

Central Texas Youth Football League (CTYFL)

I.

Purpose

- A. The articles contained in this document establish guidelines for managing the business operations and financing resources of CTYFL and the rules governing the members.
- B. The CTYFL objective is to provide for the youth of their areas a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment in which to learn football and cheerleader basic fundamentals, sportsmanship, self-pride, discipline and team spirit. Coaches will be expected to accomplish this objective with their best efforts in training and maximizing playing time for all team members.
- C. Associations will accept all participants. No participant will be cut or prohibited from participation for any reason other than discipline, health or safety.

II.

Organization and Membership

- A. CTYFL is an organization of separate associations with the same goals of youth sports.
- B. All associations within CTYFL must be nonprofit organizations. Associations have ninety (90) days, from their acceptance into CTYFL to begin the process of becoming a certified, nonprofit organization. Nonprofit certification must be achieved within the probationary period (see item (D) below) of that association. They may be certified as nonprofit on their own merits or under the umbrella of a parent organization (Optimist Club, etc.). Under no circumstances will any association run for profit by any individual(s) or organizations be allowed to maintain membership within CTYFL or participate in any CTYFL sponsored event.
- C. Probationary membership will be granted with the unanimous approval of the current membership by vote at a scheduled meeting of CTYFL. New members MUST apply on or before February 28 and be accepted before July 1 of the year they wish to be admitted to be eligible to participate in the upcoming season beginning August 1st. Membership will require the association to adhere to the CTYFL bylaws and make timely payment of all league fees.
- D. New associations must serve at least one (1) season on probation from date of acceptance by CTYFL. During this period, new associations are encouraged and invited to attend all CTYFL board functions, but will have no voting privileges on CTYFL issues.
- E. CTYFL will vote to allow full membership to Probationary Associations at its First Meeting (usually January) of the year following their probationary season. This vote will be by the CTYFL Executive Board and the eligible voting associations and must include ALL current, eligible voters. Approval will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority. All dissenters will be given an opportunity to voice their reasons/opinions prior to the vote, but only specific, verifiable violations of the word or spirit of the CTYFL bylaws will be reason to cast a negative vote.
- F. The CTYFL Board of Directors reserves the right to exert authority over the Board of Directors of any CTYFL Association. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the authority to remove and/or ban any member of the offending association, including members of the Board of Directors of the Association, parents of participants, coaches, participants and any other individuals associated with the Association, from any and all CTYFL or Association specific functions. CTYFL reserves this right to take corrective action only to maintain the standards of behavior expected of all CTYFL participants. CTYFL will exert such authority only when any association fails to maintain internal order or to prevent the failure of the offending association.
- G. In order to provide the required Insurance for coaches and players, as well as other CTYFL financial obligations, each association must make payments to and as directed by the CTYFL board of directors.
- H. An association can lose its membership by unanimous vote of the other, current (non-probationary) member associations and the CTYFL Executive Board.

III.

Administrative

- A. Officers / Board of Directors
 - 1. CTYFL Officers are: President, Vice-President (Football), Vice-President (Cheerleaders) , Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will comprise the Executive Board of CTYFL and will be elected by majority vote of the Board of Directors for two-

year terms. The Board of Directors of CTYFL will consist of one (1) representative from each Association. The Executive Board (League Officers) will each also have one vote on all issues except for the President who will vote only in the case of a tie. The President, Vice-President (Cheerleaders) and Secretary positions will be up for election in the same year. The Vice-President (Football) and Treasurer will be up for election the following year.

2. Duties of the President:

- a. The President will chair all meetings and committees.
- b. The President will oversee the duties of all other CTYFL Board members.
- c. The President will vote only in the case of a tie.

3. Duties of the Vice-President (Football):

- a. The Vice-President (Football) will assume the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence.
- b. The Vice-President (Football) will be the contact person for any questions pertaining to football rules or CTYFL bylaws arising during any CTYFL football competition. Determinations made by the VP of Football will be final unless overturned by the CTYFL Board at its next regular or emergency meeting.
- c. The Vice-President (Football) will perform the duties of scheduler.

4. Duties of the Vice-President (Cheerleaders):

- a. The Vice-President (Cheerleaders) will administer the cheerleader program, organize and administer cheerleader competition.
- b. The Vice-President (Cheerleaders) will be the contact person for any questions pertaining to cheer rules or CTYFL bylaws arising during any CTYFL cheer competition. Determinations made by the VP of Cheerleaders will be final unless overturned by the CTYFL Board at its next regular or emergency meeting.

5. Duties of the Secretary:

- a. The Secretary will keep minutes of all meetings and will notify all board members of meetings.
- b. The Secretary will assume the duties of President in the absence of the President and Vice-President.

6. Duties of the Treasurer:

- a. The Treasurer will be responsible for presenting and managing the budget and financial report.
- b. The Treasurer will ensure that all league bills are paid.

B. Meetings / Voting

- 1. League meetings will be regularly scheduled.
- 2. All issues other than changes to CTYFL bylaws and League membership may be resolved by an e-mail vote of the Board of Directors with vote to be certified by the Executive Board.
- 3. A working e-mail address is required for either Executive Board or Board of Directors membership.

IV.

Insurance

- A. CTYFL will provide medical, liability and executive board insurance coverage for all participants.

V.

Coaches

- A. All coaches must be certified each year according to the standards and in a method to be determined by CTYFL. Coach ID badges will be issued to each certified coach by CTYFL. It is the responsibility of each coach to find out from their organizations the time and place for their fall coach certification training.
- B. The number of coaches allowed on the sideline, per team, is limited as follows:
 - 1. Tackle.....Maximum of 6 coaches, including the Head Coach and statistician.
 - 2. Flag.....Maximum of 4 coaches, including the Head Coach and statistician (if applicable).
 - 3. Cheerleaders2 coaches for squads of 2-12 cheerleaders / 3 coaches for squads of 13 or more.

