

# **Gator Football**

## **Notes and Guidelines**

Welcome to the Delta Woods Football Team. The following information can and should be used by both the player and the parents as a guide to Gator Football. The information in this packet was written to inform the student-athletes and their parents of the expectations the Delta Woods Football program has for the 2007 season.

### **Academics**

As a member of the Delta Woods Football Team, the student-athlete will be expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout the season. Grades will be checked periodically throughout the season. During the season, a student-athlete who has a “D” or an “F” in any class will be required to report to Coach Koch’s classroom at 7:30 am on Mondays and Wednesdays for a study hall. Any player that is unexcused from their assigned study hall should expect to have consequences at practice. Delta Woods Football promotes the student-athlete.

### **Drugs/Alcohol**

All school policies and rules in the code of conduct apply to football. No one will be permitted to use any form of drugs or alcohol. If there is any association with drugs or alcohol, the student-athlete will be subject to dismissal from the team.

### **Behavior**

Participating in athletics is a big responsibility. It is important that you represent yourself and the football program in a positive manner. Non-athletes sometimes do not understand how behavior plays a role in an athletic program, so do not fall victim to peer pressure. Always remember that as a member of the Delta Woods Football Team, you are representing yourself, your teammates, your coaching staff, and your school. Take pride in who you are and what Gator Football stands for.

People make mistakes. The coaching staff understands this. However, since football is an extra-curricular activity, football players must abide by the team's guidelines for behavior. If classroom and/or hallway behavior is a problem, there will be consequences. Punishment may vary based on the severity of the behavior, but the following can be used as a general rule:

1. A notified detention will result in one man-maker and a conference with Coach Koch.
2. An un-notified detention will result in two man-makers and a conference with Coach Koch.
3. Once the punishment is completed, there will be no more discussion about the detention.

If a player's behavior becomes such a problem that they are referred to the office, the following consequences may occur above and beyond the Blue Springs Middle School Code of Conduct :

1. 1<sup>st</sup> offense—two man-makers and a conference with Coach Koch.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense—same as 1<sup>st</sup>, but with a game suspension.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense—DISMISSAL FROM TEAM.

**The Gator Football team needs leaders . . . individuals that have the guts to do what is right.**

### Practice Information

Practices will be held according to the calendar that is in the front of this packet. It is very important that players have a ride to pick them up when practice is over. Rides should be at the back of the school no later than 15 minutes from the end of practice. Please review the practice times each week, because not all practices will end at the same time.

The player is responsible for all of their practice and game attire/equipment. If any part of the attire/equipment is lost, the player will be responsible for replacing it at cost. Also, the coaching staff is not a maid service. Any articles that are left out after practice or game will result in extra conditioning. Make sure that you have everything before leaving the field and the locker room. Football players will be issued a locker for the football

season. This locker will be big enough to keep their entire practice uniform, including equipment, in one place. Helmets, shoulder pads, and pads in pants should not leave school, except for away games. Players will be responsible for washing the practice uniforms at least once a week throughout the season.

Football players are expected to be dressed out for practice. If part of the practice uniform is missing, extra conditioning will be administered. Players will be expected to be at all practices. When a player misses a practice, it is a major concern of the coaching staff. In order to be successful on the field, players need to be at practice everyday. The coaching staff realizes that there are some instances in which a player would need to miss practice. However, there will still be conditioning for missed practices. This conditioning is not a punishment, but a make-up for the conditioning that was missed. If the absence is unexcused, the following will occur:

1<sup>st</sup> offense—one man-maker.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense—two man-makers and a game suspension.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense—dismissal from the team.

Excused absence: Any practice missed that Coach Koch knows about and is approved of prior to the absence. This would include any absence from school due to illness.

Unexcused absence: Any practice missed that Coach Koch is not aware of and/or does not approve of prior to the absence. If you are going to miss for any reason, you must notify Coach Koch.

## **Parents**

Parents are welcome at Gator Football practices. We understand the amount of time and effort that parents give to their children so that they can participate in extra-curricular events. In order to maintain a sense of purpose and unity at practice, the coaching staff is requesting that any parent who wishes to watch practice stay either on the north hill or past the end-zone on the west side of the field. For liability reasons, no one is permitted to be on the field or on the sidelines of the practice field. We hope you understand our reasoning behind this policy and that you will help us keep our practices “open”, so you can watch.

The coaching staff realizes that from time to time, a parent may want to visit about their son. If there is a concern, please feel free to contact Coach Koch. Conferences will be held after practice has ended and the athletes have left the locker room. Unless there is an emergency, please do not expect a conference during practice hours.

Gator Football will be based on trust. We want the boys to look to the staff for direction and leadership with 100% belief in our system. We want the boys to trust one another and to do what is best for the whole (the team). Please encourage your son throughout the season. This experience will be quite a challenge, and they may need your support and understanding.