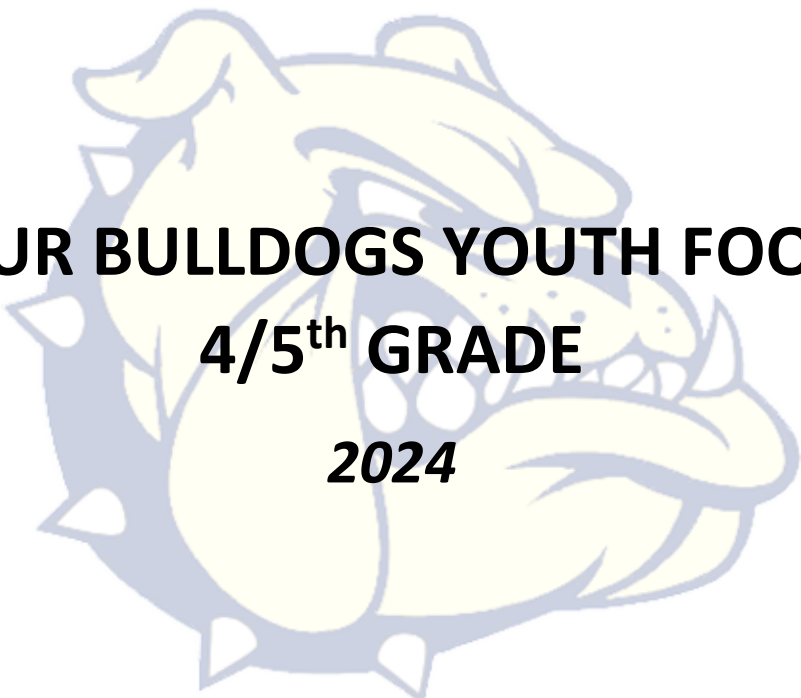


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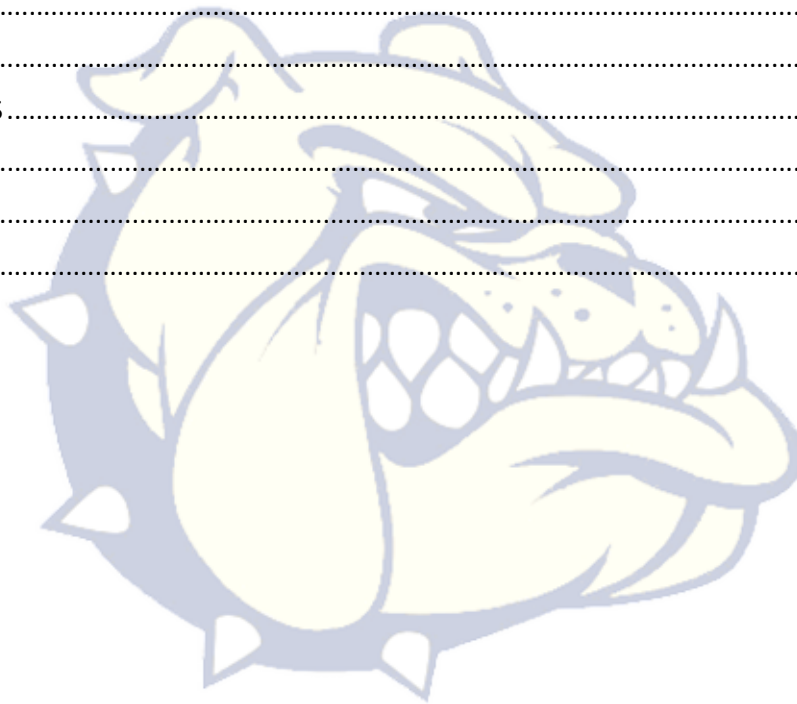


**DECATUR BULLDOGS YOUTH FOOTBALL**  
**4/5<sup>th</sup> GRADE**  
**2024**

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## OUR GOAL

**We focus on enhancing the self-esteem of every participant while striving to help each child develop fundamental skills, learn sportsmanship, and have fun. We believe all players should feel themselves strongly supported by parents, coaches, and teammates.**

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## SAFETY

Safety is the number one priority of the Decatur Youth Football program. Decatur Youth Football strives to always provide a safe environment during practices and games. All coaches are trained in “heads up tackling” and teach these techniques to all players. Contact during practice is limited each week and drills are designed to minimize injuries. During inclement weather practices will be shifted to our indoor facilities (inclement weather to address thunderstorms and extreme heat). EMTs are also present during all home and away games.

