

EYFL VALUES PROGRAM

Purpose:

The founders of the Everest Youth Football League, Inc.(EYFL) established the League with two primary goals. Those goals, in order of importance, were and are as follows:

1. To foster character development in the League's participants.
2. To teach the fundamentals of tackle football in a positive environment.

Positive character development is not natural; it is something learned. President Theodore Roosevelt said, ***"To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."***

Today's youth are bombarded with immorality through television, radio, computers, movies, magazines, newspapers and peers. As a result, they are exposed to more negative (destructive) values than they are to positive (constructive) values.

Unfortunately, our youth do not realize how quickly they absorb these negative values. They believe that the negative values will not influence them; Nevertheless, the more a person is exposed to something, the less offensive the bad act seems.

Our youth do not realize that those negative values will form at least a part of the *foundation* for **who** they become. They do not consider how those negative values will influence their decision-making, which will determine the character of public officials they will later elect, and ultimately the character of our country. Most importantly, they do not recognize that the values they instill, negative versus positive, will determine whether they eternally reside in heaven or hell.

In football one's primary goal is to win games. To do this, football players learn and incorporate the **values** (mindset / mental conditioning) and skills which will assist the team in scoring touchdowns and in preventing opponents from invading their side of the field.

In life one's ultimate goal, if one takes the time to think about it, is to be accepted into heaven; i.e., to score the winning touchdown. To do this, one must incorporate the values which will assist one in identifying the difference between right and wrong and in preventing the opponents of morality from

pulling him or her from the path to heaven; i.e., the end zone.

In football the values (mental conditioning), skills (fundamentals), and philosophies (game plans) needed to be successful have been handed down from those who have been successful in the past. They are then further handed on by one's parents and one's coaches. These values, skills and philosophies had to be developed. There was no football god who revealed what values, skills or philosophies were needed.

In life certain values, skills and philosophies are also needed to be successful; i.e., to reach heaven. Life, unlike football, however, does have a God. That God has told us what values, skills and philosophies are essential to reach heaven. He has done so in the Bible, the Torah and other religious faith documents, which, when analyzed for the **values** they present, are quite similar. And, like football, He has done so through the examples set by those who have gone before us. Also like football, these values, skills and philosophies are initially presented by one's parents. Thereafter, they are refined and supported by one's coaches; i.e., religious educators, extended family members, other adults - including athletic coaches, and, hopefully, one's, peers.

EYFL recognizes and believes that positive values are best taught by the youth's families, especially the parents. Parents identify and define the values they find important in their day to day contact and communication with their child. They then add the most important element of values education for their child; i.e., experiencing values in their lives. This is accomplished by the examples the parents set.

EYFL believes that society should then confirm the parents' values instruction. That is where the problem arises. American society currently fails to promote or support any form of values. Politicians and institutes of higher education prevent our elementary and secondary teachers from discussing values in the classrooms. Our national and local media; i.e., television, radio, internet, magazines and newspapers promote satisfaction of individual desires over the common good of mankind. And, programs such as MTV make a mockery of values and strong character.

As a result, EYFL's goal in its values program is to support the parents in educating today's youth about certain values and in promoting character development. How will this be attempted?

Program:

Player Responsibilities:

Character development is promoted through the enforcement of rules designed to develop discipline, dedication, desire, responsibility, respect, courage and teamwork; and through exposure to proper values, as follows:

1. Sportsmanship is given the highest priority. The only award given is the "Sportsmanship Award". It is presented to the Players and Coaches of the team whose Players, Coaches and Parents have earned the highest behavioral scores from the Referees and the Parents' Committee.
2. Pre-Game speakers address the Players to discuss specific values. The Players then complete a "Values Worksheet" (A blank form is at the end of this section of the EYFL Player's Manual.), which causes them to define for themselves the value discussed and to discuss that value with their parents.
3. Players read a book about a prominent, respectable American, specifically one who known for something besides athletic achievement. The Players then complete a "Book Report" (A blank form is at the end of this section of the EYFL Player's Manual.), in which they identify and evaluate their subject's values as revealed through his/her actions.
4. Players are expected to perform at least one charitable act per week, recording three on a "Meritorious Acts Report" (A blank form is at the end of this section of the EYFL Player's Manual.), which is turned in one game before the final week.

Additional Measures:

1. This text will identify and define several values deemed important by EYFL. These definitions and examples will be useful when the Players prepare the weekly "Values Worksheets".
2. This text will present various activities that Players and their Parents can utilize to further learn about specific values.
3. The League's Officers, Coaches and Parents will be expected to be proper role models for the League's participants.