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**Article I: Name**

**Section 1: Name**

This Non-Profit Organization shall be known as SOUTH TEXAS YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION [STYFA].

**Section 2: Members**

Each person accepted into membership in accordance with the rules and regulations of the STYFA Board of Directors shall be deemed a "Member" and shall be entitled to one (1) vote through its designated representative concerning the operation of STYFA.

**Section 3: Voting Rights**

Each Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Members.

**Section 4: Termination of Membership**

The STYFA Board of Directors, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Members, may suspend or expel a Member with or without cause after an appropriate hearing and by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Members. The STYFA Board of Directors, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Members, may suspend or expel any Member who becomes in default in any assessment for the period fixed in Article X of these By-laws.

**Section 5: Resignation**

Any Member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Secretary, but such resignation shall not relieve the Member so resigning of the obligation to pay any assessments, or other charges theretofore accrued and unpaid. Any member that has been removed pursuant to Section 5 herein, shall within thirty (30) days return and surrender all right, title and interest to and in any football/cheerleading equipment, supplies, foods, equipment, and cash or bank accounts and any other personal property used by said Member in connection with STYFA activities. Each said Member, shall upon request of appropriate STYFA officials, execute such documents as are necessary to complete the return of such items and will surrender any keys to existing storage places to enable the STYFA to recover said property.

**Section 6: Reinstatements**

On written request signed by the President of any Member and filed with the Secretary, the STYFA Board of Directors, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members may reinstate such former Member to membership on such terms as the STYFA Board Directors may deem appropriate.

**Section 7: Affiliated Chapters**

The affiliated members of the organization are as follows:

Angleton  
Bay Area  
Danbury  
Friendswood  
Lake Jackson  
Tri City  
Pearland

***Article II: Meeting of Members***

**Section 1: Annual Meeting**

An annual meeting of the Members shall be held at such place as designated by the STYFA Board of Directors on the third Thursday of January at a time and location to be specified by the Board for the purpose of electing Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. If the day fixed for the annual meeting shall be a legal holiday in the State of Texas, such meeting shall be held on the next succeeding business day. If the election of Directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for any annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the Members as soon thereafter as conveniently may be.

**Section 2: Place of Meetings**

The STYFA Board of Directors may designate any place as the place of meeting for any annual meeting or for any special meeting.

**Section 3: Notice of Meetings**

Written notice or electronic computer aided messages (such as emails, instant messaging) stating the place, day, and hour of regular meeting of Members shall be delivered, either personally, by mail or by computer, to STYFA Members and the Board of Directors, not less than 5 no more than 10 days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the President. In case of a special meeting or when required by statute or by these by-laws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to all Members of the STYFA and the STYFA Board of Directors.

**Section 4: Quorum**

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board; but if less than a majority of the

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Directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

**Article III: Board of Directors**

**Section 1: General Powers**

The STYFA Board of Directors shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the organization.

**Section 2: Members, Votes, and Tenure**

- The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the STYFA Officers [President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Chief Athletic Director, Registrar, Publicity and the President of each Chapter.
- Each Director shall have one (1) vote.
- The STYFA Officers are elected to two-year terms and will hold office until their successor has been elected.

**Section 3: Qualifications**

Directors need not be Members of the organization, however:

- a) STYFA Officers may not be a chapter coach or instructor, unless he/she has specific permission from the Chapter's Board and while acting as a Chapter Coach or Instructor has no STYFA Board powers.
- b) Only one family member may hold a voting position on the STYFA board.
- c) STYFA Board Members must not have been expelled from or removed from a position on a chapter, STYFA position, coaching position, or any position where disciplinary action can be assessed.

**Section 4: Regular Meetings**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without other notice than this by-law immediately after, and at the same place, as the annual meeting of Members. The Board of Directors may provide by resolution the time and place, for the holding of additional regular meetings of the Board without other notice than such resolution.

**Section 5: Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any two Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board called by them.

