

Welcome to the 2019 Mount Horeb/Barneveld Youth Football Season!

The following information is designed to introduce players and parents to the guidelines and expectations of the MHBYP program. While at first glance this packet may seem a bit overwhelming, we have found that the more information provided at the start of the season, the fewer road bumps we will experience along the way. To that end, this player manual is our attempt to orient players, parents, and coaches to the program standards for the 2019 season.

### **HEAD COACHING STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

Gerry Rick, Head 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

I have been involved with the MHBYP program as a substitute referee and a coach. We have four boys in our household, so we have a lot of sports we are involved with. We have a Sophomore, Freshman, 7th grader that all currently play tackle football and a first grader that plays flag football. I have coached three of the boys in flag football and two of them in tackle football. I have also coached basketball, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and high school football. I am employed by the Mount Horeb Utilities as an Electrical Lineman and volunteer with the Mount Horeb Fire Department.

Troy Stoenner, Head 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

A little background about myself to help you get to know me better. I'm a life-long Mount Horeb Vikings fan as I grew up in Mount Horeb and a proud graduate from the class of 1988. I'm happily married to Holly...another Mount Horeb graduate and have two great kids, Sydney (14) and Talon (12) who are active in many school and sports activities. I have been coaching youth sports for the past 7 years and am currently most involved with the football and baseball programs. My coaching philosophy is and always will be, learn the game so you can play smart, lean on fundamentals, and make it fun so your athlete(s) want to come back next year.

I'm very much looking forward to another great year for our program and Go Vikings!

Casey Preimesberger, Head 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach

I have four sons involved in the MHB football ranging from High School to 4th grade. This will be my 7th season working with the program. My wife and I are both lifelong residents of the Mt Horeb area and I look forward to preparing our young athletes for success both on and off the field.

## A LOOK AHEAD AT 2019

We expect that this season will be another exciting year for youth football in Mount Horeb/Barneveld. The program will be joining a new league after many successful years in the Dane County Youth Football League. In January of this year the Badger Central Youth Football Alliance voted to except MHBYPF into their Youth and Middle School Alliance for the 2019 season. This is exciting because we will finally be playing mainly teams from the Badger North and South Schools!

With the move to a new league comes some new rules. Most are minor, but a few will be new to our parents and players. Below are the two significant changes. All the rules can be found at the BCYFA website: <https://www.badgercentrallyfl.com>

1. All Teams are allowed to practice 5 days a week until games start.
2. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be playing on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

Our expectations this year will focus entirely on who we are as individuals, and who we are as a team. Obviously, we would love to have winning seasons, but there are more important things that we will emphasize on a daily basis. Our primary goal is to develop, nurture and protect an incredible team culture. That includes ***playing hard, being a good teammate, and having fun***. Our goal is to do those things just a little every day and let the season's outcome take care of itself.

***“Regardless of our individual talent, we will strive to blend together perfectly as a TEAM that our fans might be proud of our selflessness, our effort, our unity, and our commitment to doing our very best.”***

### BASIC EXPECTATIONS FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

This packet of information is designed to make you familiar with the rules and expectations we have for our players this season. We also have high expectations for our parents because we know you play a vital role in the success of our program. We understand that we cannot succeed without the service and support of our parents.

We would like to invite parents to participate in our culture this year.

1. **Play Hard** – When our players hear this phrase, they understand that we expect them to do everything with great effort. Whether we are practicing or playing some of our team games – we expect to give our best effort at all times. Effort is something that is recognizable by fans of all ages.

As parents we greatly appreciate all that you do to support our teams and this program. Here are ways that efforts can contribute to our players experience:

- Be a crowd-builder. Invite people to our games – bring people to road games.
- Host a team meal
- Be Patient – Communicate – Support the coaching staff's decisions.
- **POSITIVELY** promote the program through social media. We will continue to post updates, stats, and videos

You are the most influential voice representing our program to the public. Please be good representatives of your child's efforts and respectful of their commitment to the **TEAM**.

