

2026 YOUTH FOOTBALL

Ages 8-12

<u>REGULAR REGISTRATION</u>	JUNE 15 – JULY 29	\$80 PER CHILD
<u>LATE REGISTRATION</u>	JULY 30- AUG. 2	\$90 PER CHILD

We reserve the right to make any necessary changes or cancellations to these programs in the interest of the safety and well-being of all participants, parents, officials, coaches and staff.

INTRODUCTION

York Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to have your child as a participant in our youth football program.

IMPORTANT SC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE RULE

SC High School League rules do not allow players to participate in both the York Parks and Recreation Department youth football program and any school football program. Players participating in the York Parks and Recreation Department youth football program are not eligible to participate in any school football program.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Effective February 1, 2010, a copy of each child's birth certificate must be on file with York Parks and Recreation Department no later than Monday, August 3, 2026, or your child will not be placed on a team. This includes participants that have played in previous seasons and other programs sponsored by York Parks and Recreation Department.

FEES & REFUNDS

Regular registration is held from June 15 – July 29 and the fee is \$80 during regular registration. Late registration is July 30- August 2 and the fee is \$90 during late registration. Fees for all participants will be collected at registration. Financial assistance is available. See staff for details. Registration will be handled by York Parks and Recreation Department. Fees may be refunded less a 25% administrative cost until Monday, August 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. **No refunds after Monday, August 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

AGE GROUPS

The age cut-off date is **September 1**. To be eligible to participate in Youth Tackle Football, a child must turn eight (8) years old before September 1 and cannot turn thirteen (13) years old before September 1. Age groups are 8-10 (**Small Fry**) and age 10-12 (**Mite League**). League age ten (10) year olds have the option of playing small fry or Mites. This must be declared prior to the end of registration.

*****Age groups may be modified if there is not enough interest to form a league in a particular age group*****

REQUIRED WEIGH-IN

All players (new and returning) must be weighed by York Parks and Recreation Department before the draft, which will be recorded as the participant's official weight. Any player that is not weighed by York Parks and Recreation Department prior to the draft will not be placed on a team. Participants can be weighed in at the Recreation Center beginning July 24th until the deadline. Weigh-ins can be conducted Monday-Thursday 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Fridays 3:00-4:00 p.m. Participants will also be fitted for shoulder pads during this time.

Participants may choose to be re-weighed until Friday, September 11, 2026, which will be the official weight for the remainder of the season, including post-season play. No other weigh-ins will be allowed throughout the season and post-season play. A participant's weight cannot be contested after Friday, September 11, 2026.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

York Parks and Recreation Department will provide your child with shoulder pads, mouthpiece, and a jersey. Participants may keep the jersey. However, we no longer provide helmets due to safety, liability and financial reasons. It is the parent's responsibility to purchase a helmet for your child. Participants are required to furnish their own pants with pads, cleats, etc. There is no color requirement for helmets and pants. White is only a suggestion so that it will go with any team that your child has been selected to unless your coach should have a color preference and you are able to get that particular color.

****SHOULDER PADS****

Shoulder pads will be distributed at the York Recreation Center. Shoulder pads will be collected following the conclusion of your child's last game. Parents will be responsible for paying the cost to replace shoulder pads that are not returned to York Parks and Recreation Department at the current sales price for new equipment.

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR AGES 8-10

A weight limit of **135 lbs** is in effect for the 8-10 year old league. Any player that weighs 136 lbs. or more is restricted to playing on the line of scrimmage and cannot advance the football. Players exceeding the weight limit shall wear an identifying orange mark on the back of their helmet.

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR AGES 10-12

A weight limit of **150 lbs.** is in effect for the 10-12 age group. Any player that weighs 151 lbs. or more is restricted to playing on the line of scrimmage and cannot advance the football. Players exceeding the weight limit shall wear an identifying orange mark on the back of their helmet.