## REGISTRATION

### Fee

Residents \$220.

Non-residents \$255

Fees cover costs for game jersey, league fees, referees, and insurance.

Players must provide a copy of their birth certificate and proof of school grade for the 2023- 2024 School Year.

Players must be registered to practice and participate in games. Any players not registered prior to the second week Games (8/31) will not be allowed to participate this season.

### Costs and Equipment

Purchase your own or rent: Rental equipment is available on a first come, first served basis for \$65 with a \$200 security deposit.

*\*Financial assistance is available to Decatur Residents who demonstrates a need*

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## PRACTICE

**LOCATION** – Ebster Recreation Center, 105 Electric Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

- Practices during the regular season will be held every week on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Practices will last for 2 hours beginning at 6pm and concluding at 8pm
- Any cancellations or changes will be communicated via email from either the head coach of the team or a program supervisor.
- Please ensure that you regularly check your emails for important updates and information.
- You also have the option of downloading the GroupMe app for your personal device. Information and updates will be communicated through this platform in addition to email and the team website.
- Players are to report to practice with full equipment unless otherwise communicated by head coach or program supervisors.
- Parents are encouraged to attend practice, however, are asked not to interrupt the practice by coming onto the field of play.
- Our program is committed to player safety and striving to protect the health and well-being of every child. During the preseason athletes will go through a heat acclimation phase. This period will focus on increasing stamina and getting used to the heat they will face during the season. During this time, we will gradually increase the amount of equipment and intensity of practice as the kids get used to the amount of work.
- Full-contact drills will be limited during the preseason and regular season as the number of exposures may increase the chance for injury to youth players. We will **NEVER** exceed 30 minutes of full contact drills at any point during the football season.
- All coaches are Certified through the USA Football Heads Up Program. Heads Up Football ensures that every coach is thoroughly trained in fundamental aspects of football safety, injury prevention and injury recognition.



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## FORMS NEEDED

- Current player physical
- Signed GFA Player information sheet.
- Birth Certificate
- Signed Player/Parent Code of Conduct
- Right to Treat Form

## FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

### Mandatory Items

- Football Cleats
- Football Socks
- Practice Football Pants
- Practice Jersey
- Shoulder Pads
- Football Helmet
- Athletic Cup
- Hip and Tail Pads
- Chinstrap
- Mouthpiece
- Knee and Thigh Pads

### Optional Items

- Arm Pads
- Football Gloves
- Helmet Visor
- Neck Rolls
- Shock absorbers.
- Back Plates & Rib Protection
- **Places to find items.**
- **Dicks Sporting Goods**
- 4310 Lavista Rd a100, Tucker, GA 30084
- **Academy Sports**
- 1585 Scenic Hwy S, Snellville, GA 30078
- **Play it Again Sports**
- 2122 N Decatur Rd, Decatur, GA 30033



*\*Also note that equipment is available for rent at Ebster on a first come first served basis.*

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## LEAGUE

### GFA MISSION

GFA, formerly FCYFA, is a support services organization, dedicated to giving back to communities by promoting the wholesome development of youth through their association with exemplary adult leaders in the sport of American football and cheer. Guidelines are established to ensure that players play in an atmosphere of learning with a competitive balance between teams.

