



2024 Information Package

most of this information can also be found on our website at www.niagaraspears.ca

What ages do Niagara Spears accommodate?

Coach Brian Duguay for U18+: Athletes born in 2005, 2006 & 2007 (we are allowed to have 10 athletes born in 2005 on a game day roster each game for the 2023 season)

Coach Brad Martin for U16: Athletes born in 2008 & 2009

Coach Troy Herbert for U14: Athletes born in 2010 & 2011

What is the commitment level for the 2024 Season?

January 27-March 31: SATURDAYS

U18: 2-3:30pm

U16: 3:30-5pm

U14: 2-3:30pm

April 1- Mid May (until the 1st game): 3 practices a week, teams to announce which days practices are, usually 6:30pm- 9pm depending on weather and daylight.

Mid May (once games start) until the first weekend in August (depending on how the season goes) : 2 to 3 practices a week with games on the weekend. teams to announce which days practices are, usually 6:30pm- 9pm depending on weather and daylight.

Where are tryouts/practices held and how far would we travel in a season?

January to March: indoor sessions at
Youngs Sportsplex 570 River Rd, Welland, ON L3B 5N4

April to mid May: outdoor sessions at
Kiwanis Field 240 ST. Paul St W, St. Catharines, ON L2S 4B8

mid May to end of season: outdoor sessions alternate between Kiwanis Field listed above and West Park Field (behind DSBN Academy) 130 Louth St, St. Catharines, ON L2S 2T8

Games: Will depend on our schedule but can play anywhere from Windsor to Ottawa and as far up north as Sault Ste Marie. Coach Busses are provided for all athletes and should be taken to all games. Alternate arrangements can be made for athletes to go home from games with their parents. Games can be played on either Friday's, Saturday's or Sunday's.

Do I need to have my own equipment?

You only need your own cleats and mouth guard. Helmet, shoulder pads, practice pants, game day jerseys (2: home and away) and game day pants are the property of Niagara Spears and athletes borrow them from us.

A \$400 deposit in the form of a post dated cheque for Sept 1 2024 OR credit card information is required prior to athlete receiving equipment and held onto for the season (not cashed, just held). Once our equipment is returned then your cheque or information is destroyed/returned.

Equipment will be picked up from our clubhouse at 76 Ridley Rd W, St. Catharines, and your team manager will tell you when and how to pick up and return the equipment.

How do we register?

Head to our website or attend one of our in person registration days.

In person registration days will be posted on our website and social media.

Registration is a 3 part process so please be sure to complete all steps.

1. OFA National Registry
2. Niagara Spears Registration
3. Payment

If you need assistance please contact our Registrar Stephanie at registrar@niagaraspears.ca

How much does it cost to play Spears?

National Registry with OFA: \$42- this is paid to Ontario Football and Football Canada is mandatory. This is the athletes insurance.

Season Fees: \$900

(3 installments of \$300 due at time of registration, March 2nd and April 30th refunds will be provided to those who quit or aren't successful making the team)

indoor and outdoor rentals

athletic therapists at all sessions

baseline concussions testing

equipment to borrow

equipment upkeep and recertification

practice jersey (yours to keep)

field rentals

game day uniforms

coach bus to all away games

ticket to end of year banquet

team picture

Mandatory Volunteer Bond: \$150- Volunteers are the lifeblood of our football organization. An extremely dedicated group of coaches and executives give their time to ensure a positive experience for our young athletes to play this great sport. Volunteering gives you a deeper understanding and appreciation for just how much work goes on behind the scenes executing a successful game day and season as well as helps keep costs low for you. Once you or someone in your family completes 4 hours of approved volunteer time you will receive your \$150 bond back.

Money is a little tight, is there help?

YES! Money should never be the reason an athlete doesn't play!

Programs like Jump Start, KidSport Ontario, Ontario Growing Up Through Sports, Niagara Kids Benefit help with funding, applications can be done through them. We also offer payment plans, fundraisers, or sponsorships to offset the costs to play. If you still need help, reach out to our registrar Stephanie at registrar@niagaraspears.ca, all conversations remain confidential.