PHYSICALS

Physicals are not required for youth football. However, York Parks and Recreation Department strongly recommends that each player receives a physical from their physician prior to the start of the 2026 season.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Players will return to their previous team in the small fry division as long as they are eligible, age wise. All players in Mites division will be placed into the draft. **** Staff has the right to alter this process for the betterment of the league. **** **All new players and players moving up in age divisions** will need to attend the skills review. **Skills review and draft will be held Tuesday August 4th at 6:00 p.m. for 10-12 year old division. Skills review and draft will be held Thursday, August 6th at 6:00 p.m. for the 8-10 year-old division. Skills reviews will be held at Optimist field located behind the Recreation Center (21 White Rose Lane).** Players should dress for participation but **no contact**. - no shoulder pads or helmets for the skills review. Youth football coaches will meet following each skills review to select players to the teams. After the skills review, coaches will contact their players concerning team assignments as well as practice times and location. All players must be weighed by York Parks and Recreation Department and must attend the skills review to be placed on a team. Any player not weighed by York Parks and Recreation Department and does not attend the skills review will be placed in the hat and will be randomly drawn during the draft and cannot participate in any practice or game until their weight has been recorded. No changes will be made once team assignments have been completed.

There are no residential boundaries for the youth football program therefore anyone is eligible to participate in the league provided that the child is of the appropriate age group. There will be no teams formed from Hickory Grove, Sharon, Smyrna, McConnells, or other areas.

REQUESTS

The only request for placement on the same team that will be accepted is brothers (within the same age group), provided that staff is made aware at the time of registration. No other requests for placement on the same team or a particular team will be accepted. Once team assignments are complete, no changes will be made.

If a parent does not want their child to play for a particular coach, the parent must submit a written explanation to York Parks and Recreation Department detailing the reason, which will be shared with the coach. The player will enter the appropriate draft and will be randomly drawn by the coaches during the draft process. The player is eligible to be randomly picked by the coach unless it is determined by Parks and Recreation Department and the coach that the request is valid and placing the player on that team should be avoided. Parents must notify staff by Friday, July 31st.

GAMES/ PRACTICES

Practices may begin Monday, August 10th, and will be scheduled at the discretion of the coaches. Games will tentatively begin Monday, September 14, 2026, and will end mid-November, which will include a post-season tournament following the regular season. There will also be an opportunity for All-Stars at the end of the post-season tournament.

All regular season games will be scheduled by York Parks and Recreation Department. Games will be played on weekday evenings at the York Recreation Complex, 74 Fourth Street and YCHS football stadium. Game times for both age groups will be 6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. on week nights. Games that are cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled for the next available day, including Wednesdays, and other days that games are not normally played.

PICTURE DAY – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd AT YORK RECREATION CENTER

Football teams will have pictures taken on **Wednesday, September 23rd at the York Recreation Center on White Rose Lane**. Pictures will be taken outside at the York Recreation Center. If there is inclement weather pictures will be taken inside the York Recreation Center. An exact schedule of times will be given out at a later date. All players and coaches must attend for the team picture regardless if you purchase any pictures. Pictures will be taken by Sport Pix. Make check payable to Sport Pix. Please check with your coach to make sure that your team will be participating in picture day on September 23 and has not arranged for another photographer to take their pictures.

DEADLINE TO ADD PLAYERS – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

Coaches will not be allowed to add players to their rosters after **Friday, October 2, 2026**. York Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule depending upon unforeseen circumstances that may cause a team to forfeit or fold from the league. Any player selected to add to a team must be registered and approved by York Parks and Recreation Department before participating in any practice or game.

COACHES

If a parent is not satisfied with their child's playing time or other decisions made by the coach, parents are encouraged to first discuss these issues with the coach before or after the game or practice and not during the game or practice. York Parks and Recreation Department is also available to assist parents if there is a concern after talking with the coach.

