

**American Youth Football League Inc.**  
**Bylaws**  
**2012**

**Name:**

The League will be known as the American Youth Football League Inc. (Hereafter referred to as AYFL).

**Mission Statement:**

To provide a Football League that is to benefit children by establishing rules and regulations governing such games, contests, competitions, and exhibitions classifying those who participate therein; determining and defining awards and prizes for winning contest, defining and awarding tokens and insignia of championships, determining and defining breaches and infractions of its rules and regulations, and imposing penalties as set forth in the Bylaws and in accordance with the law.

**Objectives:**

- To promote and maintain physical exercise, physical fitness, and moral well being of children.
- To engage, assist, encourage, participate, and teach American Football.
- To further sportsmanship and honor among children in a competitive atmosphere.
- To promote and oversee amateur games, contests, sports, and athletics while elevating the standards and competitive level of amateur athletics.
- To foster and encourage community pride through local amateur athletics.
- To instill wholesome values in youngsters and young adults.
- To assist in combating juvenile delinquency by providing and promoting the physical and emotional well being of young athletes.
- All other ways as are necessary in order to accomplish our mission and objectives.

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## Section One: League Membership

### ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

- I.1 League Members Defined
- a) Charter Member: A Founding Member of the AYFL
    - (i) Plantation Athletic League hereafter referred to as Plantation
    - (ii) Boca Optimist hereafter referred to as Boca
    - (iii) Cooper City Optimist hereafter referred to as Cooper City
    - (iv) Pasadena Lakes Optimist hereafter referred to as Pasadena
    - (v) Sunrise Youth Sports hereafter referred to as Sunrise
    - (vi) Western Area Football League hereafter referred to as Weston
  - b) Regular Member: Any other organization, city or club that has attained permanent status in the AYFL.
    - (i) Coral Springs Tackle Football hereafter referred to as Coral Springs
    - (ii) Town of Davie Tackle Football hereafter referred to as Davie
    - (iii) Pembroke Pines Optimist hereafter referred to as PPO
    - (iv) Tamarac Youth Football League hereafter referred to as Tamarac
    - (v) West Pembroke Pines Optimist hereafter referred to as West Pines
    - (vi) Coconut Creek Football hereafter referred to as Coconut Creek.
    - (vii) Little Yankee Boy's Football League, Inc. hereafter referred to as Fort Lauderdale
    - (viii) Northeast Rebels hereafter referred to as Northeast
  - c) New Member: Any organization, city or club that has not attained permanent status in the AYFL.
- I.2 Any Charter Member or Regular Member shall be hereinafter defined as a Permanent Member of the AYFL, and shall be entitled to all said rights, duties and privileges. Once a League Member has been approved as a Permanent Member they will have voting privileges at all League meetings.
- I.3 All League Members shall pay the following fees each year to maintain the League.
- a) The AYFL Board will determine before the first League meeting in April the League fees to be paid by each League Member
  - b) Each League Member shall pay \$500.00 on or before the first League meeting in March along with all outstanding fines, penalties and assessments.
  - c) Each League Member shall pay the balance of their League fees at or before Mass Registration.
- I.4 Any League Member wanting to move their parent organization to another city, change their playing field location, or change their parent organization's name, organization, corporation or club, must submit the request in writing to the AYFL Board. The Board will review the request and its implications, if any, to the AYFL, and decides how to handle the request, including the membership status of the organization.
- I.5 All League Members are required to submit to the League, their parent organization's name and address. The Secretary will keep this information as part of the League documents.
- I.6 New Members:
- a) Each year in January the board will discuss and vote upon whether the AYFL will accept expansion applications for the upcoming season, and if desired set a limit on the number of teams that may be added. Setting a limit does not obligate the league to accept that many

- teams, it simply sets a maximum on the number that may be accepted. If the vote is not to expand for that season, no applications will be accepted for that season.
- b) The preferred method of expansion is by invitation of the league to a prospective club. The Vision Committee shall present a list of target clubs to the board prior to the initial expansion vote described in a), including their perspective on why the addition of the proposed club or clubs benefits the AYFL. Any club invited to apply must still submit an application fulfilling all of the requirements of paragraph f) below.
  - c) If the decision to expand will require that the referees support additional venues, the referee's liaison will be consulted prior to the expansion vote of paragraph a).
  - d) Any organization, city, or club desiring membership in the AYFL must apply for membership no later than the first League meeting in February.
  - e) The applicant must submit a letter of intent on their club stationary, along with the following additional information:
    - (i) Photographs of the playing field(s) to be used for official games.
    - (ii) An approval letter from the field owner granting long term use of the site.
    - (iii) Photographs of bathrooms, press box and concession stand(s).
    - (iv) Photographs of parking facilities, and a count of parking spaces available.
    - (v) Photographs of the Public Address system.
    - (vi) Photographs of equipment storage areas.
    - (vii) Examples of game uniforms, including colors and logo.
    - (viii) Example of finished helmet.
    - (ix) A copy of the prior year's insurance document, or for new programs a copy of the insurance binder.
    - (x) Articles of Incorporation and a copy of 501C3 certification or application for privately run programs.
    - (xi) Unmodified copies of all rosters from the prior year for both football and cheerleading, except for new programs..
  - f) All applicants must be a non-profit organization or city chartered by the State of Florida in good standing. The applicant must show proof of said status
  - g) The Vision Committee shall screen the applicant, and present their recommendations to the AYFL Board. Any misrepresentation by the applicant to the AYFL or the Vision Committee shall be cause for immediate termination of the screening process and the elimination of that applicant from consideration.
  - h) Conditions of membership include strict adherence to these Bylaws.
  - i) By the first meeting in April, an applicant's request for admission will be acted upon by the League.
  - j) Permanent Members shall vote on the application, and a yes vote by 75% of eligible voting members shall be required for admittance as a New Member to the League.
  - k) All voting pertaining to an applicant shall be by a closed ballot. The applicant shall be excluded from the meeting during all discussions and voting on its application.
  - l) Following a yes vote for probationary membership, the Board of Directors shall assign a permanent member to sponsor the new member.
  - m) An application fee of \$500.00 is required of a new applicant to the join the League at the time the application is submitted. If the applicant is approved as a New Member, the \$500.00 will be applied to their League fees.
  - n) All New Members will serve two (2) seasons probation, WITHOUT voting privileges. Following the 2nd season of probation, a straight vote for either Permanent Member status or expulsion will occur at the first League meeting in January.
  - o) All New Members must get their mascot and colors approved by the AYFL Board prior to the first League meeting in May.

## ARTICLE II: LEAGUE MEMBER RULES

- II.1 It is a privilege to play in the AYFL, not a right. No League Member, team, coach, or player has any right to participate in any AYFL sponsored games, in the same manner as, the AYFL cannot force any League Member, team, coach, or player to participate.
- II.2 All League Members are required to maintain and submit proof to the AYFL Executive Board of outside insurance (Athletic Medical and Liability). The Secretary shall maintain proof of Insurance. Said proof of insurance must be submitted no later than the first regular meeting in May and prior to the start of any practice. There will be a fine of \$100.00 for non-compliance, and no practice will be allowed until proof is submitted. The Secretary will be responsible for verifying the renewal of insurance if it renews between May and the end of the football season.
- II.3 All League Members will field a team in each weight division. If a League Member fails to provide a team for a certain weight division, the League will log each game as a forfeit and fine the League Member \$500.00 per missing team per game. This fine must be paid on/or before the next weekly League meeting, or the League Member will forfeit all games until the fine is paid. In the event there is no weekly League meeting the fee must be paid to the Treasurer no later than the following Wednesday by 6 pm.
- II.4 All League Members shall be subject to, and agree to pay, any special assessments and/or fines levied by the AYFL Board. All fines are due and payable within 1 week of notification of fines. If not paid in that time, the League Member will lose its voting privileges, if applicable, until the Treasurer receives payment. For each meeting following notification that fines remain unpaid, the delinquent club will be assessed an additional 50% of the unpaid balance. If the fine remains unpaid by the third meeting after notification of fines, the delinquent club shall lose all home game privileges until all fines are paid in full. The delinquent club shall be responsible for referee fees for any scheduled home games which must be played at the opposing site during this period. Fines must be paid by the prior Wednesday to reinstate any home game; i.e. a lost home game may not be restored by a delinquent fine payment on the Friday night before the game.
- II.5 The AYFL Board will set practice dates, with and without pads. Any League Member, its coaches or players that violate this rule will be fined \$500.00 per day per team for each occurrence, and any coaches involved will accumulate one Level III offense for each illegal practice that they are involved with. During the month of May, teams may conduct organized or informal practices, WITHOUT PADS, provided that the club has provided the league with proof of insurance, and provided that the club has notified the league, in writing or via email to the Secretary, that the team intends to practice during this period. Releases are required for all coaches and players participating in any practice, including May practices. Practicing or coaching without a valid release renders the offending individual ineligible for the remainder of the season.
- II.6 A practice is defined as a gathering of registered or previously registered players, organized by or for a coach or League Member, for the intended purpose of having an organized practice for that team's individual players. This does not include AYFL Board approved events held for the open public.
- II.7 All League Members are to police and discipline their own personnel, players, coaches, parents, relatives and fans, in regards to but not limited to: recruiting, registration policies, boundaries, scouting, and conduct both on and off the field. Although it is expected that each League Member police themselves, if the AYFL Board finds the League Member's penalties inappropriate, the Board may assess additional penalties against the party being disciplined.

- II.8 Any member engaging in activities not expressly prohibited by these bylaws, but in the opinion of the Board of Directors to be significantly contrary to the best interests of the AYFL may be disciplined as deemed appropriate by the board by a vote of 11 of the 14 clubs.
- II.9 Each League Member is responsible for the proper sportsmanship of its personnel, coaches and players, as well as the physical well being of its players at all times. It is expected that each League Member take the appropriate action to insure the health, safety and well being of it's players at all times and to ensure proper supervision of it's teams while not in play.
- II.10 Should any League Member take disciplinary measures against any of its personnel, coaches or players for a violation of any of the League Members rules, a written report must be filed with their Conference Commissioner within 48 hours. If the disciplinary actions of the League Member are deemed as significant punishment by the AYFL Board, then the AYFL Board will take no further action, unless the submitting League Member requests additional action be taken by the Board.
- II.11 Scouting will be permitted ONLY at regular season League games. Regular season games are those games that count in the standings and playoff games. **NO PRESEASON GAMES AND NO PRACTICES MAY BE SCOUTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** Violation of this rule will result in a Level III offense being charged to the offender, and to any Head Coach shown by a majority vote of the AYFL Board to have benefited from said illegal scouting. A \$150.00 fine will be assessed for each infraction. Individuals scouting at regularly scheduled League games on behalf of a League Member must report in to a Field or League Representative of the hosting club upon arrival. Failure to report in to a Field or League Representative shall result in the assessment of a \$150 fine to the League Member the scout is scouting for.
- II.12 All League Members shall on Sunday, by 6:00 pm, report all their teams' scores to the Statistician. There will be a \$50.00 fine per occurrence for the first three (3) instances of failing to report their scores, and the loss of home games for the League Member after that. The reporting of all playoff games will be the responsibility of the Hosting Club, League Representative and must be reported by 6:00 PM the following day.
- II.13 All League Members shall report scores and game summaries for the AYFL 'Featured Weight Class' for that week to all local news services linked on the AYFL website, by 6PM on the Sunday following the game. Failure to report scores and summaries for the featured weight class three or more times during the season shall result in a \$50 fine per League Member failing to report scores for the third failure and each failure thereafter. League Members are strongly encouraged to report all scores and summaries for non-featured weight classes to all linked news services weekly as well.
- II.14 All League Members are required to supply maps to their playing field by mass registration. Violation will result in a \$200.00 fine.
- II.15 All League Members will inform the Board of the upcoming season's color scheme whether they intend a change from the prior season or not, by the first meeting in February. All League Members must get AYFL Board approval on any changes in uniform color schemes, color changes, or mascot changes at the first meeting in March. There will be no color or color scheme changes permitted after the March approval. Any club dressed in uniforms that do not match the club's approved color scheme at any time during the season shall result in the assessment of a \$1000 fine to the offending club. The secretary shall maintain the list of approved color schemes.

### **ARTICLE III: INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

- III.1 Founding Member: Those individuals who were involved in the founding of the American Youth Football League.
- a) Founding Members will be recognized by the AYFL Board and its League Members
  - b) Founding Members shall be given all the rights and privileges of a permanent League Member Representative as long as they have maintained the conduct, values, integrity and honor as defined in these By-Laws by the League.
  - c) Founding Members will pay no fees or assessments.
  - d) The Founding Members of the AYFL are: Steve Alongi, Dale Pritchard, Fran Smith, Don Todd, Laney Stearns, Sam Bryant, Steve Jeremiah, Roy Jossfolk and Marc Dressen.
- III.2 Life Member: An individual who has completed five years of service in the League as any combination of the following: Elected Officer, Appointed Officer, League Member Representative or Alternate League Member Representative.
- a) Life Members will be recognized by the AYFL Boards and its League Members.
  - b) Life Members will be given all the rights and privileges of a permanent League Member Representative as long as they have maintained the conduct, values, integrity and honor as defined in these By-Laws by the League.
  - c) Life Members will pay no fees or assessments.
  - d) If a Life Member is expelled from the AYFL their Life Member status will be automatically revoked.
  - e) The Life Members of the AYFL are: Steve Lawson, Anthony Vitelli, Doug Phillips, Laney Stearns, Steve Alongi, Mark Slorp, Louie Srour, Bill Coyne, John Garrish, Harry Dickens, Jim Ross, Mike Ryan, Kevin Harris, Jeff Woodall, Brian Crowe, Bart Bishop, Keith Cohen, Dave Ocasek, Donn Grushka, Mark Dornacker, Ross Sinel, Joe Hover, Steve Mummaw, Joe Braden, Rocky Morgan, Bob Staudenmaier, Mario Perez, Rick Rhea, Phil Margetts, Brian Dooling, Vincent Grippa, Troy Millican, Mike Bergdorf, Rick Rue, Joel Greenberg, Jeff Goldman, Todd Green, Wayne Culbertson, Sal Bailen, John Oliva and Merry Gaeta.