**Section 6: Notice**

Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least two (2) days previously thereto by telephone communication, computer aided electronic communication or written notice delivered personally or sent by mail, facsimile or telegram to each Director and Member at his/her address as shown by the STYFA records. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the

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United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice were given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the telegram is delivered to the Telegraph Company. If notice were given by facsimile, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered if evidenced by a confirmation that the notice was transmitted. Any Director or Member at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Director or Member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at the meeting need not be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these by-laws.

**Section 7: Manner of Acting**

The act of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these by-laws. "Roberts' Rule of Order" shall compose the parliamentary authority for procedures not specifically covered by these By-Laws.

**Section 8: Vacancies**

Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors though less than a quorum of the Board of Directors. A Director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office. Nominations shall be taken from the floor at a regularly scheduled meeting. Any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of Directors shall be filled by election at an annual meeting or at a special meeting of Members called for that purpose.

**Section 9: Duties of the Board**

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization including, but not limited to:

- a) Accounting for all monies received by the organization and the preparation of financial statements including balance sheets and income statements;
- c) Insuring that the meetings of the STYFA are held in an orderly and democratic fashion with due care to the goals of the organization and the welfare of the children;
- e) Developing a schedule of competition, maintaining fairness and equality of competitive activity and presenting such proposals to the Members to achieve such expectations;
- f) Developing rules and regulations subject to Member approval for football play and cheerleading competition consistent with the objectives of the organization; and

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g) Enforcing, subject to the approval or vote of the Members, such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Members from time to time.

**Section 10: Voting**

Votes for administrative actions are to be performed by the STYFA Board of Directors only. STYFA and the Presidents of each affiliated Chapter conduct votes on STYFA playing rules, and activities of the STYFA.

**Article VI: Officers**

**Section 1: Officers**

The STYFA officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Athletic Director, Registrar, and Publicity. STYFA officers are to perform administrative duties for the organization and may vote on administrative, playing rules, and activities of the STYFA.

**Section 2: Removal**

Any Officer may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgment, the best interest of the organization would be served thereby. Removal requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the electing members of the board.

**Section 3: Election and Term of Office**

The STYFA Officers shall be elected annually by the Member Presidents of the affiliated Chapter at the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as convenient. New offices may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Each officer shall hold office until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.

**Section 4: President**

The President shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote as specified within these by-laws. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the organization and shall have the following duties:

- a) Shall supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the organization.
- b) Shall be responsible for scheduling all STYFA meetings. There shall be no maximum or minimum number of meetings, but there should be, as a guideline, one (1) meeting per month.
- c) Preside at all meetings of the Members and of the Board of Directors and moderate all debate under "Roberts Rules of Order".
- d) Shall have the authority to call emergency meetings.
- e) Shall have the authority to appoint special and standing committees.
- f) Sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the organization authorized by the Board of Directors, any deeds, mortgages, bonds,

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contracts, or other instruments that the Members have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Members or by these by-laws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the corporation.

- g) Shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time-to-time.
- h) Shall not vote unless a tie-breaking vote is necessary.
- i) Shall present all written complaints to the STYFA for investigation.
- j) Shall have the authority to make emergency decisions on behalf of the STYFA interests. All said decisions are to be reported to the STYFA Board of Directors within 72 hours.
- k) Shall not have any of the above powers when acting as a Coach.

### **Section 5: Vice President**

The Vice President shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote. The Vice President shall have the following duties:

- a) Shall perform the duties of the President, in the event of illness or absence of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the President. When acting as the President, the Vice President shall have one vote as described in the duties of the President.
- b) Facilitate a league playing schedule.
- c) Shall perform such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President or Board of Directors.
- d) Shall have the following non-voting positions reporting to the Vice President: Vice President, Facilities; Vice President, Fundraising; Vice President, League Expansion; Vice President, Legal; Vice President, Publicity.

### **Section 6: Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote. If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his/her duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties, as the Board of Directors shall determine. He/She shall perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer will:

- a) Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all the organizations funds and securities.
- b) Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to STYFA from any source.
- c) Deposit all moneys in the organization name in banks.
- d) Write checks and disburse funds to discharge the organization obligations.
- e) Maintain the corporation's financial books and records.
- f) Perform other duties as assigned by the president or the Board.

