

2022 HHS Mini-Aces Football

Parents/Guardians,

It is with great excitement that I share this youth football information with you. This might be a long read, but I want to be 100% transparent and honest so you know where I'm coming from in regards to the plan for youth football here at Hicksville. This plan was developed with the help of my assistant coaches and administration.

The overarching plan and vision is to develop an uncommon culture that will help increase participation numbers in JH and HS; while still giving the youth a fun, safe, positive, and consistent program to play football and develop both their individual skills and a team first mentality.

Reflecting back on the past 14 season's as the head coach, I know I've made mistakes and some of those mistakes were at the youth level. Overall I feel these decisions have had a negative affect on the participation numbers in JH and in HS. I'm not somebody that just sits back and complains about the situation. I pride myself in being a problem solver and somebody who is willing to endure some hardships for the greater good.

- Starting tackle football in 1st grade, that was too early for most kids and fewer kids played as they got older.
- For several years we were in the GMC little league, for some teams it was good, but for others it was a negative experience and overall we have lost participation numbers.
- In the past I was only involved in our youth summer camp. I need to be personally invested in our youth if I want them to play in JH/HS.

Football at any level can be a good thing, but new kids and new coaches every year makes it difficult for the program to be ran/taught properly, safely, and consistently. Times have changed and the way football is played/coached has changed. The football program needs to adapt to the needs of this school and community. As the head coach, it's my job to make sure kids' have the opportunity to play football in a safe, fun, positive, and consistent environment. I realize this isn't a "one size fit's all". Some kids are ready for full tackle and competition at the youth level, and some aren't, but I have to make decisions on what I feel is best for the program as a whole.

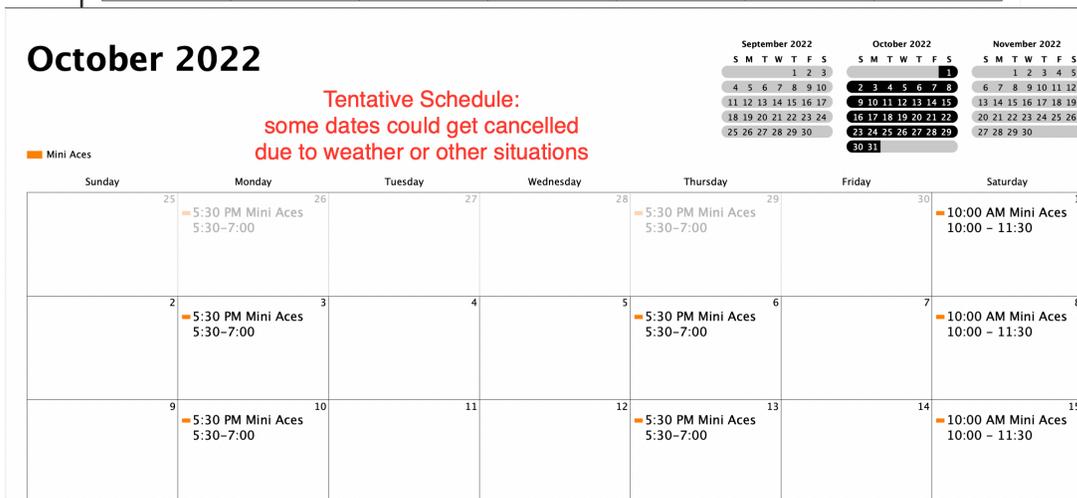
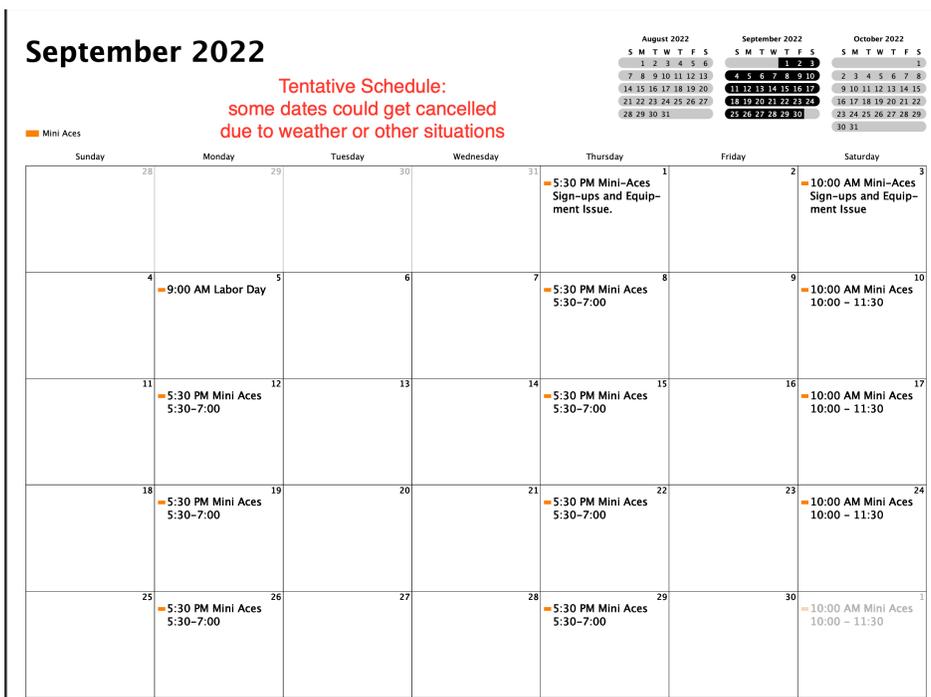
Football (in my opinion) is still the ultimate and most pure team sport. To be a successful football program it takes a village of kids, each with different sizes, speeds, & skills, all playing together no matter what their differences may be. It is my desire that this football program (grades 1-12) becomes that program for the kids, the school, and the community.

