

American Youth Football League Inc.
Bylaws 2023

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: Founding Members of the AYFL. Charter Members shall be entitled to all said rights, duties and privileges except for voting rights.
 - (i) Plantation Athletic League
 - (ii) Boca Optimist
 - (iii) Cooper City Optimist
 - (iv) Pasadena Lakes Optimist
 - (v) Sawgrass Youth Sports
 - (vi) Weston Youth Football League
- b) Regular Member: Any other organization, city or club that has attained permanent status in the AYFL.
 - (i) Plantation Athletic League hereafter referred to as Plantation
 - (ii) Cooper City Optimist hereafter referred to as Cooper City
 - (iii) Sunrise Youth Sports hereafter referred to as Sunrise
 - (iv) Coral Springs Tackle Football hereafter referred to as Coral Springs
 - (v) Pembroke Pines Optimist hereafter referred to as PPO
 - (vi) Tamarac Youth Football League hereafter referred to as Tamarac
 - (vii) West Pembroke Pines Optimist hereafter referred to as West Pines
 - (viii) Miramar Wolverines hereafter referred to as Miramar
 - (ix) Delray Rocks hereafter referred to as Delray
 - (x) Hollywood PAL Eagles hereafter referred to as Hollywood
 - (xi) Lauderhill Broncos hereafter referred to as Lauderhill
 - (xii) Pompano Eagles hereafter referred to as Pompano
- c) New Member: Any organization, city or club that has not attained permanent status in the AYFL.
 - (i) Boynton Beach Bulldogs hereafter referred to as Boynton Beach
 - (ii) Kendall Boys & Girls Club hereafter referred to as KBG
 - (iii) Miami PAL Chiefs hereafter referred to as Miami PAL

I.2 Permanent Members 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 January 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.
- d) Film dues will be due on the following schedule
 - (i) First payment due September 1st
 - (ii) Second payment due October 1st
 - (iii) Third payment due November 1st
- e) If film dues are not paid on time, film access will be shut off until the monies are paid

- 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 decide 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 2/3 of eligible voting members shall be required for admittance as a New Member to the League.
 - k) 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) A non-refundable application fee of \$500.00 is required of a new applicant to 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 \$300.00 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 season shall officially start on May 1st and end once the team is eliminated from the Playoffs except for the MM Division.
- II.6 All 7 on 7 tournaments run by an AYFL League member must notify the AYFL board on a yearly basis.
- II.7 Any 7 on 7 team sanctioned by an AYFL League Member must notify the AYFL board of that teams participation.
- II.8 The AYFL Board will set practice dates, with and without pads. Practice with pads will start the 3rd week of June. 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 and June, teams may conduct organized or informal practices, WITHOUT PADS, provided that the club has provided the league with proof of insurance.

All players participating in May and June practices must be registered and will be considered bound to the program for the entire season. Releases are required for all coaches and players participating in any practice, including May and June practices. Practicing or coaching without a valid release renders the offending individual ineligible for the remainder of the season.

- II.9 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.10 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.11 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 2/3 of the eligible voting members.
- II.12 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 its players at all times and to ensure proper supervision of its teams while not in play.
- II.13 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 the RCC Chairman 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.14 Scouting will be permitted ONLY at regular season games or the preseason jamboree. Regular season games are those games that count in the standings and playoff games. 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 or the preseason jamboree game on behalf of a League Member must wear their team colors and 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.15 All League Members will report all their teams scores to the Statistician by text or email upon completion of each game. All scores for the day must be reported by 11pm on game day. 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.
- II.16 League Members are strongly encouraged to report all scores and summaries for all weight classes to all linked news services on a weekly basis.
- II.17 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.

- II.18 All AYFL members are required to properly maintain all helmets every 1 to 2 years and to discard any helmets after 10 years (NOCSAE standard). Each AYFL member shall notify the AYFL in writing once all helmets have met the requirement.
- II.19 All AYFL members are required to provide the League Secretary with a document stating that all youth participants have a current physical.

ARTICLE III: BACKGROUND SCREENING POLICY

- III.1 The AYFL operates a tackle football program through several member programs. The AYFL wishes to protect the youth who are participating in the AYFL.
- III.2 The policy set forth within this section shall apply to all volunteers who have direct contact with youth sports participants. Such volunteers must pass a Level 1 Background Check. A volunteer that fails a background check and the appeals process will be banned from having direct contact with youth sports participants for a 12 month period.
- III.3 The AYFL hereby adopts the standards of the National Recreation and Park Association Recommended Guidelines for Credentialing Volunteers. The following are the criteria for the exclusion of adult volunteers including, but not limited to, managers, coaches or any other volunteer who has direct contact with youth sports participants. An adult means any person 18 years of age or older. Any adult volunteer shall be disqualified from participating as a volunteer of an AYFL member program if the person has been found guilty of any one of the crimes set forth below. "Guilty" means that a person was found guilty following a trial, entered a plea, entered a no contest plea accompanied by a finding of guilt regardless of whether there was an adjudicate of guilt or a withholding of guilt.
 - a) All sex offenses regardless of the amount of time since the offense (examples include child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure or similar offenses).
 - b) All felony offenses involving violence regardless of the amount of time since the offense (examples include murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary).
 - c) All felony offenses other than violence or sex offenses within the past ten years (examples include drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment).
 - d) All misdemeanor violence offenses within the past seven years (examples include simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit and run).
 - e) Two misdemeanor drug or alcohol offenses within the past ten years (examples include driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly conduct, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia).
 - f) Any other misdemeanor within the past five years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly to the functions of that volunteer (examples include contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, theft---if the volunteer is to handle money).
- III.4 Any adult volunteer who has been charged with any of the disqualifying offenses above with cases pending court shall not be permitted to volunteer until the official adjudication of the case.
- III.5 The AYFL requires all adult volunteers to be screened for the above exclusionary criteria once a year.
- III.6 The criteria set forth above shall be applied by the background screening entity.
- III.7 If the determination by the background screening entity is that the adult volunteer does not meet the criteria set forth herein, then the volunteer shall not be permitted to participate as a volunteer in any AYFL organization activity.
- III.8 All AYFL members shall comply with these requirements and shall not permit any adult volunteer who has not satisfied the exclusionary criteria to participate in violation of this section. Upon