Attending all practices is a very important part of any athletic program and is a very important requirement to your coaches. Players that do not attend practice are not able to learn or prepare for a game. Coaches have the right not to play a participant because of not attending practice or for disciplinary reasons.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

York Parks and Recreation Department will contact the head coach only if games have been canceled and the head coach will notify the players on the team. Games that are cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled for the next available day, including Wednesdays, and other days that games are not normally played. We will also update our Facebook page with any cancellations.

MEDALS

York Parks and Recreation will distribute medals at the end of the season. If your team decides to provide other awards, we ask that you not distribute trophies, medals, etc. around the playing field, to avoid hurting the feelings of children from other teams. If you would like to have a team party, picnic shelters are available at no charge. York Recreation Center is also available at no charge during certain weeknights. Please contact York Parks and Recreation Department at 684-3742 for picnic shelter availability or to reserve the York Recreation Center.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

York Parks and Recreation Department has adopted a “Zero Tolerance Policy.” Profanity, fighting, heckling, disrespect, abusive language, threats, or alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated. Violators will be subjected to suspension from all York Parks and Recreation Department sponsored programs and facilities.

York Parks and Recreation Department programs and facilities are designed to offer leisure activities for families, groups, and individuals of all ages with diversified interests. Sporting events are provided by the department as opportunities for friendly competition while promoting good sportsmanship among participants and a pleasant environment for spectators.

Participants, coaches, team representatives, spectators, and others are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner before, during, and after an event, or within 500 feet of City of York property and playing areas

Any player, coach, or fan that is ejected from a game by an official or staff member will serve a mandatory minimum one (1) game suspension. Details of the incident will be reviewed by staff to determine if further action is needed.

PARK RULES

Please keep several park rules in mind at the York Recreation Complex:

1. **Warning! Approach ball fields with caution and at your own risk.**
2. Coolers and similar items are not allowed in the York Recreation Complex ball field area, except for water coolers and those approved by Complex staff. Anyone wishing to distribute drinks or similar items may use the picnic shelter or the area by the ticket booth. Team drinks are available at the concession stand at a reduced rate.
3. No pets are allowed in the York Recreation Complex ball field area, except for service animals. Emotional support animals are not allowed.
4. Tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited on or near the playing field. Please use the Smoker Depots located throughout the park.
5. Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by an adult. No running, jumping, or throwing objects around the Complex tower. Climbing in trees and bushes are prohibited.
6. Please help keep the park clean. Trash receptacles are available.

GAME RULES

Game rules such as weight limit, age cut off date, and general playing rules are determined at a coaches meeting prior to the start of registration. Rules concerning the clock are in place to prevent games from being too lengthy.

The clock will stop for touch downs, time-outs, and out of bounds only. The clock will stop for incomplete passes only during the final two-minutes of the 2nd and 4th quarters. The clock will start when the ball is reset by the official.

Extra point: Will be played from the 3 yard line.

Maximum 5 down linemen on defense in both age groups. Outside linebackers must be 3 yards off the end, and end and middle linebackers must be 3 yards off the line of scrimmage.

The player's weight recorded by York Parks and Recreation Department on Friday, September 12, 2025, is the player's official weight and cannot be contested.

Each player must play a minimum of eight (8) plays which includes kick off and punts. It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure that this rule is observed and is not violated. However, coaches have the right not to play a participant because of not attending practices or disciplinary reasons.

STAFF

The staff at York Parks and Recreation Department are always accessible and available to assist parents and coaches in anyway possible. If you experience a problem or a concern that needs attention, please let staff know immediately. Or, please contact Chris White, Recreation Director, at 803-684-3742.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS

York Parks and Recreation Department welcomes input from parents, coaches, and others so that we may provide a positive learning experience for everyone associated with the Youth Football program. Please share your comments and suggestions by contacting any staff member, contacting Chris White, Recreation Director, at 803-684-3742, by mail to York Parks and Recreation Department, P.O. Box 500, York, SC 29745, or e-mail at yorkrecreation@yorksc.gov