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- g) Perform the entire duties incident to the office of treasurer.

**Section 7: Secretary**

The Secretary shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote. The Secretary shall have the following duties:

- a) Shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Members and of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for the purpose.
- b) Shall keep a register of the post-office address of each Member.
- c) Shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors.

**Section 8: Chief Athletic Director**

The Chief Athletic Director shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote. His/Her activities shall be:

- a) Enforcement, subject to the appellate rights granted herein, of STYFA football rules and regulations.
- b) Development of an AD training program.
- c) Schedule Athletic Directors for all games.
- d) Defending the decisions of a STYFA A.D. at any appellate hearing.
- e) Assisting, by participation on the rules committee, in the development of football rules of play.
- f) Insuring that football play is fair and equitable to all teams and players.

**Section 9: Registrar**

The Registrar shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote. His/her activities shall be.

- a) Receive and record all roster information for each chapter.
- b) Record and report chapter numbers that will be reported to Registrar by each chapter weekly.
- c) Maintain and distribute official certified rosters weekly to all chapters.
- d) Be responsible for certifying all official weigh-in's.
- e) Advise board of all reports of ineligible players or issues concerning such.
- f) Make sure all "returning" players are returned to correct teams.
- g) Record and maintain all Out of Boundary and Home School/Private School forms.

**Section 10: Publicist / Special Events Coordinator**

The Publicist shall be elected and shall be eligible to one vote. His/her activities shall be.

- a) Publicize all STYFA events.
- b) Set up registrations for STYFA.
- c) Check on prices for end of season trophies and purchasing them.
- d) Help plan any special event for STYFA.

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- e) Shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Publicist / Special Events Coordinator and such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors.

**Article V: Affiliated Chapters**

**Section 1: Organization**

Affiliated Chapters shall:

- a) Consist of a youth football program and cheerleading program for participants of either gender.
- b) Maintain four football divisions of STYFA specified playing age and weights, which will compete against the other affiliated chapters as designated by the STYFA.
- c) Maintain cheerleading teams for each football team, which will support football teams against the other chapters.
- d) Chapter Board of Directors will approve all Chapter Coaches.

Affiliated Chapters MUST maintain by-laws and/or rules of competition consistent with those of the STYFA.

**Section 2: Membership**

- a) Charter members shall consist of parents of duly enrolled football or cheerleading children, current board members, current coaches, current assistant coaches, current cheerleading instructors, and current cheerleading instructor's assistants.
- b) Membership is automatically revoked if at anytime the member family becomes delinquent in payment with any monies owed to the Chapter.

**Section 3: Finances**

Affiliated Chapters are authorized to maintain one and only one checking account for the purposes of handling the finances for all aspects of operation of the Chapter to include administrative, football, and cheerleading expenses. The checking account shall be set up as follows:

- a) Be in the name of the affiliated Chapter.
- b) Authorized signatures for checks will be the President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the affiliated Chapter.
- c) The affiliated Chapter must operate so that expenses below \$250 only require the signature of only the chapter treasurer while expenses \$250 and above require the signature of two chapter officers, one of whom must be the treasurer.

## **Article VI: Chapter Board of Directors**

### **Section 1: Organization and Authority**

- a) A chapter member elected Board of Directors shall administer the activities of the affiliated Chapter.
- b) The Chapter Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Athletic Director, Concession Stand Manager and Cheerleading Manager. These members shall be given one vote at all board meetings.
- c) The Chapter may also, at its discretion, have additional non-voting members.
- d) The Chapter Board of Directors shall administrate all Chapter activities and shall have ultimate authority of all said activities, subject to STYFA rules and regulations.
- e) The Chapter Board of Directors shall adhere to all rules and regulations of the STYFA league and furthermore shall enforce said rules as they apply to all Chapter members.
- f) The Chapter Board of Directors members will attempt to attend 90% of games, competition, registration and STYFA functions.
- g) At least two-thirds (2/3's) members of the Chapter Board of Directors must be present to achieve a quorum.
- h) The Chapter Board of Directors will not recruit coaches or board members from outside their attendance zone for the sole purpose of gaining an otherwise ineligible child for their program.
- i) All Chapters must obtain annual approval of Chapter By-Laws from the STYFA Executive board prior to printing and distributing to parents, players, etc.