receiving results of background screenings, each AYFL member shall notify the AYFL Secretary of all volunteers who have been approved or disapproved through the screening process.

ARTICLE IV: INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

IV.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.

IV.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 and not currently active in another competing league locally meaning holding a active position as executive board member, league rep, and/or a registered coach cheerleading and football or you would be considered nonactive with the AYFL meaning you have no active rights to any AYFL meeting, emails events.

- 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: Al DiLello, Andy Libert, Anthony Vitelli, Bart Bishop, Bernard Wright, Bill Coyne, Bob Staudenmaier, Brian Crowe, Brian Dooling, Cathy Ayala, Chuck Bender, Daryl Franklin, Dave Ocasek, Devon Bush, DJ Colucci, Donn Grushka, Doug Phillips, Eliot Meiseles, Eric Walker, Fred Denson, Gary Wain, George Guerra, Harry Dickens, James Robinson, Jason Milgrom, Jeff Goldman, Jeff Woodall, Jim Ross**, Joe Braden, Joe Hover, Joe Torok, Joel Greenberg, John Garrish, John McGahee, John Oliva, Justin Langella, Keith Cohen, Kevin Duncan, Kevin Harris, Lance Rigby, Laney Stearns, Larry Holloway, Louie Srour, Mario Costa, Mario Perez, Mark Dornacker, Mark Francis, Mark Slorp, Merry Gaeta, Michael Allison, Mike Bergdorf, Mike Ryan, Paul Bange, Peter Rodriguez, Phil Margetts, Rich Jospitre, Rick Rhea, Rick Rue, Robert Jones, Rocky Morgan, Ross Sinel, Sal Bailen, Steve Alongi, Steve Lawson, Steve Madej, Steve Mummaw, Todd Green, Tolliver Miller, Tracy Martin, Troy Millican, Vincent Grippa, Wayne Culbertson.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF SPONSORING MEMBERS

- V.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.
- V.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.

- V.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.
- V.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.
- V.5 The sponsoring Permanent Member can withdraw their sponsorship of a New Member if the New Member fails to cooperate with the sponsoring Permanent Member, or does not include the sponsor in its decisions. The AYFL will determine the appropriate action against the new member up to and including fines or expulsion.

ARTICLE VI: CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

ARTICLE VII: INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

- VII.1 By virtue of its membership in the AYFL, any league member agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the AYFL's Officers, and Board Members against any claims, disputes, causes of action, judgments or decrees for actions carried out in accordance with the bylaws.
- VII.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.

ARTICLE VIII: ADVERTISING

- VIII.1 All team advertising (flyers, website, etc.) should contain the AYFL logo and the following text:
 - a) Proud member of the American Youth Football League

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 Treasurer, and Past President. They are also the Corporate Officers of the League.
 - b) Executive Officers of the League cannot hold a League Rep or Alternate League Rep position.
- 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 2/3 of eligible voting members 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) Statistician
 - c) 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 hear all other points of view before voicing 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 incident 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.
- 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. The Secretary shall keep an updated list of all League Members voting status. Minutes of the previous League meeting will be 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 electronically secure all documents, contracts and copies of League files for safekeeping. Below is a summary list of what will be kept:
- 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 logo;
 - h) A complete list of all Founding and Life members including e-mail addresses, phone numbers and current mailing address;
 - i) AYFL stamps used for mass registration;
 - j) Annual Corporate Report;
 - k) A copy of each League Members Insurance;
 - l) The written spec sheets for the following:
 - (i) Trophies
 - (ii) Footballs
 - m) 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 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 Club Standings, Division Standings and Total Wins. 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.7 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 maintain all official AYFL rosters. The Registrar is also responsible to ensure that all rostered coaches are listed on the affiliated club's background check list and Heads Up Certification.

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 President will appoint a chair for this 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 schedule 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 two (2) League Member Representatives appointed by the President.
- 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 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.
- e) All RCC recommendations are final unless overturned by a vote of 75% of eligible voting members.

IV.3 Appeals Committee

- a) The committee will be chaired by the Vice President, and include the RCC Committee.
- 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 75% of eligible voting members to reverse the sanction.

IV.4 Bylaws Committee

- a) The President will appoint a chair for this committee, and the AYFL Board will approve it, after the elections in December.
- b) The committee chair will appoint voting members to the committee (usually 5 to 7 members)
- c) The committee is responsible for reviewing all suggested changes and recommend all changes that the committee votes to bring 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 President will appoint a chair for this committee , and will be approved by the AYFL 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 1st Wednesday of each month during the off season and every Wednesday as needed in season. Food will be provided.
- 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.

