

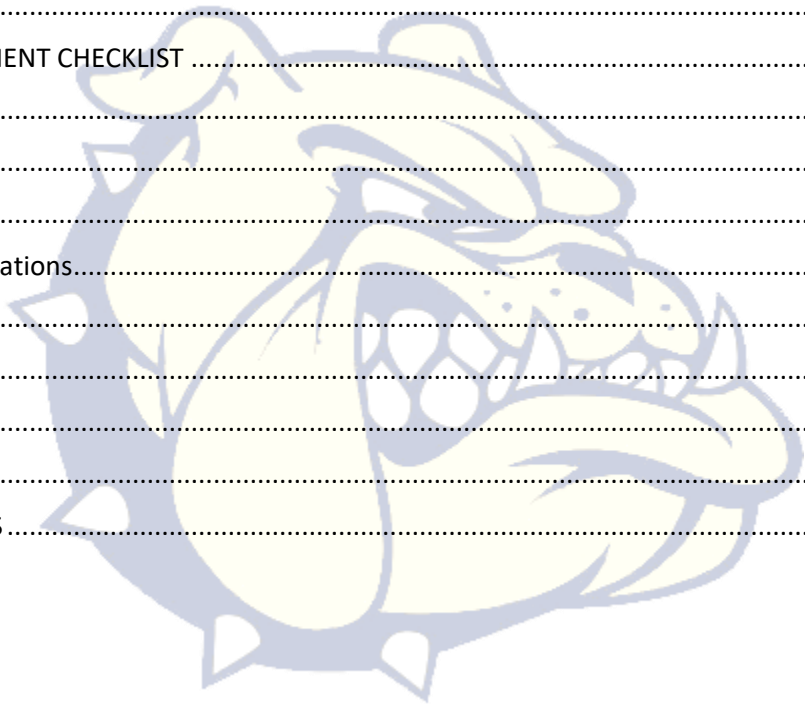
TOGETHER WE STAND

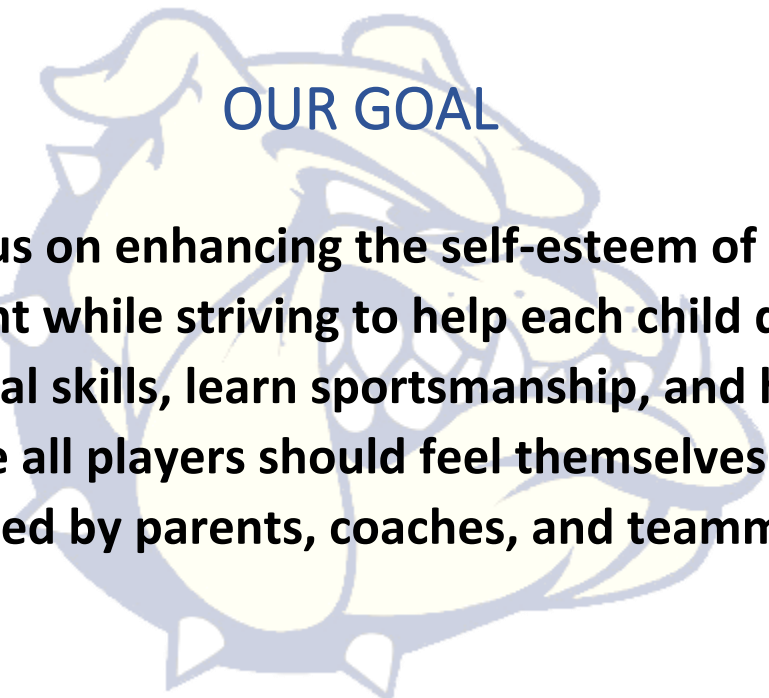
DECATUR BULLDOGS YOUTH FOOTBALL
6/7th GRADE
2026

TOGETHER WE FALL

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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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LAST SEASON

5-5 Record

2nd in Division

Playoff Appearance in the second year of joining GMSAA

21 Returning players from last season



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

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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.

