



Happy New Year!

The Wheaton Rams Program extends best wishes to all as we get ready to begin our 41st year of play.

Register Now

Yes, it's only January but now is the time to sign up for Rams football. Visit www.wheatonparkdistrict.com to register online.

A hard copy form can be downloaded from the site or found in the Winter 2009 Wheaton Park District Program Guide. Simply fill it out and submit it via mail or in person to:

**Wheaton Park District
Community Center**
1777 S. Blanchard Road
Wheaton, IL. 60187

Mark Your Calendars

Weigh-ins and equipment fitting/pick-up for tackle players will be held at the Community Center on **June 19** at 6:00 pm, **June 20** at 9:00 am and **July 18** at 9:00 am. All tackle players and a parent or guardian must attend one of these sessions.

Evaluations for tackle players will begin on **August 3rd**. *Please note: this is a change from the information on the registration site.* All players must be present for evaluations.

2009 Rams Board

The first order of business in 2009 was electing the members of our Executive and Governing boards. The men and women on these boards volunteer their time to ensure the smooth operation of our franchise and a great football experience for the players. The 2009 Rams Board Members are...

Executive Board Members

President – Rob Sheridan

Vice President - Mike Cetina

Director of FB Operations - John Los

WYFL Director – Harry Stauton

Secretary - Joe Schultz

League Rep 1 – Dale Bailey

League Rep 2 – Ken Selle

Governing Board Members

Publicity/News Letter – Rick Loehrke

Equipment & Uniforms - Brad Kaemmerer

Equipment & Uniforms - David Loiacono

Equipment & Uniforms - Jose Chavez

Head Team Parent - Nancy Hoover

Head Team Parent - Cathy Hrgich

Concession – Walter Moore

Fund Raising - Angel Dresser

Coaching Committee Chair – John Herrera

Coach Committee 1- Troy Westerman

Coach Committee 2 – Dan Robbins

Coach Committee 3 – Jeremy Taylor

Coach Committee 4 – Brian Moberg

Coach Committee 5 – Chris Calloway

Coach Committee 6 – Wayne Schricker

Field Safety Manager - Lee Ostrander

Field Safety Manager – Dave Fountain

Pictures/Awards - Mark Zawicki

Supporting Participants

Park District Contact – Kraig Owens

Web Support - Bob Wrona

To contact any member of the board, please visit our website, <http://www.wheatonrams.com>

Attention Coaches

It's clinic season! Several excellent coaches clinics are lined up for this off-season. These are great opportunities to learn new ideas, brush up on the fundamentals and network with fellow coaches.

January 31 – Falcon Football Clinic at Wheaton North High School. Once again this year, a full slate of speakers, including State Championship level high school coaches and college coaches, are lined up. Registration begins at 8:15 am.

February 21 – BGYFL Coaches Clinic at Halas Hall, Lake Forest, IL. Check in starts at 8:00 am.

Please contact John Herrera (cubs73sox75@comcast.net) if you would like to attend either of the events above.

Other upcoming clinics...

February 5-7 - Chicago MEGA Clinic at Indian Lakes Country Club, Bloomingdale, IL.
http://www.glazierclinics.com/megaclinic/spkrschedul e2x.php?clinic_id=219

March 6-8 Chicago Glazier Clinic at Indian Lakes Country Club, Bloomingdale, IL.
http://www.glazierclinics.com/megaclinic/spkrschedul e2x.php?clinic_id=220

New Striper Rule for 2009

This article appeared in last month's newsletter, but it is an important change and thus bears repeating.

A striper rule has been implemented throughout the BGYFL. In order to help explain the striper rule and what it means to Rams players we've included the rule itself, some thoughts on why the rule was implemented, some examples of how the rule might be of benefit and a chart.

First, the rule...

A player exceeding a class weight limit by no more than 10% will be designated a striper. A Striper shall be identified by affixing a stripe of contrasting color to the front and back of the player's helmet. All Stripers must be defined no later than week two of the BGYFL regular season and will be designated as such on the final team roster. Once a player is designated a Striper, that player shall remain a Striper for the balance of the BGYFL regular season and post season playoffs.. Weekly growth allowance for Stripers follows the same guidelines as for non-stripers.