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 three (3) Alternate Representatives 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 six (6) 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 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 not attending or leaving prior to the time limit is \$250.00 for each person.

- VI.5 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.
 - 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 2/3 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 at least one (1) year, a Field Rep (preferably lead field rep if applicable) for at least one (1) year and have 2/3 approval by the AYFL Board, OR
 - (ii) The individual must have been in the position the year prior to the upcoming operating year.
 - d) Each League Representative and Alternate League Representative must sign the official AYFL League Representative guidelines and must attend any approved AYFL classes.
 - e) All League Representatives and Alternate League Representatives must act in the best interest of the AYFL.
 - f) At no time will a person be appointed to a League Representative or Alternate League Representative position without first meeting the Field Representative requirements.
 - g) EXCEPTION: The League Member may petition the league for approval if they have no member who meets the criteria and with 2/3 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. If the exception is granted, the proposed League Rep will be placed on probation for one (1) year without voting privileges.
 - h) 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.6 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.7 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.8 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.9 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 1st Wednesday of each month. The League will provide food.
- VII.5 Responsibility for 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 in attendance for a League meeting within 15 minutes of the meeting being called to order will be fined \$100.00
- 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 \$400.00 for every League meeting missed.
- VII.9 The League Member 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 (2) 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 League Member designated for cleanup that week. 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 1st.
- 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 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 a 75% vote of the eligible voting members.

- 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 any time during the season, including the post season. Should the Executive Board determine that a League Member's field to be unsafe, the Executive Board may suspend home games for that League Member until the condition is corrected and approved by the Executive Board.
- I.2 The AYFL Board is authorized to exercise disciplinary authority, including issuing fines, suspensions, expulsion, or any other appropriate punishment over all persons engaged in AYFL activities, which is not limited to just practices and games.
- 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 and/or misrepresent by word or deed to an AYFL representative may be disciplined.
- I.4 Any League Member, it's personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, found by the AYFL Board to violate any Bylaw and/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 and/or other major un-sportsmanlike conduct, and/or conducts themselves in manner found disrespectful to an AYFL Representative may 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, postponed, and/or waived under hardship. The suspension shall begin immediately upon ejection regardless of any pending or intended appeal. Any coach or fan ejected from a game must immediately leave the facility. Failure to do so may result in additional disciplinary actions against the individual(s).
- I.6 The AYFL Board may discipline any League Member; its personnel, Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans as defined in these Bylaws.
- I.7 With the exception of an AYFL Bylaw infraction, any attempt to interfere with and/or influence an on-field official will result in an Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul and/or timeout charged against the team that is the subject of this behavior. A Referee Representative may file a complaint with the RCC, which shall be investigated and may subject the League Member to disciplinary action(s).
- I.8 Players Suspension(s):
 - a) An approved AYFL member, such as an Executive Board Member, RCC member and/or League/Alternate League Representative (except if the player is from that League Member), is authorized to meet with and advise the player, the Player's Head Coach and player's parent, as to the player's conduct that resulted in the player's suspension and the repercussions thereof. The player, head coach, parent, League Rep and the AYFL member in charge of the meeting must sign a form containing the date of the incident, the incident itself and any notes from referees or League Representatives. This meeting shall take place at the next weekly AYFL meeting. If there is no AYFL meeting scheduled that week, then an alternate location will be authorized. This meeting must take place prior to the Player being cleared to participate/play in an AYFL game.
- I.9 Coach Suspension(s):
 - a) An approved AYFL member, such as an Executive Board Member, RCC member and/or League/Alternate League Representative (except if the coach is from that League Member), is authorized to meet with and advise the coach as to the coach's conduct that resulted in the coach's suspension and the repercussions thereof. The coach, League Rep and the AYFL member in charge of the meeting must sign a form containing the date of the incident, the incident itself and any notes

from referees or League Representatives. This meeting shall take place at the next weekly AYFL meeting. If there is no AYFL meeting scheduled that week, then an alternate location will be authorized. This meeting must take place prior to the coach being cleared to participate in an AYFL activity.

