to attend. Football players are encouraged to support their teammates and attend the cheer competition to support the cheerleaders. Further information will be available later in the season.

TEAMS

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

- 1. JUNIOR COACHES** are youth coaches that are NO longer eligible to play junior football/cheer because of their age (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 the other coaches. However, parents are asked to address ALL questions, etc. to an adult coach ONLY.
- 2. MASCOTS/BALL BOYS** are boys and girls who less than “league age” which means they are not able to participate at the freshman level. Ball Boys are selected at the discretion of the head coach and each football team is limited to 2. Each Cheer Squad has a limited number of mascots. Mascots will be issued a cheer uniform or practice jersey and will participate in all games. Mascot practice schedules may differ from our regular schedule. Please consult your head coach for practice dates and times. Cheer Mascots will participate in Exhibition at Cheer Competition.

Code of Conduct

COACHES

All coaches are expected to:

- Follow the rules of the DJFL and HRYJ organization, keeping safety the #1 priority.
- Be consistent with regard to HRYJ discipline and respect.
- Stress the fundamentals on a daily basis.

PARENTS

Parents are expected to:

- Respect and understand the rules of the DJFL and the HRYJ organization.
- Support the efforts of our coaches (who volunteer their time on a daily basis for our children)
- Refrain from using foul language at any time on the practice or game field.

- Parents should positively support the fundraising and volunteer policies of the Huron River Yellow Jackets.
- Parents are expected to advise the head coach should any medical conditions change with your child once the season starts.
- Complete mandatory volunteer positions

Should concerns arise, PLEASE use the following guidelines:

1. Respect family time of coaches and eboard members.
2. Usually heads coaches will inform parents of when they will be available for discussions. Speak with the head coaches before or after a practice, NOT DURING! Allow a 24-hour cooling off period.
3. If necessary, speak with the Cheer Director before or after a practice only.
4. If necessary, speak with a League Representative before or after a practice.

YELLOW JACKETS

Players and cheerleaders are expected to:

- Be respectful of others at all times. Foul language will not be permitted at any time.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship and citizenship at all times.
- Be respectful to coaches and jr. coaches. They are volunteering their time to be with our players and cheerleaders 5-6 days per week.
- Give 100% at all practices and games.
- Attendance is required for practices and games.
- Be responsible with social media!
- Take care of HRYJ's property while it is in your possession/use.
- MOST OF ALL HAVE FUN!!

The HRYJ board reserves the right to remove a player or cheerleader from the roster should disciplinary problems become a concern.

EQUIPMENT TURN IN

It is imperative that your child turns in their equipment on the scheduled turn in date. All equipment must be inventoried and stored at our storage facility for the off-season. Equipment turn in will be announced towards the end of the season. Turn in will be at "The Hive." Please make sure all equipment is clean when you turn it in. **Failure to return equipment on the scheduled day will result in loss of veteran status for your family and you will not be able to receive banquet tickets!** The cost of any equipment damaged outside of scheduled football and cheer activities will be your responsibility. Additionally, you will be held financially responsible for the cost of any missing equipment.

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING & BANQUET December 2022

Our banquet is scheduled for the first week in December at Thomas' Crystal Gardens in Southgate. Each HRYJ football player, cheerleader and mascot will receive a free ticket provided their family's volunteer obligation has been met for the season. All other members will need to purchase a ticket. Tickets will be distributed / sold later in the season and at equipment turn in. Our banquet offers a wonderful buffet dinner and each Yellow Jacket who has completed the season and has met their volunteer obligation will receive a trophy. Trophies not picked up at the banquet will be available for pick at our regularly scheduled January Board Meeting. The banquet also serves as our Annual Membership Meeting and Executive Board Elections. Please refer to our by-laws if you have interest in participating on the Executive or General Boards.

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!!!!

Jackets Stronger 2022!

#LONGLIVEHRYJ