<https://www.georgiafootballassociation.com/>

#### Rule 13. Player participation

- A. All GFA teams will adhere to the player participation rule for their applicable age group. **All Age Groups: Minimum play rules are 10 plays PER GAME regardless of team size.**
- a. Any offensive, defensive, or special teams play WILL count towards your minimum play rule. A live ball play called back due to penalty counts towards the minimum play rule.
- B. The Association and Head coach shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Minimum Play Rule. **NON-COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM PLAY RULE:** If the GFA receives a complaint that a head coach is not complying with the minimum play rule, the complaint will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee for investigating and punishing reported incidents of non-compliance

## TEAMS



## LOCATIONS

### MIDWAY PARK

- 5100 Post Rd, Cumming, GA 30040

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### SHARON SPRINGS PARK

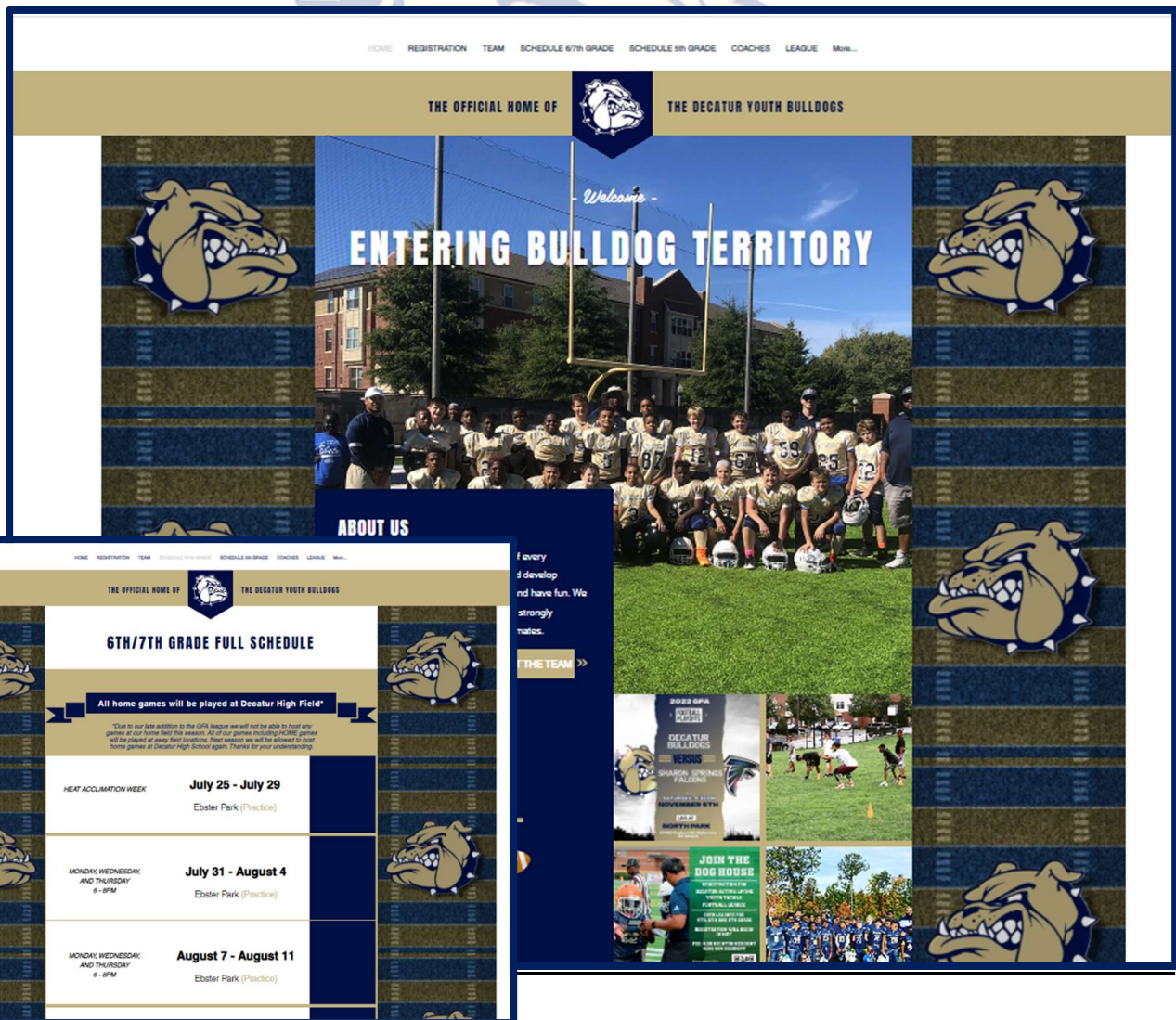
- 1950 Sharon Rd, Cumming, GA 30041

### LANIERLAND PARK

- 6115 Jot Em Down Rd, Cumming, GA 30041

## TEAM WEBSITE

We have an official team website located at DecaturBulldogs.com. This site will be updated every Sunday night with schedule changes and previous week game results. From this site you can access the registration links, social media accounts, game photos/videos and full schedules.