- C. It is the coach's responsibility to review, 15-20 minutes before the game, the opposing team's players' book to ensure that all players are eligible and certified. Coaches cannot waive this requirement. If the check has not been completed by the time the officials are ready to start the game, both teams will lose one time out. Any player not present when the books are reviewed must check in immediately with the Field Director who will escort him to the opposing team's sideline with his team book. A coach from the opposing team must then check him against his card in his team's book before he will be eligible to play.
- D. Profanity will not be tolerated. Any coach who violates this rule will be immediately ejected from the game. Any repeat violations will result in a mandatory one-year suspension.
- E. The Head Coach of each team will be held responsible for the conduct of his team's spectators and his assistant coaches. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against those spectators or coaches will count as a penalty against that team and Head Coach.
- F. All Coaches leaving any given Association to participate with another Association must have a release from the CTYFL Board of Directors. Pending approval of the CTYFL Board of Directors, the release will be signed after July 1 of the current season.
- G. Coaches who do not receive a release and/or coach illegally with the new Association will be banned from participation in the CTYFL for two years.
- H. No Person will be allowed on the sideline without a badge. All sideline personnel must have their badges clearly visible while they are participating in a game. Violations will result in a mandatory one game suspension.
- I. Any coach or sideline personnel ejected from a league game, function or facility will be suspended from further participation in league activities for a minimum of 1 additional game or as determined by the CTYFL Board.
- J. No electronic or other communications devices (except radios used by field directors/officials) shall be allowed on either sideline for any purpose. These shall include, but are not limited to, 2-way radios, walkie-talkies, cell phones or any other such device intended for or capable of transmissions or communications from one point to another.

VI.

Player Eligibility / Recruiting / Registration

- A. Players may be both males and females between the ages of 5 to 12 years old (for football) or 5 to 13 years old (for cheerleading) - ages are as of July 31.
- B. There is no weight limit on participants except in the PeeWee Division (Appendix A).
- C. All CTYFL associations must accept all children who attempt to register for their program as long as they are able to make required payments, provide CTYFL required documents and meet all other CTYFL eligibility requirements. In order to accomplish this, all associations must provide the CTYFL Executive Board with proof of their efforts to reach out to all the children in their area. At a minimum, each association must distribute flyers advertising their program through all public elementary schools within a reasonable distance of their practice and playing fields. They must provide each of these schools enough flyers for every child in grades Pre-K through 5th grade. These flyers must meet all requirements of the school/school district in addition to being approved by the CTYFL Executive Board. Every flyer must also contain the required wording found in Appendix E of these bylaws and must make very clear when and where children may be registered. Associations must provide every reasonable opportunity for children to be registered. Associations not registering on-line must provide walk-up registration until their declared registration cutoff date.
- D. Any association electing early registration cut-off for any CTYFL age group within the association must also cut off registration for all other age groups within that association. Registration may not be cut off earlier than the Official Draft date (see Appendix D - CTYFL Scheduled Dates).
- E. Theft of services or equipment from any CTYFL Association or outstanding financial obligations to any CTYFL Association will not be allowed by CTYFL. No player may participate at any CTYFL association if he/she or his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have any outstanding financial obligation to any CTYFL Association or have unresolved allegations of stolen property or services from any CTYFL Association. Violations of this article will be treated the same as participation of an illegal player (G-3 below).
- F. The required wording found in Appendix E of these bylaws must appear prominently in all forms of communication from all associations including all flyers, web sites, on-line registration services, etc.

G. Certification

1. Each association will certify their participants in accordance with the CTYFL bylaws and present all documents to the CTYFL Board for final review at a time and location to be determined by the CTYFL Board (Appendix D).
2. All associations will provide their official team rosters to the CTYFL President immediately upon completion of that association's team certification. Official rosters for each association must be completed prior to the official League Final Certification date (Appendix D).. This roster will be kept by the President for a period of at least one year and may not be altered without approval of the CTYFL Board of Directors. Unapproved alteration of any official team roster will be treated the same as certifying an illegal player.
3. Any Association found guilty of knowingly certifying an illegal player will be banned from CTYFL for a period of one year and will be readmitted only with approval of the CTYFL Board. Any coach, parent, official, etc. knowingly involved will be banned for life.
4. Certification requirements are as follows:
 - a. Copy of Birth Certificate, Passport or Military ID - **No Hospital Certificates are allowed.**
 - b. Current Photograph
 - c. Spectator Behavior Policy Form - must be signed by parent or legal guardian.
 - d. Sports Physical performed by a licensed Physician – preferred, but Waiver signed by parents/guardians is still acceptable.

G. Players who sign up with one Association and then want to go to another Association after August 1 of that season must ask for a release. The intent is to allow the losing Association to determine if there is a problem that they need to take care of and after meeting with the parents, release should be granted.

VII. Team Make-Up

- A. Each Association with two or more teams in any age group will place all players within that age group into a draft pool. For draft purposes, each Association will determine their number of teams at each age level by taking the number of players registered, per age group, as of the Monday prior to the scheduled draft day and dividing that number by 20.
- B. Each team will have a Head Coach and one (1) Assistant Coach who will have one (1) protected player each. The protected players will be placed on the draft roster starting in the third round and will count toward the total number of players. Protected players are defined as natural children, adopted children, stepchildren, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and wards.
- C. The draft order will be determined by a hat draw. In the Draft, each team will have one first round pick then the last team will pick again followed by the 2nd to last, etc. back to the first and then starting over, thus forming a snake.
- D. Late registrations will be placed on teams in the order of the snake.
- E. Trades are allowed, but must be one for one - no multiple player trades are allowed. Teams must be equal in numbers within one player at the end of the Draft.
- F. No trades are allowed after the teams leave the Draft meeting.
- G. All drafts will be conducted by 2 members of the Executive Board of each Association and will be overseen by a neutral member of the CTYFL Board of Directors. The official draft day shall be the second Friday after the first day of practice. Associations may schedule their draft to occur any time between the first Monday after the first day of practice up to and including the official draft day. Each association must notify the CTYFL President of the date and location of their draft at least 48 hours in advance of their scheduled draft.
- H. Rookie and Junior tackle teams will be comprised of no more than 24 players. However, this maximum team size may be increased to 28 upon successful appeal, by any team, to the CTYFL Board of Directors. This waiver will be automatically approved ONLY for one team within any age group in any association and ONLY IF the team can show that no eligible children were turned away and registration has closed for the team's Association. Senior tackle teams will be comprised of no more than 28 players, with a waiver to 30 players under the guidelines specified above. Under no circumstances is this waiver to be used by any coach as a means to circumvent the stated purpose of this league in order to gain a competitive advantage. If the CTYFL Board of Directors determines that this is the intent behind any appeal, the penalty will be the same as certifying an illegal player. Flag football team sizes will be as stated in Appendix C (CTYFL Flag Football Rules and Regulations).