- I.10 In the event of a physical altercation involving players, coaches, parents or anyone else at an AYFL sanctioned event, a League Representative from each participating City in attendance at the event shall send a text or e-mail to the AYFL President and Vice President, reporting the details of the altercation as soon thereafter as the altercation is resolved. Within 24 hours following the event, the official game film will be provided directly to the President and/or Vice President for review and dissemination to the RCC for analysis. The film will NOT be provided to the leagues involved in the altercation until released by the President or Vice President and the RCC. Once released to the league representatives, the film of the event will not be shared by the league representatives with any parties without the prior written permission of the President, Vice President or RCC. Violations of this provision may result in disciplinary action against that individual and/or individuals found to have released this information to non AYFL league representatives.
- I.11 Film Review Committee:
- a) An AYFL League Representative may file a written request to the Vice President requesting a committee appointed by the President to review game film to determine if actions by a player are so egregious that it should warrant disciplinary action by the AYFL over and above any penalty, if any, imposed by the referees during the course of the contest. The request must be made within 2 days of the game film being posted and must be accompanied by a processing fee of \$500.00. The Film Review Committee shall notify all affected parties that it is reviewing game film and shall provide the Committee's recommendations to the affected parties in writing in advance of the next AYFL Board Meeting. The Film Review Committee shall present its recommendations to the AYFL Board at the next scheduled AYFL Board Meeting. If the Film Review Committee finds that no disciplinary action should be taken, the matter shall be deemed closed and no further review shall be required. Should the Film Review Committee recommend disciplinary action, the Film Review Committee's recommendation(s) shall be subject to a motion to overturn said recommendation(s). The motion to overturn shall require a 75% vote to overturn to be successful. Should the Film Review Committee make a recommendation that disciplinary action shall be taken, the processing fee will be refunded whether or not said disciplinary action is upheld by the AYFL Board. If the request results in no further action, the fee will not be refunded. **THIS FEE CAN'T BE REDUCED!!!!** The recommendations of the Film Review Committee are final and can not be mitigated.
- I.12 Upon application to the AYFL President, the AYFL President shall have the authority to appoint a Special Committee of five (5) members that shall consist of one (1) executive board member, one RCC member and three (3) other appointees at large, excluding the President. This Special Committee shall be appointed to investigate and make recommendations as to any and all actions that may be deemed detrimental to the best interests of the AYFL and that may be outside the scope of the existing AYFL bylaws. The Special Committee shall present their findings to the AYFL and any said recommendations shall supersede the existing AYFL bylaws. The recommendation(s) shall be furnished to the AYFL Board and recorded by the AYFL Secretary. A 2/3 vote by the AYFL Board shall be required to overturn any recommendation made by the Special Committee. Each recommendation shall be voted on individually. Any appeal of the Special Committee's recommendation shall be heard by the AYFL President and include an Executive Board member and a RCC member not initially part of the Special Committee's Recommendation. Should the appeals section of the committee recommend overturning the Committee's recommendation(s), the findings shall be reported to the AYFL Board. A vote of 2/3 by the AYFL board shall be required to accept the appeals section of the committee's recommendation(s).

ARTICLE II: RULES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE(RCC)

- II.1 Complaint Defined: An alleged bylaw infraction by and/or against a League Member and/or its personnel, which shall include but is not limited to its Representatives, coaches, players, parents, relatives, or fans.
- II.2 Any incident reported to or witnessed by an AYFL Representative, must be submitted to the RCC Chairman via email by an Executive Board Member, League Representative, Alternate League Representative, or Life Member, by Midnight of the second day following the incident (from July 1st through November 30th) or by the next League meeting (from December 1st through June 30th), from the occurrence. The RCC Chairman shall be responsible for notifying all affected parties. A complaint filed outside of the defined time periods herein may be dismissed outright unless the RCC finds good cause to hear said complaint.
- II.3 The RCC Chairman shall set forth timelines for the affected parties to respond and appoint RCC members to investigate the alleged incident. The RCC will conduct an investigation of the complaint by reviewing all information from eyewitnesses (written statements must be obtained), documentation and videotape if applicable. The RCC will act in an unbiased manner. Any member of the RCC who is also a party to the complaint will recuse themselves from the investigation and findings. The RCC will have the authority to issue a temporary suspension.
- II.4 All League Members and their representatives, coaches, players and parents shall cooperate with the RCC, which shall include speaking with and providing information to the RCC.
- II.5 The Rules Compliance Committee will make their best faith effort to complete their investigation prior to the next scheduled AYFL Board meeting. If the RCC requires additional time to complete its investigation, the RCC Chairman shall notify the AYFL Boar.
- II.6 Should the RCC determine that no bylaw infraction occurred, the RCC Chairman shall notify the affected parties in writing of thr RCC's findings. The matter shall be considered closed and the RCC shall not be responsible for making a report to the AYFL Board.
- II.7 Should the RCC determine that a bylaw infraction occurred, the RCC Chairman shall notify the affected parties in writing of the RCC's findings and recommendations in advance of the AYFL Board meeting. At the AYFL Board meeting, the RCC Chairman and/or RCC member if the RCC Chairman is not available, shall present to the AYFL Board its findings and recommendations. Should an affected party request additional time to respond to the RCC's findings and recommendations, the RCC Chairman is entitled to grant such request.
- II.8 The RCC will present their findings to the AYFL Board in the following manner:
- a) Presentation of all findings. League members may request clarification from the RCC member presenting its findings so as to ensure that all League Members understand what findings were used by ther RCC to determine its recommendations.
 - b) Presentation of all recommendations. If there are multiple recommendations against an individual or individuals and/or a League Member, each recommendation will be presented independently of any other recommendation(s).
 - c) Upon completion of the RCC's presentation of all findings and recommendations, the RCC Chairman and/or presenting member shall open to the Board the opportunity to make a motion to overturn a specific recommendation. If no motion is made and seconded, the recommendation is deemed accepted by the Board and the matter is closed. If a motion to overturn is made and seconded, the Executive Secretary shall record the motion and each League Member shall be given an opportunity to speak as to said motion(speaker rotation based upon room clean up), except that the affected League Member potentially being sanctioned may speak first and last. Once all League Members have had an opportunity to speak, including all life members, the RCC Chairman may permit additional discussion.

