

**OGYF HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE POP WARNER AND JOIN THE LARGEST
AND FASTEST GROWING YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM IN THE U.S.
The American Youth Football League**

Oak Grove Youth Football

P.O. Box 23442 San Jose, California 95153

January 29, 2009

Dear Parent and Participant,

OGYF will be leaving Peninsula Pop Warner football and joining the largest and fastest growing youth football organization in the U.S. the "American Youth Football League" (AYF - web address is www.americanyouthfootball.com). The OGYF board voted unanimously to make the move at our board meeting on Wednesday January 28, 2009. Since OGYF has such a steep tradition and has won 14 Division one Football and 7 Cheer/Dance Pop Warner National Championships, deciding to make the move out of Pop Warner was very difficult and emotional. However the reason the board voted unanimously to make the change is the AYF is BY FAR the best youth football league for the kids in our program.

Before going into the reasons for the move we want to address the most frequently asked question - What about National Championships? The AYF national championships are run in the same manner and the same weekend as Pop Warner. There are 8 regions. Regional Championships are held in the bay area. National Championships are held in Orlando Florida. The biggest difference on the plus side is travel cost (on average about \$200 cheaper per person for the week since it is not mandatory we stay at the All-Star hotel). The negative, for some, is the nationals are not held on Disney property (The cheer championships last year were held at the same arena where the NBA Orlando Magic play their home games. While not Disney it is an outstanding facility).

Another question we are getting is: are we still Oak Grove and is OGHS still our main field? The answers to the questions are yes and yes. While we are changing to AYF there is no real change for any OG member. OGYF is an independent organization. We are free to join any league or conference we choose with no repercussions.

The reasons we are leaving Peninsula Pop Warner and joining AYF are as follows:

- 1) AYF is an organization with integrity. The only games played are the ones on the field. AYF volunteers are treated with respect by the Conference.
- 2) VOLUNTARY SCHOLASTICS PROGRAM - The kids that need to play the most won't be suspended because of grades.
- 3) LOWER COST FOR A BETTER PRODUCT - OGYF pays Peninsula approximately \$22K to \$26K per year. With AYF we expect to pay around \$10K or less.
- 4) BETTER CHILD SAFETY - AYF rules discourage child weight loss. There is no 1 lb increase per week in AYF so it is less likely a child 5 pounds over the starting weight will try to lose it because he has to hold that weight all year long. AYF weights are the SAME as Pop Warner end of season weights - no other differences in ages and weights.
- 5) NO BOUNDARIES - Kids can play where they want to play without fear of repercussions to their team.
- 6) SEPERATION OF POWER - The Commissioner of Conference and Commissioner of the Region cannot be the same person.

7) OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A PROGRAM FROM THE GROUND UP - OGYF is looking forward to working with other organizations to build a youth football program and have it run in positive, supportive manner.

8) MIGHTY MITES COMPETE AT NATIONALS - 10 year old or older lighters can participate on the Mighty Mite level (called Cadets) AND Mighty Mites also get to participate in the National Championships in Orlando including Cheer/Dance.

9) OPEN COMPETITION FOR CHEER/DANCE - Cheer and dance squads are not restricted and can compete in open competitions outside the Conference.

10) DIVISION 2 OPTION - This option available for individual OGYF teams (approved by OGYF) who would have the opportunity to compete in Orlando for the AYF Division 2 Championships.

11) ALL- STAR FOOTBALL TEAMS WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL GAMES - Local Conference All-stars will play the Sacramento All-Stars and Midget Regional All-Stars get to compete in a national tournament in Orlando the same weekend that the National Championships are held.

In addition we have discussed the change with the key personnel at OGHS including the head football coach and members of the administration. They completely support our decision.

The founding and current members of AYF's NorCal Conference include Palo Alto, Mission Valley (Hayward), San Jose Steelers (San Jose HS), Silicon Valley Tigers (Lincoln HS in San Jose), Hollister, Oakland, San Jose Sharks, and Oak Grove. In addition since OGYF is one of the most nationally recognized youth football programs in the country there are multiple organizations, both locally and nationally, that have contacted us to ask why we were considering the move and who were waiting to see what our decision was before they made their decision. As a true leader OGYF is making this move based upon what we believe is best for our kids and we expect others will follow.

If you have not already, we expect you may hear a lot of rumors and maybe even receive letters about AYF from Pop Warner loyalists disparaging the AYF. We ask you not be manipulated by people spreading rumors, gossip and fear. The OGYF board would not have made this move, we would not have voted unanimously to make the change and we would not have the support of OGHS unless this change was best for our program.

We encourage you to contact any OGYF board member or the 2009 head coach that you signed up for if you have any questions. All of our coaches are excited about the new opportunity and can help address any concerns or questions you may have.

Within the next couple of weeks you will be notified the team your son or daughter is on and the name of the head coach. We will also cover some other important information you will need to know.

Thanks and we are looking forward to a great season.

OGYF Board of Directors