- I. All tackle football players must play a minimum of 8 plays per half of every game they attend. The only exceptions allowed are for disciplinary or medical reasons or if the player or the player's parent/guardian requests the player be exempted. A designated coach from each team will be assigned to track each play for each player on the team, using the forms provided by CTYFL. All exceptions requested by either team must be brought to the attention of the field director immediately as well as documented on the CTYFL provided form. These forms must be completed and turned in to the field director at the end of each half of play and will be forwarded to the VP of Football along with the field reports. If any player has not received the minimum number of plays (unless as noted above) the field director will bring it to the head coach's attention. Players who did not receive their minimum plays in the first half must be given their minimum plays for the second half plus the plays they missed during the first half. It is the responsibility of the head coach of each team to ensure that all players receive their allotted playing time regardless of the game score or situational disadvantage it may cause his team. Failure of a coach to achieve this result is a direct repudiation of the stated goals and purpose of CTYFL by that coach. The first offense by a coach will result in his/her suspension for the next game. Any additional infractions will be cause for his/her immediate and permanent removal from CTYFL.
- J. All teams are restricted to a maximum combination of practices and games of 4 per week.

**VIII.
Rules**

- A. CTYFL will use the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football rules for the current year for all tackle football teams. Any exceptions must be youth oriented, must be approved by the CTYFL Board and must be established in Appendix A.
- B. Cheerleaders will be governed by rules in Appendix B.
- C. Flag football will be governed by rules in Appendix C.

**IX.
Conduct**

- A. Each Association is responsible for providing a safe, pleasant and trouble free environment for visitors and teams.
- B. Association officers shall take appropriate action to control conduct problems listed, but not limited to the following:

1. Use of alcoholic beverages	5. Verbal Misconduct	9. Use of tobacco products
2. Possession or use of illegal drugs	6. Dangerous Driving	
3. Trespassing	7. Theft and Vandalism	
4. Physical Misconduct	8. Illegal Parking	
- C. No direct solicitation by any organization (players, coaches, parents, etc.) in any form may be made to a member of another organization with the intent of recruitment. Penalty is a mandatory one (1) year suspension.
- D. It may become necessary to take appropriate action if people violate rules, common sense or the law. CTYFL reserves the right to ban any person or persons who endanger the safety of others participating in the program.
- E. In order to ensure participant safety, any team receiving 2 unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on their spectators will immediately forfeit that game. Continued unsportsmanlike conduct by those spectators may result in further actions including sanctions against that team by CTYFL.
- F. CTYFL has the authority to request assistance of law enforcement organizations or the courts, if necessary, to promote a safe environment.
- G. Any person guilty of assault is automatically and indefinitely suspended. Assault shall include, but not be limited to; threats or actions that put another person in fear of bodily harm or attacks on a person or his/her property (including a person's equipment and vehicle). It can include raising a clenched fist or holding any object that could be used as a weapon. It shall also include verbal assault, which is verbally threatening, cursing or abusing a person or any member of his/her family.
- H. Suspension shall mean that a coach, assistant coach, player, team or fan shall not participate in any club or Association sanctioned or approved activity, tournament or inter-association game.
- I. Appeals
 - 1. Sanctions or actions against a member of any Association may be appealed (in writing only) to the CTYFL Board only by that Association after they have reviewed the facts involved.

2. The appeal shall contain a statement of facts, the ruling of the Association, the complainant's or appellant's position, the action requested of the Board and any legal action that may be pending. Other statements supporting the complainant or appellant's position may be provided with the appeal.
3. Appeals of ejections shall be limited to players only. No appeal of coaches, spectators, etc. ejections will be heard. All player ejections must come through their Association to the CTYFL Board and must be accompanied by video evidence sufficient to overturn the ejection.
4. In order to prevent frivolous and time consuming appeals, a \$100.00 cash bond must accompany the appeal to the CTYFL Board.
 - a. In the event a decision is made in favor of the appeal, the cash bond will be refunded to the complainant or appellant.
 - b. In the event a decision is made in favor of the action or sanction (ejection, interpretation of rules, etc.) the \$100.00 cash bond will be deposited to the CTYFL General Account.
5. An appeal must be made within 2 working days (48 hours) of the action or sanction. If this is not done, the appeal will not be heard.
6. A neutral member of the Executive Board or Board of Directors will be appointed to review the video evidence and will decide if the appeal should be upheld. This action will be taken prior to enforcing the player's suspension from the next game.
7. The complainant or appellant will be notified of the CTYFL Board's decision within 48 hours of its decision.

X.

Scheduling

- A. Each Association will provide CTYFL with dates and times of field availability. In the case of any associations which do not directly control or own their field(s), a written commitment from the party or parties that do control or own the field(s) will be required to satisfy this provision. This commitment must be provided to CTYFL no later than July 1 each year. Failure to provide this commitment may result in no home games being scheduled for that association unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- B. CTYFL will provide a fair and equitable schedule and will attempt to schedule equal home and away games for all teams. Associations receiving fewer home games due to an odd number of regular season games in any year, will be given priority for receiving the extra home games the next year there are an odd number of scheduled, regular season games.

XI.

Officials

- A. All Officials must be certified. CTYFL will determine the standards and means for this certification and will inform Officials of the times and places available for certification training. CTYFL will pay for this initial certification. CTYFL may alternatively elect to contract an independent Officials Association for league officiating duties.
- B. Minimum age for Referees (Head Officials/White Hats) will be 18. Minimum age for other Officials will be 15. All Officials under the age of 18 will be on probationary status. All Officials must demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of the game and NCAA rules (as well as CTYFL modifications) and must be certified by CTYFL or an alternative association approved by CTYFL.
- C. All Officials must act in a professional, unbiased and detached manner at all times during all games. Officials will not favor one team over another and will call all penalties the same against both teams regardless of the score. Officials will not set the pace of the game and will not stop any game except according to CTYFL rules.
- D. The CTYFL bylaws specify acceptable and unacceptable behavior by players and coaches on the field. Officials will immediately enforce these rules in a professional manner. It is imperative that Officials remain in control of the conduct on the field, but must never allow personal feelings to interfere with the way they enforce the rules or affect their own conduct on the field. Improper conduct by an Official will be cause for immediate termination from the CTYFL Officials Association or barring Officials from an outside, contracted Officials Association from participating in CTYFL events. All complaints against or by Officials will be brought to the attention of the Referee Committee for investigation prior to review by the CTYFL Board.