### **ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF SPONSORING MEMBERS**

- IV.1 It shall be the duty and responsibility of a sponsoring Permanent Member to assist and advise the New Member in any administrative area and during mass registration for the first year. The Permanent Member is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of these documents, and must ensure that they meet AYFL standards throughout the entire season.
- IV.2 Meetings will be held between the sponsoring Permanent Member and the New Member monthly to ensure that the New Members program is operating within the standards set by the AYFL. The sponsoring Permanent Member, as well as the New Member, is responsible for reporting Bylaw infractions caused by the New Member. Both members will be penalized if the League is not notified. These meetings will be held at least one (1) hour prior to the regular League meetings, and completely separate from the League meetings. The sponsoring Permanent Member will present a written report of these meetings to the AYFL Board at the regular League meeting, and turn the report into the Secretary.
- IV.3 Whenever a conflict arises, either internal or external, the sponsoring Permanent Member will be notified, and give direction to the New Member in order to ensure that the New Member is operating within the standards, goals, and spirit of the AYFL. The League must be notified in writing by the sponsoring Permanent Member in each and every case, NO EXCEPTIONS.

- IV.4 The sponsoring Permanent Member will assist the New Member with such issues as insurance, team rules, equipment purchases, placement of players in weight divisions, coach selection, practice schedules, proper registration process and set up of the team book and roster.
- IV.5 The sponsoring Permanent Member can withdraw their sponsorship of a New Member if the New Member fails to communicate with the sponsoring Permanent Member, or does not include the sponsor in its decisions.

**ARTICLE V: CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

- V.1 Charitable contributions shall be limited to a maximum of \$500 per recipient.

**ARTICLE VI: INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

- VI.1 By virtue of its membership in the AYFL, any league member agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the AYFL's Officers, Board Members, and officials/referees against any claims, disputes, causes of action, judgments or decrees for actions carried out in accordance with the bylaws.
- VI.2 Said indemnification and hold harmless agreement shall include, but not be limited to, any reasonable attorney's fees and costs, including appellate attorney fees and costs, witness fees, stenographic expenses, expert witness fees and transportation expenses; together with any monetary judgment expense or awards that the court might enter; as well as any cost or expense associated with the running of any game, exhibition, or contest including any stadium rental, referees fees, food, or any cost or expense associated therein.

## **Section Two: League Officers and Administration**

### **ARTICLE I: ELECTED OFFICERS**

- I.1 Executive Officers
  - a) The Executive Officers of the League will be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They are also the Corporate Officers of the League.
- I.2 Elections
  - a) Shall be held at the regular League meeting in December.
  - b) Shall be held by closed ballot.
  - c) Shall be conducted in the following order:
    - (i) President
    - (ii) Vice President
    - (iii) Secretary
    - (iv) Treasurer
  - d) Votes will be opened and counted by the existing Secretary and verified by a League Member Representative agreed upon the AYFL board.
- I.3 Eligibility
  - a) An individual must have been an Executive Officer, Appointed Officer, or Permanent League Member Representative of the AYFL, within the last 2 years prior to being nominated.
- I.4 Term of Office
  - a) Each Elected Officer shall be elected for a one (1) year term.
  - b) All Elected Officers shall stand for election each year.
- I.5 No Confidence
  - a) At any point during an Elected Officer's term, the AYFL Board may issue a "Vote of No Confidence" to remove the Officer from his/her responsibilities with a vote of 11 of 14 for removal.
  - b) A new Officer will be elected to serve the remainder of the term.

### **ARTICLE II: APPOINTED OFFICERS**

- II.1 The following positions are recommended by the President and approved by the AYFL Board. An acceptance of one of these positions may result in an individual giving up a League Member Representative position.
  - a) Rules Compliance Committee Chairman
  - b) Two (2) Conference Commissioners and two (2) alternates
  - c) Statistician
  - d) Registrar

### **ARTICLE III: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- III.1 President: The duties of the President shall be those normally associated with this office, and include his/her acting as the principle executive officer of the League. He/She shall preside at all League meetings. It is the President's duty to administrate the League, and to run the

League meetings in accordance with the Bylaws. The President will not voice an opinion during an Incident Hearing. The President will vote only to break a tie on any issue voted on by the League. He/She may sign all legal documents with the Secretary. He/She shall perform all the duties pursuant to the office of President. The President will recommend individuals for appointment to all committees, as well as any new committees he/she deems necessary in order to efficiently carry out the goals of the League. The President shall recommend an individual to fill a vacated position, subject to the approval of the AYFL Board. The President's primary duty is to work to improve the AYFL. He/She is responsible for the development of a mission statement, and setting the values and goals of the League. He/She must provide the vision for the League, and always be looking throughout the country for innovative ways to enhance the AYFL, both on and off the field of play. The President is the chairman of the Vision committee.

- III.2 Vice President: The duties of the Vice President shall be those normally associated with his/her office and include being the presiding Executive Officer over all appeals hearings, ensuring that the proper process is followed as stated in the Bylaws. He/She shall also have such duties as are assigned to him/her by the President and shall preside in the absence of the President. The Vice President is the chairman of the Appeals committee and the Bylaws committee.
- III.3 Treasurer: The duties of the Treasurer shall be those normally associated with his/her office and include his/her having charge of all moneys and receipts of the League, and depositing the same in the name of the League in a depository designated by resolution of the AYFL Board. He/She shall disburse said funds as is necessary and is ordered or authorized by the AYFL Board. He/She shall keep accurate records and collect all charges due from League Members and shall keep regular account of receipts and disbursements. He/She shall submit such records when requested, and give a financial statement of the same at all Board meetings. He/She shall cause to be prepared all checks and withdrawal slips on behalf of the League for any of its bank accounts, of which shall be honored on both his/her and the Presidents signatures. If In the case of the inability of the Treasurer to be present there is an immediate need for payment of an obligation by check, the Secretary shall sign in the place of the Treasurer. Two (2) signatures shall be required on all checks. These signatures will only be from the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Treasurer will have available at each League meeting a list of those League Members that owe monies, so as to keep current an eligible voting list. The Treasurer will provide a written report of all deposits and expenditures at every regular League meeting. The report will be read into the record and voted on for acceptance by the Board. The report will then be given to the Secretary to be included with the minutes and files, and an electronic copy will be forwarded to the AYFL webmaster and placed in the member's area of the AYFL website within 48 hours of the meeting. The Treasurer is the chairman of the Events committee.
- III.4 Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for those duties normally associated with this office to include the keeping of minutes at all League meetings. The Secretary shall perform such duties as may be required of him/her by the President. The Secretary shall keep a record of each League Members attendance at all League meetings, by having each League Member Representative sign an attendance sheet. The Secretary shall keep an updated list of all League Members voting status. Minutes of the previous League meeting will be read to, and approved by, the AYFL Board at the beginning of each League meeting. An electronic copy of the minutes will be forwarded to the AYFL webmaster and placed in the member's area of the AYFL website within 48 hours of the meeting. The Secretary will secure the use of a fireproof filing cabinet, and will secure all documents, contracts and copies of League files for safekeeping. Below is a summary list of what will be kept in this filing cabinet:
- a) All past years Bylaws;

- b) Filed minutes from all previous League meetings;
  - c) Filed Treasurer reports from all previous League meetings;
  - d) Contracts for use of website address AYFL.COM;
  - e) All past and current Referees contracts;
  - f) Articles of incorporation for the AYFL;
  - g) AYFL official seal;
  - h) On 3 ½ disk or CD, a copy of the Official logo for the AYFL;
  - i) A complete list of all Founding and Life members including e-mail addresses, phone numbers and current mailing address;
  - j) AYFL stamps used for mass registration;
  - k) Annual Corporate Report;
  - l) A copy of each League Members Insurance;
  - m) The written spec sheets for the following:
    - (i) Trophies
    - (ii) Footballs
  - n) Ensure that all AYFL Team Rosters for each League Member's teams are complete and current.
- III.5 Rules Compliance Committee Chairman: The President will recommend to the AYFL Board for approval a Rules Compliance Committee Chairman by the first League meeting in March. The RCC Chairman shall preside over all incident investigations and hearings, and is responsible to ensure that the proper process is followed as stated in the Bylaws.
- III.6 Conference Commissioners: The President will recommend to the AYFL Board for approval, two (2) Commissioners and two alternates by the first League meeting in March. There will be one (1) Commissioner per conference. Their primary responsibility is to investigate complaints using the procedures in the Bylaws, reporting all findings to the RCC Chairman for incident investigations, and to the Vice President for appeals investigations.
- III.7 Statistician: The Statistician will be recommended by the President, and approved by the AYFL Board, at the first League meeting in January. He/She is responsible for submitting to the AYFL Board all schedules for their approval. He/She shall be charged with the responsibility of properly recording and maintaining all scores of each and every AYFL game, as well as compiling League standings to the League Members and to the press. He/She shall be charged with all publicity of the League. He/She shall report any League Members that do not call in their scores. He/She will post League scores and standings on the web site within 48 hrs. The Statistician is the caretaker of the web site, and as such, will ensure the latest information is always present on the web site.
- III.8 Registrar: This position is appointed by the President of the AYFL and approved by the board. The responsibility of the registrar is to oversee mass registration and provide the official game rosters each week as well as final rosters. The Registrar is also responsible to ensure that all rostered coaches are listed on the affiliated club's background check list.

#### **ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES**

- IV.1 Referees Committee
- a) The President will recommend a Referees committee, and the AYFL Board will approve it, at or by the first League meeting in March.
  - b) The Secretary will chair the committee.
  - c) The committee will negotiate, prior to the end of any existing contract with intent to finish before the start of the season, with any referee organizations as may be necessary in order to provide proper coverage for all League games.
  - d) The committee will report to the AYFL Board any contract proposals for approval.

- e) The committee will monitor the Referees and report any issues to the AYFL Board.
  - f) The Referees Representative will forward all notes on actions taken during games by the Referees, and any responses to questions and issues submitted to the Referees, by the next scheduled League meeting.
  - g) Any questions to the Referees will be directed to the Secretary and forwarded to the Referees Representative by the next scheduled League meeting.
- IV.2 Rules Compliance Committee:
- a) The committee will consist of the RCC Chairman, and include the two (2) Conference Commissioners.
  - b) The committee will investigate all written allegations of Bylaw infractions, violations reported, complaints, and any other violations or infractions as the AYFL Board deems appropriate.
  - c) In the event a member of the Rules Compliance committee is asked to investigate an infraction, complaint, or violation concerning his/her own League Member, the President will remove that committee member, and temporarily assign a League Member Representative from a League Member within that conference not involved in the infraction, complaint or violation.
  - d) In the event that any dispute arises over the meaning, intent or application of any bylaw provision in the context of an incident or appeals hearing, the committee's interpretation of the rule shall be binding on all parties involved.
- IV.3 Appeals Committee
- a) The committee will be chaired by the Vice President, and include the chairman of the RCC and the two (2) Conference Commissioners.
  - b) The committee will advise the Executive Board as to whether the granting of an appeal is justified when an appeal is requested.
  - c) When an appeal is granted, the Appeals Committee shall conduct any necessary investigation, shall conduct the appeals hearing, and shall make a final recommendation for action to the AYFL Board.
  - d) An appeal of suspension resulting from ejection by game officials requires a vote of 11 of 14 to reverse the sanction.
- IV.4 Bylaws Committee
- a) The President will recommend a Bylaws committee for the New Year, and the AYFL Board will approve it, after the elections in December.
  - b) The committee will contain all past Presidents, plus the previous year's Committee Secretary, and any other League Member Representative that may wish to attend.
  - c) The Vice President chairs the committee.
  - d) The committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending all suggested changes to the AYFL Board.
- IV.5 Events Committee
- a) The President will recommend an Events committee for the year, and the AYFL Board will approve it, at or by the first League meeting in March.
  - b) The Treasurer will chair the committee.
  - c) The committee is responsible for organizing all League events and creating and maintaining documentation relating to those events. (Coaches Clinic, Trophies, etc)
- IV.6 Vision Committee
- a) The committee will be recommended and chaired by the President, and approved by the Board, at or by the first League meeting in March.

- b) The committee is responsible for screening new applicants to the League, as well as any new projects or events the AYFL Board may wish to pursue.

## **ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- V.1 Board Members: The Board of Directors of the AYFL will consist of the following.
  - a) The Executive Officers
  - b) One (1) Representative or One (1) Alternate Representative from each League Member if the Primary Representative is not present.
  - c) Appointed Officers.
- V.2 Meetings:
  - a) The board of directors will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month (these will be the twelve regular meetings)
  - b) The President may call other meetings for the sole purpose of resolving a single issue and/or problem. These meetings will be limited to only that item and will be limited to one (1) hour.
  - c) Bylaw meetings will be scheduled by the President, and the time limits for those meetings shall be set at his discretion.
- V.3 Duties:
  - a) The Board shall function as the general executive body of the League.
  - b) The Board will have both original and appellate jurisdiction over any infraction of the Bylaws, as well as, assess any fees, fines or penalties. They may conduct other matters that properly come before the Board.