2. **Be a Good Teammate** – Love is a word that is not typically used in sports context, but it is the best word to describe how we expect our players and coaches to interact with one another. The number one reason kids play youth sports is to be with their friends. The way we encourage, support, and appreciate one another is what makes the football experience special. ***“To go fast, go alone. To go far, go together.”*** What does that look like as a parent?

- Support your child’s effort, commitment and sacrifice. Support his investment in the process and dedication to the team more than his football accomplishments.
- Celebrate the effort and contributions of every player.
- Find ways to serve by helping when needed.
- Studies show that what players want the most from their parents is to hear these words:  
    *“I am so proud of you”*  
    *“I love to watch you play”*
- Studies also show that a player’s most dreaded time with their sports parent is the car ride home and the coaching that comes with it. We will provide them with plenty of feedback – trust us to do the coaching.
- *Your child’s success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are. But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient, and tries their best IS a direct reflection of your parenting.*

***Head Football Coach at Albia High School says, “Success on the football TEAM is not that hard to figure out:***

***Players Who Care About Players  
Players Who Care About Coaches.  
Coaches Who Care About Players  
Coaches Who Care About Coaches.”***

3. **Play for Fun** – Playing with passion is playing the game to have fun. We want football to be an experience that our kids and our fans will enjoy. As a program, we assume the following will be FUN:

1. Playing football is FUN.
2. Improving in FUN.
3. Competing is FUN.
4. Winning is more FUN than losing.

Sports offer a different kind of fun than hanging out at a friend’s house or messing around on the basketball court. We hope that our players experience an intrinsic reward from simply playing such a great game. We will enjoy improving as players, and as a team. We will enjoy competing regardless of outcome, and we hope this will be satisfying for both the players and fans. And yes, we acknowledge that winning is more fun than losing.

**Play Hard.**

**Be A Good Teammate.**

**Play for Fun.**

Keep in mind that football is an imperfect game, played, coached, and officiated by imperfect people. We trust that everyone is giving their best effort to succeed, but mistakes will be made! Therefore, we ask that even when we miss a catch, call a bad play, or an official blows an “obvious” penalty that we give our best effort to remain positive.

All parents, players, and coaches are representatives of Mount Horeb/Barneveld and the Youth Football Program. Our every word and action reflect upon the schools, your child, the teams, and the community of Mount Horeb/Barneveld. Please choose to represent us well!

The coaches will strive to demonstrate their commitment to this football program by building positive relationships with our players, by taking an interest in their lives outside of football, and by being organized and prepared for every practice and every game. They will be committed to our athletes to the extent that we expect them to commit to our program. And in the process our coaches will enjoy the greatest reward – helping our young players develop into successful adults.

If you have any questions or concerns as the season progresses, please don't hesitate to contact your coach. The coaching staff asks that any conversation about your child's playing time be conducted respectfully, and at the appropriate time. These conversations should not take place on a game night, or in the midst of practice (24 Hour Rule). Our preference is for the coach to first communicate with the athlete directly on how to best improve his skills. That being said, if you do have questions about what to do, or why coaches make certain decisions, our coaches are willing to discuss their reasoning. Please remember that the coach's role is to make decisions that are best for the team. The coaches will do their best to be consistent and fair with all athletes. Parents should always go to the coach first. If you don't feel your concerns have been addressed, then contact the Program Director. Anonymous emails will not be address.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, or celebrations as the season progresses. Hopefully we can work together to encourage our athletes to accomplish their very best.

Looking Forward to a Successful Season!

*The 2019 MHB Youth Football Committee*

Program Director-Kevin Bagstad

Assistant Director-Gerry Rick

Program Coordinator-Layla Clark

Program Treasurer-Michelle Jones

Equipment Coordinators-Sarah Bagstad/Patrick Shipman