



# ACYA MUST READ LETTER - 2010

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## WHEN DOES PRACTICE BEGIN?

The first day of practice will be staggered based on your child's grade in school.

- 4th to 7th Graders begin practices on Monday, August 2nd
- 4th to 7th Grade league drafts take place on Saturday, August 14th (coaches only)
- 1st to 3rd Graders begin practices on Monday, August 16th
- 1st to 3rd Grade drafts take place on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> (coaches only)
- Flag Football begins on Wednesday, September 8th

All tackle league practices run from 6PM until 8PM, Monday to Thursday through the respective league drafts noted above. Once the league drafts are held and your son has been assigned to a team, practices will become less frequent and you will be notified by your coach as to the practice times and locations for your team from that point forward.

## WHERE ARE PRACTICES HELD?

A detailed map of Murphey Candler Park is available on the Atlanta Colts web site at:

[http://www.acya.us/docs/murphey\\_candler\\_map.pdf](http://www.acya.us/docs/murphey_candler_map.pdf)

**On Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, all 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade players should report at 6PM to the Mustang Field** where they will be split into their respective groups and will **then** move to the appropriate practice fields (noted below) grouped by grade. On all subsequent practice days prior to the league drafts, the practice locations are as follows:

- All 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have practices on the Mustang Football Field.
- All 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have practices on the AAA Baseball Field.
- All 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have practices on Baseball Field 14.

**On Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, all 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade players should report at 6PM to the Colt Field** where they will then be split into grade groups. 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will stay with their specific grade group during their evaluations.

**Give yourself extra time on the first day to park and find your son's practice field. All players should have plenty of water.**

## WHAT EQUIPMENT DO WE NEED TO BRING?

All players should come in **FULL EQUIPMENT** on the first day ready to play. Players should bring the shoulder pads and helmets and chin straps provided by the park along with their own cleats, mouth guards, pants with pads and practice jersey. There will be plenty of coaches to assist newer or first year players with their equipment, but **please arrive early if you need assistance**. It is also best to have your son put on his equipment a few times in the days prior to the first practice. Pay careful attention to make sure that your son's chin strap has already been adjusted properly to his helmet and that he can put on and take off his helmet and button his chin strap on his own. He can practice this at home.

**IMPORTANT:** please use a magic marker or Sharpie and write your son's LAST NAME and grade (as of Aug 31<sup>st</sup>) in BIG letters **on a piece of athletic or masking tape** and place it on the front of his helmet over the facemask.

**The last Fitting Day for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders is Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** Any 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grader players who have not picked up equipment prior to Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> should arrive 30 to 45 minutes early on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to pick up their equipment. All players should bring plenty of water each day.

## **WHAT CAN WE EXPECT DURING THE WEEKS OF EVALUATIONS AND TRY-OUTS?**

Players will participate in a variety of individual and team drills. These drills are tailored to assess the ability of the individual players and are designed to allow our coaches to group players of similar size and ability. Evaluations will be from 6 pm until 8 pm Monday thru Thursday. Following the evaluations, the players will then be drafted onto teams and will be notified by their respective coaches over the weekend of the draft.

## **WHAT WILL THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE BE DURING THE REGULAR SEASON?**

Regular season practice schedules will be created after teams are drafted. Once games begin, practices for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up will be reduced to two times a week for two hours. The practice commitment for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be reduced to one day a week. Practices for Division I Colt players will be reduced to three times per week for two hours.

## **WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO BEFORE PRACTICE?**

**HYDRATION** is very important during this time of year. Have your player drink plenty of water in the days leading up to evaluations. Please do not wait until two hours prior to practice to drink water. Each player should have plenty of water with them at the park as the days of August can be extremely hot.

**BUG SPRAY** is recommended. Please spray your player before you get to the park.

## **WHAT ABOUT DROP OFF AND PARKING?**

Patience is appreciated during the first few weeks of the season as the park is full on a regular basis. As the season progresses and the practices and games are spread out, the parking will improve based on volume. ACYA will hire off duty DeKalb County police officers to assist with traffic as needed. Please carpool and **ARRIVE EARLY**.

***DROP OFF LINE*** - *If you want to drop your children off before parking, be prepared prior to entering the parking lot. Children should have all gear either on or in their lap as you pull up to the drop off line. Drivers will not be allowed to get out of their car at drop off. This will help us keep the drop off line moving.*

**DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR VEHICLE!** In the past, cars have been broken into, even with the police presence.

As with many local parks, we are located within neighborhood. Please be respectful of our neighbors, honor all No-Parking signs, and follow the parking rules listed below. Parking is available in the main lot, as well as a secondary lot, adjacent to the baseball complex and at Murphey Candler pool. There is also parking available by the big soccer field. Please remember the following:

- 1) Be cognizant of "No Parking" Zones. DeKalb County Police will ticket illegally parked cars.
- 2) Do not park within 3 car lengths of an intersection (even when a "No Parking" sign is not present)
- 3) Do not park on vegetation
- 4) Park in designated parking areas only.
- 5) When parking on side streets where parking is permitted, please be aware that cars can be parked **ON ONLY ONE** side of the street. The first car to park, establishes the side on which cars can be lawfully parked.

