



***Houston Select
Football League***

***Spring Football
“Building Men of Character
Through Football”***



Vision

- “The Houston Select Football League exists to help middle school boys become godly men of character. Through the game of football, we strive to develop athletes who are spiritually strong, academically sound and athletically advanced.”

Why Now? The Void

- There is a void of off season opportunities for athletes that wish to improve their football skills.
- Compared to other sports – baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball etc.- there are few, and in some areas no, platforms available for the football player to work on his skills in the off season until they reach High School.



Why Now? The Middle School Dilemma

- The unfortunate reality is that most middle schools are restrained by budgets as to the number of coaches that they can employ in the football program. In several cases we know that there are 2 coaches working with 100 boys!
- The result is that it is very difficult for those coaches to be able to give as much time to each player as they would like.



Why Now? Idle hands

- For middle school boys who choose not to participate in a spring athletic activity, or other school activity, they often times have a great deal of free time after school. Many times they are unsupervised. This can be a destructive situation.
- We want to provide an outlet for those boys who are not involved in other spring activities to be engaged in constructive activities.
- Football teaches such incredible life lessons that we want to provide more access than currently exists.



Why Now? Skill Development

- For the player that chooses to focus on football in the spring, they will have the opportunity to get coaching instruction that should be of the finest quality.
- Our goal is to have well trained coaches involved in the program who can truly teach the techniques and skills that will prepare the middle school athlete for High School football and beyond.



Why Now? Academics

- Educators unanimously agree that the middle school years lay the academic groundwork for high school.
- If the student-athlete enters high school with poor academic fundamentals the child will have a tough time being successful.
- The HSFL is designed to emphasize the importance of academics as well as athletics.



What is the HSFL?

- “The Houston Select Football League exists to help middle school boys become godly men of character. Through the game of football, we strive to develop athletes who are spiritually strong, academically sound and athletically advanced.”
- The Houston Select Football League is a grade based league that involves the following age groups:
 - Varsity = 8th grade
 - Junior Varsity = 7th grade

Players may play UP with a different age group but not down.
UIL age restrictions will apply to all athletes.



What is the HSFL?

- Spring Football is available to clubs from Houston and the surrounding areas. There are no geographic restrictions, and we encourage participation from teams anywhere in the region.



Spring Tackle Football

- The Spring Tackle Football Program is designed to promote the highest level of competition and fairness. Some key points:
 - There are no weight limits or minimum play rules
 - There may be no less than 18 players on a team and there is no limit on the maximum number of players a team may field.
 - HSFL rules basically mirror those used in Texas high school competition



Who Else is Involved?

- We have hosted a State Championship at Baylor University or Texas A&M each year.
- Since our inception in 2008 we have hosted teams from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area at State Championship Weekend. The top three teams at each age group have competed and the HSFL has won 12 State Championships.



What happened last year?

Varsity City and State Champions

F.A.S.T. Select

Varsity Alamo Bowl Winner- Houston Outlaws

JV City & State Champions

Houston Outlaws

Jr Varsity Cotton Bowl Winner - Ft. Bend Express

Jr Varsity Alamo Bowl Winner - Humble Bulldogs



Changes this year?

- HSFL Character Development Series Expansion
- Organizations to field both a 7th and 8th grade team
- Extra regular season game added to the schedule



HSFL Team Application Process

- Each team must apply and be approved by the HSFL board.
- When a team application is received, a time will be scheduled to interview the staff of that organization. At that meeting ALL staff should be in attendance to be tested and interviewed and the Team deposit of \$250 is due. Any staff not present will be required to interview and test at a different time before an organization may be approved.
- Factors that may be considered by the board when evaluating a potential organization:
 - Geography, as to create as much diversification of team locations as possible.
 - Financial stability of the organization
 - Coaching staff experience and professionalism
 - The ability of an organization proposes to bring teams at both age groups which will be required this year.
 - Operational infrastructure of the organization
 - One page character and academic excellence plan
- All teams will be notified of their application status by Dec. 15



HSFL Player Financial Assistance

- The HSFL will continue our Player Financial Assistance program for this season. A portion of the league fees, and fundraisers will go towards:
 - Public school players who qualify as: Free or reduced lunch, commended on the TAKS test, with straight A's in school. Further the child must not have received any school disciplinary actions (ISS or OSS) – final criteria and amounts to be determined by the operational board, comprised of a representative from each HSFL organization



HSFL Fee Structure

- Each TEAM will pay a \$500 fee. Each PLAYER will pay an ALL-INCLUSIVE Fee of \$150. Each COACH will pay \$30. These fees will provide:
 - 7 activities (6 regular season games plus at least 1 playoff game)
 - Team and Player Insurance
 - All stadium rentals and staffing (Field Director, 3 officials, medical trainer, security, field crew etc.)
 - Awards for City Championship finalists