### **Section 2: Qualifications**

Chapter Directors need to meet the following qualifications:

- a) Must have been nominated by a current member of the Chapter.
- b) Must be a minimum 18 years of age on the day of the general election.
- c) No more than one family member in the same chapter should serve in a position that requires financial signatures.

**Section 3: Terms of Office**

- a) An elected officer is automatically removed from their position if that officer is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.
- b) An elected officer is automatically removed from their position if that officer is absent from eight regularly scheduled meetings during their term of office.
- c) Any officer removed from office due to attendance violations may appeal the removal in writing with the Chapter Board of Directors.
- d) Any officer removed from office a 2<sup>nd</sup> time due to attendance violations may not appeal the removal.
- e) The Chapter Board of Directors may at its discretion, remove any other current officer of the chapter board with a ¾ vote of all remaining board members.
- f) All appeals to any decision made by the Chapter Board of Directors must be made in writing.
- g) Any officer of the Chapter that has been removed from office will be prohibited from holding office again, either elected or appointed, for a period of no less than five calendar years from the date of removal.
- h) Any officer of the Chapter may resign at anytime.
- i) The current Board of Directors may appoint any current member eligible for nomination and election to fill any open position on the board.

**Article VIII: Football League Rules**

**Section 1: Football Weight**

Each chapter has four (4) Divisions, as shown below. Football players will be required to play on a team where they meet both the weight and age requirements. The weight and age restrictions are as follows:

<u>Playing Age</u> <u>(as of August 1st)</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Max</u> <u>Weight</u> <sup>1</sup>
6,7 & 8 year olds	Freshman	100 lbs.
9 year olds	Sophomore	120 lbs.
10 year olds	Junior	140 lbs.
11 & 12 year olds	Senior	160 lbs.

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\*\*In the event any chapter is unable to make a 9 year old and 10 year old team you will form a 9-10 year old team that will play with the 10 year olds as “Juniors”.

A player’s official weight is recorded without equipment. The weight shall be recorded in the football player’s respective team folder / file.

If they are over the weight limit for their Division the player has the choice to move up to the next Division. (Exception being the senior division).

Players may not play in any games or practice in pads until the weight requirement is met.

### **Weigh-Ins**

Will take place before each scheduled game. Players will arrive 45 minutes before the scheduled start time. The two teams will line up to check in their players according to the rosters and STYFA certified paperwork and begin weighing in. A coach or coaching staff from each team is responsible for verifying the paperwork and that the players meet the weight requirements. The weigh in and check in will have a designated board member from the home field present throughout the process to act as a mediator should there be any disputes.

Weigh in will take place somewhere in the open and on a level surface using a scale provided by the home team. STYFA recommends a medical scale but this is not mandatory. The scale will need to be calibrated and shown to be accurate prior to beginning the weigh in process. STYFA recommends something with a known weight such as a 10 pound dumbbell be used to calibrate the scale. Once both coaches agree that the scale is calibrated and accurate the weigh in process can begin. At anytime throughout the weigh in either coach can request that the scale be checked for accuracy again.

Players must weigh-in in their football pants and pant pads at all times. There will be a 1 pound tolerance allowed for the weight of the pants and pads worn during the weigh ins. They may take off their cleats during the weigh in.

Players must make the division weight for games 1 and 2, beginning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled week of games there will be a tolerance of 10 pounds added to the weight limit for each division to allow for natural growth.

**Every player must make the division weight limit once before being eligible for the 10 pounds tolerance.**

## **Section 2: Proof of Age**

Each program participant must supply proof of age. The Proof of Age must be an official Birth Certificate and two copies of the Birth Certificate and must be maintained by the Chapter in the player’s respective team folder / file. STYFA will keep a copy of the birth certificate for their files.