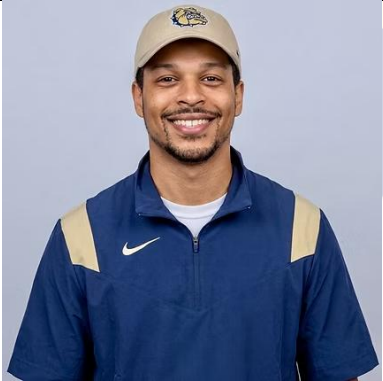
Players must provide a copy of their birth certificate and proof of school grade for the 2023- 2024 School Year.

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.

COACHING STAFF

		
Kyle Pennington	Jarred Bond	Clayton Dyson

		
Jerron Horton	Maxim Wynn	Jacob Gonzalez

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 the GroupMe 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 team website. GroupMe will be the main form of communication throughout the season.
- 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. **ALL VOLUNTEERS ON THE FIELD MUST BE SCREENED THROUGH THE CITY OF DECATUR PARKS AND RECS FOR LIABILITY PURPOSE**
- Our program is committed to player safety and strive 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.

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- 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.
- Contact is broken down into three categories
 - **Level 1: No Player to Player**
 - **Air** – Drills are performed without opposition or contact
 - **Bags** – Drills involve contact with a bag or similar soft surface
 - **Level 2: Controlled Contact**
 - **Control Contact** – Drill run at less than full speed and players remain on feet
 - **Control to Ground** – Drill run at less than full speed until moment of contact players allowed to go to ground in controlled manner
 - **Level 3: Full Contact**
 - **Thud** – Full Speed quick whistles players stay off the ground
 - **Live** – Drill is run at a competitive speed in game-like conditions
- All coaches are Certified through 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.



FORMS NEEDED

- Signed GMSAA League Waiver
- Birth Certificate
- Signed Player/Parent Code of Conduct
- Signed GMSAA Concussion Waiver
- Copy of utility bill that shows home address

*Forms are available for download on team website DecaturBulldogs.com --> Forms

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FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Mandatory Items

- Football Cleats
- Football Socks
- Practice Football Pants*
- Practice Jersey*
- Shoulder Pads**
- Football Helmet**
- 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
- **Play it Again Sports**
- 2122 N Decatur Rd, Decatur, GA 30033



**Some additional practice jerseys and pants are available at no cost on a first come first serve basis*

***Also note that equipment is available for rent at Ebster on a first come first serve basis. For a rental Fee*

LEAGUE

GMSAA

We are happy to announce that the 6/7th grade team will be returning for the third year as a part of the GMSAA program this upcoming season! The Georgia Middle School Athletic Association (GMSAA) is the largest residence based middle school football program in the country with more than 4,500 student-athletes. The GMSAA is committed to our athletes along with their growth and knowledge of the game. Our board of directors and region managers have more than 100 years of experience in coaching the fundamentals of the game, player safety, and leadership in the community. Being a GMSAA member is

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an honor for both the member programs and the league. To learn more about the league please follow the link below to redirect to the home page for GMSAA

www.gmsaa.com



TEAMS

Division C Region 1



DECATUR BULLDOGS

DECATUR



CENTENNIAL



CHATTAHOOCHEE



EAST FORSYTH



NORTH SPRINGS

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SCHEDULE



**2026 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
DECATUR YOUTH BULLDOGS**

8/29	vs EAST PAULDING	4:00PM
9/5	AT POPE	11:00AM
9/12	AT CENTENNIAL	11:00AM
9/19	vs BYE WEEK	
9/26	vs BYE WEEK	
10/3	AT NORTH SPRINGS	10:00AM
10/10	vs CHATTAHOOCHEE	4:00PM
10/17	vs EAST FORSYTH	4:00PM
10/24	vs SPRAYBERRY	4:00PM