Projected Timeline

- The HSFL calendar is still under development but will most likely be:
 - Nov 1 – Team application process and team acceptance/rejections finalized. Returning team \$250 deposits due
 - Dec 1 - Team Fee final payment of \$250 due
 - Jan 19 - League tryouts (FBU tryout)
 - Feb 1 - Mandatory Coaches Clinic
 - Feb 20-22 – Glazier Coaches Clinic
 - March 1 – Opening Weekend



Preliminary Schedule

1/19/2014 Combine

2/1/2014 Mandatory Coaches Clinic

2/21/2014 Glazier Coaches Clinic

3/1/2014 1st Game

3/8/2014 2nd Game

3/15/2014 Spring Break

3/22/2014 3rd Game

3/29/2014 4th Game

4/5/2014 5th Game

4/12/2014 6th Game

4/19/2014 7th Game/Wild Card

4/26/2014 Quarter Finals

5/3/2014 Semi Finals

5/10/2014 City Championship

5/17/2014 State Championship



New Player Tryout Process

- If a player does not have a team affiliation, they may tryout for the league at the HSFL Combine. The tryout fee is \$20 and must be paid at the time of registration online. The fee will be \$25 if a player does not register online and elects to pay at the event.
- All coaches will be allowed to observe tryouts and then contact athletes who are not already a member of a HSFL team AFTER a designated time.
- Players will receive a combine t-shirt and be identified by area, grade and position group.
- If a player is selected by a team, \$20 will be credited toward their league fee and they will pay the balance due directly to the league at registration in February.



Player Registration Process

- Team Registration will be done as a group on designated dates to be determined.
- Registration will require that every player must provide the league with ALL of their completed paperwork. (B/C, report card/student ID, signed forms etc.) **Returning players will only be required to provide proof of grade level and new waiver and medical release forms.**
- If a player has any outstanding paperwork, they will **NOT be allowed** to participate in any league activities.
- Every player will pay their league fee directly to the league, no later than Feb. 18. If a player has not paid their league fee, they will not be allowed to participate in league events.



Football University Invitation Process

- EVERY PLAYER who participates in the HSFL Combine will be eligible to earn an automatic invitation to Football University Houston camp, conducted by the sponsors of the US Army All-American Game. This opportunity is available for players affiliated with a team and new players who do not have a team affiliation.
- The players will select a position group and be graded on a completely quantitative scoring scale.
- The top 10 scores at each grade level in each position group (ex QB which is the top 5), in each grade, will receive guaranteed invitations to the FBU Houston camp, which will occur June 6 – 8th.
- All player scores will be calculated and provided via the HSFL website.



Coaching Policies

- EVERY coaching staff must comply with the coaches dress code on game day. This code requires closed toed shoes, collared shirts that match the team colors and/or shirts that display the team logo and are tucked in. Hats, if worn, must face forward and not be tilted, or intentionally crooked. Slacks are strongly encouraged but not required. Shorts must be hemmed and worn at the appropriate waist level. Jean shorts are not permitted.
- Staff behavior will be monitored by game officials. We are mentors to middle school young men. Foul language or excessive berating of players will be warned, then penalized by the officiating crew in the same manner as other sideline infractions. Severe violations will be referred to league officials.
- Each team will be assigned a time before the jamboree to present all players and equipment to the league trainer. If a player is not properly equipped they will not play. As part of the in season pre-game check in, players will have their ID verified and then their equipment will be inspected.
- All coaches will receive complimentary access to the Glazier Clinic, which will be held in Houston and be required to attend the mandatory HSFL coaches clinic. The HSFL clinic will be conducted by the HSFL HS Advisory Board along with other high school coaches from the Houston area.



What else should we know?

- The Academic All-HSFL team honors all players who maintain a B average for their spring semester as of the end of season play.



What is the Next Step?

- Tell everyone you know who is involved in a football program about the league.
- Start recruiting players.
- Complete the Team Application Form and schedule your interview and test.



How can you help?

- The HSFL is looking for individuals that are willing to help in the following areas:
 - League Operations
 - Website/Facebook Maintenance
 - Game Day Operations
 - League Administration
 - Coaches
 - Academic Counselors/Tutors
 - Fundraising Support
 - HSFL Summer Camp



Contact Information

- www.HSFL.org
- staff@hsfl.org
- Facebook Page
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Houston-Select-Football-League/151797424860632>
- Follow us on Twitter
<https://twitter.com/HoustonSelect>