### **Section 3: Team Folder / File**

Each Chapter must maintain a Team Folder / File. The Folder / File must be in the possession of the team coach at all times, and must be made available at all games to any STYFA A.D. or STYFA Board member requesting access to this folder.

The Folder / File must have the following

- a. Official STYFA approved and Certified Team Roster
- b. Football Player's Name
- c. Football Player's Address
- d. Football Player's Playing Age
- e. Copy of Football Player's Proof of Age
- f. Football Player's STYFA weight.
- g. Out of boundaries form (if needed)
- h. Home or private schooled form (if needed)

### **Section 4: Official rosters**

Each chapter will provide STYFA with an official roster of each team before their first scheduled game is to be played. Failing to do so will mean forfeit of their games until such roster is turned in. If after the first game your chapter receives any new players the chapter must send in an updated team roster to STYFA.

Deadline for final team rosters will be September 6, 2008.

**STYFA will not accept any rosters after September 6, 2008.**

On the roster it should list the following items for each player:

- a. First and last name
- b. Age and date of birth
- c. Weight
- d. Players uniform number

### **Section 5: Drafting of players**

GENERAL:

**Attendees:** The Chapter President, Vice President, and two (2) STYFA Board Members must attend the draft. Only the Chapter President, Vice President, STYFA Board representatives, and the Head Coach for the Division drafted may be present during that Division's draft

**Timing:** The draft should occur before the first practice. [The maximum team size is 24 football players.] They will then be split into two (2) teams and so forth.

**Draft Division Order:** Senior teams draft first, followed by the Junior, Sophomore teams, then the Freshman teams.

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**Coach's Option:** The draft begins with the Coach's Option. Each Coach must pick each of his children playing football in his Division. If one coach has multiple children, multiple Coaches' Options must be exercised by each Coach. Exception: If coach's child is a returning player that coach can start draft without taking a coach's option and go directly to his first draft pick. If one coach has a child that is a returning player and the opposing coach does not, the opposing coach will take his child as a coach's choice and then start the remainder of the draft.

**Siblings:** Siblings in the same Division must be drafted in successive draft round. If one sibling is on a team and the other is in the draft he must be drafted onto his brothers team on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> round.

**Draft Start:** All teams participating in the draft will receive a first round pick. Then the team with the fewest players will draft until they are even with the other team(s).

**For an example:** team A has 10 kids returning and team B has 6 kids returning. Team A and B will flip for 1<sup>st</sup> pick, who ever wins coin toss will pick a player followed by the other team. Once that is over then team B will pick the next 4 kids, this will make a team even in players. Then the draft will start with whoever won the coin toss and go until all the kids are drafted.

After all Coach's options have been exercised. The coaches must randomly determine which coach will draft first. [Coin flips can be used if there are only two coaches in the Division.] The Division's coaches are given a list with players with names, weight and ages only. Each coach chooses the players they want to draft until the max number are chosen. The draft continues until all players are drafted or the teams reach the maximum [24 players per team] NOTE: Before coaches leave the draft location all trades must be made. After official draft NO TRADES WILL BE ALLOWED BETWEEN ANY TEAMS.

**Two or more teams per division:** Chapters with two or more teams per division will keep the same kids that are returning to that division. No redraft of players that are returning to the same division, the only time kids go into the draft is when they move up a division or are new to our program. The draft will start when all teams have the same amount of kids on each team.

**Expansion draft:** When adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> team in a single division within a chapter that played with 2 or more teams the previous season, this will be called an expansion draft. It will start the same as the regular draft except the new coach will get his coaches option (his kid) if any, and then all teams will draw numbers out of a hat to get the order of which they draft. All teams will receive a first round pick, and then the expansion team will draft until they are even with the team with the fewest players returning. Once 2 out of the 3 teams are even, those 2 teams will draft until they are even with the 3<sup>rd</sup> team. Once all teams are even with players the draft will start with the coach that pick the number one out of the hat. If there is an expansion team within a chapter that only had one team last season in that division all players go back into the draft.

