

### **1. Who may participate in Panther Football?**

Any child age 6 to 14, excluding high school students.

### **2. How is a player assigned to a team? Are there tryouts?**

A football player is assigned to a team based upon age and experience. Age is determined as of June 1st.

Returning players who are **registered and paid in full by June 15th** will be assigned first. New Panther football players may request to play with a friend or a particular coach. This can be noted during registration. If a preference is not indicated on the registration, placement is based upon experience, school attended and area of residence. While the Panthers will take note of any special requests, we cannot guarantee that the request(s) will be met. The Panthers will make every effort to place players according to level of play (like talent playing like talent) to the best of our ability given roster limits, and available teams. At this time, the Panthers do not hold tryouts. The Panthers reserve the right to change this policy.

### **3. How many players are on a team?**

Team size can vary depending upon the number of kids registering to play. Most teams will have between 18 and 22 players.

### **4. When does football registration occur?**

Registration for the 2011 season is open May 15-June 15. (Early Registration is available May 8-May 15) If space is available registration will continue until July 15 at which time all registrations will be closed. As teams fill to capacity, registration will close for those specific teams.

### **5. Why does football registration occur so early?**

The Panthers are a member of the Arapahoe Youth League (AYL). There are more than 225 teams participating in the AYL football program. Each club must know the number of players and teams that will participate in the league by the end of June to allow time for the all volunteer board to plan for the season. This also provides ample time to acquire quality coaches to fill any vacancies.

### **6. What is the cost to play Panther football?**

The cost for Panther football can change from year-to-year. The cost to play football in 2011 is \$210. If registered and paid in full by June 1<sup>st</sup> there is a \$50 Early Bird Discount. If registered and paid in full by June 15<sup>th</sup>, the early registration fee is \$185. Registration closes June 30<sup>th</sup>. After June 30<sup>th</sup> please check the Panther website or email [panther-sports@comcast.net](mailto:panther-sports@comcast.net) for information regarding open age groups.

### **7. What does the registration fee cover?**

The fee covers:

- Registration

- Practice field permits
- Game fields, including set up
- League fees
- Referees
- Insurance
- Coaching and practice equipment
- Panther football operating expenses
- Coaching education

## **8. What equipment will I have to purchase for my child to play Panther football?**

Each individual player is responsible for his own equipment. The Panther uniform consists of:

- Helmet – Vegas gold. The helmet stickers will be provided.
- Shoulder pads
- Black pants
- Jerseys – the Panther uniform consists of two jerseys (home and away)
- Cleats
- Black socks
- Mouth guard
- Athletic cup

Optional equipment:

- Practice pants
- Practice jerseys
- Football gloves
- Forearm pads

Please be certain to have your player’s equipment fitted by an experienced person. Improper fitting equipment can lead to injury.

## **9. What size football should I purchase for my player?**

6 – 9 years of age	Wilson K2 or comparable sized football
10 – 11 years of age	Wilson TDJ or comparable sized football
12 – 14 year of age	Wilson TDY or comparable sized football

## **10. Where, when and how often is practice?**

The Panthers acquire access to practice fields through South Suburban and Greenwood Village. Most of the fields are in the Centennial/Littleton area.

The number of practices and the time they are scheduled are determined by the coaches. The league allows for four contacts per week up to and including the first game. After the first game, teams are allowed four contacts per week with one of those contacts being a “chalk talk.” NFC teams can replace their “chalk talk” with an on-field non-contact practice. Games are considered a “contact”. In a nut shell, most teams will practice three or four times per week prior to the first game and two times a week once the games begin.

### **11. How many games are played? Where and when are they scheduled?**

The AYL regular season consist of eight games. Teams can qualify for post season play. The number of games played during the post season can vary based upon the number of teams in a division.

Regular season games are scheduled for Saturdays. The first game is scheduled for Saturday, September 3rd. Yes, that is Labor Day weekend! The regular season runs through the end of October. Post season play begins immediately following the conclusion of the regular season.

Games may be postponed by weather, field issues or other problems resulting in game cancellations. Games are typically rescheduled on Sunday the week following the cancellation. The league reserves the right to schedule games in the evening during the week to ensure all games get played.

The AYL is comprised of teams in the South Metro area -- Littleton, Centennial, Highlands Ranch, SE Denver, Aurora, Parker and Castle Rock. Games can be played in any of these locations.

### **12. What if we have a family vacation scheduled during the season?**

Football requires significant preparation and practice. Vacations during the season are highly discouraged. Depending upon team rules, playing time may be impacted by the vacation. You are encouraged to schedule your vacations prior to or after the season to avoid playing time impacts.

### **13. How do I sign up my player?**

You can register your player through the Panther website ([www.panthersports.org](http://www.panthersports.org)). Just click on the registration link from the main page.

### **14. What if my child decides he does not like football and wants to quit. What is the refund policy?**

[The Panther Youth Sports Registration Refund Policy](#)

### **15. Who can be a coach?**

Anyone can register to coach. All candidates will go through a precertification process. The process involves filling out an application, undergoing a background check and completing an interview with the Panther football coordinators. All Panther coaches are required to take attend the mandated AYL coach training and is encouraged to attend local coaching clinics.

#### **How do I become a coach?**

You can apply at [www.panthersports.org](http://www.panthersports.org)

### **16. How can I help?**

There are many volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering your time to the Panthers organization, please submit an email to [info@panthersports.org](mailto:info@panthersports.org).

If you are interested in volunteering your time to your player's team, please let your coach or team manager know that you want to help.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to the Panther football program in a capacity other than coach, please email [panther-sports@comcast.net](mailto:panther-sports@comcast.net)

**17. If I have additional questions who do I contact?**

If you have any questions regarding the Panthers organization, please submit an email to [info@panthersports.org](mailto:info@panthersports.org) or call the Panther hotline at 303-730-6807. If you have additional questions regarding the Panther Football program, please email [panther-sports@comcast.net](mailto:panther-sports@comcast.net) or call the Panther hotline.