- E. It is the Officiating crew's responsibility to review the players' equipment 15-20 minutes before the game to ensure that all players are wearing the proper equipment
- F. The following are guidelines that CTYFL Officials will follow in all circumstances regarding ejecting players/coaches:
 - 1. Use of profanity by player/coach: immediate ejection - NO EXCEPTIONS
 - 2. Fighting by player/coach: any player/coach who throws a punch or in any way strikes another player/coach/Official on the field, except in the normal play of the game, will be immediately ejected - NO EXCEPTIONS
 - 3. Any player/coach who receives two unsportsmanlike penalties will be immediately ejected. In the case of unsportsmanlike penalties against the bench, the Head Coach of the offending team will be ejected in addition to the offending party.
 - 4. The Head Coach of each team is responsible for the conduct of his team's spectators. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against those spectators will count as a penalty against that team and Head Coach.
- G. All volunteers working on the sidelines (chain crew, down marker, timer, etc.) will be under the control of the officiating crew. Any misconduct on the part of these volunteers will be up to the officiating crew to correct. Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: use of profanity, interfering with the team/coaching staff on that side of the field, informing the opposing team of the play(s) sent in by the coach, any talking to players on the field (except restrained encouragement/congratulations, etc.), inattention to the instructions given by the officials on the field, unsportsmanlike behavior or any other violation of CTYFL bylaws. If the misconduct is not corrected, the game will be stopped and that person removed from the sidelines before play may resume.
- H. Officials will work with the Field Director at each field to ensure the safety of the participants/spectators. Field Directors will have the authority to stop any game in case of lightning or thunder or other events that present an immediate threat to safety. Officials are responsible for stopping any game in progress in case of lightning, should the Field Director be absent or not willing to stop the game. The Field Director shall be responsible for enforcing all non-game related rules of CTYFL (book checks, alleged illegal players, etc.) and Officials will not interfere in this enforcement except that it shall not interfere with the game schedule.
- I. The Field Director must present to the head Official (Referee) the Game Report to be reviewed for each game.
- J. Officials will work with the Field Director at each field to ensure the safety of the participants/spectators. Field Directors will have the authority to stop any game in case of lightning or thunder or other events that present an immediate threat to safety. Officials are responsible for stopping any game in progress in case of lightning, should the Field Director be absent or not willing to stop the game. The Field Director shall be responsible for enforcing all non-game related rules of CTYFL (book checks, alleged illegal players, etc.) and Officials will not interfere in this enforcement except that it shall not interfere with the game schedule.
- K. The minimum number of officials required to begin a game are as follows:
 - 1) Midget or PeeWee Flag1
 - 2) PeeWee and Rookie Tackle2
 - 3) Junior & Senior Tackle3
- L. Officials should arrive at least ten (10) minutes before, but no later than five (5) minutes after the scheduled start of all games. If the minimum required officials are present and both scheduled teams are ready to play five (5) minutes after the scheduled start time, the game will commence and only that number of officials present at the start of the game will be allowed to complete the game.

XII.
Field Directors

- A. All hosting Associations will provide at least one Field Director for each field that is in play. Two (2) directors per field are preferred.
- B. Field Director(s) will remain outside of the team area, defined as the rectangular area from the sideline outward from the field a distance of 5 yards (or as marked to accommodate different sized fields) and between the 20 yard lines, unless addressing a specific issue within his/her authority as defined below, in which case the Field Director will inform the Head Coach of the issue being addressed

- C. Field Director(s) will be responsible for ensuring a safe and sportsmanlike atmosphere is maintained in the stands and areas immediately surrounding the playing field. Therefore, Field Directors have absolute authority to stop any game or cause to be removed any person from the area surrounding the playing field, or the sidelines in the event of an out of control coach/parent, if, in their opinion, the continuation of play or the continued presence of a person violating either CTYFL or host Association rules, creates a potentially unsafe environment for either participants or spectators. An on-duty Field Director may also cause to be removed any person for violation of either CTYFL or host Association rules regarding, but not limited to, profanity, violence or threat of violence, use of banned products (tobacco, alcohol, etc.), unsportsmanlike behavior or violation of any of the other tenets of the CTYFL code of behavior or posted host Association rules. Field Directors will not interfere with the normal conduct of any game, as that is solely within the jurisdiction of the Officiating Crew, except as authorized above and to ensure no non-certified personnel are on the sidelines.
- D. Field Directors will introduce themselves to the Officiating crew prior to the start of the first game and after any change in Directors or Officiating Crews during the course of the game day. At least one Field Director must remain in the immediate vicinity of the playing field during all times that games are being played on that field and they must wear a CTYFL approved orange or yellow safety vest and otherwise identify themselves as Field Director.
- E. The Field Director(s) will be responsible for ensuring a CTYFL field report is properly completed and submitted to the CTYFL Executive Board (or their designated person) for each game played on their field(s) every week.
- F. The Field Director(s) must work with the Officiating crew to ensure the safety of spectators and participants in the case of lightning or other events that present an immediate threat to safety. The Field Director(s) must immediately enforce the CTYFL/Association policies in these events.
- G. If a coach/player/spectator is ejected from a game, the Field Director(s) will ensure that the ejected person leaves the area of the playing field/stands and does not return for the period specified by CTYFL bylaws.
- H. The Field Director(s) will secure volunteers for the sideline crew (chains, down marker, clock operator, etc.) prior to the start of each game.
- I. Field Director(s) will ensure that participant ID cards are checked no less than 15 minutes before the scheduled start of each game. If either coach disputes the validity of any player, he must inform the Field Director(s) immediately, but either coach may not take further action, at that time. All disputes may be discussed after the game and the Field Director(s), at that time, will make the final determination as to whether further investigation is required. Any player not present when the books are reviewed must check in immediately with the Field Director who will escort him to the opposing team's sideline with his team book. A coach from the opposing team must then check him against his card in his team's book before he will be eligible to play.

