



## 2010 Game Rules and Guidelines

### I. TITLE

1. The league shall be known as the Greater Catholic Youth League (the "GCYL"). New league entries will not change the title.

### II. MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

1. Each Member (Program) shall be designated as defined in the Greater Catholic Youth League (GCYL) Regulations and Bylaws Effective March 12, 2010. All member programs shall be afforded all rights and obligations as defined in the above fore mentioned regulations and bylaws.
  - ◆ Voting Members shall meet the required obligations as stated by the league no later than January 1 beginning in 2011.
  - ◆ Participating Members shall complete all perquisite paper as required by the league by the date published annually by the league.
  - ◆ Addendum A is a list of schools and their affiliations any change to this must be approved by the GCYL Board of Voting Members.
2. The Regulations and Bylaws of the GCYL shall supersede any terms, roles or duties of member programs identified within this document.
3. Each Program may have only one league representative.
4. A Program representative will be recognized upon receipt of a letter of introduction by the school or parish athletic association or equivalent.
5. If two or more parishes or grade schools find it necessary to combine or merge to form a single Program in order to participate, they must submit a formal request to the league office prior to any combination or merger. Such requests must include the approval of the athletic commission of each parish or school. The final decision to permit or deny such request will rest with the GCYL Board of Members. The league reserves the right to contact directly the athletic commission and/or pastor of each parish/school to review and discuss combinations or mergers.
6. Any Program may choose to enter teams at any level. Each league entry will be assessed an entry fee to cover league costs. The amount of the fee will be determined by need. Any Program paying league fees after July 31<sup>st</sup> will be assessed a \$25.00 fine per each month late. All surplus funds will be returned to Programs evenly. If any Program is not represented at two successive meetings, the secretary will send a letter to the athletic association of the parish informing them that they are not being represented.
7. Any school that would like to explore the possibility of starting a program of their own the league would welcome and give as much support as possible.

### III. LEAGUE EXPANSION

1. Interested prospective members have been identified in Article I, Section 1.03 PURPOSE of the GCYL Regulations and Bylaws.
2. Any expansion beyond that designated in the Regulations and Bylaws shall require modification to the Regulations and Bylaws.

### IV. QUALIFICATIONS

#### 1. Enrollment:

Each player, in order to be eligible, must be either (1) currently enrolled in the school or (2) must be registered in the parish of one of the schools involved in the Program he represents. In the case of an in-season transfer, the player has the option of playing for either team prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the season. Many schools require players to attend CCD to participate on the team but this is not a league rule. The Board of Voting Members reserves the right to verify Program rosters with the parish and/or schools

Unattached players may be assigned to play on member programs if it meets with the approval of both parishes/schools and the GCYL Board. The player assignment will be made through the GCYL Board who will assess geographic alignment and competitive balance within the league and the member programs for all perspective players who fall under this scenario. If a family is registered at more than one parish, they are eligible to play with only one Program. Their choice of Program becomes permanent to the extent that multiple parish membership continues and for the duration of the affected individual's involvement in the league athletics. If a family is registered to a parish and attends school associated with a different parish, they are eligible to play with either their parish or school's Program. Their choice of Program participation becomes permanent to the extent that this situation continues for the duration of the affected individual's involvement in the league. Any deviations from this rule will require Board approval.

#### 2. Age:

**Bandit:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not become nine (9) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Pony:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game, must not become ten (10) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and eleven (11) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Reserve:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not become twelve (12) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup> for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and thirteen (13) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Varsity:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not become fourteen (14) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and fifteen (15) years of age before August 1<sup>st</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Note:** If any player who does not meet the age requirements outlined above for his grade, they will be permitted to participate at the next grade level up with in the program the player is a member of.

#### 3. Grade:

**Bandit:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must be enrolled in the second grade or under.

**Pony:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must be enrolled in the fourth grade or under.

Reserve: A player to be eligible to play in any league game must be enrolled in the sixth grade or under.

Varsity: A player to be eligible to play in any league game must be enrolled in the eighth grade or under.

4. **Weight:**

**Bandit:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not exceed 100 pounds.

**Pony:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not exceed 120 pounds.

**Reserve:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not exceed 140 pounds.

**Varsity:** A player to be eligible to play in any league game must not exceed 170 pounds.

- a. The weight restrictions shall be increased two (2) lbs. in each class at the beginning of the play-offs.
- b. ALL players MUST be weighed prior to each game by the opposing team's coach or representative. All players must have their jersey with them. Players will not be allowed to weigh in with no clothing in order to make weight. The opposing team's head coach, or representative, will act as the final judge. The home team must furnish the scale approved by the league. All teams must use a beam type scale (aka detecto) If prior to kickoff a player makes body weight for his respective division, with or without football equipment, he will be eligible to play. To participate in the game, all players must wear all required football equipment as listed in Article VIII of these rules.
- c. Each team shall have an opportunity to weigh-in at least 30 minutes prior to the game time. If mutually agreeable to both teams, earlier weigh-ins will be permitted. At weigh-ins, rosters with names and numbers are to be exchanged between teams.
- d. No team or any of its representatives may waive the weight limit for any player.
- e. All players must be presented for weigh-ins.

