



WARREN COUNTY YMCA CO-ED YMCA FALL FLAG FOOTBALL Fall 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to FALL FLAG FOOTBALL at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you so much for signing your child(ren) up for our program! This clinic is a starting point for your child's learning of/or refamiliarizing to the game of football! This clinic will run from 9:00am-10:30am. All the kids will be split up into several groups and will participate in multiple stations working on many common football drills and exercises. Each station today is being run by members of the 2026 Monmouth College Fighting Scots Football Team, Head Coach Chad Braun and his staff who were kind enough to volunteer their time to us again this year! THANK YOU, SCOTS! During station work, my staff and I will be walking around "scouting" players. This will help with making teams as the goal is to make them as even as possible so games are more competitive and fun for the players as well as you, who may be watching! I will also be walking around answering any questions parents may have about the upcoming season. Following this clinic, I will spend the weekend building teams and preparing for the coaches' meeting next week.

Volunteering: Parents, we ALWAYS need any help that you can provide. Volunteer coaches are important to Y Sports. This is a big ask, but the help is extremely needed and appreciated to allow our programs to run as best as possible. If you are interested, please let me know here at the clinic or as soon as possible this weekend/early next week by calling the Y at (309) 734-3183, or emailing me directly at ben@warrencountyyymca.org. You can also call or text me personally at 309-973-6882. The coaches' meeting will take place Tuesday, September 2nd @ 5:30pm in the AP Room at the Y. If you cannot make it to the meeting, but are interested in coaching, please reach out to me about meeting 1 on 1 ASAP. After this meeting, teams will be set and coaches or I will notify you and let you know what team your child is on, and when they plan to practice.

BACK THIS FALL: I plan to have Soccer AND Flag Football Games going simultaneously every Saturday morning, barring major changes. LIKE LAST YEAR, I will have different age groups playing at different times to avoid conflicts in schedules particularly if your child is doing both sports. Starting at 9am & 10am, 1st-3rd Grade Football and 4th-6th Grade Soccer will start the day. After a small break, the plan then is to start 4th-6th Grade Flag Football and 1st-3rd Grade Soccer at 11:30 & 12:30pm. ALL Flag Football games will be played on Field 1 where the clinic is taking place. Soccer will take place on the fields to the east.

Games Dates: Games are scheduled to be played on the following dates: September 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17 & 24. 1 Make-Up date will be allowed. The make-up date is currently set for October 31st.

Communication: I (Coach Ben) will send messages out as needed during the program. These messages could be reminders, changes to the program schedule, cancellations, etc. These will either come from myself personally, from your child's coach, or from Daxko Engage (our messaging system at the Y). Engage has the ability for me to send out mass text messages to program participants. I strongly ask that you "opt in" to receive messages from Daxko Engage as it helps me immensely get info to you much quicker than adding each person's phone number

into my phone. To “opt in”, text WCYMCA to 54539. There is no charge to do this. If you choose not to, that is fine, but if I send out a cancellation message for example, and you did not opt in to get messages, you will not see it. This will be important for quick communication for our programs and more moving forward at the Y! You can “opt out” at any time.

Picture Day: Shyvel’s Photography will be returning to take team pictures this season for us! Pictures for both sports and both age groups will be done on **Saturday, October 3rd (Week 3)**. We will hand out picture forms the week prior.

Team Shirts: Team shirts will be ordered following the coaches meeting. I plan to hand them out either at practice the week prior to game 1, or at your player’s game on Saturday, September 19th before the start of their game.

Cancellations: I will always try to have sports no matter what the weather is doing. It is Fall in Illinois, which means weather can be extreme. Football can be played in all sorts of weather, if it is safe to do so. I will only cancel if I deem the weather dangerous (severe weather or weather warnings, extreme heat or extreme rain/cold, blustery wind, major downpours, thunder/lightning etc). Plan on there being football unless you hear from either me and/or your team’s coach! Please don’t bombard the Y with calls, I will let you know!

Staffing/Referees: As in years past, I will have Y staff members and college interns who will be helping referee games again this Fall. I will be present on campus every Saturday, however, I will be refereeing on the soccer side of things. Whether I am present or not, PLEASE be respectful to ALL referees. All of them but Eddy & myself are part time employees or volunteering and doing me a huge favor. Please remember, we are not professional refs. Some calls will be missed (it happens) or will not be made (if minor infractions) to keep the games moving as we have limited time. Remember, this is a fun league where the kids are still learning how to play. Any bad behavior towards staff will NOT be tolerated.

Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child’s team/group/sport, the cost for the Fall Football season is \$200. This helps offset t-shirt, equipment, and staff costs. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of all the shirts in the program. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork sent to me prior to September 2nd. As an extra thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence for the remainder of Fall/Winter sports in 2026 and into the new year. We would love the support!

I hope you find this letter helpful, especially for those of you new to the program! Please email me with any questions/concerns via ben@warrencountyyymca.org. Enjoy the rest of your day and enjoy the season!

Again, special thanks to Coach Braun and the Fighting Scots Football team for lending their time to help these kids have a great memory to look back on! After our games this Fall, head over to Monmouth College and root on the Scots!

See you on the field!

Ben Davis (Coach Ben) – Youth Development Director