On offense, a Striper must play an interior line position from tackle to tackle within the Free Blocking Zone (IHSA rules) in a three (3) or four (4) point stance. Since a Striper is not an eligible receiver, he need not be covered. On defense, a Striper is restricted to line positions, must line up in a three (3) or four (4) point stance and must take a forward charge at the snap of the football. A Striper may not drop back from the line of scrimmage or stunt to an outside position and cannot line up more than one yard outside of the offensive tackle. At no time may a Striper advance the football and if a Striper ever gains possession of the football the play shall immediately be blown dead. Stripers shall not be allowed to punt or kick.

Second, why a striper rule...

1. Maximize the number of players permitted by our weight parameters to play with kids their own age and school class without jeopardizing the overall safety parameters of the BGYFL.
2. Provide a safe haven for the "Younger-Heavier" player who might otherwise have to play up 2 age levels because of weight. Creates a more competitive situation for the younger player that recognizes the maturation level of a player is of equal if not greater importance as the player's weight.
3. Uniform step up in weight allowance for Stripers (10% increase in body weight for each Division classification.)
4. Broadens program participation at the upper weight class (130 lbs.) for franchises that are unable to field a Varsity team.

Third, examples...

Bobby is 10 years old and turns 11 on October 14th, which qualifies him to play in the 90lb weight class for his age. However, Bobby weighs 109lbs without equipment. Prior to the striper rule, Bobby would have to play “up” two classes to the 115lb. class due to his weight. This would mean Bobby would be playing with 12 and 13 year olds. With the new striper rule, Bobby will be allowed to play at 100lb. class instead.

Billy is 13 years old and turns 14 on May 5th. Billy’s age allows him to play in the 130lb. class. However, Billy weighs 140lbs. without equipment. Prior to the striper rule, Billy would have to play Varsity with players up to 175lbs. and striper of unlimited weight. Under the new striper rule, Billy would not have to move up, but would play at the 130lb. class.

Remember, in **BOTH** examples, the player would be limited to playing an interior line position (tackle, guard or center on offense / tackle or nose on defense), as a striper, for the entire season.

NOTE: Players must be designated a striper beginning week 1. Should a player attempt to make week 1 weight as a non-striper and fail, they must either make week 1 weight in week 2 or move up to the next weight class. Players cannot declare striper status and make striper weight week 2 if they attempted to make the non-striper weight in week 1.

Finally, a chart...

Week 4	82	92 (100)	103 (112)	114 (124)	130 (141)	146 (159)	193
Week 5	83	93 (101)	104 (113)	115 (125)	131 (142)	147 (160)	194
Week 6	84	94 (102)	105 (114)	116 (126)	132 (143)	148 (161)	195
Week 7	85	95 (103)	106 (115)	117 (127)	133 (144)	149 (162)	196
Week 8	86	96 (104)	107 (116)	118 (128)	134 (145)	150 (163)	197
Week 9	87	97 (105)	108 (117)	119 (129)	135 (146)	151 (164)	198
Week 10	88	98 (106)	109 (118)	120 (130)	136 (147)	152 (165)	199
Week 11	89	99 (107)	110 (119)	121 (131)	137 (148)	153 (166)	200

Weight Level	70	80	90	100	115	130	Varsity
Maximum Age	8	9	10	11	12	13/14	13/14
Maximum Weight (Striper weight)	70	80 (88)	90 (99)	100 (110)	115 (126)	130 (143)	175 (any)
Equipment Allowance	8	8	9	10	11	12	14
Week 1	79	89 (97)	100 (109)	111 (121)	127 (138)	143 (156)	190
Week 2	80	90 (98)	101 (110)	112 (122)	128 (139)	144 (157)	191
Week 3	81	91 (99)	102 (111)	113 (123)	129 (140)	145 (158)	192