## **ARTICLE VI: LEAGUE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE**

- VI.1 Each League Member will have one (1) Representative to represent the League Member at all AYFL Board meetings and at events that require a League Member Representative from the League Member.
- VI.2 Each League Member may designate one (1) Alternate Representative to represent the League Member at all AYFL Board meetings and events that require a League Member Representative from the League Member.
- VI.3 Each League Member must designate two (2) and no more than five (5) Field Representatives to represent the League Member at any AYFL games or events that require a League Member Representative from the League Member
- VI.4 Each league member will have one (1) Representative to represent the league member at all AYFL Board meetings.
- VI.5 Each League member shall have a minimum of 2 League Reps and/or Field Reps at all AYFL events for the time period mandated by the President for these events. Members of the AYFL Executive Board, Life Members and Founding Members may serve as Field Reps for this requirement. The fine for a not attending or leaving prior to the time limit is \$250.00 for each person (if the member wishes to appeal the fine, they will have to do so in accordance with the appeals procedure).
- VI.6 The process for becoming a League Rep, Alternate Rep or Field Rep will be as follows:
  - a) To be a Field Representative an individual must meet the following requirements:
    - (i) The individual must not be on suspension from any club
    - (ii) The individual must not have outstanding suspension(s) and/or expulsion(s) with another League Member in the AYFL. If this is the case, the League Member with

- the outstanding suspension(s) and/or expulsion(s) must give their approval for that person to become a representative for the AYFL.
- (iii) The individual must have been recommended by the League Member they are going to represent and have a 75% approval of the board.
- b) To be an Alternate League Representative an individual must meet the following requirements:
    - (i) The individual must have been a Field Rep for two (2) years and have 75% approval of the AYFL board, OR
    - (ii) The individual must have been in the position the year prior to the upcoming operating year.
  - c) To be a League Representative an individual must meet the following requirements:
    - (i) The individual must have been an Alternate Rep for two (2) years and have 75% approval by the AYFL Board, OR
    - (ii) The individual must have been in the position the year prior to the up coming operating year.
  - d) At no time will a person be appointed to a League Representative or Alternate League Representative position without first meeting the Field Representative requirements.
  - e) EXCEPTION: The League Member may petition the league for approval if they have no member who meets the criteria and with 75% approval of the board a person may be elevated from Field Representative to Alternate League Representative, or from Alternate League Representative to League Representative. In the event that all of a League Member's Representatives are not returning, a League Member must petition in writing to the Board a detailed description of the circumstances surrounding this petition along with a list of its desired new Representatives and their background on League Member letterhead, signed by an authorized League Member official.
  - f) Executive Board members, League Reps and Alternate League reps must have working e-mail addresses available to all League Board Members to hold any board position.
- VI.7 Should a change of a League Members Representative(s) be made, it must be submitted in writing, prior to or at the next League meeting, in order for the new Representative(s) to be eligible to participate as a League Member Representative.
- VI.8 Duties
- a) Uphold these Bylaws.
  - b) Attend all regularly scheduled and emergency League meetings and AYFL events.
  - c) Attend all regularly scheduled games, both home and away.
  - d) Supply maps to playing location at or before mass registration.
  - e) Report scores by designated time.
  - f) Ensure that all coaches are League certified.
  - g) Ensure that all team books, official AYFL Team Rosters, and official AYFL Player Registration cards are ready and complete at mass registration and throughout the year.
- VI.9 A League Member Representative will not be allowed to perform any of said responsibilities and/or duties, while coaching, or while in the confines of a game in which he/she will be coaching. While coaching, a League Member Rep shall wear his/her corresponding coaching attire, not his/her Rep attire.
- VI.10 The conduct of a League Member Representative includes his/her actions while coaching and will be treated as a violation of said League Member Representative conduct articles if found so by the Board.

## ARTICLE VII: LEAGUE MEETINGS

- VII.1 AYFL Board Meetings are closed to the public unless otherwise stated by the Executive Board.
- VII.2 Every League Member must be represented at the first League meeting in January in order to vote on the status of any New Member(s).
- VII.3 New Members must have a League Member Representative at League meetings for informational purposes.
- VII.4 The board of directors will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. The League will provide food.
- VII.5 Responsibility for opening, closing and cleaning the meeting room shall rotate alphabetically by club each meeting. The Secretary shall inform the club responsible for the next meeting at the end of the current meeting.
- VII.6 Any AYFL Board Member desiring to have a special presentation or guest at a League meeting, will make it known to the Secretary for inclusion in the agenda at least two (2) days prior to any regular League meeting.
- VII.7 Any League Member that does not have one (1) of their Representatives signed in for a League meeting within 15 minutes of the meeting being called to order will be fined \$25.00
- VII.8 Any League Member that does not have at least one (1) of their Representatives in attendance at a League meeting will be fined \$100.00 for every League meeting missed.
- VII.9 The Board of Directors will be the ONLY persons allowed to speak on issues during a League meeting. Any other individual may speak on issues only when granted permission to do so by the Executive Board.
- VII.10 The Secretary will produce an agenda, which will be strictly adhered to during all regular League meetings. Any additions to the agenda must be submitted by email to the Secretary by 6 pm, two (1) days prior to the meeting to guarantee inclusion. All approved outside speakers must be listed on the agenda.
- VII.11 No motions shall be entertained other than those arising from discussion of agenda business.
- VII.12 If in the opinion of the AYFL President a motion not arising from an agenda item is a true emergency that MUST be dealt with immediately, he may at his discretion allow a vote on the motion. Such emergencies must be communicated to the President for determination prior to the start of the meeting.
- VII.13 For all League purchases, the AYFL Board will approve a meeting date to vote on a bid for each purchase. All bids submitted to the League, are to be sealed and held by the Treasurer until opened at the designated League meeting by the Secretary. The Board will select the bid that is the most advantageous for the League.
- VII.14 Any outbursts or disrespectful behavior during a League meeting will result in the party or parties being immediately removed at the request of the executive board, from the League meeting for the duration of the meeting. Any member not leaving after requested to do so shall be fined \$25.00 for every five minutes from the time asked to leave.
- VII.15 Motion/Discussion Process: When the board is going to discuss an issue that may require a motion, the following process will be used:
  - a) A League Rep (not an alternate unless acting as the league rep for the entire meeting) will make a motion.
  - b) The motion then must be seconded by a League Rep (not an alternate unless acting as the league rep for the entire meeting).
  - c) The discussion phase will be conducted in the following format:

- (i) Each League Rep will be granted an opportunity to speak to the issue in order by utilizing the voting roll call order and then a second time using the same order so that each League Rep may respond to comments offered during the first round of discussion. At the discretion of the Executive Board, the second round of discussion may be limited to only those members with additional statements to make. A League Rep may defer either or both the first and second round of discussion to their alternate if desired. Only League or Alternate Reps will participate in discussion on behalf of any League Member. Field Reps must be granted permission by the Executive Board to participate in discussion, unless neither the club's League Rep nor Alternate Rep is present.
- (ii) League Reps will be allotted 3 minutes maximum to speak during each opportunity. League Reps may defer some or all of their allotted time to another League Rep, Life Member, or Founding Member in order to extend that Rep/Members time. (This is not intended to allow for additional opportunities to speak, it is only intended to extend their time during their two opportunities).
- (iii) Life Members, Founding Members and Executive Board Members who have not already had an opportunity to speak will be offered an opportunity to speak to the issue after the League Rep discussion has concluded. (3 minute maximum will apply).

**NOTE: The Vice President will keep the time and will notify the speaker when their time is up. Any member not adhering to the time limit after being advised will be removed from the meeting. Any member speaking out of turn, being disruptive, or being disrespectful will be removed from the meeting.**

- d) Once the discussion phase has concluded, the Secretary will call the roll for the vote.

#### VII.16 Voting

- a) All Permanent Members with voting privileges will have one vote regardless of the number of Board Members they may have.
- b) The President will only vote in case of a tie.
- c) No elected Officers shall vote on behalf of a permanent League Member.
- d) Voting will be conducted by floor vote, unless any League Member Representative requests a closed vote. The Secretary will count all votes and report the results to the AYFL Board.
- e) Any League Member Representative may request a recount by another Board Member of the votes cast during a closed vote.
- f) All floor votes will be conducted in alphabetic order starting with the hosting League Member. Each designated League Member Representative will cast a vote or abstain. NO League Member Representative will defer their vote.
- g) At NO time will a League Member Representative be removed from a League meeting during an incident or appeals hearing. All League Member Representatives have the right to hear all discussions regarding any complaint or appeal being decided on by the AYFL Board.

### ARTICLE VIII: BYLAWS

VIII.1 The AYFL will be governed by the AYFL Bylaws and the Standing Rules.

VIII.2 The AYFL Bylaws may be amended once annually. Any league member desiring an addition to, deletion from or change to the bylaws is eligible to request the change, provided they adhere to the following procedure

- a) Proposed changes must be submitted via email to the chair of the bylaw committee or in person at any meeting of the Bylaw Committee no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b) The proposed change at a minimum will include the following:
  - (i) Proposed wording for the change
  - (ii) The specific subsection of the bylaws where the change should be made.
  - (iii) An explanation of the intent of the change.
  - (iv) A list of any related bylaw sections that might be impacted should the change be adopted.
- c) Proposed changes submitted improperly, late, or without all of the required information will not be considered by the bylaw committee.
- d) The submitting league member will be notified at least 48 hours in advance of the date and time that the bylaw committee will be discussing the proposed change, if the change was submitted via email.
  - (i) The league member submitting the change is strongly encouraged to attend that bylaw committee meeting to discuss the proposed change and to answer any additional questions that the bylaw committee may have regarding the proposed change.
  - (ii) If the league member attends the meeting and answers all questions directed to them at the meeting, the bylaw committee is obligated to include the proposed change in the draft bylaws regardless of whether they agree with the change.
  - (iii) If the league member does not attend the meeting the bylaw committee may make any modifications deemed appropriate to the proposal prior to including them in the draft bylaws.
- e) Starting no later than the first week in March, weekly meetings of the AYFL board will be held to review all proposed bylaw changes.
  - (i) Draft bylaws containing all proposed changes shall be made available to all league members on the AYFL website a minimum of three days prior to the first meeting to ensure that each member has adequate time to review the proposed changes prior to the meeting.
  - (ii) It is the obligation of each league member to review the proposed changes prior to the weekly bylaw meetings. Votes will not be delayed because a league member has not reviewed the proposed bylaws prior to the meeting, provided that the bylaws were posted the required three days prior to the meeting.
- f) At the weekly meetings, each proposed change shall individually be taken to the floor for an initial vote.
  - (i) Proposed changes may be brought to the floor out of sequence.
  - (ii) The only possible votes are a 'yes' vote to adopt the change, a 'no' vote to reject the change, or a 'pull' request by any member.
  - (iii) Any member may request that an item be 'pulled' for discussion.
  - (iv) If a proposed change is 'pulled' it is tabled and the next proposed change is presented for vote.
  - (v) If a proposed change is not pulled it shall be voted on immediately.
  - (vi) If accepted, it is adopted as a new bylaw and may not be revisited until the following year.
  - (vii) If rejected, a measure may either be sent back to committee for revision on a majority vote of the members, and only with specific instructions regarding the modifications to be made, or stand as a rejected change.
  - (viii) If a proposed change is rejected it will not be revisited until the following year.
  - (ix) Careful rewording and resubmission of a rejected change resulting in a bylaw that is substantially the same as the proposal that was rejected is not permitted.
- g) Once all proposed changes have been brought for initial vote, the 'pulled' items shall be brought to the floor one at a time for discussion.

- (i) Each league member has two minutes to state their position and arguments regarding the change.
  - (ii) At the conclusion of comments, the change shall be voted on. There are three possible votes: 'yes' to adopt the measure, 'no' to reject the measure and 'return to committee' to send the measure back to the bylaw committee for revision.
  - (iii) As in the initial vote, a measure may only be sent back to committee for revision only on a majority vote of the members, and only with specific instructions regarding the modifications to be made.
- h) As many weekly meetings as are necessary to ensure that each proposed change is brought to a final vote shall be permitted, but in any event the entire bylaw revision and adoption process shall be completed by the end of the first April AYFL board meeting.
- (i) If the process is not complete by the end of the first April AYFL Board Meeting, the bylaws shall be finalized in the state that they are in as of the end of that meeting. Any proposed change that has not been adopted by a majority vote at that time will be dropped from the bylaws.
- VIII.3 No new Bylaw Changes may be submitted from the floor. All Bylaw Changes will be submitted to and reviewed by the Bylaw Committee PRIOR to being proposed to the Board.
- VIII.4 Standing Rules may be added at any time during the year by an 11 out of 14 vote for approval by the AYFL Board.
- a) Standing Rules carry force only for the season in which they are approved.
  - b) During annual Bylaw revision, each Standing Rule from the prior year shall be reviewed and a vote shall be made to either adopt the Standing Rule as a Bylaw or Reject the Standing Rule.
  - c) A Standing Rule shall be adopted only when the AYFL board needs to provide for a situation that is not already addressed by existing Bylaws, or in the event that the board determines that a clarification of an existing Bylaw is required.
  - d) A Standing Rule may not directly contradict or contravene any existing Bylaw.
  - e) At the end of the annual Bylaw revision process, all Standing Rules must be voided, either through incorporation into the Bylaws or rejection; new Bylaws may not be adopted with Standing Rules in place.