## **WHAT HAPPENS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER?**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER** is common during the summer months. Football practice is **RAIN OR SHINE**. However, practices can be cancelled due to lightning or if the volume of rainfall is such that the fields are not playable. If weather prohibits practice, the ACYA Website will be updated and e-mails and text messages will be distributed. Please sign up for text and email notifications on the website. Once the season begins, you can also contact your coaches.

The park has new state of the art lightning prediction system. The system continually monitors and evaluates the atmospheric conditions and predicts the probability of a lightning hazard in our area. You will be alerted by one loud horn blast that will last 15 seconds. **If the lightning detection system warning horn sounds, you should**

seek indoor shelter immediately or go to your vehicle and wait for the ALL CLEAR horn to sound. The visual indicator is on the corner of Colt stadium. As long as the yellow light is flashing, everyone should take caution.

### WHAT DO I DO DURING PRACTICE?

Stay at the park - A parent or caregiver **MUST BE PRESENT** at all practices and games. No child should be left at the park unattended. The ACYA has the right to withdraw a child from program should they be left unattended and unsupervised.

Stay off the fields - Parents must remain off the fields unless asked to assist by a member of our coaching staff.

### WHAT IF I DECIDE TO WITHDRAW MY CHILD?

You must request by sending an email to [feedback@atlantacolts.com](mailto:feedback@atlantacolts.com). Your request must be received by ACYA on or before August 1, 2010. No verbal withdrawals from ACYA will be accepted. No refunds are issued prior to the return of equipment for football players. A \$25 withdrawal fee will apply to EACH CHILD.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

ACYA is a volunteer organization dependent upon your participation. In order for our program to operate our parents are required to volunteer their time to help with team and park activities. A list of volunteer positions and responsibilities follows. All volunteer positions must be assigned in advance of opening ceremonies when the uniforms are issued to the teams. No volunteers equals no uniforms - no exceptions.

- Team Parent
- Field Representative
- Announcer
- Chains Gang
- Picture Day Liaison
- Homecoming Liaison
- Video / Picture Parent
- Team Reporter
- Corporate Sponsorship

The **CONCESSION STAND** may not be open during evaluations. Make sure your child has plenty of water. Once the regular season begins, the concession stand will be open from 5:30 pm thru 8 pm Monday thru Friday and all day on Saturday. The days and times are subject to change depending on customer base.

**PROMOTIONAL ITEMS** and **ACYA SPIRIT WEAR** will be on sale during practice hours.

### EVERYONE MUST ADHERE TO THE ACYA CODE OF CONDUCT.

Everyone involved with the Atlanta Colt Youth Association is expected to follow the Code of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in removal from the program or other actions.

- I agree to encourage an environment that is positive, supportive, and healthy—both physically and mentally—while participants learn the sport of football/cheerleading.
- I agree that it is a privilege, not a right, for my child to participate with the Atlanta Colt Youth Association.
- I agree to encourage sportsmanship and fair play which are essential to all sports and activities.
- I agree that because children learn by example, parents, coaches, and volunteers need to exemplify the highest level of conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play. Personal conduct at games, practices, and other team events must be above reproach and represent the highest standards of morality and sportsmanship.
- I agree to support the coaches and referees. I agree to refrain from directing any abusive or profane language toward the coaches, players, umpires, or anyone associated with ACYA. I also agree to communicate any constructive criticism in a private, non-confrontational manner.
- I agree to not instigate or participate in any confrontations in front of the children. Disagreements will be handled calmly in the absence of the children.
- I agree to refrain from alcohol consumption or tobacco use during practices or games.

- I agree that the overall objective is to provide a fun, sports-oriented experience for our children.

**If you witness a violation (or possible violation) of the Code of Conduct, you should contact ACYA immediately.** Email the League Director and/or ACYA President with the facts of the violation. More information about conflict resolution can be found at [www.atlantacolts.com](http://www.atlantacolts.com).

Contact Information:

ACYA President – Allen Westmoreland, [allen@atlantacolts.com](mailto:allen@atlantacolts.com)  
Intra-League FB Director – Jim Owen, [jowen@atlantacolts.com](mailto:jowen@atlantacolts.com)  
Athletic Director – John Forte, [jforte@atlantacolts.com](mailto:jforte@atlantacolts.com)  
Director of Cheerleading – Laura Hogan, [laura@atlantacolts.com](mailto:laura@atlantacolts.com)

League Directors:

League Director: Flag – Ron Burnstine, [ron@atlantacolts.com](mailto:ron@atlantacolts.com)  
League Director: 1st/2nd graders – Brian Weick, [brian@atlantacolts.com](mailto:brian@atlantacolts.com)  
League Director: 3rd graders – Doug Jackson, [doug@atlantacolts.com](mailto:doug@atlantacolts.com)  
League Director: 4th graders – David Reid, [david@atlantacolts.com](mailto:david@atlantacolts.com)  
League Director: 5th graders – Greg Guest, [greg@atlantacolts.com](mailto:greg@atlantacolts.com)  
League Director: 6th/7th graders - Grady Thrasher, [grady@atlantacolts.com](mailto:grady@atlantacolts.com)

If you have questions about the ACYA program, please send an email to [feedback@atlantacolts.com](mailto:feedback@atlantacolts.com) or contact your league director.

