



West Omaha Wildcats Flag Football Handbook 2017

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13*

Mission Statement: The West Omaha Wildcats flag football team exists to provide home educated young men the opportunity to participate in an organized, competitive, flag football team within a distinctly Christian environment that challenges each player to strive for maturity.

Focus: Character, athletic skills, teamwork, and competition with other teams.

Eligibility: Players must be 50% homeschooled defined as parent directed or home directed education. Boys age 12 - 18 as of **September 1st** of the current season year are eligible for current season play. Players may not have graduated from high school.

Player Fees and other financial responsibilities: All player fees are the responsibility of the player and family. Fees cover referees, coaches, jerseys, equipment, and operating costs. The registration form and a \$50 deposit are due by August 1st each year. The liability release form is due at your first practice even if you decide not to continue. Please mail the form to: **Ken Clipperton, 11930 S 217th St., Gretna, NE 68028.** The total fee of \$150 is due before the first game of the season. Checks are to be made payable to Wildcats Football.

Players will not be eligible to play until the entire fee is paid. **A small need-based scholarship has been set up. See the athletic director for details.** Because the fee does not cover all of our operating expenses there is some fundraising required or you may opt out for a fee. See fundraising.

Individual equipment is the responsibility of the player and family, to include: uniform shorts without pockets or with pockets sewn shut, undergarments, mouth guard, shoes and any other playing equipment the player or family require. Cleats must be plastic. We have black shorts without pockets and practice shirts available to order.

We normally travel to Abilene, KS for an end of year tournament in October. Tournament travel expenses are the responsibility of the player and family. This is a varsity tournament but JV players are welcome to come also.

Parental Involvement: This program cannot exist without the volunteer help of the parents and/or family. All families are required to fill a volunteer position. See the volunteer sheet to choose what you would like to do. If you do not choose, a position will be assigned to you. If we run a tournament during the season, additional help will be needed. Please remember that the board and coaches are also volunteers and put a good amount of time and effort into running this program. Parental volunteer time is very important and appreciated.

Communication: We communicate through email. If this does not work for you, please let the Athletic Director know to set up different arrangements. Schedule changes are inevitable in athletics. Please be flexible and check your email regularly. If the weather is questionable, we will

email cancellation notices about a half hour before the event. Please check your email before you leave for a practice, game, or event. You may call the Athletic Director if you are unsure.

Financial Accountability: We desire to keep all financial business at the highest level of Christian character and respect. The board develops a proposed budget at the beginning of each season and an actual budget at the end of the season. All financial information is freely available to families involved in the program. Participating families are expected to fulfill their financial responsibilities according to the same high standards.

Fundraising: The player fee does not cover all the cost of this program, therefore some team fundraising is necessary. The required fundraising options are as follows: (choose 2)

- sell 5 Christmas wreaths
- car wash - this is also a team building event and we would like all players to participate
- sell a sponsor program ad \$50
- sell a sponsor program ad and ad on website \$90 (this would fulfill requirement)
- 1 fundraiser / opt out \$50
- no fundraising opt out \$100

Other fundraising ideas are welcome, but implementation would be the responsibility of the parent or family who suggests the idea. Sponsor forms are available on the website.

Health Insurance Liability: All players are expected to carry personal insurance or assume full financial responsibility should an injury occur during practice or games. Parents, guardians, and players agree that Wildcat Football, as well as the facilities used for practices and games will not be held responsible for any injuries.

Player Equipment: Game shorts (solid black with no stripes) should have no pockets or have the pockets sewn shut. Game shoes should be appropriate turf tennis shoes or plastic spike shoes; spikes are recommended. NO metal spikes allowed. An appropriate t-shirt, under armor type shirt or other shirt is to be worn under the team jersey during games. The shirt should be black, dark green, or white. A mouth guard is required to be worn by the player at all practices and games. No jewelry is allowed during practices or games. Practice shirts and Wildcats shorts without pockets are available for purchase.

Player Conduct and Involvement: Teaching commitment and responsibility is part of the character building of this program.

1. Be on time for practices and games.
2. Practices and games are not optional. Contact the coach when unable to attend.
3. Excused absences are at the discretion of the coach. Unexcused absences will affect playing time.
4. Listen to instructions and follow team rules.
5. Show respect and loyalty to the coaches, players, and other authority figures.
6. Respect the decisions of the coaches.
7. Respect the decisions of the referees.
8. Be coachable - willing to take direction, instruction, and discipline with a good attitude.
9. Demonstrate enthusiasm for practices and playing the game.
10. Be supportive of your teammates at all times.

11. Strive for excellence as a player and demonstrate leadership by being willing to put others first.
12. Maintain the equipment and keep it in order.
13. Not use any abusive, foul, degrading, disruptive, or complaining language.
14. Report any injury to the coaching staff ASAP.
15. Refrain from misconduct that would discredit the Wildcats reputation.
16. Refrain from the use of drugs or alcohol.

Parent or Guardian Conduct:

1. Encourage and support the authority of the coaching staff, board, and program.
2. Make every reasonable effort to have the player at all scheduled practices and games on time to fulfill their commitment to the team.
3. Treat coaches, fellow parents, game officials, players, and spectators with respect at all times, and be sure that all family members and friends do the same.
4. Contact the Athletic Director or Coach with any problem, concerns, or comments regarding this program.
5. Make the Athletic Director and Coaches aware of any physical, mental, or emotional challenges that a player may be experiencing.
6. Support the Wildcats program by volunteering.
7. Pay fees by assigned due date.
8. Only have students who meet the eligibility requirements participate on the team.

Coaching Philosophy: The desire of the Wildcats program is to develop young men in both athletic and life skills. Coaching technique will vary from coach to coach as well as with different ages and team levels. This program desires to win games but also to develop players throughout the years. Any decision regarding playtime for individual players is the responsibility of the Coaches and is based on various factors:

1. The player's attendance at practices and games.
2. The player's attitude and effort at practices and games.
3. The player's understanding of the game and the play book.

If a player or parent has any questions as to the amount of playing time, they are to address this personally and privately with the Head Coach. If there is a different type of problem, parents and players are asked to address the Athletic Director privately.

Practices and Games: Practices and games are at Brookside Church. Please be respectful of the church and property as they do not charge us to use their field. Please pick up any trash on the field after practices and games.

Wildcats Board:

Ken Clipperton, Athletic Director – westomahawildcats@gmail.com, 402-213-8551

Ben Russell, huskers210@gmail.com

Mark Shippy, mbshippy@cox.net

Coaches:

Aaron Titus, Head Coach

Josiah Nelson, Asst. Coach

Rick Waymire, Asst. Coach