Starting with the 2022 football season, the HS coaches and players will be organizing and running our youth football program grades 1-6. There won't be a summer camp, all practices and competitions will start after Labor Day and will end approximately Oct. 15th (6 weeks). The first couple of weeks practices will be on Monday's & Thursday's (5:30-7:00pm) and on Saturday mornings (10:00-11:30 am). If we feel we have enough practices in we will cut back to two days a week (weather could play a role in the schedule). We will be trying to keep all practices/competitions for grades 1-6 on the same dates and at the same times. I know how hard it can be to balance different schedules.

The Flag program (grades 1-4) will be organized and ran by Jestin Davis. Coach Davis is one of the HS assistant coaches and has coached HS football for 3 years and played college football at Defiance College. He will be assisted by Jon Diehl. Coach Diehl has been an assistant with me for several years. He graduated from Hicksville and is currently the offensive coordinator for the varsity team. Coach Davis and Coach Diehl will be looking for some help from a few adults and the HS players to officiate, coach, organize, etc.

The Tackle program (grades 5&6) will be organized by Coach Smith. Coach Smith will organize the practices and will seek the coaching assistance of his other assistant coaches (Brian Wonderly, Brody Langham, Josh Flanary, and Garrett Crall), along with the juniors and seniors who know how to create that fun, safe, positive and consistent environment for kids to thrive.

Attached you will find the registration sheet. Registration can be mailed, dropped off at school, or can be done in person at the football field on September 1st (5:30-7:30) or Saturday morning September 3 (10:00-12:00). Sept. 1st and 3rd will also be the days we handout equipment and meet the coaches. I will attach the tentative calendar to this information.



2022 MINI ACES YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

PLAYER INFORMATION		
Player Name:		
Date of birth:	Grade for 2022:	Jersey size (flag only):
Address:	City:	State: ZIP:
Phone:		Email:
PARENT/GUARDIAN 1		
Name:		
Address: City:		State: ZIP:
Phone:		Email:
Relationship:		
PARENT/GUARDIAN 2		
Name:		
Address: City:		State: ZIP:
Phone:		Email:
Relationship:		

RELEASE:

In consideration of the privilege of participating in the Hicksville Mini Aces Youth Football League, I, the signed parent/guardian of above named child, hereby give my consent for my child to participate in any and all activities of Hicksville Mini Aces Youth Football League and do hereby assume all risks and hazards incidental to participating in the activities, including, but not limited to: transportation to and from said activities and I do further hereby RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, and HOLD HARMLESS, Hicksville Mini Aces Youth Football League, it's directors, members, organizers, sponsors, and supervisors from any and all claims of injury of any kind, nature and description where so ever to me or my child during his/her participation in said activities or transportation to and from the same. I further state that I am legally entitled to give this permission and release further that I am able to furnish, upon request by league officials, a certified copy of the birth certificate for my child. I have read the Release and I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in said activities and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in this sign-up sheet and release.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

The cost of this year's season will be \$25.
Please make checks payable to: **HHS Mini-Aces Football**