**XIII.
Lightning Policy**

- A. When you first **See Lightning** or **Hear Thunder**, suspend activities and go to shelter. A metal vehicle or a substantial building is a safe place. Wait until 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities.
- B. **This policy goes directly to the safety of the participants and spectators and as such leaves no room for interpretation or noncompliance.** Failure to comply with this policy, either as individuals, teams or associations will result in CTYFL sanctions up to and including expulsion from all league and association sponsored events.

**XIV.
Amendments**

- A. These bylaws may be amended by the eligible voters of the CTYFL Board of Directors (1 representative from each non-probationary Association plus the CTYFL Executive Board members) as follows based on the number of associations within CTYFL (all percentages rounded up to the next whole number of voters):
 - 1) Five (5) or fewer Voting Members..... Unanimous approval of eligible voters
 - 2) Six (6) to Ten (10) Voting Members..... 80% approval of eligible voters
 - 3) Eleven (11) or more Voting Members..... 75% approval of eligible voters

Appendix A • CTYFL Tackle Football Exceptions To NCAA Rules

All divisions will play 10-minute quarters running a modified clock. The clock **ALWAYS** restarts on the “ready whistle” after change of possession, out-of-bounds, incomplete passes, etc. **EXCEPT** in the final 2 minutes of each half, when it will start on the snap.

Field Goals

Teams that wish to kick field goals may use a kicking block up to 2” in height.

Mercy Rule

All regular season games will be terminated immediately any time the score differential becomes 35 points or greater. In any game, when there is a point differential of 24 or greater points, the game clock will run continuously. Post season games may continue with a continuously running clock for the rest of the game unless the differential remains 35 points or greater at the end of the 3rd quarter, at which time the game will be terminated. There are absolutely **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule.

Tiebreaker

NCAA Tiebreaker Rules Exclusively For Post-Season Play / Modified as Follows for Regular Season Play:

After the end of regulation time the officials conduct another coin toss with both team captains. The winner of the toss chooses: (1) To get the ball first or second; and (2) which end of the field is used. The team selected to have the ball first starts at the 25-yard line and gets 4 plays going in toward the goal line. After their 4 plays, the other team does the same. The winner is determined by net positive yardage. *Examples: If a team reaches the goal line on each of its 4 plays, it will have gained 100 yards (maximum possible). If a team advances only to the 24-yard line after its 4 plays, it will have one (1) yard gained. If a team loses yards and does not get back to the 25-yard line, it will have zero (0) yards.* Additional sets of 4-plays will be played only in case of the same or no net yardage for both teams. An interception or fumble recovered by the opposing team ends that four-play series. Net yardage for the team that is intercepted will be determined to be at the line of scrimmage of the play resulting in the interception. In the case of a fumble, it will be at the spot of the fumble (as determined by the official on the field). The opposing team will then begin their 4-play series. Offensive and defensive penalties are treated and marked off (and counted as yards gained or lost) as in regulation play except there are no automatic first downs.

A. Ages / Weight Limits - All ages are as of July 31 that year.

1. **PeeWee Division:** 5 - 7 years old - Maximum weight for players of 75 pounds. Players will be weighed at certification.
2. **Rookie Division:** 7 & 8 years old - No Weight Limits
3. **Junior Division:** 9 & 10 years old - No Weight Limits
4. **Senior Division:** 11 & 12 years old - No Weight Limits

B. Exceptions Common to All Divisions

1. Extra Points: 1 Point for run or pass - 2 Points for kick (ball must go through the uprights).
2. All Game Balls will be Either Composite or Leather of the appropriate size for each division.
3. Footballs: **See Appendix F for the list of approved, age appropriate footballs.**

C. PeeWee Division

1. PeeWee teams will consist of 16 players max. PeeWees will play with 8 players rather than 11.
2. 80-yard field length., field will be 100’ wide (either sideline to the outer hash marks).
3. Major penalties are marked off at 10 yards instead of 15 yards.
4. *Maximum of 3 men, in either 3 or 4 point stance, on the defensive line from offensive tackle to tackle.*
5. Defensive backs/linebackers must line up behind the feet of the down linemen and cannot be in motion toward the neutral zone prior to the snap of the ball. **Anyone moving forward prior to the snap constitutes encroachment on the defense.**
6. Free Punt - No Rush/No Return - **All players except the punter and receiver will be on one knee.** The ball is put in play at the farthest position down field that it rolls or where first touched by the receiver (possession is not required).

D. Rookie Division

1. 80-yard field length , fields will be the regulation width (160').
2. Major penalties are marked off at 10 yards instead of 15 yards.
3. Maximum of 5 men, in either 3 or 4 point stance, on the defensive line from offensive tackle to tackle.
4. Defensive backs/linebackers must line up behind the feet of the down linemen and cannot be in motion toward the neutral zone prior to the snap of the ball. **Anyone moving forward prior to the snap constitutes encroachment on the defense.**
5. Free Punt - No Rush/No Return - **All players except the punter and receiver will be on one knee.** The ball is put in play at the farthest position down field that it rolls or where first touched by the receiver (possession is not required).

E. Junior & Senior Divisions

1. 100 yard field length, regulation width (160').
2. Kick/punt returners must be given minimum of 2 yards clearance from tacklers while catching the ball.

Appendix B • CTYFL Cheerleader By-Laws (Under Review – Will be Revised)