5. **Participation**

- a. A player can only play for one team (Bandit, Pony, Reserve or Varsity) per day. Any roster changes must be submitted to league Board prior to the third game of the season at the start of third game all rosters are final. During the first two weeks of the regular season overweight players can either practice with their age group team while trying to lose weight or play up. (Coaches should limit contact of overweight players if they are practicing with their age group.) Prior to the beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup> week of games all rosters must be final and turned into the league Board. At this time overweight players must choose which team they will be with for the remainder of the season. If a player is overweight for his age group and wishes to move up the change must be before the roster is final (start of game #3). Players who have started the season playing up due to weight may also move down during this time. Any changes/additions, etc. to the roster after the 3<sup>rd</sup> game must be approved by the board.

- i. THE GCYL CONFERENCE IS A COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF PLAYING TIME.

6. **Roster and Contract**

Official league rosters will be submitted by the school representative of each team to the league secretary electronically one week prior to the 1st game. On the official league roster all information must be complete. Players information must include name, address, birth date, school attended, grade level, jersey number. Special eligibility request should be noted on the official rosters. The penalty for not submitting rosters will be forfeiture of any games played prior to the submission of the rosters.

Each team's roster must include all coaches listing names and phone numbers on the team roster form. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

- a. Any changes in the roster must be submitted in writing to the league Board before any player is eligible to play.
- b. Additions to the roster may only be made prior to the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) scheduled Saturday of the season.
- c. Any team having a player or players that are ineligible due to age and or school affiliations will face disciplinary action from the league. The league will hold a meeting to discuss the roster violation to determine the appropriate penalty. In most cases forfeiture of all games in which the illegal player participated will be imposed. All voting Program members minus the team involved will vote on the appropriate action.

**V. PLAYING RULES: FEDERATION RULES PREVAIL**

**All coaches and players must remain inside the coaching areas, no further than the 25 yard line in each direction. COACHES MUST STAY OFF THE FIELD EXCEPT DURING TIME OUTS OR INJURIES.**

1. There will be no limit to substitutions.
2. All teams will play four 8-minute stop and go quarters.
3. All divisions will be allowed three (3) time outs per half. Time outs not used in the first half cannot be carried over to the second half. Two coaches from each team may join the team on the field regardless of which team called the time out. Water will be made available to both teams during an injury time out at the time of the injury.
4. The Varsity and Reserve teams will kick-off from the 40 yard line. Pony teams will kick-off from the 50 yard line. Pony kick off following a safety will be from the 30 yard line.
5. **OVERTIME**  
Regular season overtime shall consist of one period. One period constitutes each teams attempt to score. The ball will be placed at the 10 yard line and the offensive team shall have 4 attempts to score. Each team will be provided 1 attempt from the 3 yard line for extra point conversion. After one period if the score remains tied the game will end in a tie.

Playoff overtime shall consist of multiple periods until the score dictates a winner.

Overtime shall begin immediately after the scheduled contest. Officials will allow 1 minute between the regular contest and subsequent periods in play off overtime. The coin flip will decide possession and field of play. The winner of the coin toss shall have first choice of possession or field of play. Field of play shall not change in an overtime period. Each additional period in play off overtime will allow the choice of possession or field of play to switch between teams.

6. An unlimited number of captains are permitted on the field for the coin toss.
7. **Pony Division Free Punts**
  - a. No player on the punting team (offense) or the receiving team (defense) may enter the neutral zone until the ball is kicked. No player on the punting team may release downfield until the ball is kicked. There will be no release by the punting team and no movement by the receiving team linemen until the ball is kicked.
  - b. A player on the punting team (offense) must notify officials whether or not a free punt will be executed prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> down play. Upon notification of the official, no play other than the free punt may be executed unless the punting team calls a time out. The punting team must notify the official immediately at the time the time-out is called that they do not want to punt and will run a play from scrimmage. The offensive team cannot punt the ball unless they have notified the official of a free punt. They must run a play from scrimmage.
  - c. The official, upon notification by a player on the punting team (offense) of a free punt, will immediately stop the game clock and will not restart the clock until the ball is KICKED.

- d. The receiving team (defense) must have at least 7 players on the line of scrimmage for the free punt.
  - e. The punting team (offense) must have at least 7 players on the line of scrimmage.
  - f. The ball must be snapped directly from the center to the kicker, who must be positioned at least 5 yards behind the center. When a bad snap or fumble by the kicker occurs, the kicker must punt the ball from the point where he gains possession taking no more than the normal punting steps (maximum 3 steps) from the point of possession.
  - g. All Federation rules not listed in this section will apply on free punt plays.
8. Bandit rules: Handout will be made at Bandit meeting to be held in August.
9. Official can institute a running clock in regular season contests after notifying both head coaches. The running clock can only be applied in the second half when a score is in excess of 30 point differential. Running clock shall not apply for injuries, timeouts or change of possession.