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## PLAYBOOK

Playbook will be available to download online from the website once the coaches make it available. We will go over the plays with the kids during practice, but we do ask that they familiarize themselves with the playbook at home as well.

## VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the season we will require volunteers to help with various aspects of the program. These activities include the following.

- Chain crew during games.
  - Must be at least 16 years of age to operate the chain crew.
  - Cannot interact with/coach players while on the sideline.
- **Rule 8. Game officials/chain crew**
  - A. For all games, there will be four (4) officials on the field and one (1) official keeping the official game clock.
  - B. It is up to each park president to notify all coaches, parents, spectators, and players that no one is to approach any official or chain crew member before a game, during the game, during half-time, nor after the game. All complaints should be directed to the park president. Any violation of this rule will result in penalties, fines, and/or suspensions at the executive board and commissioner's discretion.
  - C. Chain crews must be posted on the side of the field opposite the press box and must refrain from any coaching. Any crew member who is found coaching, taunting the opposing team, or shows any such behavior will be replaced and a penalty will be called on the head coach of the team which he/she is affiliated.
  - D. Referees can choose to wear microphones or headsets during GFA events.
- Post Game snacks.
  - An online sign-up sheet will be posted in the GroupMe, and parents will be asked to pick a week to be responsible for the post game snacks for the kids.
  - Please let us know if your child has any food allergies prior to the first game.
- Coaches
  - We are always on the lookout for volunteer coaches for this season and next.
  - We have until the end of Week 2 Games to add coaches and players.
    - Please let Ms. Stacy or any of the current coaches if you are interested in participating.

## PLEDGE

### Decatur Youth Football Player Commitment Pledge

I hereby pledge to provide commitment, care, and encouragement for my team and myself by following this Player Commitment Pledge:

1. I will play for the fun of it, not to please any parents or coaches.
2. I will never allow negative aspects to enter my game.
3. I will play by the rules at all times.
4. I will accept success and failure, victory, and defeat with good grace and without excessive display of emotions.
5. I will respect the ability of my opponents because without them there would be no game, and I will **ALWAYS** shake hands after each game regardless of the outcome.
6. I will notify my coach if I cannot attend a practice or a game.
7. I will never argue with or complain about the referee's calls or decisions.
8. I will control my temper and, most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate.
9. I will not attempt to hurt anyone with my words or my actions.
10. I will concentrate on playing Football and on affecting the outcome of the game with my best effort. I will work equally hard for my team and for myself.
11. I will exhibit good sportsmanship by cheering all good plays, whether they are my teams or my opponent's.
12. I will treat all players the way I would like to be treated.
13. I will NOT use social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) as a place to tease, taunt, bully, or harass other players, their parents, my coaches, or anyone else (using words or uploaded pictures). If I have a problem with someone, I will tell my coach.
14. I will cooperate with my teammates, coaches, opponents, and the referee.
15. I will never forget that I am representing Portage Youth Football (PYFB), and I will take care of the facilities and equipment provided.

Sportsmanship is: Moral behavior in sports. There is more to sportsmanship than simply being nice. You also must understand why some actions are right or wrong. Sportsmanship is a learned behavior. It does not happen by itself.

Player's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: To participate in Decatur Youth Football Program, this form must be signed and dated. Failure of the player to read and sign the Players Commitment will automatically render the player ineligible to participate in activities home or away. In addition, by signing this player commitment, players agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Violation of any of the guidelines set forth above will automatically render the player unable to participate in or attend any Decatur Youth Football sponsored event (home or away).