1. There will be a limit of 16 girls per squad.
2. No Mascots will be allowed
3. The cut off date for ages is on or before July 31.
4. The squads will be set according to the same ages as the football divisions. The only exception to these ages is for siblings/relatives of a football player or cheerleader. In this case, they will be placed on the same team regardless of age. In such a case, both participants' registration forms and copies of birth certificates must be presented at certification. In the case of a relative, you must have a notarized letter from both sets of parents to prove the relationship at the time of certification.
5. All cheerleaders and coaches must be certified. Certification requirements are as follows:
 1. Copy of Birth Certificate, Passport or Military ID - **No Hospital Certificates are allowed.**
 2. Current Photograph
 3. Spectator Behavior Policy Form - must be signed by parent or legal guardian.
 4. Medical Release Form
6. The coordinator of each association must provide 2 copies of the official football/cheerleader roster for each squad to the area coordinator at certification.
7. Any alteration of a roster after certification may result in the disqualification of a team from competition. Any coach who alters a roster will be banned from coaching in CTYFL for one (1) year.
8. All coaches must be able to produce the original certification cards for their squad at any league function upon request of any CTYFL official.
9. Official coaches and assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age. All coaches and assistant coaches must be certified by the CTYFL, must carry written proof of certification to any game or league function and be able to produce it upon request to any league official. In order to be a helper, one must be at least 12 years old. Helpers are not official team representatives and will not be listed on the roster. Helpers will not be allowed on the field at any time during games or competition.
10. Any coach or assistant coach allowing any non-certified person in the performing area will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
11. A team with 2-12 cheerleaders may have a maximum of 2 official coaches. A team with 13-16 cheerleaders may have a maximum of 3 official coaches.
12. In the event that there are not enough volunteers for head coach in an age group, a coach/daughter may move one (1) age division upon approval of CTYFL. Classification for competition will be based on the age of the oldest cheerleader on the squad, except for the sibling rule. In the event a senior cheerleader who wants to participate, but doesn't fall under the sibling rule and does not have a senior squad, that cheerleader may cheer on a junior squad for the season, but that squad will be required to compete in the senior division during competition.
13. No sexually explicit moves are allowed.
14. Any cheers performed at a league function must be in good taste and must maintain good sportsmanship. The following types of cheers are specifically prohibited:
 - a. **Negative** (“How does it feel . . .”, etc.)
 - b. **Degrading** (“Cookie Monster”, etc.)
 - c. **Competitive** (“We’ve got spirit . . .”, etc.)Any squad participating in such activity may face suspension from a game or competition.
16. Pyramids are allowed. No more than two (2) people high. No stunt or pyramid may be performed or practiced that requires one standing member to fully support another squad member on her shoulders (i.e. shoulder sits and stands). No basket tosses. Anyone dismounting a pyramid must dismount to the spotter and land on two feet.
17. Any stunt or pyramid must have at least one spotter for every member who is supported entirely by another squad member. Any member of the squad that is a certified participant, excluding coaches and assistant coaches is qualified to be a spotter. If any squad is caught at practice or a game without the required spotters, the entire will be suspended from the next game. Reoccurrence of this violation will result in the disqualification of that squad from competition. If a squad is caught at

competition, that squad will be disqualified from competition. Each association coordinator and the area coordinator will have the authority to suspend the squad from the next game or disqualify the squad from competition.

18. In the event that a squad or squad member is suspended, it is mandatory that the squad or squad member attends the game and sits in the stands and supports the team, even though they will not be allowed on the field to perform. A suspension will not be lifted until the squad or squad member has fully completed the suspension requirement. A squad or squad member will not be permitted to compete in competition while under suspension. In such cases, suspension will be decided upon by a vote of the CTYFL Vice-President (Cheerleaders) and approval of the CTYFL Board.
19. In the event that there is only one squad in any given age division, that squad must score 90% or above, on all judges' sheets, to receive a first place ranking. To receive a second place ranking, that squad must score 80% and to receive a third place ranking, that squad must score 70%. Below 70% would earn that squad a participation award.
20. Judges cannot be a family member of any coach, coordinator or cheerleader participating in competition.
21. For safety reasons, cheerleaders are not allowed to wear any type of jewelry whatsoever. After the first two weeks, if a cheerleader refuses to remove any type of jewelry at a practice, game or competition the individual will be suspended from the next game or disqualified from competition.
22. If an association coordinator misses a meeting, it is her/his responsibility to let the area coordinator know who will replace them at the meeting. It is the association coordinator's responsibility to notify the person replacing them about how their association is to vote on the issues on the agenda. That person will be allowed to vote only if the area coordinator was notified ahead of time of the change and if the replacing person is CTYFL certified.
23. Any discrepancies not covered in the CTYFL Cheerleader By-Laws will be referred to the CTYFL By-Laws. If the discrepancy is not resolved under those bylaws, it will be taken before the CTYFL Board.
24. Any changes to these bylaws must be passed by a unanimous vote of the total number of coordinators in the CTYFL Cheerleader Association before it is taken to the CTYFL Board for approval.

Appendix C • CTYFL Flag Football Rules and Regulations

I. Organization

- A. Team eligibility is based on membership in CTYFL. All eligible teams will abide by the rules and regulations of CTYFL.
 - 1. All team fees must be paid directly to CTYFL.
 - 2. Team fees will cover the cost of insurance, officials and awards.
- B. The CTYFL scheduler (VP Football) will be responsible for scheduling games and the CTYFL Flag Coordinator (if applicable, otherwise the CTYFL Board of Directors) will be responsible for the organization, certification, etc. of the flag program.

II. Player Eligibility

- A. Players may be both males and females. Ages (as of July 31) included:
 - 1. Midget Flag..... 4 - 5 years old
 - 2. PeeWee Flag..... 6 - 7 years old
- B. Younger players may move up to PeeWee Flag with written consent from their parents. Players will NOT be allowed to move down to a younger age division.
- C. There is no weight limit on flag football players.
- D. Certification - Certification rules for Flag Football are the same as for Tackle.

III. Coaches

- A. All coaches must be certified as required by CTYFL. It is the responsibility of each coach to find out from their organizations the time and place for their fall coach certification training.
- B. A total of 4 coaches may be on each sideline. Only the Head Coach for each team may speak to the officials.
- C. One coach from each team may be on the field during the game, but is not allowed to speak with the officials nor interfere with the players on the field during the game. In order for the head coach to speak with the officials, he must use his time out and speak with the official(s) on the sideline away from play.
- D. It is the coach's responsibility to review 15-20 MINUTES before the game the opposing team's players' book to ensure that all players are eligible and certified.
- E. It is the Coach's responsibility to abide by CTYFL objectives regarding playing time, etc.
- F. No Person will be allowed on the sideline without a CTYFL badge.
- G. The head coach is responsible for his coaches, spectators and sideline. Any coach receiving 2 unsportsmanlike penalties will be ejected immediately and subject to suspension as stated in the CTYFL bylaws. In addition, the head coach will also be ejected upon the second unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against the coaches/spectators of his team, whether he was involved in either incident or not.

IV. Time

- A. The game consists of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves. Teams will change sides at the start of the second half.
- B. The clock will run continuously except for:
 - 1. Official's time-out
 - 2. Injury time out
 - 3. One (1)-30 second time out per team, per half
- C. Five (5) minute halftime break.
- D. The ball must be put into play within 45 seconds after the Referee signals the ball ready for play. This will be strictly enforced.
- E. Penalties will NOT stop the clock. (Please note: a game cannot end on a defensive penalty).