## **Section Three: League Authority and Discipline Procedures**

### **ARTICLE I: LEAGUE AUTHORITY**

- I.1 The Executive Board may inspect any/all fields prior to the first game, and may re-inspect any field any time during the season. If the field is determined to be unsafe, this may result in the loss of home games for a League Member until the condition is corrected.
- I.2 To exercise disciplinary authority, so far as is lawful over all persons engaged in such games, competitions, and exhibitions, to the end that amateur games and contests may be subject to clean, dignified competition, any League Member, it's personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, found by the AYFL Board failing to comply with a lawful request from the AYFL Board, it's Officers, Commissioners, or Representatives will be suspended.
- I.3 Any League Member, it's personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, found by the AYFL Board, to knowingly give false information, or misrepresent by word or deed the AYFL, it's Board, Officers, Commissioners, Representatives, or League Members, will be suspended in accordance with Disciplinary Matrix Level III
- I.4 Any League Member, it's personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, found by the AYFL Board to violate any Bylaw, or who acts in any manner deemed by the AYFL Board to be grossly disrespectful to a team or another person, or who engages in a fight or other major un-sportsmanlike conduct, or conducts themselves in manner found disrespectful to a League Member Representative will be disciplined.
- I.5 Any coach, player or fan ejected from a game by the game officials will automatically be suspended for the following game, and the ejection shall be treated as a Level III offense. This suspension may not be mitigated or postponed, and may not be waived under hardship. The suspension shall begin immediately upon ejection regardless of any pending or intended appeal.
- I.6 The AYFL Board, following an Incident Hearing, may discipline any League Member; its personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans as defined in these Bylaws.
- I.7 Only while acting in the capacity of an AYFL Executive Board Member, Conference Commissioner, or League Member Representative, may any of these AYFL officials be allowed within the fenced area of the playing field during a game in progress. With the exception of an AYFL Bylaw infraction, any attempt to interfere with or influence the on-field officials will result in an Unsportsmanlike conduct foul and/or timeout charged against the team that is the subject of this behavior. A complaint will be filed against the League Member by the Referee's Representative and the League Member will be subject to any discipline determined by the Board as defined in these Bylaws.
- I.8 Players Suspension(s):
  - a) The Conference Commissioner will be empowered to meet those players who will be suspended for not more than one (1) game for Unsportsmanlike conduct and advise them of the violation of the by-laws as well as the one game suspension. This meeting will take place at a site determined by the Conference Commissioner with the head coach present and, if possible, the player's parent(s) or guardian.
- I.9 Coach Suspension(s):

- a) The AYFL Executive Board and the Conference Commissioners will meet with the coach in question and as long as the suspension is not more than one game this group can make the decision. All League reps will be e-mailed the results by the Secretary and any League Rep may appeal the decision of this group in accordance with the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE II: COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

### **II.1 Complaint Defined**

- a) An alleged Bylaw infraction, actual or possible.
- b) A complaint against a League Member's actions or personnel to include its Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans.
- c) An alleged confrontation on the playing area, or an adjacent area, between League Member's personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans.

II.2 Any incident reported to, or witnessed by, a League Member Representative, must be submitted via email by a League Member Representative to their Conference Commissioner with a copy going to the involved parties League Member Representative, by 9PM of the second day following the incident (from July 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>) or by the next League meeting (from December 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>), from the occurrence. In order to ensure that incident response can be handled in a controlled fashion, incident reports MUST be made by a League Representative using the prescribed procedures. No person other than a League Representative may report an incident directly to the RCC.

II.3 Provided that the RCC Chairman has been informed of a Complaint Submission within the time limits, and has informed the accused League Member, the complaint filing shall be considered to be timely.

II.4 No complaint will be heard if filed outside of the time limits.

II.5 Any League Member whose Representative fails to report a known confrontation or Bylaw infraction, shall lose their home game privileges for not less than one (1) home game.

II.6 Once a complaint is received by the Conference Commissioner, he/she will forward a copy to the RCC Chairman and will notify all involved parties League Member Representative(s) of the complaint.

II.7 The accused parties League Member Representative will have 24 hours to respond by email to their Conference Commissioner regarding the complaint. Failure to respond will result in the complaint being determined valid. The Conference Commissioner will forward the response to the RCC Chairman and the filing parties League Member Representative. In the event that the responsible League Member Representative fails to notify the subject of the complaint within the required time frame, the subject of the complaint will be given 24 hours from the time of their notification of the complaint to respond. If the League Representative fails to respond at all on behalf of the subject of the complaint, the subject of the complaint shall be given an opportunity to respond directly to the appropriate Conference Commissioner during that time frame.

II.8 Once the accused party issues a written response thru their League Member Representative to their Conference Commissioner, the Rules Compliance Committee will attempt, either by writing or on the phone, to resolve the issue between the parties within 24 hours. If the involved parties cannot agree on a solution, or the Rules Compliance Committee determines the alleged incident may violate a Bylaw or be severe in nature, the RCC Chairman will contact the Secretary and both parties to inform them that an Investigation of the Complaint will be conducted and that a recommendation for further action will be presented to the AYFL Board at the next scheduled meeting..

### **ARTICLE III: INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT**

- III.1 The Rules Compliance Committee will conduct an investigation of the complaint by reviewing all information from eyewitnesses, documentation and videotape if applicable.
- III.2 The Rules Compliance Committee will act in an unbiased manner. Any member of the Rules Compliance Committee who is also a party to the complaint will recuse themselves from the investigation and findings.
- III.3 The Rules Compliance Committee will make their best faith effort to complete their investigation prior to the next scheduled AYFL Board meeting. If the Committee cannot complete their investigation by the next scheduled meeting, the Committee shall present the reasons for the delay to the board. The board will then vote either to grant the Committee specific additional time to complete their investigation, or to immediately move the Complaint to an Incident Hearing.
- III.4 At the conclusion of the investigation, the Rules Compliance Committee Chairman will present the results of the investigation to the AYFL Board with a recommendation to prefer charges, or with a recommendation to dismiss the complaint as without merit.
- III.5 The Committee's recommendation shall include an explanation of the basis for the Committee's decision.
- III.6 The Rules Compliance Committee will present to the AYFL Board all of its findings and recommendations regarding the complaint.
- III.7 If it appears that the complaint relates to an internal League Member dispute, the AYFL Board may defer action until such time as the accused party has fulfilled all of its League Members remedies.
- III.8 The AYFL Board will determine whether to have a special meeting to handle the Incident Hearing or do so at its next regular meeting.

### **ARTICLE IV: INCIDENT HEARING**

- IV.1 The involved parties may request additional personnel to be present at the hearing. The Rules Compliance Committee will determine what personnel, if any, will be allowed attend the hearing.
- IV.2 The Rules Compliance Committee will recommend a time limit for every Incident Hearing, taking into account the severity of the alleged violation. The AYFL Board will then approve a time limit, BEFORE the complaint is heard. There will be a minimum speaking time limit of 15 minutes for each League Member involved in the complaint.
- IV.3 All hearings will be informal and the rules of evidence will not apply.
- IV.4 The AYFL Board will hear all involved parties representation of the FACTS regarding the complaint within the time limits set. The RCC Chairman will monitor the time for each party. The AYFL Board will decide which, if any, personnel to interview. Only the item(s) in dispute will be discussed.
- IV.5 The AYFL Board may decide to defer a decision on the complaint until the next League meeting, so as to allow further investigation by the Rules Compliance Committee.
- IV.6 Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the RCC Chairman will call for a yes or no vote of guilt on each alleged bylaw infraction individually. A majority vote of eligible members present is required to find a party guilty of a bylaw infraction.
- IV.7 The assessment of penalties shall not occur until a determination of guilt or innocence has been made on each alleged infraction. Any discussion of the mitigation of penalties shall be held during the discussion of penalties.

- IV.8 Singularly, jointly or in the alternative, the AYFL Board may consider all aggravating and mitigating factors in making its decision, and in assessing penalties.
- IV.9 Complaints determined to be valid by the AYFL Board will result in disciplinary action as defined under “Article V: Penalties”. The AYFL Board shall record all of its findings and determinations in the meeting minutes.
- IV.10 All AYFL Board decisions shall be binding.

## ARTICLE V: PENALTIES

- V.1 For a violation of any Bylaw herein set forth, or in addition to any penalty herein set forth, or for any conduct deemed undesirable, or for any complaint found to be valid, the AYFL Board may impose any or all of the following penalties to the accused party, parties or League Member:
  - a) Suspend the party. **Suspension** is defined as a period of time, determined by the AYFL Board, during which the party may **not** participate in AYFL activities and functions
    - (i) Coach Suspension: A coach who is suspended may not have ANY contact with his team, on or off the field, during the period of suspension. This includes participating in or attending practices, meetings or any other team function. He also may not attend any of his team’s games, on the sidelines, in the stands, or in view of the playing field, during the period of his suspension. Violation of the conditions of suspension WILL result in an additional two weeks of suspension. A second violation will result in expulsion.
    - (ii) Player Suspension: A player who is suspended shall be permitted to practice with his team during the period of suspension, but shall not be permitted to dress for or play in any games occurring during the period of suspension.
  - b) Expel the party or League Member from the League. **Expulsion** is defined as permanent loss of League membership, participation and involvement. The expelled party may apply for reinstatement after a period of time determined by the AYFL Board, but in no case less than one year from the original date of expulsion. The Board must have a 75% majority of voting members to impose an expulsion. No expelled coach, player or parent may attend any AYFL function during the period of their expulsion. Refusal to adhere to this rule will result in the automatic loss of the right to apply for reinstatement.
  - c) Cause the loss of honors or awards.
  - d) Cause the loss of home game privileges for a League Member.
  - e) Cause the loss of post-season play for a League Member.
  - f) Cause the loss of voting privileges for a League Member.
  - g) Impose a fine on a League Member.
- V.2 The AYFL Board may decide in certain situations to place the party on probation rather than enforce any penalty defined in these Bylaws, or set forth by the Board. **Probation** is defined as a period of time, determined by the Board, during which the party **may** participate in AYFL activities and functions, but the behavior of said party will be monitored.
- V.3 Probation Violation: If the AYFL Board determines that a party has violated probation, the Board will enforce the original penalty, plus any new penalty, if any.
- V.4 The AYFL Board, with a 75% majority of voting members, may relieve any League Rep, Alternate League Rep or Field Rep of their League authority and responsibility, and require the Rep’s club to replace them, if it is determined during the course of an Investigation or Hearing that the Rep has demonstrated a continuing pattern of actions detrimental to the well-being of the AYFL.
- V.5 Determination of Severity of Offense:

When the lodging of a complaint results in the determination that punitive action is required, the offense will be categorized as a Level I, II, III or IV offense, with commensurate results:

Level	Penalty
Level I Offense	<p>Level I offenses are generally categorized as being of an ‘administrative’ nature, or include offenses not directly perpetrated by the member and not reasonably under his/her immediate control.</p> <p>Level I offenses shall be penalized as indicated in the appropriate bylaw. If a member accumulates 3 Level I offenses over the course of two consecutive seasons, the AYFL board will convene to determine whether a one game suspension is appropriate.</p>
Level II Offense	<p>Level II offenses are generally categorized as attempts to gain an unfair advantage over a competitor through cheating.</p> <p>Level II offenses shall be penalized by probation of the member for the duration of the season. Any additional violation of any level during the probationary period will result in suspension. If a member accumulates 2 Level II offenses over the course of two consecutive seasons, the member shall be immediately suspended for one game.</p>
Level III Offense	<p>Level III offenses are generally categorized as offenses involving the use of illegal/banned substances, or which create situations that could lead to violence (i.e. taunting, inciting to fight) or otherwise jeopardize the health or safety of players, coaches, officials or fans.</p> <p>Any offense which results in suspension shall automatically be considered to be a Level III violation for accumulation purposes.</p> <p>Level III offenses shall be penalized by suspension for the next official game played by the member’s team. If a member accumulates 2 Level III offenses over the course of two consecutive seasons, the member shall be immediately expelled from the league.</p>
Level IV Offense	<p>Level IV offenses are generally categorized as those offenses which could potentially result in criminal prosecution of the offender, or which clearly indicate that the offender should not be entrusted with the well-being of youth athletes.</p> <p>Level IV offenses shall be penalized by expulsion from the league.</p>

The following table summarizes the maximum penalty Levels associated with current bylaw provisions. As referenced in Article IV.6, the AYFL board may consider aggravating or mitigating circumstances in penalty assessments, and based on that consideration, award a penalty less than that indicated in the matrix.

Section/Violation	Level
I.II.6, 7 – Illegal Practice	II
III.I.3 – Willful misrepresentation before the AYFL board	III
III.I.4 – Acting in any manner deemed by AYFL board to be grossly disrespectful to a team or another person	III

III.i.4 – Any Physical Altercation (except players)	IV
III.I.4 – Any Physical Altercation (players only)	III
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III.I.4 – Disrespect to League Representative	III
III.I.6 – Attempting to interfere with or influence on-field officials in capacity of League or Field Rep	III
IV.III.4 – Responsibility of Head Coach for actions of players, parents and fans	I
V.I.8 – Failure to properly identify heavy players (Helmet Marking)	II
V.II.2 – Ineligible player dressed inside the ropes (coach)	II
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V.II.4 – Playing ineligible player for any reason other than AYFL clerical	III
V.II.6 – Use of narcotics, steroids, alcohol, etc by player	IV
VI.I.1 – Touching of any referee, league/field rep, coach, player or parent in an offensive manner	IV
VI.I.2 – Use of tobacco products within less than 500 feet of field (offender only)	I
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VI.I.4 – Sweating	III
VI.I.6 – Use of alcoholic beverages within 500 feet of field (offender only)	IV
VI.II.4 – Failure to supply chain crew	I
VI.II.4 – Chain crew communication with players on field or home bench	II
VI.II.4 – Chain crew use of cell phone	I
VI.II.6 – Failure to make good faith effort to allow spotter in booth	II
VI.II.11 – Disruption of game via bullhorns, sirens, etc.	II
VI.II.12 – Inappropriately loud announcements	II
VI.IV.6 – Improperly prepared book at weigh-in	I
VI.IV.7 – Failure to deliver roster to opposing team	I
VI.V.3 – Failure to enter field properly, failure to avoid opposing team’s bench	III
VI.V.14 – Unauthorized personnel within the ropes	II
VI.V.19 – Violation of score differential rules	III
VI.VI.5 – Cleats violation (player and coach)	II

## **ARTICLE VI: APPEALS HEARING**

- VI.1 Any League Member, its personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans, aggrieved by the application of these Bylaws by the AYFL Board, may request an appeals hearing before the Board by email thru a League Member Representative to their Conference Commissioner with a copy going to the Vice President.
- VI.2 The Appeals Committee will evaluate the reason(s) for the appeal. The appeal request MUST show valid factual reasons, as to why the initial Incident Hearing was insufficient to achieve a valid result. Alleged procedural errors in the incident investigation or hearing are a valid basis for appeal. The committee will inform the AYFL Executive Board of their findings concerning the appeal within 48 hours of receipt of the appeal request from the Conference Commissioner. The Appeals Committee shall have the sole authority to grant or deny an appeal request.
- VI.3 If the AYFL Executive Board AND the Appeals committee feels that there are adequate grounds for an appeal, and there is enough evidence to support an appeals hearing, they may issue a temporary stay on any penalties issued by the AYFL Board, at their discretion, and grant the appeal hearing for the next League meeting.

