

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009 Derry Demons 6<sup>th</sup> grade football program. We hope that you and your children are as excited about this upcoming season as we, the staff for the team are. For those new to the organization a very special welcome to Demons football. The Derry Demons have long been active in youth football and have a rich tradition of turning out high caliber players as well as high quality people. For those returning, welcome back for another season of learning and team play!

Here are the members of our coaching staff, along with contact information for each:

Head Coach: Michael Mosley (h) 603-434-8610 (c) 603-479-3852

Assistant Head Coach: Wes Davies (c) 857-998-0757

Coach: Derrick Chandler (c) 617-407-7894

Coach: Joe Hicks (h) 603-365-9498

Coach in Training: Kevin Davies

Team Mom: Dawn Horak (c) 603-475-4976

We ask that you're considerate in choosing what time you call our homes as like you, the coaches have children in bed for school and our full time jobs that we maintain. We'll help and be as responsive as possible.

Our staff is dedicated to teaching each player the fundamentals of football and the essentials of team play. Each of us have been in and around football for many years in several capacities from playing to coaching to assisting to volunteering on the sidelines or in other misc. areas. On the non football side, we're also parents who know how important it is for a child to gain confidence in themselves, which is essential in succeeding in football and more importantly, anything in life. To help elevate that confidence, we'll be creating and maintaining structure of both praise and discipline, both important in learning as well as football.

### Commitment

Total commitment is required in achieving a successful youth football team. It must come from three areas:

- Coaches- The coaching staff is committed to teaching the players and giving them everything they can to help them succeed in this sport. We will be at every practice, we will answer questions, we will work on techniques and we will strive for success.
- Players- You must **want** to play football and want to give it **your all**. A half hearted attempt at anything almost always results in mediocre results. We want to see what the very best you can do is. You have got to want to show us every day.
- Parents- The nightly practices, the early mornings, the volunteering on game days, the help in taking a turn in bringing water. Having your child play Demons football is a huge commitment. Having said that and going beyond is what might be the hardest commitment, letting someone else teach your child how to do something; even when you may not completely agree with the method. The ultimate successes seen in the past resulted from parents who showed solidarity with the coaching staffs, the parents who worked with their children on their

playbooks and understanding their role of a specific play so when game time came the expectations were consistent and the results occurred.

### **Expectations**

We all have expectations in our lives, within the family ranks that are imperative to be met so each day flows. It may be a bit cliché, and at such risk, a football team is a large family. Outlined below are some (but not all) expectations which should be respected at all times:

- Attendance- It is imperative that all players make every practice and are ready to go at the scheduled start time of a practice or game. It may seem long but in reality we have a short time to evaluate their abilities, condition them, train them with proper techniques, teach them the plays, hone their skills and tune everything up for game day. Waiting on someone to finish dressing at the field, arriving late, and/or not having all their equipment with them creates time loss. A typical practice is only 2 hours. Losing 15 minutes to small things means a loss of better than 12% of our time that night. We understand things can happen, and are very conscious of consistent tardiness which can result in loss of your child's position and/or playing time.
- Attitude- A player's enthusiasm and efforts are large factors in the coaching staff's decisions for playing time. Just because a child is the fastest runner on the team, that does not mean they'll have the lion's share of time. From the parent's side, your attitude towards this will set the tone. If your son/daughter knows you hate spinach then the seed is set for them to dislike it before they ever saw it, let alone tried it. Let's not make football be spinach!
- Attention- We expect your child's full attention during all practices and games. Any interruptions during practice or games will not be tolerated. It breaks the very structure we're working towards. As parents your attention to the plays and coaching points from practices can go miles with your child. Your encouragement outside the field gives them the sense of your commitment to them and what they're doing.

### **Medical Concerns**

Members of the coaching staff have been trained in CPR. At games there is additional and more experienced medical personnel on site. If your child has ANY medical condition and/or ANY medications for any reason, please let the head coach know so that we are apprised of this. For any parents who drop their kids off and leave practices, please be sure if they use an inhaler even just once a year that you leave it at the field with them.

### **Volunteering**

As previously noted; the commitment to a child playing Derry Demons football is immense. There are many needs that come up during the season and we ask that you give a hand wherever you can. Our team mom, Dawn Horak, will have sign up sheets for anyone who can give time in any areas. Please be forward in offering your assistance opposed to waiting to see if asked. Again, your child's viewpoint of your level of participation makes a difference. You will also be asked to take part in fund raising which

helps keep the costs for maintaining a football program down. Please remember, it really holds true that the more you give, the more that comes back.

### **Communications**

As the season wears on there will be many times when a question will arise, or a concern brought up. Make no mistake that the staff is completely dedicated to the success of each player and will do our best to address every question or concern any parent or player will have. We ask that you respect a couple of rules so that the flow of the team does not get disrupted and that we can properly address whatever might come up.

- From the time practice starts until the end, please hold all questions. At the end of every practice the head coach and other members of the staff will stay and hold “Q&A” sessions with parents. It would serve best to bring things up at that point.
- All coaches can and will assist in your questions relative to football techniques, learning plays and other football / team related questions.
- Any non football related questions will be directed specifically and only to the head coach, Michael Mosley. If it is something not team related, he may direct you to a board member for better assistance.
- As with any family, organization, or team there is a chain of command. We appreciate you respecting it and if an answer you receive is unsatisfactory, we welcome you and thank you for elevating it appropriately to the next level.
- The head coach’s cell phone is available for anyone to call at anytime, again please use common courtesy as to when you choose to use it. If you must leave a voice mail, understand it will be returned as soon as possible.

### **Misc. Items**

- Playing time- Enthusiasm, effort and skills dictate playing time. Please note the order this has been listed. We want to see the very best efforts to obtain the very best results and find proper placement for each player. We also do have a balance to it and will temper decisions to what benefits the team best.
- Positions- No player comes to this camp with a designated position or planned path by this coaching staff. Every position on this team is open until someone earns it. To a further extent no position is locked up, as a season progresses some players go ahead and some fall behind. We will not keep someone as a starter because he *used to* play hard.
- Diet- Please be sure your child takes in water constantly throughout the season. It is always important to keep an athlete hydrated and during what can be grueling days in August it is critical to keep water in them. Please keep food intake light two hours prior to a practice and keep the carb count up for energy.

Again, welcome and here’s to a great season!

Dawn, Derrick, Joe, Kevin, Mike & Wes