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**Waiting List:** The Chapter will maintain a Waiting List for all players not drafted [due to team sizes, etc.]

**Hat Picks:** When a chapter has two or more players on the waiting list you may then “draft” these players onto teams by using the hat pick draft. At the last practice for the week if possible the chapter President, Vice President, and head coaches from the division for which the hat picks will be placed meet to begin the draft. If one coach has less players the other(s) that coach will pick from the hat until he “catches up” or becomes even with the other(s). Once even, a coin toss will decide which coach goes first and the draft will precede until all players are placed on a team.

**Follow-Up Draft:** When there are players available and places for them, the Chapter will schedule a Follow-Up Draft. The Follow-Up Draft will have the same attendees and rules as the initial draft except that the Coach with the fewest players will draft first, followed by the coach with the next fewest players, etc. If the teams are equal, the coaches will randomly determine who will draft first.

### **Section 6: Playing schedule**

**A playing schedule will be supplied to all chapters no later than August 8<sup>th</sup>.**

A chapter will get on the schedule once they have paid their chapter dues. A division with more than 12 teams in it will be split into two divisions. This will take place with all chapter presidents present, all team names will go into a hat and the first name drawn out will be in one division and the next name will go into the other until all teams have been drawn.

### **Section 7: Post season**

Each division will send 8 teams into the playoffs. Each team will be ranked 1-8 depending on final regular season standings. The match up for the first weekend of play will be 8<sup>th</sup> vs. 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> vs. 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> vs. 4<sup>th</sup>. The post season will be a tournament style format. Each division winner (3) will be ranked 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> depending on record, the next 5 teams to make the playoffs will best record no matter the division (north, south, and central) **Tie-Breaker:** Division ties will be solved using these measures in order. Go in order until the tie is solved: a) Head to head. b) Division Record c) Record against common opponents d) fewest points scored against their defense. **Outer division ties** will be broken as follows: a) Head to head, b) Record against common opponents, c) fewest points scored against their defense.

### **Section 8: Fees**

**Dues for Chapters will be paid on or before August 6<sup>th</sup> of current year.** The STYFA Board shall determine the Chapter Dues. All chapters will pay the same fee. This money will be used to purchase awards for play-offs and trophies for Super Bowl. The Chapter(s) sponsoring play-off and the super bowl games will be responsible for paying the referees for these games. **Chapter dues for the 2009 Season will be \$550.00.**

### Section 9: Registration

The football player registration process is as follows:

- **Birth Certificate, Picture.**

- Birth Certificate: Two copies of the original birth certificate and the original ONLY will be given to a STYFA Member. It will be checked and the original will be returned at that time. The Chapter shall place the copy in the Team's File / Folder. Any altered to a Birth Certificate will not be accepted. STYFA will keep a copy for their records.
- Picture: The picture is attached to the player's page in the Team's File / Folder. In case an issue is ever brought up about a player at that game. If the player played with STYFA last season the parents can bring a recent picture of the player to certifications.

The last day to register to play for that season is September 3, 2009. No player will be allowed to register after this date. No exceptions.

**The cut off for the making of new teams will be July 25th .**

- **Eligibility**

Eligibility is based upon the football player's area (home or middle/intermediate school location) age, weight and grade as of August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. Any player that doesn't have a STYFA chapter in there town may play with the closest chapter to them.

Freshman teams will be limited to six (6) six year olds per team and Seniors team will be limited to six (6) twelve year olds per team. Any player who turns 13 on or by August 1<sup>st</sup> will not be eligible to play.

The program is open to all children regardless of their talent level, on a first serve basis. *-Tryouts-are-not-allowed* as a condition of registration or play.

### Section 10: Football Rules

**Issues:** Any questions that may arise during a Game Day for example field conditions, scoreboard, or etc. should be directed to the home Team Chapter who is responsible for or in charge of all those activities. If a Chapter Board Member is not present then the STYFA A.D. shall provide the answers. The STYFA A.D. has the final decision on any controversy that may arise off the field.