- VI.4 Appeals Hearings shall be conducted under the same procedural rules as those for Incident Hearings, except that the Vice President shall chair the Appeals Hearing.
- VI.5 The AYFL Board will hear new information only regarding the original complaint and/or an explanation of any alleged procedural errors in the initial incident investigation or hearing within the time limits set. The Vice President will monitor the time for each party. The AYFL Board will decide which, if any, personnel to interview. Only the new item(s) will be discussed.
- VI.6 The AYFL Board may decide to defer a decision on the hearing until the next League meeting, so as to allow further investigation by the Appeals Committee.
- VI.7 Singularly, jointly or in the alternative, the AYFL Board may consider all aggravating and mitigating factors in making its decision.
- VI.8 All AYFL Board decisions on an appeal shall be final and binding.

#### **ARTICLE VII: HARDSHIP**

- VII.1 The AYFL Board, with a 11 of 14 decision, may waive any provision under these bylaws, if it appears that extreme or unintended hardship would result, unless said provision has been explicitly defined as 'not waivable under hardship'.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: REMEDIES**

- VIII.1 No League Member, it's personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, may bring any action against the AYFL, unless they have exhausted all remedies as set forth herein provided however, that nothing herein shall be construed to apply to any personal injury or workers compensation action.

## **Section Four: League Structuring and Scheduling**

### **ARTICLE I: REFEREES**

- I.1 Referees shall be provided for all League games in accordance with the current referees contract, which is available for review on the AYFL website. The home team will supply a qualified clock operator for the Pee Wee game if no referee is supplied. For the Pee Wee game the official time shall be kept on the field. Failure to supply a qualified clock operator for the Pee Wee game will result in a \$100 fine to the offending club. The 12U, 13U and Unlimited Division games must have a minimum of four (4) referees plus one (1) referee timer or the game shall be postponed until more referees become available, unless both League Member Representatives agree to proceed with the game. The electronic scoreboard is used for official time and the clock will be monitored by an FHSAA certified referee.
- I.2 The home team will pay the Referees no later than half time of the last game played.
- I.3 The referees will be paid as per the Referees contract.
- I.4 No member club may offer additional funds outside of those funds negotiated in the referee's contract to an official under contract to the AYFL. The fine for a violation shall be \$500.

### **ARTICLE II: CHEERLEADING SQUADS**

- II.1 All League Members are required to field a minimum 5 person cheerleading squad for each football team participating in any regular or postseason game. The fine for not fielding a cheerleading squad shall be \$500 per game missed.
- II.2 All cheerleading squads shall be in compliance with any applicable AYFL bylaws.
- II.3 All cheerleading programs must belong to an AYFL sanctioned organization.

### **ARTICLE III: COACHES**

- III.1 Coaches Clinic:
  - a) It is mandatory that all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches new to the AYFL, League Reps and Field Reps from each weight division attend an approved AYFL coaching clinic covering the following areas:
    - (i) All bylaw changes
    - (ii) All FHSAA rules changes affecting AYFL play
    - (iii) Hydration and conditioning of athletes
    - (iv) A discussion with all Unlimited Division coaches covering AYFL rules and policies unique to that division.
    - (v) Any additional topics deemed necessary by the AYFL Board.
  - b) The AYFL Board will set the date, preferably the first Saturday after practice begins.
  - c) Each League Member will be permitted to allow up to three (3) coaches to attend a make up clinic without penalty, provided notice is given prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Coaches Clinic. Any coach missing the clinic without prior notice, or coaches missing the clinic with prior notice but beyond the three coach limit shall be required to pay a \$50 fine to attend a make up clinic. The time and date of the make up clinic shall be determined by the AYFL Board, and there shall only be one make up clinic offered.

- III.2 All coaches must be carded to be allowed on the sidelines at any AYFL sponsored game. Each league member will pay a carding fee of \$5.00 per carded coach to the league.
- III.3 A coach will not receive his/her card until their sponsoring league member has certified that the coach has been subjected to a background check within the 12 months prior to that season's mass registration date. No individual on criminal probation shall be permitted to coach in any AYFL activity. City, County or State employees are exempt provided they show a picture ID at the clinic. Intentional failure of a League member to disclose to the AYFL that a coaching candidate is on probation for a criminal offense is a Level III offense for the League Member.
- III.4 The Head coach is responsible for the actions of all his/her coaches, players, parents, relatives, and fans at any AYFL sponsored game or event. At any AYFL sponsored game or event, the Head Coach is directly responsible for the actions of all players and assistants on the field or on the sidelines, and may be held responsible for the actions of parents. Off the field at any AYFL sponsored game or event, the Head Coach remains directly responsible for the actions of his Assistant Coaches, and may be held responsible for the actions of parents and players.
- III.5 Notwithstanding the responsibilities of the Head Coach defined in paragraph III.4, the AYFL may take additional action against Assistant Coaches, parents, players or fans who violate AYFL rules.
- III.6 Once a coach is carded with a League Member in the AYFL, they must remain with that League Member during their entire eligibility, unless a coach receives a written release from their former League Member using the official AYFL Coach Release Form. This form must be signed by a former League Members Representative. The only reason for a release not being signed is when equipment or monies are owed. Approval by the Board is constituted by the signature of the President. Once a release is signed by the President, that coach is assigned to his/her new League Member for the entire year. A copy of the Release will be kept with the Secretary, and given to the new League Member.
- III.7 A coach may change league members once during their lifetime without AYFL Board approval. A coach desiring to make a second change of League Members must present themselves before the Board, and said move may only be made with 75% approval of the AYFL board.
- III.8 If a single coach changes league members, no players previously mass registered to the club the coach is leaving may transfer to the new club and team that coach will be coaching, other than that coach's immediate children or grandchildren. Violations of this rule may result in up to a full season suspension for the coach in question. If more than one coach make the same move (same old club and team to same new club and team), only one of the transferring coaches will be permitted to transfer their children as stated above. This bylaw shall supersede the "One Move" Rule in Section Five, Article I.3 in that the intent of this rule is to discourage entire coaching staffs from migrating from club to club, taking the core of the team they are leaving with them. Notwithstanding same, if the move also involves a player(s) or coach(es) making their second move, the One Move Rule stays in effect and the second move approval will be resolved prior to applying this rule.
- III.9 All releases for coaching changes must be submitted to the AYFL Secretary by the approved start date for practices in pads. No changes will be accepted by the AYFL Board after that.
- III.10 No coach requiring a release may participate in any practice, including preseason practice and tryouts, until the release has been obtained and approved by the AYFL. Participating in practice without a valid release when required will result in that coach being ineligible to coach that season. This sanction may not be waived under hardship provisions.

## **ARTICLE IV: CONFERENCES AND DIVISIONS**

- IV.1 The League will be divided into as many conferences and/or divisions as deemed necessary by the AYFL Board.
- IV.2 Each conference and/or division will consist of an equal number of teams, if possible.
- IV.3 The AYFL Board shall determine said conferences and/or divisions.

## **ARTICLE V: REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULING**

- V.1 All scheduling will be done by the Statistician and presented to the AYFL Board at the first League meeting in March for their approval.
- V.2 Scheduling shall be done in the fairest manner possible.
- V.3 All League Members must be scheduled to play every other League Member in their conference and/or division, where feasible.
- V.4 Scheduling will be done, if possible, in such a manner that all League Members will have as many home games as away games.
- V.5 All League games will normally be scheduled on Saturday, with the AYFL Board determining starting times prior to the season. With AYFL Board approval, the league as a whole or individual clubs may rotate daily schedules or play specific games on weeknights in order to allow younger teams the opportunity to play a night game.

## **ARTICLE VI: PLAYOFFS**

- VI.1 The Statistician shall present to the AYFL Board at the first League meeting in March a playoff schedule for their approval.
- VI.2 The President shall appoint a committee to determine the means of determining playoff sites. The committee shall present their recommendations to the board for an approval vote no later than the first meeting in July. Primary and alternate playoff venues shall be determined no later than the start of the regular season.
- VI.3 A team's place in its conference and/or division will be decided by its overall won / lost record. In the event that two or more teams end the regular season with identical won/lost records, ties shall be resolved based on their regular season head to head results. If the tie cannot be resolved with head to head results, tiebreakers to resolve rankings shall be conducted as defined in the following section.
- VI.4 Tiebreakers to decide playoff ranking shall be done at the earliest date following the end of the season, but no later than the Wednesday prior to the first round of playoff games. In the event of identical season records, the first tie-breaker will be the winner in head to head competition. The final tie-breaker will be a Kansas tie-breaker. In the event that three teams have identical records, the following procedures will determine playoff seeding:
  - a) In the event that none of the three tied teams are facing playoff elimination, and that the three-way tie is not for first place in the division, seeding shall be determined by:
    - (i) Random draw: three pieces of paper labeled 'A', 'B' and 'C' are placed in a hat. The team drawing 'A' is highest seed followed by 'B' and 'C'.
    - or-
    - (ii) Coin toss: In the first round toss, the team drawing the odd coin (ex. Heads when the other two throw Tails) receives top seed. Remaining two teams call a single toss for second seed.
    - or-

- (iii) At it's discretion with a majority vote, the AYFL Board may vote on a division by division basis to play tiebreakers on the field using the procedures of VI.4 c) below, rather than elect the random draw or coin toss options.
  - b) The drawing will take place no later than the Monday night immediately following the last regular season game, and will be conducted by the League Representatives of the tiebreaking clubs.
  - c) In the event that the three teams are competing for two or fewer playoff berths and therefore facing elimination, tiebreakers shall be conducted as follows:
    - (i) The first team to lose twice is eliminated and the seeding of the remaining two teams will be based on their head to head results in the tiebreaker.
    - (ii) All three teams will participate in a coin toss. The winner (odd coin) will be Team A, will sit out and the remaining two teams (B and C) will toss again.
    - (iii) The winner of the B and C coin toss elects to start on offense or defense.
    - (iv) Team B plays Team C
    - (v) The winner of B vs. C leaves the field, the loser of B vs. C plays Team A.
    - (vi) If the loser of B vs. C also loses to A, that team is eliminated (two losses).
    - (vii) If the loser of B vs. C defeats A, A remains on the field to play the original winner of B vs. C.
    - (viii) If A loses again A is eliminated (two losses).
    - (ix) If A wins, each team now has one loss. Teams B and C play each other again, the loser has two losses and is eliminated.
    - (x) Once one of the original three teams is eliminated, the remaining two teams will play each other for seeding.
  - d) Playoff Seeding KC Tiebreaker Rules
    - (i) Tiebreakers are double-elimination: the eliminated team must lose twice.
    - (ii) Each team receives two timeouts at the start of the tiebreaker. Each additional tiebreaker round adds one additional timeout. Unused timeouts carry over to the next round.
    - (iii) Turnovers (live ball changes of possession) are blown dead.
    - (iv) Field Goals and PATs are scored as during regulation play.
    - (v) Each team receives four attempts per series to score.
    - (vi) Round 1: The ball is placed on the ten (10) yard line. The offense gets four attempts to score.
    - (vii) Round 2: The ball is placed on the five (5) yard line. The offense gets four attempts to score.
    - (viii) Round 3: The ball is placed back on the ten (10) yard line. The offense gets four attempts to score. All remaining rounds are run from the ten (10) yard line.
- VI.5 The host League Member shall pay the Referees and supply all game balls. The reporting of all playoff games will be the responsibility of the Hosting Club, League Representative and must be reported by 6:00 PM the following day.
- VI.6 In keeping with the special nature of the playoffs, any club hosting a playoff contest will be required to provide full operating concessions, announcements and a fully functional scoreboard for all playoff games. Any club hosting a playoff game who does not provide all of these services throughout all games played on that day shall be fined \$500.

## **ARTICLE VII: TROPHIES**

- VII.1 At the discretion of the AYFL Board, divisional championship trophies may be awarded to the top ranked team in each age group at the end of the regular season, or to each division champion in the event of divisional playoffs.

- VII.2 Trophies for the Super Bowl players will be presented at the end of the game.
- VII.3 The Super Bowl champion and runner-up will receive a team trophy from the League at the end of the game.
- VII.4 Trophy sizes will be approved annually by the AYFL Board prior to purchase.
- VII.5 If the AYFL agrees by vote to accept trophies or other items of value from a sponsor based on their requirement that all league members transact business with them, any league member may opt to pay for their portion of the items of value in lieu of transacting business with the sponsor.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: SUPER BOWL**

- VIII.1 The Super Bowl location will be awarded annually by the AYFL board to venues meeting the following conditions:
  - a) The venue will be a High School Stadium
  - b) Parking for 400 cars
  - c) Completely fenced area
  - d) Entrances that can be used for collection of fees
- VIII.2 All League Members will be required to have two (2) authorized League Representatives at the site at all times. The League will set the times for said Reps to be at the site, but they will be at least 1 hour prior to the first game and 2 hours after the last game is completed. The penalty for not having two members at the site for the entire required duration will be \$250 for each person not in attendance when required.
- VIII.3 The AYFL will pay for the Referees at the Super Bowl.
- VIII.4 The AYFL will provide the game balls and the chain crew for the Super Bowl.

