



Catholic United 7th & 8th Grade Football Registration Information/Program Details

Mission Statement: The GRACEAC Football program exists to provide a safe and competitive football program for 7th and 8th grade student athletes that are eligible to participate in GRACEAC programs. This is an athletic opportunity to participate on a team and work with peers toward a common goal within the context of our Catholic school tradition. The 7th & 8th grade program exists to support and build enthusiasm for football.

The focus of this program is to expand skill development learned from the 5th/6th program and begin to prepare football players for high school. The 7th & 8th grade program and coaching are more closely aligned with respective high school programs.

7th & 8th grade football is a GRACEAC Catholic United (CU) program, meaning it is comprised of Catholic school athletes participating in an outside (secular) league. CU 7th & 8th grade football teams are enrolled in the Big 10 League, which includes Catholic United West (CUW), Catholic United East (CUE), Rockford, East Kentwood, East Grand Rapids, Caledonia, & Grand Rapids Christian.

- 1) Team Formation: 7th grade and 8th grade play on separate teams. Rosters are based on 'feeder school' alignment (West Catholic/Catholic Central)
- 2) 8th graders play on Wednesday nights; 7th graders play on Tuesday or Wednesday nights
- 3) CUE Home Venue: Cougar Stadium at the CAT
- 4) CUW Home Venue: Falcon Stadium at West Catholic High School
- 5) Preseason practices (typically): Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6p-7:30 or 8p.
- 6) In-Season Practices (typically): Respective high school campuses (CAT/WC); 6:00pm-7:30pm; 3 nights/week (non-game nights).
- 7) Key Dates (subject to change): First Practice - August 9, First Game - first Tuesday or Wednesday after Labor Day, Last Game - 3rd week of October (seven week season)
- 8) All students participating MUST register through GRACEAC TeamSnap. Teamsnap will include your teams compiled rosters, practice and game schedule, volunteer availability, group chat, and team communication.
- 9) All participants must have an updated physical, participation consent, and concussion acknowledgement form on file at school.
- 10) Coaching staff: Selected by the GRACEAC Commissioner and football coordinators with input from the high school programs. Coaches are vetted through the Diocese of Grand Rapids and have an acceptable level of coaching knowledge and related experience. Coaches must also be certified by MDHHS for concussion safety and USA football. Player safety is always the coaches first priority.
- 11) GRACEAC will issue a certified helmet, shoulder pads, and game jersey to each player. These items must be returned at the end of the year. Players are responsible for providing their own practice pants, game pants, mouthpiece, water bottle and cleats.
- 12) The GRACEAC football program is funded through the member schools on a per player basis and, in some cases, by sponsorships, at no cost for registration to families. Each school supports their student athletes through booster clubs, fundraisers, etc. Support your school's athletic fundraising organization.

[Link to Register](#)

[8th Grade Football Rules from 2020 \(subject to change\)](#)

[7th Grade Football Rules from 2020 \(subject to change\)](#)