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **8/5** – Equipment Fitting
- **8/7** – Full Pads Practice Begins
  - Will start the normal practice schedule MWTH – 6-8pm
- **8/24** – GFA Jamboree
  - Short exhibition game and team registration
- **9/7** – First Regular Season Game
- **9/28** – No Games Fall Break
- **10/26** – No Games Bye Week
- **11/9** – First Round of Playoffs
  - **Top 8 Teams Advance to Playoffs Single Elimination Format**
- **11/16** - Second Round of Playoffs
- **11/23** – Lanier Bowl Championship

## SCHEDULE

The full schedule is available in several places.

- Team Website – [DecaturBulldogs.com](http://DecaturBulldogs.com)
- Google Calendar – A link to subscribe to the calendar can be found on the website and will also be available in the GroupMe App
- Schedule Handout

*Although rare changes to the schedule do happen. Any changes to the schedule will be posted in GroupMe so please monitor the app weekly.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 7/20**
- 8/1**  
6:00 PM  
Conditioning  
\*Shorts  
@  
Ebster
- 8/2**  
6:00 PM
- 8/5**  
6:00 PM  
FULL SCHEDULE  
4/5th Grade Full Schedule

**4TH/5TH GRADE FULL SCHEDULE**

FULL SCHEDULE IS UPDATED AND FINAL

**Saturday, August 24**  
11:00 AM  
Sharon Park, 1900 Sharon Pk., Cumming GA 30041  
GFA JAMBOREE v Lanier Lanier Endquist

**Saturday, August 31**  
DYE WEEK

**VERSUS SHARON SPRINGS FALCONS**  
SATURDAY 6:30PM  
NOVEMBER 9TH  
LANIER  
NORTH PARK

Time zone: (GMT-05:00) | October 2024

Day	Event	Time
Wed 2	Practice - Full Pads	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Thu 3	Practice - Full Pads	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Fri 5	GAME DAY - SS ELLIS V DECATUR (49th)	2:30pm - 4:30pm
Sat 7	Practice - Full Pads	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Wed 9	Practice - Full Pads	6:00pm - 8:00pm

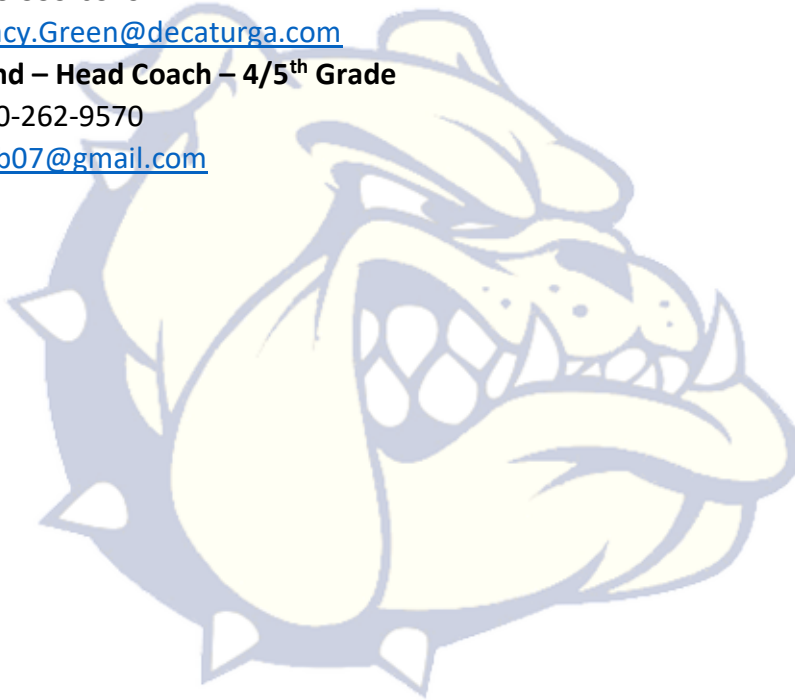
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## COMMUNICATION



## CONTACT INFO

- **Stacy Green – Program Supervisor**
  - 678-553-6549
  - [Stacy.Green@decaturga.com](mailto:Stacy.Green@decaturga.com)
- **Jarred Bond – Head Coach – 4/5<sup>th</sup> Grade**
  - 770-262-9570
  - [Jalb07@gmail.com](mailto:Jalb07@gmail.com)



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