



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

## NEWS RELEASE

### American Youth Football to Require All Coaches to take NFHS Football Tackling Course

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Dan Schuster

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 17, 2022) — American Youth Football, Inc. (AYF), a national youth partner of the National Football League, will require all coaches on its regional/national track (more than 50,000) to take the new, free “Football Tackling” course introduced on the NFHS Learning Center last month.

AYF, with more than 650,000 youth members in 3,000-plus cities, is the only youth football program with members in all 50 states and several other countries. AYF, which was started in 1996, offers all-inclusive football and cheer divisions for children ages 6-14. The “Football Tackling” course will be mandatory for coaches in the national track involving about 7,000 teams and 50,000-70,000 coaches, and it will be optional for coaches on the local track.

“The NFHS Football Tackling course was a natural fit for our youth coaches education requirement,” said Craig Karahuta, AYF vice president of football and cheer operations. “It helps educate our coaches on the three fundamental concepts of tackling. We look forward to having AYF football players learning the proper techniques prior to playing high school football. This opportunity should help bridge the gap in what is being taught on the youth level versus the high school level.”

The “Football Tackling” course, which was a joint production between the NFHS and the NFL, is designed to assist interscholastic coaches in teaching, evaluating and programming proper tackling techniques.

The course is one of several projects resulting from the NFHS-NFL partnership that was announced in September 2020. This first-ever partnership was aimed at promoting the growth, understanding and support for football at the high school level.

“We are pleased that American Youth Football has made this commitment to ensure that youth football coaches are teaching the proper tackling techniques,” said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, NFHS CEO. “We thank AYF, as well as the NFL, in helping to bridge the gap between the youth and high school levels.”

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#### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including almost eight million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

#### **About American Youth Football, Inc. (AYF)**

American Youth Football, Inc. (AYF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and National Youth Partner of the National Football League. AYF provides support services, scholarships, grants, “Giving Back” programs and tournaments to over 650,000 youth members. Representing participants in over 3000 cities , AYF is the only youth football program with members in all 50 states and several countries worldwide. AYF is committed to Giving Back and since its inception in 1996, has successfully donated over \$15 million dollars in grants and athletic product to communities that support youth football. AYF offers all-inclusive football and cheer divisions enabling every child a place and an opportunity to play. Visit [www.americanyouthfootball.com](http://www.americanyouthfootball.com) for more information.

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