#### VI. EQUIPMENT

- 1. All players will be required to wear a mouth guard, shoulder pads, helmet with face mask, football pants, jersey with numbers front and back, thigh pads, kneepads, and hip pads.
- 2. Pony and Reserve players will be permitted to wear the molded cleats football or soccer shoes, or gym shoes. No street shoes will be allowed. Varsity players will be permitted to wear regulation football shoes, as prescribed in Federation rules or the shoes mentioned above. No metal tip or metal cleats of any kind will be allowed.
- 3. The league will vote on select official league balls. All teams must only use officially approved league balls.
- 4. All jerseys must be numbered front and back. (if any team does not meet this criteria they will be grandfathered in until such time that they replenish or replace jerseys)

#### VII. GAME TIMES

Games will be played on Saturday or Sunday. Each participating program will provide specific game day and time information to the league on a yearly basis.

#### VIII. POSTPONED GAMES

- 1. Games will be played at the time set up by league VP and President with the approval of the coaches.
  - 2. Teams that fail to make up postponed games prior to the playoffs will be ineligible for post-season play.
  - 3. All postponed games must be played within 72 hours from date of postponement.
  - 4. Any postponed game scheduled and not made up will result in a loss.
- If the league officers determine that one of the teams from a postponed game is earnestly trying to schedule and play the game and other team is trying to avoid the game, the team trying to avoid the game may be assessed with a forfeit.

#### IX. PROTESTS

No game protests will be allowed. This is consistent with OHSAA guidelines. All rulings on the field are final. Only player eligibility may be protested by the designated program coordinator.

#### X. LEAGUE STANDINGS

- 1. Both teams must report the scores of all games to the designated league official within 24 hours of game time.

**XI. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The home team must supply chains, downs markers, marked coaching areas (25-25) and yard markers.
2. The entire perimeter of the field should be roped off from end zone to end zone; 10 yards back from the playing field, where feasible.
3. Each team is responsible for crowd control on their side of the field including ensuring that spectators are at a safe distance away from the sidelines.
4. Coordinators can have fans removed from the game site due to inappropriate behavior.
5. (Officials will be paid in accordance with procedures determined by the league)
6. Home team shall be responsible for supplying chain crew volunteers and clock operator.  
\*\*\* Game officials have the discretion to keep time on the field should concerns arise regarding clock operations. This choice is at the sole discretion of the game officials.

**XII. DIVISIONS (See Structure Tab)**

**XIII. SCHEDULE ( See Structure Tab)**

**XVI. Playoff and Regular Season considerations: ( See Structure Tab)**

**XVII. CANCELLATIONS**

1. When severe weather conditions exist at a particular site, the game may be cancelled and rescheduled by the involved coordinators with the consent of the referee. If all games at particular site need to be cancelled due to field conditions or other circumstances league officials must be involved in the process. The league VP and President will help reschedule the game. Once a game has begun the referee can postpone or cancel the game due to unsafe weather conditions.

**XVIII. GAME DAY COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS**

1. No filming of opposing teams during games or practice. (No exchange of opposing team films). The only film coaches should watch are films in which their team has participated. No scouting of team practices. Any offending team may be subject to sanctions by the Board. Sanctions may include suspensions and/or forfeiture of game(s).

REVISED: March 30, 2010 governance committee

## Addendum (A)

### Founding Teams and their 2010 combinations:

Program	Combination / mergers
All Saints	St. Vincent
CPS / ST. Marys	Cardinal Paccelli, St. Mary's, Ursula Villa, Desales
Guardian Angels	St. John Fisher / St. Rose
IHM	Single parish / school
St, Barts / St. Vivian	St. James of the Valley, St. Boniface, St. Franceis , Annunciation
Our Lady of Lourdes	Single parish / school
Our Lady of Grace	St. John Harrison Varsity only
SMOY	Single Parish / school
St.Andrew St.Elizabeth Ann Seton	Single parish / school
St. Antoninus	Single parish / school
St. Columban	Single parish / school
St. Dominic	Single parish / school
St. Gertrude	Single parish / school
St. Ignatius	Single parish / school
St. James	Single parish / school
St. John Harrison	OLG Varsity Only
St. Johns DR	Corpus Christi, St. John Nuemanl
St. Jude	St. Al's Bridgetown
St. Martins	St. Catherine's / St. Bernard
St. Michaels	St. Gabriel Cons. School / Mother Teresa / St. John West Chester / Bethany / St. Max
St. Nicholas	Holy Trinity / St. Johns DP / Nativity / St. Cecilia / St. Clements / OLSH
St. Susanna	Single parish / school
St. Teresa	St. Al's on the Ohio
St. Williams	Holy Family , St. Lawrence, Resurrection
Summit Country Day	St. Joseph OTR
Veronica / Thomas More	Bernadette
Victory	Single parish / school
Visitation	Single parish / school