V. Equipment

- A. The balls used will be as follows:
 - 1. Midget Flag will use a foam rubber ball, equivalent to the Poof brand ball.
 - 2. PeeWee Flag will use a K-2 (or equivalent) size leather or composite ball.
- B. CTYFL will purchase all flags to be used by the league. Each association will then purchase from CTYFL 1 set (16) of RED and 1 set (16) of YELLOW/GOLD flags for each flag team they field, plus 1 extra set of each color.
- C. The home team will provide 2 sets of flags for each game (1 RED the other YELLOW/GOLD) and the visiting team will select which set of flags they will wear. The home team will then wear the other set with no substitutions.
- D. All flags, shorts and other equipment will be inspected by the officials and field director(s) prior to the beginning of all games and if any discrepancies are found, the home association must immediately substitute another set of flags before the game may begin. If suitable flags are not made available, the home team will forfeit the game and the CTYFL Board will investigate for possible infractions.
- E. The shorts worn by players must not have open pockets, must be a single, solid color and may not be either RED or YELLOW/GOLD and must contrast to both these colors to avoid confusion on the field.
- F. Each team must wear a different color flag.
- G. One flag must be worn on each side (hip) of a player and flags must be immediately repositioned as they move to either the front or back of the players. The coach on the field for each team shall be responsible for ensuring all his players' flags are positioned correctly before the start of each play.
- H. No hats, caps, other headgear, jewelry, metal, or hard plastic can be worn with the exception of prescription safety glasses.

VI. Scoring

- A. Points for scores:
 - 1. Touchdown.....6 points
 - 2. Extra Point (run or pass) from 3-yard line:1 point
 - 3. Extra Point (run or pass) from 10-yard line:.....2 points

VII. The Playing Field

- A. **Midget Flag:** The field will be 50 yards in length with a width of 100 feet (sideline to far hash marks on a regulation width field). Two (2) games may be played on a single 100 yard regulation length field by placing one goal line 5yds deep into the end zone and the other goal line at the 45 yd line. A 10 yd buffer must be maintained between the 2 games being played.
- B. **PeeWee Flag:** The field will be 80 yards in length with a width of 100 feet (sideline to far hash marks on a regulation width field)

VIII. Participation

- A. **Midget Flag:** Each team is limited to a maximum of 10 players. Games will be played with 5 men per team on the field. A minimum of 4 players per team is necessary for a legitimate game. There will be one (1) official per game.
- B. **PeeWee Flag:** Each team is limited to a maximum of 16 players. Games will be played with 8 men per team on the field. A minimum of 7 players per team is necessary for a legitimate game. There will be two (2) officials per game.
- C. Coaches will strive to achieve CTYFL objectives rather than focusing on winning and will play all team members accordingly. Parents are encouraged to work with their team coach regarding their child's playing time/position.
- D. Free (legal) substitution is allowed and encouraged.
- E. Judgment calls by the officials will not be questioned or argued. A coach may inform the official and field director that he is playing the game under protest only in the event that the application or interpretation of a rule was viewed as incorrect. The CTYFL board of directors may choose, upon review of the available facts, to void the game, correct any obvious scoring error or let the results stand. Sufficient evidence must exist to allow any changes to the outcome of any game.

F. No arguing with the officials, begging calls or questioning the judgment of the officials will be tolerated

IX. The Game

- A. There is no kickoff to begin either half of the game. The team that wins the coin toss has the option as defined by NCAA rules.
1. **Midget Flag:** The ball will be put into play at the 10 yd line.
 2. **PeeWee Flag:** The ball will be put into play at the 20 yd line.
- B. All plays must begin from a huddle. All players must break from the huddle in order to be eligible for play. A “No-Huddle” offense will not be allowed. This will be penalized as an illegal substitution/participation.
- C. No Fumbles. The ball is dead when and where it touches the ground, including snaps from center, but not on punts.
- D. First Downs. Both teams will have four (4) downs to make a first down. It is location that determines first downs, not yardage gained.
1. **Midget Flag:** First downs will be gained at the 10, 25 and 10 yard lines in 4 downs or less.
 2. **PeeWee Flag:** First downs will be gained at the 20, 40 and 20 yard lines in 4 downs or less
- E. On fourth down the offensive team must declare their intentions. If they decide to go for a first down, the game resumes. If they choose to punt or kick a field goal, the following apply:
1. Punt - The defense must move to the sideline for an unobstructed kick. Offense must kick - they can not run or fake. Possession will be declared when the ball stops rolling within the playing field or at the point at which it goes out of bounds.
 2. If the offensive team wishes to change their decision after declaring their intentions (to go for it or punt), they must call a time out. Failing to do so or calling a time out after they have already used theirs for the half will result in a delay of game penalty.
- F. Linemen Rules Of Play
1. Offensive Line
 - a. **Midget Flag:** Must have a minimum of three (3) men on the line of scrimmage.
 - b. **PeeWee Flag:** Must have a minimum of five (5) men on the line of scrimmage.
 2. Defensive Line
 - a. All defensive players must start at least 1 yard off the line of scrimmage. Violation of this 1 yard buffer will be penalized as defensive encroachment.
- G. Blocking
1. Blocking shall be restricted to a moving or stationary screen with the arms of the blocker crossed and against their chest. Uncrossing or extending the arms out from the body to any degree will be penalized as an illegal block. The official(s) will make this determination without assistance from coaches/spectators of either team. A player extending his arms to protect himself from a fall or collision on the sideline will not be considered an illegal block.
 2. Blocking will not be allowed further than 5 yards down field from the line of scrimmage. This will be a judgment call by the officials and will be treated as an illegal block.
 3. By crossing their arms in front and against their chests, the blockers are placed into the vulnerable position, so it will be the responsibility of the defensive players to avoid the blocker(s). They may not use their arms or hands as a wedge to contact the offensive blocker(s).
 4. Illegal contact between the blocker/rusher will be called against the player determined to have initiated contact (similar to block/charge in basketball).
 5. Offensive players may not maintain a moving screen down field while a pass is in the air. This restricts the defensive player from attempting to catch the pass and will be treated as offensive pass interference. All players must have an unobstructed path to the ball.