## **Section Five: Players and Registration**

### **ARTICLE I: PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

- I.1 Once a player receives a helmet or shoulder pads from a League Member, the player must remain with that League Member for the duration of that season, unless that player is involuntarily released (i.e. cut).
- I.2 Any player requesting a release will have their new League Member Representative file an official AYFL Release form with the Secretary at least 36 hours prior to the next League meeting. The only reason for releases not being signed is when equipment is owed. The Secretary will maintain an annual master Player Release document sorted by League Member for all player release's approved by the AYFL Board, and any new requests submitted for approval by the Board. The Board will approve all Player Release's. An approval by the Board is constituted by the signature of the President on the Player Release form. Once a release is signed by the President, that player will remain with his/her new League Member for his/her entire eligibility. A copy of the Release is kept with the Secretary, and given to the new League Member. The Board may request a player and/or his/her parent(s) to be present to answer any questions concerning the release.
- I.3 'One Move' Rule: Players can only change League Members once during their lifetime, other than as specified in Section Five:I.4 and Section Five:I.6. This provision is not waivable as a hardship. Sitting out one or more seasons does not 'reset' the 'tieone move' count.
- I.4 If a player is cut by a club and as a result elects to play for another club that season, that shall not be considered a move for the purposes of the 'One Move' Rule. If the same player returns in a subsequent season to the club who originally cut them, that shall not be considered a move for the purposes of the 'One Move' rule. A move to any club other than the club that originally cut the player shall be considered a move.
- I.5 A 'cut' is defined as the involuntary removal of a player from a team, either for disciplinary or performance reasons. No league member may claim to have cut a player in order to circumvent rule I.3. Misrepresentation to the AYFL Board shall be punished in accordance with the disciplinary matrix.
- I.6 A player desiring to make a second move for legitimate reasons, such as a change in family circumstances, may apply to the AYFL Board for an exemption. The exemption may only be approved by a yes vote from at least 10 clubs.
- a) All second move requests will be submitted to the RCC at least one week before the request is intended to be presented to the full board for consideration. The RCC will investigate the circumstances of the request and will present to the board their opinion as to whether the reasons given for the move constitute a "Legitimate Reason" in accordance with Article I.6. The RCC's opinion will not be binding on the AYFL board.
- b) A player whose parent is found to have intentionally supplied inaccurate or false information in an attempt to gain a second move exemption will be ineligible to participate in the AYFL until the following year.
- I.7 A player will be considered officially registered by a League Member in the AYFL by having a completed AYFL Player Registration Card, including the player signing the card, and a signed Player Release form if applicable. The AYFL Player Registration Card shall contain the following:
- a) Name and address.

- b) Date of Birth.
- c) Telephone number.
- d) Grade and school to be attended for the coming year.
- e) Acceptable birth data.
- f) Parental consent and affidavit for medical treatment.
- g) Other information required by the Board for that year.
- h) Picture with current year shown with a sign.

**NOTE: A player’s card will not be approved if that player has played for another AYFL League Member and the Player Release form does not accompany the card at the time of registration. If the player’s registration card is not signed by a parent or legal guardian the card will not be approved. The League will require a separate parental or guardian signature indicating whether the player has played for a different League Member than they are attempting to register with. If so, a Player Release form must accompany the card for it to be approved.**

I.8 Acceptable Birth date information:

- a) Birth certificate, Board of health certificates with seal.
- b) Official Government papers, passport etc.
- c) Baptismal certificates may be accepted as proof for children born outside of the U.S. if no other document can be provided
- d) Previous years AYFL Player Registration card.

**NOTE: A school picture ID will be required to verify a player’s birth date along with an Original Birth certificate or other sealed document if directed by the AYFL Board. Parents may be requested to provide access to a player’s school if needed to verify a player’s age.**

I.9 A player must meet the Age and Weight requirements of a Division to be eligible to play in that Division. Any player whose League Age is below the requirements for that Division, must only meet the Weight requirement to be eligible to participate in that Division. League Age is defined as the player’s age ON August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year, except for the Unlimited Division, for which League Age is defined as the player’s age ON April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year. Example: If a player turns 13 ON August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year he is considered to be League Age 13. If he turns 13 AFTER August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year he is considered to be League Age 12, because he was 12 on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The official AYFL Division Age and Weight requirements for eligibility are as follows:

**Division Ages And Weights**

<b>Division</b>	<b>League Age</b>	<b>Weight</b>
UNL	14U	180/Unlimited
13U	13U	140
12U	12U	125
11U	11U	115
10U	10U	105
9U	9U	95
Pee wee	8U	75

- I.10 A player who turns fifteen years of age on or before April 30th of the current year is not eligible to play in the AYFL.

## **ARTICLE II: INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

### **II.1 Ineligible players include:**

- a) Any players who are admitted to halfway houses, detention centers, jail, correctional facility, convicted of a felony (whether adjudicated or not), required to wear an ankle bracelet or other monitoring device, or on house arrest.
- b) Any player that is over the age limit of the weight division in which they are playing.
- c) Any Unregistered player, including a player without a signed, authorized AYFL player card.
- d) Any Overweight player.
- e) Any player on official discipline by the League, or otherwise declared ineligible by the League.
- f) Any Player who has changed League Members but has NOT had an official AYFL Release form signed and approved by the League.
- g) Any player participating in another football program: A player may not concurrently practice with the AYFL and any other football league, high school, middle school or charter school football team. Once a player plays in a regular season game, after August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, for a high school, middle school, charter school or any other football league he may not return to the AYFL during the same year.
- h) Any player whose parent or guardian has not consented to all terms and conditions of the Player Card.
- i) Any player determined by the AYFL Executive Board not to be currently attending school: Players must be attending school to play in the AYFL. A child, however, not currently enrolled in school shall not be deemed ineligible until it is determined by the AYFL Executive Board that he is not currently attending school. Upon such a determination the child becomes ineligible and remains as such until he can establish that he is currently attending school. Upon the filing of the complaint that a child is not currently attending school the child bears a burden of proof to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she is currently attending school. Once determined that a child is not currently attending school, such child is allowed to practice with his or her team but cannot participate in any games until the burden of proof is met to establish his or her attendance in school.

**NOTE: A player that has a signed, authorized AYFL Registration form will not be deemed ineligible if it is determined by the AYFL Board there was an administrative error by the AYFL or one of its Board members.**

- II.2 Any child failing to meet the weekly weight limitation will be ineligible to play in that particular game, and must remove their shoulder pads while inside the ropes during the time the game is in progress. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine for each offense.
- II.3 Any team that is determined by the AYFL Board to have played ineligible player(s) in a game or games will forfeit the game or games in which the ineligible player(s) participated in. Participation is defined as the player(s) in question having crossed the scale. The Rules Compliance Committee will investigate the status of the player, and the Board will decide if any further action will be taken against the player and/or the team.
- II.4 Unless the offense was self-reported, any team that is determined by the AYFL Board to have played an age-ineligible player will be automatically ineligible for post-season play,

and the club will be subject to a one-time fine to be determined by the AYFL board, not to exceed \$1000.

- II.5 If the age-ineligible player was more than 1 year (league age) older than the division for which they were playing, the club shall automatically be fined the maximum \$1000 and the Head Coach will be suspended for the remainder of the regular and post-season. As above, team post-season eligibility will be based on whether the offense was self-reported.
- II.6 If it is found that a player did not disclose that he/she played for another League Member on his/her Registration card, that player will be suspended for the amount of games that he/she has already played in. No action will be taken against the team in this instance, although the League will investigate the extent of the error and may take additional action if deemed necessary by the AYFL Board.
- II.7 If a player is found to be ineligible on a team, in addition to the penalties described above, the Rules Compliance committee will investigate the infraction, and the AYFL Board will decide if any action is to be taken against the League Member or any of its personnel.
- II.8 Any player found by the AYFL Board to have used narcotics, steroids, C.D.S., any alcoholic beverage, or to smoke, chew, or use any tobacco product will be expelled from the League.
- II.9 Any coach who is found by a majority vote of the AYFL board to have knowingly played an age-ineligible player shall be expelled.
- II.10 Any league representative, alternate, or field representative who is found, by a majority vote of the board, to have knowingly allowed an age-ineligible player to play shall be expelled.
- II.11 If a league member suspects another league member of playing a player who is ineligible for any reason, the suspecting league member is required to notify the suspected offender and their Conference Commissioner prior to kickoff of that team's next scheduled game. Knowingly allowing another club to play a potentially ineligible player without notifying that club will be punished by suspension from the league. No league member may conduct random investigations into the eligibility of an opposing team's players. Any individual found to have engaged in such an illegal investigation shall be suspended for a minimum of one calendar year, and the individual's affiliated club will be fined \$1000 and placed on probation if a majority of the AYFL board determines that the club was or should have been cognizant of the individual's actions. If during the course of the illegal investigation the individual misrepresents him or herself as acting on behalf of the AYFL, the one year suspension shall be replaced with expulsion.
- II.12 In the last two weeks of the regular season, a suspicion of player ineligibility requires immediate notification of all League Reps (every club) by the person suspecting player ineligibility. Failure to make proper notification may result in suspension of the offending party.
- II.13 Any false accusation of player age-ineligibility found, by a majority vote of the board, to be malicious in intent, shall result in the suspension of the maliciously accusing party. In this case, the term of the suspension shall be determined by the board, based on the severity of the offense. If the accusing party is already on probation, the accusing party shall be expelled.

### **ARTICLE III: LEAGUE REGISTRATION AND TEAM ROSTERS**

- III.1 The AYFL Board will set the mass registration dates.
- III.2 No League Member will be allowed to mass register unless all penalties, dues, fines, and assessments are paid in full to the League.

- III.3 The AYFL Board will be responsible for the administration of mass registration, and a Board Member or Field Representative not from that League Member, must sign and stamp a Player Registration Card for that player to be officially registered with the League.
- III.4 Each League Member will use league mandated Player Registration Card for player registration, with a current year's picture attached by staples. The picture must have the year showing in it for the player to be registered by the League. The card must be filled out completely, or the player will not be registered by the League.
- III.5 Attached to each card by a paper clip at mass registration will be a copy of the acceptable birth date information for the player and an AYFL Player Release form if applicable. A player's card will not be approved if that player has played for another AYFL League Member and the Player Release form does not accompany the card at the time of registration. If the player's registration card is not signed by a parent or legal guardian the card will not be approved. The League will require a separate parental or guardian signature indicating whether the player has played for a different League Member than they are attempting to register with. If so, a Player Release form must accompany the card for it to be approved.
- III.6 Rosters:
- a) At mass registration, the registering League Member Representative must bring 2 rosters on the official AYFL Team Roster form to be certified. One copy of each team roster will be retained by the registering club, and one copy will be left with the League Secretary or Registrar. An electronic copy will be emailed to the League Secretary or Registrar within 24 hours of certification.
  - b) Every time a player is added or dropped, a new official AYFL Team Roster form must be created, with 2 copies being certified again, and an updated electronic copy will be emailed to the League Secretary or Registrar within 24 hours of certification. Players may be added or dropped after Mass Registration at the League Meeting prior to the Saturday games and certified by the registrar. The president, at his option, may designate Conference Commissioners or other specific League Reps who are permitted to certify player cards and rosters between League Meetings, however no player may be added on game day. A copy will be left with the registering AYFL Board member or Field Representative. This is the responsibility of the League Member Representative who is submitting the new roster. Failure to do so is a \$50.00 fine per roster.
  - c) Rosters are to be submitted in jersey number order on the official AYFL Team Roster form.
  - d) No player can be rostered on more than one weight division.
  - e) Rosters are set after the third game. This provision is not waivable under hardship unless the teams roster total is under the limits specified by the league in Section Five:III.6g) below.
  - f) Each team may roster a maximum of 35 players.
  - g) Should a team's roster fall below 20 players during the regular season only, a League Member can petition the League for an exemption. With that exemption, that team may add players up to a 23 player total roster size, if approved by the AYFL Board.
  - h) Each team will be permitted to carry a three (3) player developmental squad, which must be complete by the third week. After Week 3, each team's roster will reflect which three players are on the developmental squad for that week. Players may be rotated on and off the developmental squad on a weekly basis. Players designated as Developmental Squad may be on the sidelines with a jersey and no pads during that week's game, and may not participate in the game. Those players player cards shall be indicated IA (inactive) for that game, and the roster filed with the opposing team shall have these players annotated IA in the left margin.

## ARTICLE IV: PLAYER NUMBERS

- IV.1 All jersey numbers will be in accordance with FHSAA rules: “At the snap, at least five offensive players on the line of scrimmage must be numbered 50-79. “
- IV.2 Any change of a players number, must be done by an opposing League Member Representative or Field Representative prior to the start of a game. For a permanent player number change, a League Member Representative must have their Conference Commissioner approve the change to their AYFL team roster, before the next game. The Conference Commissioner will forward an updated copy of the roster with the change to the Secretary. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 penalty for each offense.

## ARTICLE V:

Recruiting is the use of inappropriate influence or special inducement by anyone associated with an AYFL club in an attempt to encourage a player who is currently registered to register with or transfer to, that club. A player is defined as registered with an AYFL club when that player’s parents/guardians have completed and submitted registration forms to that club, or when the player was last mass-registered with an AYFL club, whichever is earlier.

The use of inappropriate influence, which is defined as the use of direct communication by anyone associated with an AYFL club (including third parties acting with the knowledge of anyone associated with that club) with a prospective player in an attempt to solicit or encourage the registration of a prospective player in that club, is prohibited. Inappropriate influence includes, *but is not limited to*:

1. Initiating or arranging telephone or other verbal contact with a prospective player or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the registration of the player in the club’s program.
2. Visiting or entertaining a prospective player or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the registration of the player in the club’s program.
3. Providing transportation to a prospective player or member of his/her family to visit a club or to meet with anyone associated with the club for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the registration of the player in the club’s program.
4. Requesting booster club members, board members, other coaches, other players, or parents from a club to discuss the merits of the club’s program with a prospective player or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the registration of the player in the club’s program.
5. Any other contact with a prospective player or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the registration of the player in the club’s program.

A player may not receive or be offered any remunerations of any kind or receive or be offered any special inducement to register *that is not made available to all players* who register with an AYFL club.

Recognizing that most AYFL clubs offer scholarship programs to disadvantaged youth, it is not the intent of this policy to restrict the award of scholarships; however the use of scholarships as recruiting tools is strictly prohibited. Special inducements include *but are not limited to*:

1. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration.
2. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service
3. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any person associated with a club

4. Offer or acceptance of a residence with any person associated with a club
5. Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents or guardians
6. Offer or acceptance of payment of moving expenses of parents, guardians or relatives or assistance with the moving of parents, guardians or relatives.
7. Offer or acceptance of scholarships when no reasonable financial hardship is in evidence.
8. Offer or acceptance of payment of out of town sports fees except in the context of a scholarship player.
9. Offer or acceptance of employment of parents, guardians or relatives in order to entice the family to move to a certain community.
10. Offer or acceptance of coaching positions to parents, guardians or relatives in order to entice the family to register the player with the club.
11. Coercion, actual or implied, in any form.