- d) Upon the RCC Chairman or other presenting member closing the discussion, the Executive Secretary shall provide ballots to all eligible League Members to vote on the issue to overturn a specific recommendation.
- e) The vote shall be a closed ballot and the voting options are:
 - (i) Uphold the RCC recommendation
 - (ii) Overturn the RCC recommendation
 - (iii) Return to the RCC for additional investigation

ARTICLE III: APPEALS

- III.1 Within 48 hours of an RCC recommendation being accepted by the AYFL Board, the League Member and /or individual found to have violated the AYFL bylaws may request an appeal of said decision. The request must be made in writing and emailed to the RCC Chairman.
- III.2 The appeal request must identify the grounds for the appeal and must provide any supporting information and/or documentation with the appeal request. The RCC Chairman shall then forward this information to the AYFL President, who shall chair the Appeals Committee.
- III.3 The AYFL President shall review the appeal request and at his/her sole discretion shall determine whether an Appeals Committee shall be appointed to consider the appeal request. If the AYFL President deems the matter to lack merit, he shall indicate same in writing to the affected parties and the RCC Chairman and the matter shall be closed. If the AYFL President deems the matter to be worthy of being reviewed, he shall appoint two(2) additional members to the Appeals Committee who have not served on the RCC underlying panel and are not members of the affected parties. These additional members should be Executive Board Members or Life Members.
- III.4 The Appeals Committee shall follow the same procedures as the RCC defined herein above as same relates to its investigation and presentation to the League Members. Should the Appeals Committee find that there is no merit to the appeal, the Appeals Committee shall present its decision in writing to the affected parties and the RCC Chairman and the matter shall be considered closed. If the Appeals Committee finds that an approved recommendation should be overturned, the Appeals Committee shall present its findings to the AYFL Board as defined in the RCC procedures herein above.
- III.5 Upon completion of its presentation, the Appeals Committee presenter shall ask if there is a motion to overturn its recommendation and same shall be addressed as defined in the RCC section herein above.
 - a) The vote shall be a closed ballot and the voting options are:
 - (i) Uphold the Appeals Committee recommendation
 - (ii) Overturn the Appeals Committee recommendation
- III.6 The vote shall be final and binding and no additional action(s) may be taken. A vote to overturn the recommendation of the Appeals Committee shall require a vote of 75% or more of the eligible voting league members.

ARTICLE IV: PENALTIES

- IV.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) Probation – Any coach, player, parent, League Rep, or Alt League Rep may be placed on a probationary status. The probation period can be for any time frame determined appropriate by the RCC. During the probation period, should the offending party violate any of the terms of the

probation, violate any of the AYFL bylaws or in any way bring discredit to the AYFL, then the Board will enforce the original penalty plus any new penalty if any.

- b) Suspend the party for 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. A suspended coach may attend their sons/daughters game but must remain outside the playing field and may have no contact with any coach or player at any time from opening kickoff until after the post game team meeting. Violation of the conditions of suspension WILL result in an additional three weeks of suspension with no waiver to attend games. A second violation will result in being banned from the AYFL.
 - (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.
- c) Mentored Suspension
 - (i) The RCC may require that a coach, and in some instances a player serve the suspension while their AYFL activities are monitored by a member of the Monitoring Committee
 - (ii) The Monitoring Committee should include Exec Board member, Life member and/or an RCC member.
 - (iii) Monitoring Committee should stop by practices and/or games to offer guidance to the suspended member. The Committee will report back to the RCC so that they can take the correct actions to end suspension, extend it or ban the person if they continually reoffend.
 - (iv) The length of the mentored suspension will be set along with the conditions and name of the mentor by the RCC.
- d) Indefinite Suspension – In egregious cases, the RCC may recommend an indefinite suspension. The suspension should be at least one year after which time the suspended person may apply for reinstatement. A party will need 2/3 majority of voting members approval for a reinstatement to be permitted.
- e) Ban the party or League Member from the League. **Banned** from the AYFL is defined as permanently being removed from the AYFL with no opportunity for reinstatement. The Board must have a 2/3 majority of voting members to approve a person being banned.
- f) Cause the loss of honors or awards.
- g) Cause the loss of home game privileges for a League Member.
- h) Cause the loss of post-season play for a League Member.
- i) Cause the loss of voting privileges for a League Member.
- j) Impose a fine on a League Member.

IV.2 The AYFL Board, with a 2/3 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.

IV.3 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, IV or V 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 minor bylaw infractions that have no direct affect on the outcome of a game or where the infraction did not provide a team an advantage in any way.</p> <p>Penalties for Level II offenses will range from probation to a 1 game suspension. The accumulation of two Level II offenses over the course of two years will result in a Level IV violation.</p> |
| Level III Offense | <p>Level III offenses are generally categorized as attempts to gain an unfair advantage over a competitor through cheating or willful deception toward the AYFL Board.</p> <p>Level III offenses shall be penalized by a 1 game suspension and probation of the member for the duration of the season. Any additional violation of any level during the probationary period will result in an additional suspension. If a member accumulates 2 Level III offenses over the course of two consecutive seasons, the member shall be immediately suspended for two games.</p> |
| Level IV Offense | <p>Level IV 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 IV violation for accumulation purposes.</p> <p>Level IV offenses shall be penalized by suspension for the next three official games played by the member’s team.</p> <p>If a member accumulates 2 Level IV offenses over the course of two consecutive seasons, the member shall be immediately banned from the league.</p> |
| Level V Offense | <p>Level V 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 V offenses shall be penalized by banishment from the league.</p> |