HOME GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL

AWAY Game Locations

Pope High School – 3001 Hembree Rd NE, Marietta, GA 30062

Centennial High School – 9310 Scott Rd, Roswell, GA 30076

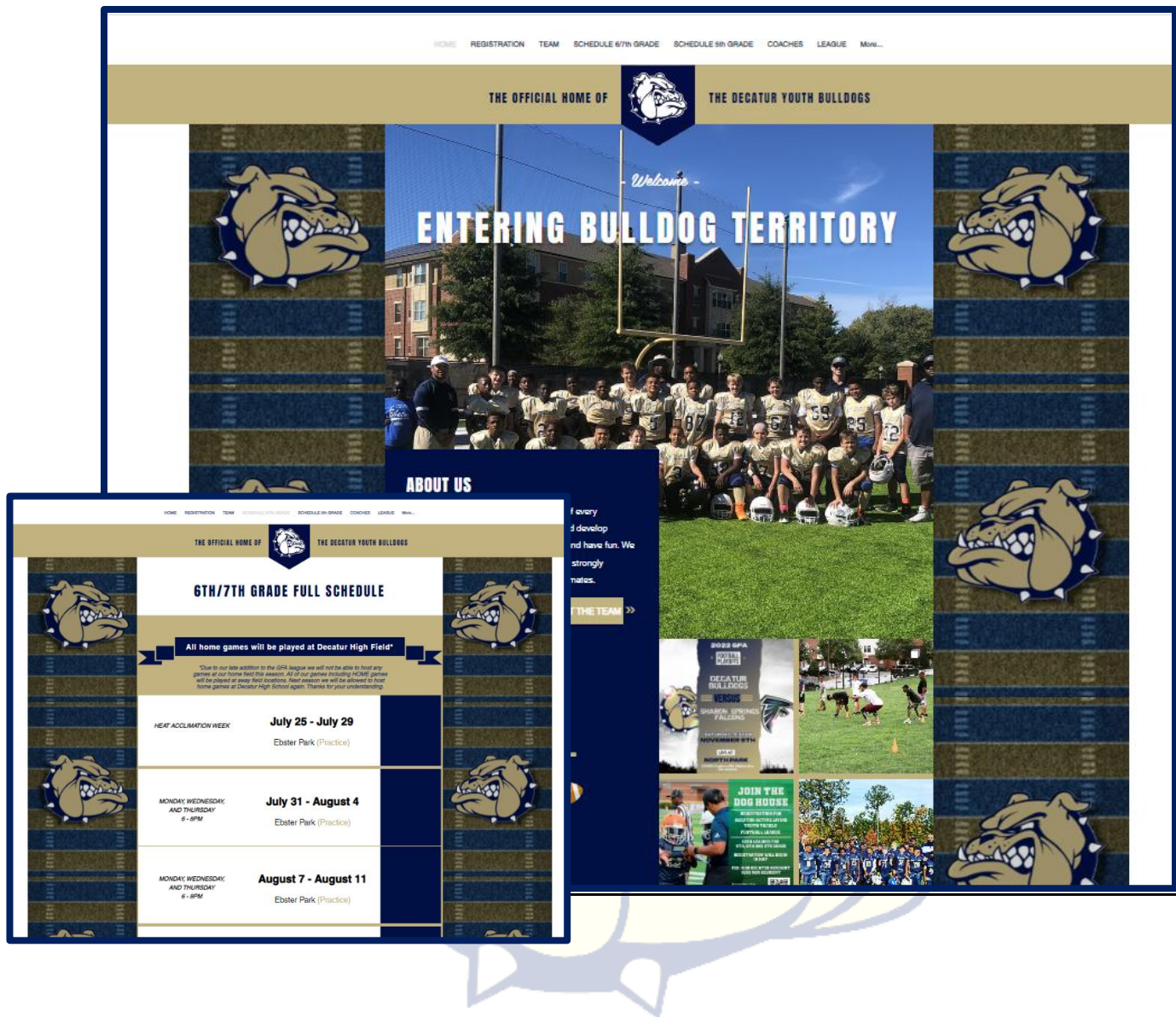
North Springs High School – 7447 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

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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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

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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.
 - Coaching registration for GMSAA is closed for this season.
 - Please let Raymond Rollins or any of the current coaches if you are interested in participating.

UNIFORMS



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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.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **8/12** – Equipment Fitting
- **8/17** – Full Pads Practice Begins
- **8/29** – First Regular Season Game
- **9/28** – No Games Fall Break
- **10/26** – No Games Bye Week
- **11/7** – First Round of Playoffs
 - **Top 8 Teams Advance to Playoffs Single Elimination Format**
- **11/14** - Second Round of Playoffs
- **11/21** –Championship

