



P.O. Box 294
Marengo, IL 60152
MarengoUnionJuniorTackle@gmail.com

Dear Parents/Guardians of Marengo-Union Junior Tackle Football Club Players:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to welcome you to the 2024 Football Season! The NIFC has had two more leagues join, making great additions for an exciting year! MCHS Football staff and players began with some skills training dates at the end of February and again in March. They will also orchestrate a Football Camp prior to our season start, typically in July. We will email and post information on our social media platforms about registration for their camp as soon as the dates are confirmed. We will also email and post agility dates as soon as we have them available.

For those of you who are not aware, Marengo Union Junior Tackle Football Club is a non-for-profit club that is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. When you choose to become a part of this club, we expect each and every parent to enthusiastically take an active role in their participation commitments - a minimal effort that produces a significant impact on our club. By volunteering your time and supporting our fundraising efforts, you directly affect what our club is able to provide for the youth of our community. 2023's slight increase in registration fee, our awesome fundraising outcomes and AMAZING Sponsors, helped compensate for inflation in all areas of equipment, maintenance, and concessions. With the continued generous financial support from our sponsors and all the volunteers that are needed to sustain this club, we have been able to:

- Keep our fees at an unbelievable low level - ensuring the ability for all families to participate. It's because of your commitment to volunteer and support of our fundraising efforts that this is possible - THANK YOU!
- In 2023 we purchased several new helmets. We had anticipated and purchased roughly the same amount in January 2024. We also purchased several new shoulder pads. Your player's safety is our number one concern, and we choose the best of the best.
- Provide for an increasing number of participants each and every year; increased participation is our goal.
- Provide Spirit Wear for purchase at a minimal mark-up to promote team pride.
- Replace worn, broken, and outdated equipment as needed. Recondition and clean our equipment annually. All helmets, at every level, are Riddell or Schutt. Helmets are inspected and recertified every two years, following the brand protocol. Allowing us to purchase equipment for teaching, training & practicing for the game of football.
- Provide camps for the education and fundamental instruction for our players and awards/recognition for our participants.

Your role in this club does not end with the registration fee - **Volunteering is a CRUCIAL** ingredient to the success of this Club.

The registration fee only partially covers the following:

- NIFC League Fees
- Insurance
- Administrative costs, including advertising & TeamSnap website and application
- Concession costs and Official's Compensation
- Coaching Clinics
- Background checks for coaches and board members

In order to keep our registration fees low, your participation in our fundraising efforts is necessary!

Practice & Game Schedule:

Our first practice is scheduled for July 29th. Parent/Player meeting at 5:30. The schedule for the first two weeks: Monday through Friday 6-8pm. Starting August 12th, practices and times may be reduced, per each level's Head Coach's discretion. (Practice days will be determined and posted by June 15th.)

****Please note - This is just a guideline. Practice schedules are subject to change at the discretion of your coaches. Times will be adjusted later in the season due to shortening daylight.** Games for all divisions have typically been played on Saturdays. We have been notified by the NIFC that there may be some Sunday games, due to referee shortage. The NIFC Game Schedule becomes available to us 1-2 weeks prior to the first games, which are set for the weekend of August 17th. As soon as we receive the schedule you will be notified; this will be communicated via TeamSnap, found on our website and social media platforms.

Weather Conditions:

We will practice in the rain; **however**, if weather conditions set off the THOR GUARD Lightning Prediction & Warning System, all participants will be removed from the fields to take shelter in either the High School or the Equipment Building. Depending on the time and conditions, practice may or may not resume. *Please be respectful of our coaches - they cannot leave until your children are picked up.*

Practice Attendance Requirements:

All football players **must participate in 10 practices before they can participate in their first game.** This is a league rule and no exceptions will be made. Coaches discretion may come into play. Commitment to practice not only is required to learn the fundamentals, skills, and plays required for the game, but shows your commitment to being part of a team. Attendance will be taken weekly throughout the season and **will affect** your game time. If you will not be at a practice, please call a member of your child's coaching staff, Team Mom or message on the TeamSnap App. **We expect everyone to be on time for all practices. If you miss more than one practice per week, you will not be allowed to play until the 2nd half of your game. If you miss more than two practices a week, you will not be allowed to play in your game that week. Please be on the field (not in the parking lot) dressed with designated equipment on and ready to practice no later than 6:00pm.**

Practice Attire:

For approximately the first 3 days of practice (or at the discretion of your coaches) players do not need to bring or wear their pads; except for their cleats and helmets. Players may wear shorts and t-shirts during this time, and **must always provide their own water.** After this time (usually the 4th day of practice) the coaches will let the players know when equipment/full pads practices will begin. When this occurs the following equipment is **mandatory** for each practice:

- **You must provide** your own football pants (new this year, WHITE game day pants... black practice pants are encouraged), practice jersey, athletic supporter/cup, tethered mouth guard, socks, cleats & water jug.
- We will provide one (1) reversible game day jersey, (1) helmet/chin strap, (1) shoulder pad
 - **\$125 Refundable Equipment Deposit Required** (due at Equipment Handout)
- Chewed and worn out mouth guards must be replaced. Additional mouth guards can be purchased for \$2/each. Mouth guards are to be colored and attached to helmets for visibility to the Officials & Coaches. **No clear mouth guards are permitted.**

- Game Jerseys may be worn to school on “game day Fridays” or to our High School Football games only. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times, especially when wearing your Marengo Union Junior Tackle jersey or uniform; wearing the Club’s jersey is a privilege, not a right.
- Athletic supporter/cup (provided by you) must be worn during practice and games. If you are not wearing a cup at practice, you will be marked absent from the practice attendance. If you do not wear a cup for a game you will not be allowed to play. This is an NIFC rule and is put in place for your protection - no exceptions!

Refund Policy:

A full refund minus raffle tickets and cost of the jersey will be offered if cancellation is within the first week of practice and a 50% refund minus raffle tickets and cost of the jersey will be offered if cancellation is within the second week of practice. No refunds will be offered after the first two weeks of practice. *All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to Marengo Union Junior Tackle Football Club, PO Box 294, Marengo, IL 60152 or via email to MarengoUnionJuniorTackle@gmail.com.* After requests are received in writing, you will be notified and arrangements will be made for exchange of any equipment and refund/deposit checks.

Bounced (NSF) Checks:

We are immediately charged \$25 for every bounced check presented on our account. If this happens, you will be contacted and you will be required to pay the NSF fee of \$25.00 in addition to the original check amount. We will only accept CASH or a Cashier’s Check at that time in order to participate in our Club.

Parking:

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS AT ANY TIME! By doing so, you hurt the relationship we have built with the High School. Marengo PD will be contacted and tickets will be issued. This includes pulling on the “grass shoulder” and any form of blocking the approach to the fields for emergency vehicles and obstructing the “Shady Lane” road and entrance. This entrance is used for emergency vehicles - which include Fire Trucks and Ambulances!

Communication:

Newsletters, announcements, game schedules, etc. will be distributed via email and TeamSnap throughout the season. We will make every effort to have the same handouts posted on our website and fB page for review. Please help us keep you informed by staying in touch with your fellow teammates, your Team Mom, and Coaches. **TeamSnap App** will hold a majority of your team's information regarding practices and game times/locations. Please be sure to download the app to stay up to date with any last minute changes for your team. You can reach a member of the board at: MarengoUnionJuniorTackle@gmail.com

Parents Code of Conduct:

The Parents Code of Conduct was signed as part of your online registration paperwork. A copy is available for your review on our website. This covers all legal parents/guardians for each player, and we encourage you to share with family.

Player Code of Conduct

The Player Code of Conduct will be signed in-person during jersey sizing/equipment hand-out. A copy is available for review on our website.

Volunteering:

After the game schedules have been set by the NIFC (usually 1-2 weeks before the first games), volunteer signup will be available via SignUpGenius. If you cannot fulfill your volunteer slot, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find a replacement. We wanted to note that anyone 16+ is able to volunteer during your designated time slots; Grandma? Grandpa? Older Sibling... YES! We love the support, and we know sometimes parents can't make the volunteer time work. **You must remember to CHECK IN at the concessions prior to starting your time slot - this is the only way you will receive credit for your time.** Volunteers are what make this program possible and your help is greatly appreciated!

1 Player = 2 time slots

2+ Players = 3 time slots

- **\$125 Refundable Volunteer Deposit Required** (due at Equipment Handout)

- You are required to fulfill **all** of your volunteer slots to receive your Volunteer Deposit back at the end of the season.

Grievances:

If a problem arises during the season regarding coaching, game time, level of play, etc. these are the steps to take to solve the problem:

- Try talking to your child's head coach with or without other members of their coaching staff present.
- If there is still an issue, please contact our Director of Coaching: Josh Koelper

If you have program questions, concerns or ideas please email them to MarengoUnionJuniorTackle@gmail.com and a Board Member will get back to you in a prompt manner.

2024 MUJTFC Board of Directors:

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Director of Communications: *Katie Reeves*

Director of Concessions: *Dan Johnson, Rachel Ortega, Jimmy Lawrence*

Director of Spirit Wear: *Katie Reeves*

Follow us on Social Media!