Recruitment or attempted recruitment of athletes is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of the AYFL Bylaws and is expressly forbidden. League Members are responsible for any violation committed by any person associated with the club, or acting at the direction of the club. Violations of the AYFL Policy on Recruiting shall be punished as a three game suspension offense under Section V.4 of the AYFL Bylaws.

## **Section Six: The Game**

### **ARTICLE I: CONDUCT OF THE GAME (CODE OF ETHICS)**

- I.1 At no time shall any coach, player, parent, relative, or fan, touch in an offensive manner a referee or League Members personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans, whether on or off the field. Any action determined by the AYFL Board to be committed as such, will be treated as a confrontation and expulsion from the League will result.
- I.2 Tobacco:
- a) All AYFL events are to be deemed non-smoking. The use of any tobacco product is strictly prohibited at any League meeting, practice session, game, on the field, at the park or within the adjacent parking areas within 500 feet of the field, when this League or its League Members are involved.
- I.3 Narcotics, Steroids and C.D.S:
- a) If determined by the AYFL Board that a League Member allowed a player under the influence of narcotics, steroids or C.D.S. to practice, or play in any game or any League Member, it's personnel, Representatives, coaches, parents, relatives, or fans, knowingly allowed any narcotic, steroid, or C.D.S to be distributed to any player, the party shall be expelled from the AYFL. The AYFL strongly abhors the use of narcotics, steroids, and C.D.S. The AYFL also acknowledges that in some instances coaching staffs are the only caring and responsible people that certain youths will listen to. Therefore, the AYFL urges users to enter into an approved counseling and/or treatment centers. (No sanctions or violations will be rendered).
- b) All League Members shall require all players to report to a member of the coaching staff if he/she is ill, injured or taking prescription drugs. The coach shall evaluate whether the player's condition allows the player to participate in practice or play in any game.
- I.4 Drugs, Special Aids, Sweating:
- a) Absolutely no water tablets of any form, nor any form of drug stimulants, nor any non porous plastic, nylon or rubber suits, bags, portable saunas, synthetic lined material, that cannot breathe, or heavy breathable clothing inappropriate to current weather conditions (ex. sweat suits) will be allowed to be used by any player at any time, on the playing field or adjacent area, or under the direct supervision or control of any coach or League Member personnel. No League Member personnel or coaches shall sweat any player. No player shall run laps on game days other than with their team in the course of normal pre-game warm-ups. If the AYFL Board determines that a violation of this has occurred, the player shall be ineligible to play that day, and the player and/or the coach will be suspended.
- I.5 Alcoholic beverages:
- a) The use of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited at any League meeting, practice session, game, on the field, at the park or within the adjacent parking areas within 500 feet of the field, when this League or its League Members are involved. Expulsion from the League will be the penalty for any parties violating this rule.

### **ARTICLE II: RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOME LEAGUE MEMBERS**

- II.1 To have at least one properly uniformed League or Field Representative on the sideline at all times when games are in progress.

- II.2 To provide a safe environment for fans, players, referees, and coaches.
- II.3 No less than 3/8" twisted rope or fencing around the entire playing field, including the end zone, 15' from the sideline or maximum footage.
- II.4 Having their field properly marked, according to High School Standards, lined and goal posts padded and in proper place.
- II.5 Supply down markers, chains and a crew to work them by the start of the game. Chain crews will be on the visitors field side of the facility. The chain crews will not speak to, cheer or instruct players on the playing field at any time. They are to remain impartial at all times. It is the responsibility of the Home League Representatives to replace them if necessary. No cell phone use is permitted by the chain crew.
- II.6 A Florida licensed Paramedic, Doctor, Nurse or E.M.T. may be present.
- II.7 To allow a visiting team to place one (1) spotter in the press box of the home team or any other place used for spotting by the home team.
- II.8 If for any reason a change in home field or the inability for a League Member to field a team arises, the home League Member shall notify the League President and the opponent's League Member Representative promptly.
- II.9 To supply a new approved game ball, from the home member at the start of the Pee Wee game and at each change of ball size (Example: New Game ball will be provided at the PW, 12U, UNL games).
- II.10 All playing fields are required to have an operational scoreboard clock for each game. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 fine for each game. More than two full game days with an inoperative scoreboard in a single season may result in the loss of the remainder of that club's home games for the season. Any club whose scoreboard does not operate properly during their final two regular season home games will be ineligible to host any postseason games.
- II.11 No League Member Representative, its coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, will be allowed or will allow the use of a P.A. or bull horn from within the **stands**, sidelines, or surrounding areas of the field of play. Any repeated violation of this will result in the party being removed from the area. Note: This does not include the announcement of the game.
- II.12 The decibel level of the announcements and music during a game will not be such that it interferes with a coach's ability to communicate with his/her team on the field, and all music will stop at the 'ready to play' signal. Derogatory remarks will not be tolerated, and only those remarks that display good sportsmanship will be acceptable. If a complaint is lodged with the home team's League Member Representative, that League Member Representative will correct the problem immediately, or cause the announcement to of the game to be stopped.

### **ARTICLE III: RESPONSIBILITIES OF VISITING LEAGUE MEMBERS**

- III.1 To know in advance the location of the home field and their schedule.
- III.2 To show up on time for the weigh in.
- III.3 To contribute to having a safe environment for players, fans, referees, and coaches.
- III.4 To have at least one properly uniformed League or Field Representative on the sideline at all times when games are in progress.
- III.5 No League Member Representative, its coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, will be allowed or will allow the use of a P.A. or bull horn from within the stands, sidelines, or

surrounding areas of the field of play. Note: This does not include the announcement of the game.

#### **ARTICLE IV: WEIGH IN**

- IV.1 A League Member Representative or Field Representative will be required to conduct all weigh-ins, and only one coach from each team may be present during the weigh-in. Any coach instructed by a league or field rep to leave the weigh-in area will comply immediately or will face suspension.
- IV.2 All weigh-ins will begin no later than the prior games half time and no earlier than the start of the prior game, except the Peewee team weigh in, which shall be no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. A player arriving late may weigh in anytime prior to kickoff. All players present at the park at the time of the team weigh-in must weigh in with their team, and are ineligible for late weigh-in. Any player present at the park at the time of the team weigh-in who does not weigh in with their team shall be ineligible to play that day.
- IV.3 Official League scales must be an AYFL approved digital scale purchased by the league. The league may levy a reasonable fee for the purchase of these scales. Scales must be in good condition and certified for that playing year. No bathroom scales will be permitted. Violation of this rule will result in a \$200.00 fine for each occurrence.
- IV.4 It is suggested that all players be dressed in a manner suitable for expediting weigh in. At no time shall a child be stripped. All males will weigh in with gym style shorts at a minimum. Females will weigh in with gym shorts and a top.
- IV.5 A weigh-in consists of the time the first player on a team starts crossing the scale, until the last player in line, at the time of weigh in, crosses the scale. Once a player has entered the line he must stay in line and complete the weigh-in. Any player who leaves the line once weigh-in has started shall be ineligible to play in that game.
- IV.6 All official AYFL Player Registration cards for all players listed on the official AYFL Team Roster must be presented in numerical order. Any player whose official card is not presented shall not be permitted to play in that game.
- IV.7 A team must have their book of player cards and copies of certified rosters to play. Any team that is unable to present their book and rosters by the scheduled kickoff of their game shall forfeit that game and the game will not be played for safety and liability reasons. If the forfeiting team is the visiting team, the forfeiting team shall reimburse the home team for the cost of the officials for that game. Photocopied front pages of player cards are acceptable with the approval of the President..
- IV.8 A copy of the certified AYFL Team Roster must be left with the opposing coach. Any team found by the AYFL Board failing to produce said roster, will result in a fine of \$50.00 to the League Member, with the Head coach of that team being suspended for one game. It is recommended that all coaches keep all opposing teams rosters thru the end of the season.
- IV.9 All players will show their jersey at weigh in.
- IV.10 If a player does not make the weight on his/her first attempt, he/she will then step to the side of the scale and remove any extra clothing and/or gear. Once ready, the player will be immediately re-weighed a final time. If the player's weight registers at or under .5 pounds higher on the second weigh-in than the weeks' weight limit the player is eligible to play. Failure to comply with these procedures will make the player ineligible to play in that game.
- IV.11 The League Member Representative or Field Representative shall initial all the teams player cards in ink, and indicate the status of the player for that game, (OK, No Show, OverWeight, INJured, or InActive for developmental squad players). Players not making weight, or

players not participating in the game, regardless of the reason, must have their cards signed with the reason so stated on the card, except for the Over 180lb players on the Unlimited team. Players not making weight, and/or designated as Inactive, shall have their weight recorded next to the OW or IA indication on the player card.

- IV.12 As of week four, five (5) pounds will be added to each weight division. All players must make the original weight for three consecutive weeks before the added weight may be applied.

## **ARTICLE V: RULES AND REGULATIONS OF PLAY**

- V.1 Unless otherwise provided within these Bylaws, National Federation/Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) rules and regulations will apply to all League games.
- V.2 Prior to starting a game both League Member Representatives should inspect the playing conditions and agree that the conditions are safe or unsafe for playing. If a game is called, the game shall be resumed from the point at which it was suspended. The game must be made up within two (2) weeks, using the eligible dates set by the AYFL Board prior to the season.
- V.3 Teams will enter the playing field from opposite sides of the field through the end zone and, with the exception of team captains, will proceed by the most direct route to their respective sidelines. Teams will avoid the opponent's bench at all times prior to and after games, including during pregame warm-ups. During the playoffs or Super Bowl, teams proceeding to the end zone in preparation for the next game shall not taunt, chant or otherwise engage players or fans involved in the game in progress. If the AYFL Board determines that a team has violated any provision of this rule, the Head Coach will be suspended for at least one (1) game.
- V.4 Peewee / 9U / 10U / 11U teams will play 8 minute quarters. All others teams will play 10 minute quarters.
- V.5 Half time must be as long as a quarter.
- V.6 There will be an interval of at least 5 minutes between games.
- V.7 The National Anthem will be played at the start of every game after the coin toss, followed by the AYFL Sportsmanship announcement, except that the playing of the National Anthem may be waived in cases where due to weather delays games are running significantly behind. The penalty for noncompliance shall be \$50 for each occurrence.
- V.8 The Head Coach will be at the coin toss located 3 yards behind the player captains. After the coin toss, the Head Coach shall get their final instructions from the Head Referee. The Player Captains may refer to the coach at the pee wee level only, for coin toss instruction.
- V.9 Conversion after touchdown will be one (1) point for run or passes, two (2) points for a place kick, except for the UNL Division teams where it would be one (1) point for place kick and two (2) points for run or pass, and the Peewee team where it would be one (1) point for the run and two (2) points for a pass or kick.
- V.10 For the Peewee division only, to encourage the developmental nature of this division, the defense will not be permitted to rush if the offense elects to declare a punt, Field Goal attempt or PAT kick attempt. The following modifications to FHSAA special teams rules will apply:
- a) Pee Wee Punts:
- (i) The offensive team may declare its intention to punt. The declaration must be made to the Referee, and the Referee must inform the opposing Head Coach. 'Fake Punts' are not permitted; if a team declares it's intention to punt it must either punt or call a

- charged timeout to inform the defense and the officials that it no longer intends to punt. If the punting team has no timeouts remaining, they may not reverse the decision to punt.
- (ii) Punts will be conducted as follows: Once the offense has set, the center and punter are the only offensive players permitted to move until the ball has been kicked. The center's movement is limited to a shotgun or long snap. Any illegal movement by the offense between set and kick will be treated as a false start penalty. If the snap hits the ground, or is muffed by the punter, the punter is permitted to pick the ball up and continue the punt. The ball may only be kicked once.
  - (iii) Once the offense is set, and until the kick is made, the defense must maintain a minimum of eight (8) defenders lined up within five (5) yards of the Line of Scrimmage. These defenders may stand or jump with arms extended in an attempt to block the kick at the Line of Scrimmage, but may not move forward or make contact with any offensive player until after the ball is kicked. If the ball is kicked and does not move beyond the defensive linemen, or is blocked, the ball will be considered dead at the original LOS and possession will be awarded to the defense.
  - (iv) Any forward movement by any defensive player who was within five (5) yards of the LOS when the offensive line was set will be treated as an encroachment penalty. Any direct defensive contact with the center will be treated as an Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty.
  - (v) The punting team has eight (8) seconds to get the punt off after the snap. If the ball is not kicked within this interval, the ball will be ruled dead at the spot where it was originally spotted.
- b) Pee Wee Kicking PAT:
- (i) The offensive team may declare its intention to kick for the Point After Touchdown conversion. 'Fake Kicks' on PAT attempts are not permitted; if a team declares its intention to attempt a kick it must either kick or call a charged timeout to inform the defense and the officials that it no longer intends to kick. If the kicking team has no timeouts remaining, they may not reverse the decision to kick.
  - (ii) PAT kick attempts will be conducted as follows: Once the offense has set, the center, holder and kicker are the only offensive players permitted to move until the ball is kicked. No offensive player is allowed to cross the LOS during kicking Point After conversions. The center's movement is limited to a shotgun or long snap. Any illegal movement by the offense between set and kick will be treated as a false start penalty. If the snap hits the ground, or is muffed by the holder, the holder is permitted to pick the ball up and continue the play. The ball may only be kicked once.
  - (iii) Once the offense is set, the defense may stand or jump with arms extended in an attempt to block the kick at the Line of Scrimmage, but may not move forward or make contact with any offensive player until after the ball is kicked. Any forward movement by any defensive player who was within five (5) yards of the LOS when the offensive line was set will be treated as an encroachment penalty.
  - (iv) Any direct defensive contact with the snapper is a Personal Foul.
  - (v) The offense may not recover and advance the ball after the kick under any circumstances. The PAT team has ten (10) seconds to get the kick off after the snap. If the ball is not kicked within this interval, the play will be ruled an unsuccessful PAT conversion.
  - (vi) The kicking team will be awarded two (2) points for a successful PAT conversion.
  - (vii) No runbacks are permitted on PAT attempts.
- c) Pee Wee Field Goals:
- (i) The offensive team may declare its intention to kick a Field Goal. 'Fake Field Goals' are not permitted; if a team declares its intention to attempt a Field Goal it must