**STYFA By-Laws:** Each Chapter shall ensure that all Chapter Officers and Coaches have a copy of the STYFA By-Laws.

**Insurance:** Each Chapter must submit proof of insurance prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> practice of the season to the STYFA Board. Until proof of insurance is submitted, the Chapter shall not have any practices or participate in any games.

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**STYFA 12 Play Sheet:** The complete 12-Play Roster will be handed to the STYFA A.D, by the team manager before the game. The 12 Play roster must match the official stamped and certified STYFA roster which will be issued by the Registrar prior to weekly games.

**Clock Time:** The home team will furnish clock time. If the clock is not working the time will be kept on the field by the referee. In the event of a game protest caused by problems with a clock during the season any team involved in such protest that has not furnished a designated Chapter clock operator will automatically loose the protest. The home team should ask for the visiting team for a spotter to help work in the press box during game

**Freshman Specific Rules:** The offense and defense team **must** huddle up 5 yards from line of play. The coach will huddle the team up and call the play. After play is called, the coach steps back a total of 15 yards from line of play inside the hash marks. At that time, the offensive or defensive coach is not to signal in any way or call out anything to any player. Penalties for violation of this policy are as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> offense-** coach will be given a verbal warning

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense-** coach removed from game and suspended from next game.

**All Divisions:**

- No walkie-talkies or phones will be used by anyone on game field. Failure to obey this rule will result in immediate ejection from next game plus a forfeit of current game.
- Coaches required to carry a cell phone or pager for work purposes must make STYFA AD aware immediately and leave the field to take any work related call.
- The governing football rules will be the NCAA football rules.

**Point After Touchdowns [PATs]**

- Running PAT: 1 point
- Passing PAT: 2 points
- Kicking PAT: 3 points

**Football Size:**

- **Freshman and Sophomore Division:** The teams will use a peewee size football,
- **Junior and Senior Divisions:** The teams will use a junior size football.

**No game will end in a tie. The NCAA rule for overtime will apply.**

(The ball will be placed on the 25 yard line for both teams until one team scores and the other team has not. Note: Freshman divisions the ball will move in 5 yards after each round the teams do not score)

## Section 11: Conduct

**Ineligible Player:** An ineligible player is defined as any player that does not appear on an official STYFA approved and certified roster.

The use of an ineligible player in a game will result in a forfeit of the game, or games the player has played or has been present for. An ineligible player violation will result in the Chapter being fined \$100.00 and the Head Coach being suspended for the next game.

**Practices:** The conduct of an illegal practice shall cause the loss of one game, in the team's standings. An illegal practice is one in which a team is in violation of any part Of the following or any practice held prior to July 28<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

- Prior to the first game of the season and before school starts, there shall be no limit to the number of practices held each week with exceptions of SUNDAY. These practices are limited to two hours or less.
- After school starts, practices can be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays with at maximum practice time of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- A Chapter's football and cheerleading teams should practice at the same location. STYFA Board Member may attend any practice without notice to check on players and coaches.
- Players must have at least three practices before allowed to play. All football players must be weighed-in before allowed to practice.
- Football players cannot have a "contact" practice before making weight or having been officially weighed.
- There will be no bull in ring during practice.
- There will be no scrimmages between two team from different age divisions
- There will be neither scrimmages nor games between STYFA teams and another league without the written permission of the STYFA Executive Board.

### GAMES:

- **Game Days:** All games will be on a Saturday, unless under special circumstance in which the STYFA Board will vote on.
- **Game Times:** Freshman, Sophomore and Junior teams will play four [4] eight-minute quarters with an eight-minute half-time. Senior teams will play four [4] 10 minute quarters with a ten minute half-time.
- **Adults On Fields:** Each participating football team may have a maximum of five (5) adults on the field during the play of a game. All adults must be properly approved coaches or trainers and have an ID badge visible on their body.
- **AD Duties:** One (1) Coach from each team will be held responsible to AD any scheduled game following their own regardless of the city location said game is played in. Head coaches will be responsible for scheduling one of their coaches for the AD duty. Strict penalties will be enforced for failing to fulfill the AD duties. The penalties are as follows:

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**1st offense-** chapter and head coach get written/verbal warning of the offense.

