

A Parent's Guide to



TYFA's Age Groups (as of August 1st) – Whatever age your child is on August 1st is the age bracket they play in for Fall Football.

Introduction

TYFA is one of the fastest growing Leagues in Texas. It is an Association that currently encompasses independent organizations split into Regions and Chapters representing over 33 cities in Texas.

TYFA is a non-profit 501(c)(3). TYFA has been ranked by USA Football as one of the top ten largest Independent leagues in the country.

Because of our size and the hard work of our members and leadership, TYFA is uniquely positioned to offer existing or newly formed organizations a league like no other in competition and organization.

TYFA is run by volunteers; there are no paid positions.

TYFA is not an All-Star league; but it is competitive.

History

Established in 1995, the Texas Youth Football & Cheer Association (TYFA) is a league that was created in order to provide an opportunity for children to participate in youth football and cheerleading, while eradicating discrimination due to weight or gender issues or restrictions.

Our Mission

To create a League whose purpose is to instruct youth in the skills of Football and Cheerleading; where they can play, have fun, and make friends without fear of discrimination; where their "Dreams Begin"!

Our Mandate

To unite all football and cheer organizations in Texas under one banner and where all participating Organizations have a standard set of rules so they have a sense of fair play.

Demographics

TYFA services more than 15,000 Players, Cheerleaders and Coaches in the following areas:

- Austin
- Houston
- San Antonio
- Rio Grande Valley
- Numerous small towns across Texas

Specific Information

No Weight Restrictions – TYFA is a non weight limit league and players are placed on teams by age and not according to weight.

Football	
• Mighty-Mite (Flag)	• 4-6 year olds
• Midget (Tackle)	• 6-7 year olds
• Rookie (Tackle)	• 8-9 year olds
• Junior (Tackle)	• 10-11 year olds
• Senior (Tackle)	• 12-13 year olds**
Cheer	
• Mascot	• 3-4 year olds
• Mighty-Mite	• 5-6 year olds
• Midget	• 7 year olds
• Rookie	• 8-9 year olds
• Junior	• 10-11 year olds
• Senior	• 12-15 year olds**

*** TYFA allows senior age youth to play and cheer for TYFA and for their respective schools.*

Spring Season – TYFA provides a 'recreational' spring season for the Midgets, Rookies and Juniors of 6 games and a Bowl weekend.

Fall Regular Season – Based on schedule dynamics, teams will receive 4 home and 4 away games. The home team may charge gate.

State Football Playoff Format – All regions that have TYFA organizations participate in the playoffs. Our Playoff games are normally held at prominent High School stadiums, College and professional stadiums (such as the Alamodome, Texas State and Texas A&M). All of our age groups compete for a state championship. Playoffs are Cross-Regional so teams may have to travel.

International Games – TYFA teams have played numerous games against teams from Mexico to give our gives a different cultural experience.

TYFA offers 2 Divisions of Play – TYFA is one of the few leagues that offers two divisions of play in football similar to the 5A and 4A concept:

- **Division One:** is for experienced organizations with a history of success.
- **Division Two:** is for first year TYFA organizations or for those organizations from small towns that do not have the talent pool the larger cities have.
- Organizations can be moved between the divisions based upon records in order to maintain a certain level of competitiveness.

State Cheer Competition – TYFA Cheerleaders compete annually in a State Cheer Competition. This competition is the girls chance to showcase their talents and their hard work as they compete against other TYFA squads for a state title. Like football, cheer events are held in prominent or professional facilities. Cheerleaders compete at several levels of skill: Mascot, Novice,

Intermediate and Advanced which is further broken down by large and small squad and mixed.

Annual Coaches Certification – All coaches and team managers in TYFA regardless of tenure are required to attend a yearly certification clinic in order to coach in TYFA. This certification is good for one TYFA season and must be renewed annually. Each volunteer receives an ID Badge which allows them on the field and \$1,000,000 in liability insurance.

Youth Certification – All Football players and Cheerleaders are required to be certified by TYFA in order to verify that they are the correct age and that they are participating with the correct age group. This is done annually. A picture ID is created for them which allow them to participate.

Background Checks – All TYFA coaches and volunteers must undergo an extensive background check annually. *TYFA will not allow any person to coach that does not pass a background check.*

Annual Scholastic Excellence Award Program – TYFA believes that school is important to a young athlete. With that in mind, TYFA developed a scholastics recognition awards program that provides annual awards (both certificate and monetary) for those athletes and cheerleaders that perform above and beyond in the classroom.

Member Organizations – In TYFA organizations are independently owned and operated. Most as non-profit 501(c)(3) corporations. They are therefore responsible for their own finances, equipment and negotiations with companies and parents. TYFA has no jurisdiction over their policies as long as what they do does not violate TYFA rules or policies or put TYFA in a bad light. What an organization chooses to charge for a child to participate is up to them; as is the fundraisers they do or their refund policies.

Exclusive Contracts – TYFA has exclusive contracts with Riddell, Wilson and NIKE which allows our organizations to purchase equipment at major discounts and put kids into quality uniforms and equipment.

Facts & Opinions

- **Opinion** – TYFA believes that they prepare football players better than weight limit leagues for middle and high school for the simple fact that a TYFA player has faced larger players their whole TYFA career and not for the first time once they get to middle school.
- **Opinion** – TYFA believes that by bracketing players by age (2 years per bracket without weight limits) it serves the kids better than having weight limits and having them play up to make weight. There are leagues that because of weight issues have 5th graders playing against 9th graders because they have 4 ages per bracket and then after July 31 the child can have a birthday.
- **Fact** – TYFA does not have a national championship tournament. But parents also don't have the high cost of a

trip right before Christmas. Any State Championship site we play at can be driven to and back again in the same day.

How Do I Sign Up My Child?

There are two ways to sign your child up to play or cheer in TYFA:

1. Go to www.tyfa.com and click on Region 1 if you live in Austin, San Antonio or the surrounding areas. Click on Rio Grande Valley if you live there or click on Region 3 if you live in the Houston area. There will be a list of teams, their Point of Contact and phone #. Click on the logo to go to their website.
2. You can contact TYFA Corporate and they will help you locate an organization in your area if there is one.

Contact Information

If you would like to contact TYFA corporate to ask questions, make complaints or give feedback you can do so in several ways.

Mail to:

Texas Youth Football & Cheer Association
1633 Babcock Rd. Suite # 219
San Antonio, Texas 78229

Phone: 1-888-920-TYFA (8932)

Fax: 1-888-664-TYFA (8932)

Email: information@tyfa.com

www.tyfa.com