- either kick or call a charged timeout to inform the defense and the officials that it no longer intends to kick.
- (ii) Declared Field Goal attempts will be conducted in the same manner as kicking PAT attempts with the following exceptions:
  - (iii) If the Field Goal attempt is unsuccessful, the ball is dead and will be placed at the previous spot.
- V.11 For the Unlimited Division only, the following rules shall apply:
- a) The intent of the following rules are to ensure that offensive players over 180 pounds do not handle and/or advance the football (except in the case of live ball changes of possession), and that at no time they play a position that allows them to get a running start prior to the football being placed in play.
  - b) Any player that is expected to be over 180 lbs for the entire season will be issued a jersey number between 50 and 79, and a large letter 'H' shall be attached to the back of that player's helmet.
  - c) Any player weighing over 180 lbs will be designated "Heavy for the Game". A large letter 'H' shall be attached to the back of that player's helmet.
  - d) Any player designated as 'Heavy for the Game' will be restricted from playing any position that is eligible to handle the ball at the snap.
  - e) A player designated as 'Heavy for the Game' may be a kicker, holder or punter, but may not advance the ball by running it (except as defined below) or throwing it.
  - f) Players designated as 'Heavy for the Game' must line up on the line of scrimmage when playing offense.
  - g) The first failure to comply with helmet labeling requirements will be penalized as an illegal procedure. Each subsequent failure, for the same player or any other player on the team, will be penalized as unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - h) In the event of a live ball change of possession (interception or fumble) ANY player may advance the ball, including Heavy players. In the event of a fumble or a tipped pass recovered by a Heavy player on the offense, that player may advance the ball. Intentional fumble plays designed to put the ball into the hands of a Heavy player intentionally shall be penalized as Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
  - i) Heavy players may participate in punt return, kickoff and kickoff return teams, however they may not be designated punt or kick returners. On kickoff return teams, Heavy players must be in the front line of the kickoff return formation. A Heavy player may advance an inside kick.
- V.12 No League games may end in a tie. If any game which is tied at the end of regulation, the game will be decided in accordance with National Federation rules (Kansas Tiebreaker procedure from the 10 yard line) until a winner is declared.
- V.13 The Peewee team will be allowed to have one coach per team on the field during play for the first four games of the regular season. They must be 10 yards behind their respective teams as ball is put into play. No communication can occur once the quarterback begins to call the cadence. The penalty for a communication infraction will be an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
- V.14 Forfeiture of a game without cause determined by the AYFL Board will result in a recorded loss for the team and a \$500.00 fine for the League member.
- V.15 There will be only 6 carded AYFL coaches, 1 team mom/dad, 3 water persons, and one statistician allowed inside the ropes designating the field of play, or the area for players and coaches. The team mom/dad will at no time be in the coaches box or on the field. At no time will players, coaches, parents, relatives or fans, be within the roped area down field of the 25 yard line or within 10 yards of the end line of the end zone, except to pass from one side of

the field to the other. The Head Coach will be identified by a Red Card. All other Coaches, Players and staff must remain in the team box. Violation of this rule will result in an Unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against the team.

- V.16 One photographer or videographer authorized by each team may be on each sideline during a game, provided that they do not interfere with play on the field, coaches or players.
- V.17 The team mom or dad, water personnel, statistician, videographer/photographer and coaches shall all wear sideline passes (cards) issued by the AYFL. No person not wearing an AYFL sideline pass, other than players, AYFL League or Field Reps and AYFL Officiating Crews shall be permitted inside the ropes during games. Head Coaches are responsible for maintaining control of sideline passes issued to their team at the beginning of the season.
- V.18 Any snap other than a hand to hand will require the defense to avoid direct contact with the snapper. The penalty is a personal foul.
- V.19 No player can play more than one game a day, except in the case of tiebreakers.
- V.20 No timeouts will be granted to the team that is winning if the game is being played with an automatic running clock.
- V.21 If at any point in the 1<sup>st</sup> half a team reaches a lead of at least 30 points the game WILL be played with an automatic running clock and the 50-79 jersey number requirements shall be relaxed.
- V.22 If at any point in the 1<sup>st</sup> half a team reaches a lead of at least 28 point, the teams MAY at their joint discretion go to an automatically running clock and relax the jersey numbering requirements.
- V.23 If a team reaches a lead of at least 28 points at any point in the second half, the game WILL be played with an automatic running clock and the 50-70 jersey number requirements shall be relaxed.
- V.24 Once the game has shifted to an automatic running clock, the clock MAY NOT revert back to normal time regardless of subsequent scoring changes.
- V.25 Head Coaches are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, and especially in automatic running clock situations.
- V.26 Any Head Coach or Assistant Coach who is determined by a majority of the AYFL Board to have encouraged his team to 'Headhunt' during automatic running clock situations will be disciplined in accordance with the requirements for a Level III infraction.

## **ARTICLE VI: EQUIPMENT**

- VI.1 All safety equipment required by the FHSAA must be worn at all times during games and practices.
- VI.2 The official League football will be the K2, J5K or its equivalent for the Peewee/9U/10U/11U Divisions; the TDJ, J5J or its equivalent for the 12U/13U Divisions; and the TDY, J5Y or its equivalent for the Unlimited Division, issued by the AYFL for the current season, of a brand and material approved by the AYFL Board.
- VI.3 The Official AYFL League Football shall have the AYFL logo and/or the logo of an approved AYFL sponsoring organization embossed on at least one panel if required by the AYFL Board. All game balls will be new. The AYFL Board will communicate the current year's logo requirements to the Referee Liaison prior to the start of the season.
- VI.4 Mandatory equipment will consist of football pants with pads, shoulder pads, a helmet with face bar guards, (mask), NOSCE required, numbered jersey front and back and mouthpiece. Any special mouthpiece must be shown to a referee. Minimum 6" numbers on the front and

8" back of a players jersey. Tennis shoes, cleated sneakers, molded rubber or screw-in cleats are the only shoes allowed.

- VI.5 Hard rubber screw-in cleats are permitted for all divisions, including hard rubber screw-in cleats with attached metal caps to reduce wear. Metal spike-style cleats are not permitted in any Division, nor are metal baseball cleats. Coaches will be allowed to check opposing team's equipment prior to game time. Any coach in any division whose player(s) are found by the AYFL Board to have played with metal spike-style cleats will be suspended for one game. Once a game has started, any question concerning a player wearing prohibited cleats or equipment, will be resolved by the on-site AYFL Rep, during a natural break in the game action or when the player is on the sideline. The AYFL Rep will inspect the equipment and make the final determination. If a player is found with illegal equipment or cleats, that player will be removed from the remainder of that game by an AYFL Representative and shall be suspended for the next game.
- VI.6 In any regular or post-season game, if either of the two teams have home and away jerseys (light and dark), the team having both types shall ensure that the numbering is the same for the home and away jerseys, and they wear jerseys that contrast to those of the team that does not. If both teams have home and away jerseys, the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the away team shall wear light jerseys, unless the teams mutually agree to reverse the assignments. The penalty for non-compliance in the regular season is \$250 per game for the non-compliant team and \$500 per game during the playoffs and the Super Bowl.

## **ARTICLE VII: PROTEST**

- VII.1 Games may not be protested.

## ARTICLE VIII: RAIN DELAY POLICY

VIII.1 In the event of a rain delay, the league reps will multiply the remaining clock time for the game by 3, and subtract the resulting number of minutes from the Latest Allowable Start time of the next scheduled game. The resulting time is the time by which play must resume to avoid rescheduling the game. By mutual agreement of both League Reps, a game or all remaining games may be called for the day earlier than the published 'Latest Allowable Start' time, but may not be kept on the clock past the 'Latest Allowable Start'.

Game	Qtr Length/ Actual Game Length	Normal Start Time	Latest Allowable Start
Peewee	8m/100m	9:00am	10:00am
9U	8m/100m	10:40am	11:30pm
10U	8m/100m	12:20pm	1:00pm
11U	8m/100m	2:00pm	2:30pm
12U	10m/120m	3:40pm	4:00pm
13U	10m/120m	5:40pm	6:00pm
UNL	10m/120m	7:40pm	8:00pm

*Example:*

1. *The 11U game is suspended for rain with 6 minutes remaining in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.*
2. *Remaining game time = 14 minutes (6 in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8 in 4<sup>th</sup>).  $14 \times 3 = 42$ .*
3. *Latest allowable start for the 12U game is 4pm.  $4\text{pm} - 42\text{ mins} = 3:18\text{pm}$ .*
4. *Result: If play has not resumed by 3:18 the game must be rescheduled, and the 12U game will kick off at 3:40 as scheduled (or earlier if both teams are ready) if the field is ready for play by then. If the field is still shut down, the same calculations will be made to determine the status of the 12U and subsequent games.*

## Section Seven: Referees Local Rules Reference

### Sidelines

Cell phone use by the chain crew is prohibited under any circumstances.

Chain Crew may not communicate in any fashion with players on the field or opposing bench.

Ineligible players must have their shoulder pads removed while inside the ropes.

Peewee Only: One coach on field 10 yards behind offense/defense for first four regular season games. The coach may not communicate with team under any circumstances after the QB begins to call the cadence: Penalty is Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

### Equipment and Ball Sizes

Required Equipment is Football pants with pads, shoulder pads, NOSCE approved helmet with face mask, numbered jersey front and back, mouthpiece (special mouthpieces to be shown to referee prior to game start).

Tennis shoes, cleated sneakers, molded rubber, rubber screw-in, or metal-capped rubber screw-in cleats only.

No metal spiked or metal baseball cleats permitted in any division. Disputes to be resolved by AYFL Rep, results in player removal by AYFL Rep and suspension for next game.

Peewee: K size ball – new ball at start of Peewee game, same ball used for 9U, 10U, 11U games unless team supplies their own new ball

12U, 13U: J size ball – new ball at start of 12U game, same ball used for 13U unless team supplies their own new ball

UNL: Y size ball – new ball at start of 14U game, same ball used for UNL unless team supplies their own new ball.

### Starting the Game

Teams must enter field from opposite end zones and proceed directly to their own bench. Teams (including individual players) prohibited from approaching the opponent's bench during any pregame activity.

Head Coach MUST BE on field at Coin Toss, stationed three yard behind his captains. No communication is permitted between coach and captains except for Peewee Games.

Final Referee Instructions to Coaches on the field immediately following the coin toss.

### Game Timing

Peewee, 9U, 10U, 11U Games: 8 Minute Quarters

12U, 13U, Unlimited Games: 10 Minute Quarters

Halftime as long as one quarter

Five minute minimum interval between games

### Scoring

All Divisions - TD: 6 points, FG: 3 Points: Safety: 2 Points

Peewee PAT	Run: 1 Point, Pass: 2 Points, Kick: 2 Points
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9U-14U PAT	Run: 1 Point, Pass: 1 Point, Kick: 2 Points
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UNL PAT	Run: 2 Points, Pass: 2 Points, Kick: 1 Point
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No regular season or playoff game may end in a tie. Local KC Tiebreaker modification: National Federation Rules KC Tiebreaker repeated from 10 yard line until winner declared.

#### Mercy Rules

Mandatory continuously running clock after 30 point lead attained in 1<sup>st</sup> half or 28 point lead in 2<sup>nd</sup> half . Optional continuously running clock by mutual agreement of reps after 28 point lead attained in first half. Once continuously running clock established may not go back to normal clock in that game. 50-79 jersey numbering requirement relaxed during continuous clock periods to allow freer substitution. No timeouts granted to team with the lead during continuous running clock periods.

#### Indirect Snaps

No direct contact with the snapper during shotgun or long snaps

#### Peewee Special Teams Rules

Declared Punts, Field Goal Attempts and PAT Kicks:

1. Peeweeps can declare Punts, PAT Kicks, and Field Goal Attempts
2. Once declared, the offense must call a charged timeout if they decide not to kick. If they have no timeouts left they cannot change their mind.
3. No 'Fake' Punts or Kicks on Declared plays.
4. No Defensive Rush permitted until after the ball has been kicked
5. Snap must be shotgun or long snap. **NO DIRECT SNAPS PERMITTED.** Any illegal movement, including illegal snap, is treated as a false start penalty.
6. *Muffed snaps may be picked up and the punt or kick continued*
7. Defenders may extend arms and jump up (but not forward) to attempt to block a kick or punt
8. Any forward movement by a defender initially within 5 yards of the LOS is encroachment (regardless of whether they penetrate the neutral zone).
9. The ball may only be kicked once.

Declared Punts Only:

1. Center, Punter and defenders more than 5 yards off LOS at set are the only players permitted to move until kick.
2. Offense has 8 seconds from snap to get kick off or ball is dead at original spot.
3. Defense must have at least 8 defenders within 5 yards of LOS when offense sets.
4. The punt must advance beyond the defensive linemen, otherwise ball is dead at the original LOS and possession goes to the defense.

Declared Field Goals and PAT Kicks Only:

1. Center, Holder and Kicker are only players allowed to move until the ball has been kicked
2. Offense has 10 seconds from snap to get the kick off
3. Offense may not recover and advance the ball
4. No runbacks by the defense
5. Unsuccessful Field Goal = ball turned over at the original spot
6. Successful Field Goal = 3 Points

#### Unlimited Division Rules

Player > 180 lbs. identified by "H" on helmet. "H" players may not play any offensive position that might involve handling the ball, but may play any defensive position. "H" players may be punters or kickers provided they do not advance the ball by running or throwing, except for live ball changes of possession, or on an onside kick recovered by a 'Heavy' player.

#### Protests

Games may not be protested.