The following table summarizes the **maximum** penalty Levels associated with current bylaw provisions. As referenced in Article IV.7, 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) | V |
| III.I.4 – Any Physical Altercation (players only) | IV |
| III.I.4 – Major Unsportsmanlike Conduct (Any violation resulting in ejection) | IV |
| III.I.4 – Disrespect to League Representative | III |
| III.I.7 – 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 | II |
| V.II.2 – Ineligible player dressed inside the ropes (coach) | II |
| V.II.2 – Ineligible player dressed inside the ropes (player) | I |
| V.II.4 – Playing ineligible player for any reason other than AYFL clerical | III |
| V.II.8 – 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 | V |
| VI.I.2 – Use of tobacco products within less than 500 feet of field (offender only) | I |
| VI.I.3 – Permitting use of narcotics, steroids or CDS (coaches and parents) | IV |
| VI.I.4 – Sweating | III |
| VI.I.5 – Use of alcoholic beverages within 500 feet of field (offender only) | IV |
| VI.II.5 – Failure to supply chain crew | I |
| VI.II.5 – Chain crew communication with players on field or home bench | III |
| VI.II.5 – Chain crew use of cell phone | I |
| VI.II.7 – Failure to make good faith effort to allow spotter in booth | III |
| 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.8 – Failure to deliver roster to opposing team | I |
| VI.V.3 – Failure to enter field properly, failure to avoid opposing team’s bench | IV |
| VI.V.11 – Failure to properly identify heavy players (Helmet Marking) | II |
| VI.V.15 – Unauthorized personnel within the ropes | II |
| - Running across field to taunt or incite opponent(coach, player or spectator) | IV |

ARTICLE V: HARDSHIP

V.1 The AYFL Board, with a 2/3 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 VI: REMEDIES

VI.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 referee's contract, which is available for review on the AYFL website. All 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

- a) All cheerleading programs must belong to an AYFL sanctioned organization.

ARTICLE III: COACHES

III.1 Coaches Clinic:

- a) It is mandatory that all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, 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 coaches covering AYFL rules and policies unique to their 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 makeup 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 makeup clinic. The time and date of the makeup clinic shall be determined by the AYFL Board, and there shall only be one make up clinic offered.

III.2 All coaches must receive an official AYFL coaches card to be allowed on the sidelines at any AYFL sponsored game. Coaches may be on the sideline without their card if a league Representative or Alternate League Representative can vouch for them as having been issued a card for this season. Coaches must have successfully passed the required background check, be Heads Up certified, and have read and understood the concussion and heat related illness policy. There will be a \$25 fee for replacement cards.

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 for the duration of that season. A coach may be carded with only one League Member during any given season.
- III.7 A coach may change league members once during their lifetime without AYFL Board approval. A coach desiring to make a first move must receive a written release from their former League Member using the official AYFL Coach Release Form. This form must be signed by their former League Member 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 a member of the Executive Board. Once a release is signed by a member of the Executive Board, 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. A coach desiring to make a second and/or additional move(s), through his/her new league representatives, must motion the Board for approval of the move, and said move may only be approved with 2/3 approval of the AYFL Board.
- III.8 If one or more coaches change league members, no players previously mass registered to the team the coach(es) is leaving may transfer to the new team other than the coach's immediate children, grandchildren, or custodial children. Should other players from that same team move to the same club and team, no coaches transferring from that team shall be permitted to coach in any capacity with that league member for a period of one (1) year. This shall include any practice or game field positions other than chain crew. Violations of this rule will result in up to a full season suspension after the initial non-permitted year is completed for the coach in question and forfeiture of Playoff eligibility for that team. This violation can't be mitigated. 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 as of the 3rd game of the regular season.
- 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, the next tiebreaker will be strength of wins(10 points for defeating #1 team, 9 points for #2 team, etc.). If the tie still can't be resolved, shootouts will be conducted as defined in the following section. All clubs playing in a shootout must have a League Rep or Alt Rep present.
- 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. The final tiebreaker will be one or more periods of play, conducted as described in the current NFHS football rulebook in supplemental materials entitled "Resolving Tied Games". In the event that two or more teams have identical records, the following procedures will determine playoff seeding:
 - a) In the event that three teams are tied, tiebreakers shall be conducted as follows:
 - (i) The first team to lose twice is eliminated and the two remaining teams will play one final round to determine seeding.
 - (ii) All three teams will participate in a coin toss. The winner (odd coin) will be Team A and will have a BYE for the first round. 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 one final round for seeding.
 - b) If only two teams are tied, tiebreakers shall be conducted as follows:

- (i) Tiebreakers are single-elimination.
 - (ii) In the event that the two tied teams are vying for fourth and fifth place, a coin toss will determine the seeding..
- VI.5 The AYFL will pay the Referees. All League Members will report all their teams scores to the Statistician by text or email upon completion of each game. All scores for the day must be reported by 11pm on game 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 and/or rings 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 registers with a League Member, the player has until on or before March 31st to move to another league member. On and After April 1st that 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 an Executive Board Member on the Player Release form. Once a release is signed by an Executive Board Member, 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 'Two Move' Rule: Players can only change League Members twice during their lifetime, other than as specified in Section Five:I.54, Section Five: I.5, and Section Five: I.6. This provision is not waivable as a hardship. Sitting out one or more seasons does not 'reset' 'the move' count.
- I.4 A Player will be permitted a third move back to either one of their two previous parks without a hardship waiver. This move must adhere to Section Five: I.2. This will be the final move allowed for this player.
- I.5 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 'Two 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 'Two Move' rule. A move to any club other than the club that originally cut the player shall be considered a move.
- I.6 A 'cut' is defined as the removal of a player from a team, either for disciplinary or performance reasons or conduct detrimental to the team/program by a parent/guardian. No league member may claim to have cut a player in order to circumvent Section Four, Article III.8 or Section Five, Article I.3. Players may not be cut in order to follow a coach from one program to another. Misrepresentation to the AYFL Board shall be punished in accordance with the disciplinary matrix.
- I.7 Third moves will not be allowed under any circumstances other than as specified in Section Five: I.4.
- I.8 If two current AYFL clubs merge, all players and coaches will be considered bound to the new program. All AYFL bylaws pertaining to player and coaches moves will apply.
- I.9 All players participating in any practice, including May practices must have a completed registration form (paper or electronic) and will be considered bound to that program for the entire season.
- I.10 All players must have a completed AYFL Player Card, including the player signing the card, and a signed Player Release form if applicable. The AYFL Player 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.11 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.12 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 May 1st of the current year for the MM through 12U divisions. **Age is defined as the player's age ON January 1st or AFTER of the current year for the 13U division.** Example: If a player turns 12 ON May 1st of the current year he is considered to be League Age 12. If he turns 12 AFTER May 1st of the current year he is considered to be League Age 11, because he was 11 on May 1st. The official AYFL Division Age and Weight requirements for eligibility are as follows:

Division Ages And Weights

| Division | League Age | Weight |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 13U | 13U | UNL/UNL |
| 12U | 12U | UNL/UNL |
| 11U | 11U | UNL/UNL |
| 10U | 10U | UNL/UNL |
| 9U | 9U | UNL/UNL |
| 8U | 8U | UNL/UNL |
| 7U | 7U | UNL/U NL |
| 6U | 6U | 75/90 |

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 for a high school, middle school, charter school or any other football league after August 1st of the current year, he may not play in 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 (home schooling is acceptable): 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 the RCC Chairman 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 Mass registration will be conducted two(2) Sundays before opening day.
- 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. The following League Members are allowed to sign and stamp a Player Registration Card: League Rep*, Alt League Rep*, Life Member*, Executive Board Member, RCC member. One of the above League Members must sign and stamp a Player Registration Card for that player to be officially registered with the League. All 12U and 13U Player Cards and Rosters must be double checked by a member of the Executive Board.
 - *Can't sign and stamp Player Registration Cards for their own program.
- III.4 Each League Member will use league mandated Player Registration Card for player registration, with a current year's picture attached. 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 Accompanying each card 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. If the new roster is certified outside of the normal AYFL meeting, 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. If the new roster is certified outside of the normal AYFL meeting 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 Executive Board Members, RCC Members 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 team's 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, that team may add players up to a 23 player total roster size, if approved by the AYFL Board. Once a team's roster reaches 20 or more players, that team may no longer add players unless they fall below 20 players again. Additions must meet the standards of Section Five, Article II.1(g).

ARTICLE IV: PLAYER NUMBERS

- IV.1 All jersey numbers will be in accordance with FHSAA rules with an exception to allow the number "0".
- IV.2 At the snap, at least five offensive players on the line of scrimmage must be numbered 50-79.
- IV.3 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 an Executive Board Member or RCC Member approve the change to their AYFL team roster before the next game. An updated copy of the roster with the change will be forwarded to the Secretary. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 penalty for each offense.

ARTICLE V: RECRUITING

- V.1 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.
- V.2 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:
- a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) 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.
 - e) 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.
- V.3 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:
- a) Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration.
 - b) Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service
 - c) Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any person associated with a club
 - d) Offer or acceptance of a residence with any person associated with a club
 - e) Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents or guardians
 - f) Offer or acceptance of payment of moving expenses of parents, guardians or relatives or assistance with the moving of parents, guardians or relatives.
 - g) Offer or acceptance of scholarships when no reasonable financial hardship is in evidence.
 - h) Offer or acceptance of payment of out of town sports fees except in the context of a scholarship player.
 - i) Offer or acceptance of employment of parents, guardians or relatives in order to entice the family to move to a certain community.
 - j) Offer or acceptance of coaching positions to parents, guardians or relatives in order to entice the family to register the player with the club.
 - k) Coercion, actual or implied, in any form.
- V.4 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 five 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 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.10 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.11 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.

- a) 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 6U team weigh in, which shall be no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. A player arriving late may weigh in any time 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.2 Official League scales must be an AYFL approved digital scale. 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.3 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.4 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-ins have started shall be ineligible to play in that game.
- IV.5 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.6 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.7 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.8 All players will show their jersey at weigh in.
- IV.9 If a player does not make the athlete 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 athlete 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.10 The League Member Representative or Field Representative shall initial all the team player cards in ink, and indicate the status of the player for that game, (OK, No Show, Heavy, 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 players over the athlete weight. 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.

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 Teams will play 8 minute quarters(regular timing) 6U/7U / 8U / 9U / 10U / 11U. 12U and 13U 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.
- V.9 Conversion after touchdown will be one (1) point for run or passes, two (2) points for a place kick, except for the 6U, 7U and 8U teams where it would be one (1) point for the run and two (2) points for a pass or kick(no kicking in 6U division).
- V.10 For the 7U and 8U 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) 7U and 8U 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 its 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. The punters lateral movement is limited to 4 yards on either side of the ball. 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) 7U and 8U 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) 7U and 8U 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.
- d) The 7U team will be allowed to have one coach per team on the field during play for the first two games of the regular season. They must be 10 yards behind their respective teams as the 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.11 For the 6U Division only

- a) Coin toss should occur no later than 7:55am, followed by the National Anthem. Teams and chain crew should already be on the field.
- b) No kickoffs – ball will be placed at the offensive teams 30 yard line. The RFP will be blown at 8am sharp and the play clock and game clock will be started.
- c) No punts – declared punts will be 20 yards downfield from the LOS or half the distance to the goal line when punting inside the 20 yard line. The clock will stop for the placement of the ball and the change of possession. Clock will stop at the snap of the ball.
- d) Two coaches will be allowed on the field for the purpose of instruction and fair play. They must be 5 yards behind their respective teams as the ball is put into play. No communication can occur once the quarterback begins to call the cadence.

- e) A 40 second play clock rule shall be imposed at the ready for play whistle.
 - f) Following the RFP, the referee will indicate 10-seconds remaining on the play clock by raising his or her arm in the air. At this moment, the offensive coaches shall move to their position behind the referee, and the defensive coaches shall move to their position behind the safety.
 - g) If the offensive coaches move into their position behind the referee before the 10-second notification, the defensive coaches shall move into their position behind the safety.
 - h) A muffed snap may be advanced ONLY by the quarterback, provided he recovers and does not have a knee on the ground.
 - i) Defense must line up at least 1 yard off of the ball and shall not line up over the center. A violation of the 1 yard neutral zone will be a dead ball foul for encroachment.
 - j) There will be no blitzing – Linebackers may not be moving toward the line of scrimmage prior to the snap.
 - k) In the event of a safety, the defensive team shall receive 2 points and the ball at their own 30 yard line.
- V.12 The following rules shall apply for all players over the athlete weight for that division:
- a) The intent of the following rules are to ensure that offensive players over the designated athlete weight for the specified division 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 the designated athlete weight for the specified division 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 the designated athlete weight for the specified division will have a large letter ‘H’ 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 a warning. Each subsequent failure, for the same player or any other player on the team, will be penalized as an illegal procedure penalty.
 - 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 onside kick.
- V.13 A league game is a game played between two teams according to National Federation rules, as modified for the AYFL in these bylaws. In the event the score is tied at the end of the fourth period of a league game, the winner shall be decided in accordance with the procedure described in the current NFHS football rulebook in supplemental materials entitled "Resolving Tied Games"
- V.14 Forfeiture of a game without cause determined by the AYFL Board will result in a recorded loss for the team and a \$300.00 fine for the League member. This fine can't be mitigated.
- V.15 There will be only 8 carded AYFL coaches, 3 team moms/dads, 3 water persons, and one statistician allowed inside the ropes designating the field of play, or the area for players and coaches. The team moms/dads 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, 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 A player who receives an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty must be removed from the game for at least one (1) play.
- V.21 No timeouts will be granted to the team that is winning if the game is being played with an automatic running clock.
- V.22 If at any point in the 1st 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.23 If at any point in the 1st 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.24 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 50-79 jersey number requirements shall be relaxed.
- V.25 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.26 Head Coaches are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, and especially in automatic running clock situations.
- V.27 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 6U/7U/8U/9U Divisions; the TDJ, J5J or its equivalent for the 10U/11U Division; and the TDY, J5Y or its equivalent for the 12U/13U 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. 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 |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 7U | 8m/90m | 8:30am | 10:30am |
| 8U | 8m/90m | 10:00am | 12:00pm |
| 9U | 8m/90m | 11:30am | 1:30pm |
| 10U | 8m/90m | 1:00pm | 3:00pm |
| 11U | 8m/90m | 2:30pm | 4:30pm |
| 12U | 10m/120m | 4:00pm | 6:00pm |
| 13U | 10m/120m | 6:00pm | 8:00pm |

Example:

- 1. The 11U game is suspended for rain with 6 minutes remaining in the 3rd quarter.*
- 2. Remaining game time = 14 minutes (6 in 3rd and 8 in 4th). $14 \times 3 = 42$.*
- 3. Latest allowable start for the 12U game is 6pm. $6\text{pm} - 42\text{ mins} = 5:18\text{pm}$.*
- 4. Result: If play has not resumed by 5:18 the game must be rescheduled, and the 12U game will kick off as soon as the field is ready for play. 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 | |
|---|--|
| <i>Cell phone use by the chain crew is prohibited under any circumstances.</i> | |
| <i>Chain Crew may not communicate in any fashion with players on the field or opposing bench.</i> | |
| <i>Ineligible players must have their shoulder pads removed while inside the ropes.</i> | |
| <i>7U/8U 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.</i> | |
| 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. | |
| 6U/7U/8U/9U: K size ball | |
| 10U/11U: J size ball | |
| 12U/13U: Y size 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. | |
| Final Referee Instructions to Coaches on the field immediately following the coin toss. | |
| Game Timing | |
| 6U Games: 6 Minute Quarters(regular timing). 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U Games: 8 Minute Quarters | |
| 12U, 13U 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 | |
| 6U/7U/8U PAT | Run: 1 Point, Pass: 2 Points, Kick: 2 Points |
| 9U-13U PAT | Run: 1 Point, Pass: 1 Point, Kick: 2 Points |
| 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 1st half or 28 point lead in 2nd 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

7U/8U Special Teams Rules

Declared Punts, Field Goal Attempts and PAT Kicks:

1. 7U/8U 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. The Punters lateral movement is limited to 4 yards on either side of the ball.
3. Offense has 8 seconds from snap to get kick off or ball is dead at original spot.
4. Defense must have at least 8 defenders within 5 yards of LOS when offense sets.
5. 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

Heavyweight Rules

Player > athlete weight for their division 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.