H. Defensive Rush

1. No defensive player may be in motion toward the line of scrimmage until the ball has been snapped. Violations will be penalized as defensive encroachment.

I. Tackling (Pulling the Flag)

1. At least one (1) flag must be removed and held in the air for the official to see to make a tackle.
2. A defender cannot remove the flag of any player unless that player has possession of the ball.
3. All flags must be in place before the beginning of each play. The play is dead and the ball will be positioned at the spot where any player without BOTH FLAGS (either not on when the play started or lost by accident during the course of the play) receives the ball.
4. Flags cannot be tied, placed or wrapped or otherwise secured or not secured in any manner that would prevent them from being removed in a normal manner. All flag belts must be snug on the players and extra lengths of the belt must be tucked in to the players' shorts prior to the start of play.
5. The play is dead if any part of the ball carrier other than his/her hands or feet touches the ground.
6. Defender must attempt to pull the ball carrier's flag. They cannot tackle, or trip a ball carrier, nor may they grasp the clothing, push out of bounds or in any other way initiate contact with the ball carrier to stop his progress. It will be the sole responsibility of the official to determine if contact is intentional or incidental.
7. Striking, stealing or stripping the ball in any way is not allowed. The point of the game is to pull the ball carrier's flag, not attempt to dislodge the ball.

J. Ball Carrier

1. The ball carrier cannot use his/her hands to ward off a defensive player or to protect his/her flags in any way. He/She cannot run with the flag moved to the front causing it to hang down between their legs.
2. Stiff-arms are illegal.
3. Fumbles are dead balls.
4. The ball carrier's feet cannot leave the ground to avoid losing a flag.
5. It is the responsibility of the ball carrier to avoid the tackler. He cannot attempt to run over the tackler or in any other way initiate contact to either advance the ball or draw a foul against the defensive person.

K. Passing

1. All players are eligible receivers.
2. One forward pass is allowed per scrimmage play and must be attempted from behind the line of scrimmage. Laterals are allowed at any point behind or past the line of scrimmage.
3. Pulling a receiver's flag before he/she gains possession of the ball is pass interference and will result in an automatic first down.
4. No forward hand off is allowed beyond the line of scrimmage.
5. An interception can be advanced.
6. Defensive players may not contact the passer nor hit the passer's arm whether or not they block the pass (roughing the passer). Pulling the passer's flag does not constitute contact with the passer.

L. Penalties

OFFENSE

1. Delay of Game (1st offense per series)5 yards
2. Delay of Game (2nd + offense per series)5 yards and loss of down
3. False Start/Illegal Motion/Illegal formation5 yards
4. Illegal Snap5 yards
5. Illegal Substitution/ Illegal Participation5 yards
6. Illegal Pass/Handoff.....5 yards
7. Flag Guarding/Stiff Arm.....10 yards (spot foul)
8. Illegal Screen/Holding/Blocking10 yards
9. Pass Interference/Illegal Downfield Screen.....10 yards previous spot/loss of down
10. Leaving feet to avoid flag pull.....10 yards
11. * Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Unnecessary Roughness.....10 yards and loss of down

DEFENSE

1. Delay of Game (1st offense per series)5 yards
2. Delay of Game (2nd + offense per series)5 yards automatic 1st down
3. Encroachment5 yards
4. Illegal Substitution/ Illegal Participation5 yards
5. Roughing the Passer.....10 yards automatic 1st down
6. Illegal Contact/Tackling/Holding10 yards
7. Striking/Stealing/ Stripping the Ball.....10 yards (spot foul)
8. Illegal Flag Pull.....10 yards automatic 1st down
9. Pass Interference10 yards automatic 1st down
10. * Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Unnecessary Roughness.....10 yards automatic 1st down

* Two (2) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on any player during a game will cause the offending player to be immediately ejected from the game and subject to suspension as defined in the CTYFL bylaws for player ejections.

Appendix D • CTYFL Scheduled Dates

- A. First Day of Practice..... August 1 (unless Sunday, then August 2)
- B. Helmets/Shoulder Pads/Limited Contact (no person to person)..... 1st day of practice
- C. First Day of Full Contact Practice in Pads..... 1st Monday after 1st practice
- D. Official Draft Day..... 2nd Friday after start of Practice
- E. Early Registration Cut-Off..... Same as Official Draft Day
- F. Pre-Season Scrimmage At a time TBD by CTYFL
- G. Opening Day 1st Saturday after Labor Day Weekend
- H. Official Certification/Final Registration Cut-Off 1 day before Opening Day

Appendix E • Required Language on ALL CTYFL Recruiting Flyers, Websites, Etc.

- A. “Registration for [Member Association] football/cheerleading is open to all children, ages 5 – 12 for football and ages 5 – 13 for cheerleaders. Registration must remain open until [_____] and all who wish to register by this date must be accepted as long as they make required payments, provide required CTYFL documents and meet all other CTYFL eligibility requirements. No try-outs will be held - all children who register for [Member Association] football/cheerleading will play. Violations of this CTYFL policy will not be tolerated. Please report any violation of this policy to the CTYFL Vice-President of Football (for football violations) or to the CTYFL Vice-President for Cheerleading (for cheer violations) at the email address below for immediate investigation and action:”

Appendix F • CTYFL Approved, Age Appropriate Footballs

A. PeeWee

- 1) Wilson K2 (Leather)
- 2) Nike 1000K (Composite)
- 3) Nike 705K (Composite)
- 4) Nike 2000K (Leather)
- 5) Spaulding PeeWee (Leather)
- 6) Baden PeeWee (Composite)

B. Rookie/Junior

- 1) Wilson TDJ (Leather)
- 2) Nike 705J (Composite)
- 3) Nike 1000J (Composite)
- 4) Nike 2000J (Leather)
- 5) Spaulding Junior (Leather)
- 6) Baden Junior (Composite)
- 7) Rawlings Pro5 JR (Leather)

C. Senior

- 1) Wilson TDY (Leather)
- 2) Nike 705Y (Composite)
- 3) Nike 1000Y (Composite)
- 4) Nike 2000Y (Leather)
- 5) Spaulding Youth (Leather)
- 6) Baden Youth (Composite)
- 7) Rawlings Pro5 Youth (Leather)