**2nd offense-**chapter is fined \$100 and the head coach is suspended for one week of Practice and one game.

**3rd offense-** chapter is fined \$150 and head coach is out for the year.

The Chapter will have one week to pay the fine. After that the Chapter will forfeit all games until fines are paid.

- **12-Play Rule:** The 12-play rule will be monitored by the STYFA A. D. at each bench at every game. If any players do not have their 12 plays at the end of the game that chapter will be fined \$100.00 per violation and the Coach will miss the next game. He is not to be on the field that following game. It is the coach's responsibility to check with the STYFA A.D. on the 12-play rule.
- **AD Training-**Anyone wishing to coach for a STYFA team **must** attend one of the AD training courses scheduled for August 2, 2008. There will a North location TBA in the AM & a South location TBA in the PM.
- **Dirty Play:** "Dirty Play" is not allowed in any STYFA football game. All Chapters officials, coaches, etc. shall take immediate action to stop any "Dirty Play" that they might witness taking place or being taught to players by friends, relatives, or even by their coaches. Spearing, blocking below the knees, or "chopblocks" are a few examples of "Dirty play". Dirty Play," which is sometimes difficult for referees to detect, can result in serious injuries to players and will not be allowed on STYFA fields.
- **Player Mistreatment:** Coaches will not mistreat their players in practices or games. Player mistreatment includes face mask handling/shaking, the use of curse words to or around players, or any other inappropriate language will be strictly prohibited on STYFA practice and game fields.  
Player Mistreatment Violations: the coach will be suspended from coaching for one week and your STYFA chapter will be fined \$100.00. If a repeat mistreatment occurs with the same or other player, the coach will be ejected from their position as a coach and banned from STYFA. Anyone witnessing "player mistreatment" should bring it to the attention of the Team's Athletic Director [AD], the Chapter's President, or any other Board Member immediately.
- **Thirty-Five Point Mercy Rule:** If the difference in score is greater than 35 points, the Coach must change starting players out with players less accustomed to the position/positions to prevent the further "running up "of the score on the opposing team. **AFTER A 35 POINT DIFFERENCE STARTING THE FOURTH QUARTER OR DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER THE CLOCK WILL BEGIN RUNNING NONE STOP.** The Coach must ensure that the AD has records of such changes. If the winning team's coach has not changed the players, the coach will be suspended for

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one game. The second time this happens with the same coach they will be ejected from their position as coach and banned from STYFA.

- **Football Officials Abuse:** Coaches/Chapter Officials SHALL not verbally abuse, nor continually harass football officials, during or after a game.

Violations will result in:

- A warning letter for verbal abuse of a game official.
- Ejection from the game and suspension from the next game subject to review by the STYFA Board.
- **Ejection:** Also if a coach refuses to leave a game after being ejected they will be suspended indefinitely

**Note:** It will be each individual chapter's responsibility to insure the above codes and disciplinary actions are strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will result a forfeit of their respective games

**Game Protests:** No games will be played under protest due to the referee's decision. Referee's decisions SHALL be final. If no referee's show up NO GAME will be played.

***Article X: Contracts, Checks, Deposits and Funds***

**Section 1: Contracts**

The Members may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these by-laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of STYFA, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 2: Checks, Drafts or Orders for Payment**

All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the S.T.Y.F.A shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of STYFA and in such manner as shall from time-to-time be determined by resolution of the Members. In the absence of such determination by the Members, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President or Vice President of the corporation.

**Section 3: Deposits**

All funds of the STYFA shall be deposited from time-to-time to the credit of STYFA in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

***Article XI: Amendments***

These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors. Any By-Law changes made after season starts shall not become effective until the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Executed and approved: