

2009

**BILL GEORGE YOUTH FOOTBALL
LEAGUE (INC.)**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Issued August 13, 2009 with all current rules changes included.

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ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Bill George Youth Football League.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

- (A) The purpose of the League shall be to control, supervise, encourage and promote football games and related athletic activities for youth.
- (B) The purpose will be achieved by providing supervised football games and related activities. The supervisors shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games or contests is secondary, and to develop unity, sportsmanship and enthusiasm along with maintaining safe and sound mental, physical and moral conditions at all times is of prime importance.
- (C) The Bill George Youth Football League encourages all Franchises to participate in, and sponsor pre-season and post season bowls that comply with the BGYFL By-Laws, Rules, and Regulation.

ARTICLE III - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Weights & Measures, Secretary, Treasurer, Gold Director of Football Operations, and Silver Director of Football Operations.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

- (A) The Government of the League shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of ONE Representative authorized to vote for each Franchise in the League. In the event of a vacancy in the League Officers, the Board of Directors, at the next regular meeting, will select a successor to serve until the next regular election. Franchise Representatives and Alternates will be appointed by the Franchises. Prior to the second meeting of each year, the each Franchise will submit in writing the name of its Representative and Alternate for the Board of Directors. Failure to comply will result in a Minor Franchise Penalty.
- (B) Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors.
- (C) The Officers of the League shall have the power to conduct any ordinary business of the League between meetings of the Board of Directors, which does not conflict with the Rules and Bylaws of the League.

ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- (A) The Executive Board of the League shall have a President, Vice-President, Weights & Measures, Secretary, Treasurer, Gold Division Director of Operations, Silver Division Director of Operations. In the absence of the President, the highest-ranking Officer present shall preside.
- (B) Election and Term of Office - The officers of the league shall be elected bi-yearly by the Board of Directors, at the regularly scheduled December meeting. The terms for the seven officers will be offset, with the President, Gold Director of Football and Silver Director of Football being elected in even numbered years and the Vice President,

Secretary, Treasurer, and Weights and Measures being elected in odd numbered years. Each officer shall hold office until their successor has been duly elected.

- (C) Nominations - The President shall accept nominations at the November meeting of the regular membership – Nominations are FINAL at adjournment of the November meeting. Nominees shall only be incumbent Officers, Commissioners, League Directors, or past Officers and Alternates and Franchise's Executive Board Members who have attended a minimum of SIX regular scheduled meetings of the current year.
- (D) Elections - Nominations shall be made and balloting shall be done for each Office separately in order named in Section (A) of this Article. The candidate for each Office receiving the highest number of votes cast by voting Members present, shall be declared elected. If a tie remains, the following will take effect: the three highest ranking Executive Board Members, of the present Board, excluding the Executive Board Member of the position being sought, shall cast a tie-breaking vote.
- (E) Vacancies - A vacancy in any Office, because of death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Executive Board for the un-expired portion of the term.
- (F) President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall, in general, supervise and control all business and affairs of the League. The President shall also verify and reconcile the bank statements from the Treasurer as an internal control of cash. The President shall also preside over the areas of public relations, promotions, coaching clinics and the BGYFL Hall of Fame
- (G) Vice-President - In the absence of the President, or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President shall perform the duty of the President. The Vice-President shall be responsible for actions of the following standing Committees: Discipline (ejections, hearings) Officials Liaison, and will also be in charge of reconciling weekly Game Reports.
- (H) Weights & Measures – This person shall be responsible for actions of the following standing Committees: Weigh-In, League Admissions, and Field Inspections.
- (I) Secretary - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors; shall see that all notices are given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws, or as required by law; shall keep a register of the postal address of each member; in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary as may, from time-to-time, be assigned to him by the President of the Board of Directors. He/She is also responsible for publication and distribution of all materials presented to him/her by Committees. He/she will also file, with the state, the necessary paper so as the B.G.Y.F.L. will be incorporated. He/She is responsible for the mailing of all minutes and information matter of all meetings to Franchise presidents, no later than two weeks following said meeting. The Secretary will also be responsible for the integrity and upkeep of the by-laws on paper and magnetic media. Secretary will oversee the Awards Committee for Super Bowl trophies.
- (J) Treasurer - The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the League. He shall deposit all funds received in the name of the League in such banks and/or depositories and shall be selected in accordance with the Bylaws. It is the Treasurer's responsibility to invoice and collect all League fees the Treasurer must issue; at the Board of Directors meeting, a financial statement reflecting receipts, expenditures and balance at the end of the previous calendar month; and at the annual meeting, a financial statement reflecting cash flow from the previous annual meeting. Budgets should be presented to the board of directors each year prior to the April meeting.
- (K) Gold Division Director of Operations – Oversee all Gold Division rosters and verify that they are in accordance with all by-law transfer and movement rules. Oversee all on field conduct and issues within the Gold Division. Review and monitor all Gold Division Schedules. All complaints and issues pertaining to the Gold Division will be funneled through this Director. He will also work in concert with the Vice-President regarding disciplinary issues within the Gold Division.
- (L) Silver Division Director of Operations – Oversee all Silver Division rosters and verify that they are in accordance

with all by-law transfer and movement rules. Oversee all on field conduct and issues within the Silver Division. Review and monitor all Silver Division Schedules. All complaints and issues pertaining to the Silver Division will be funneled through this Director. He will also work in concert with the Vice-President regarding disciplinary issues within the Silver Division.

- (M) Past Presidents may have a voice at meetings and serve on Committees, but will not have a vote at meeting.
- (N) Commissioners - Commissioners shall be appointed by the President at the yearly February meeting and shall have no voting privileges as Commissioners. The responsibility of the Commissioner is to relate all information regarding his/her program to the Board of Directors at the regular monthly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

- (A) After election, the President shall appoint standing Committee Members, pending approval of the Board of Directors, and said Committee shall be chaired by an executive board member. The President may appoint any other committee as the need arises with a commission appointed by the President to chair the committee.
- (B) Clarification of standing Committees:
 - 1. Rules - Shall be responsible for review and revisions of all proposed rules and will make recommendations of any changes to the Board of Directors.
 - 2. Scheduling - Shall be responsible for recommending total number of games and playing dates, as well as supplying updated maps to each franchise's playing field, Directors of Operations are to obtain field maps from BGYFL league secretary.
 - 3. Awards - Shall be responsible for recommending and procuring appropriate awards as provided by the Board of Directors.
 - 4. Publicity - Shall be responsible for all in-season publicity as required by the Bill George Youth Football League.
 - 5. Weigh-In - Shall be responsible for setting and implementing weight in rules and regulations and submitting to board of directors for approval.
 - 6. League Admissions - Shall be responsible for giving information of League to interested Organizations regarding Bill George Youth Football League Constitution and Bylaws. Also, getting information from and about the interested Organizations as the reason they wish to join the Bill George Youth Football League.
 - 7. Championship Day - Shall be responsible for recommending a location, date and time for the games, and responsible for organizing and staffing the game.
 - 8. The committee of the Weights & Measures Director shall be responsible to review participant's applications and waivers and present recommendations to the Executive Board for improvements to be made available to all Franchises. Not mandatory for BGYFL Franchises.
 - 9. Referee Committee – Shall be responsible for recruitment, utilization and conduct of BGYFL referees.

ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP

- (A) A penalty shall be assessed each Franchise failing to have a Representative present at League meetings. Penalties to be assessed:

First Meeting	\$25.00
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Second Consecutive Meeting \$25.00
 Third Consecutive Meeting Major Franchise Penalty

- (B) All towns will abide by the Constitution and Bylaws in issuing fines. Any town not enforcing the Constitution and Bylaws will be penalized. Failure to comply will result in a Major Franchise Penalty.
- (C) The franchise of the team who fails to show up for a game will be charged with a Major Franchise Penalty. Extenuating circumstances precluding the appearance of a Team for a scheduled game will be taken under advisement by the Executive Board upon receipt of written explanation with 72 hours of the date of scheduled infraction. In a case when a Team does not show up, the Team not showing will pay referee fees.
- (D) New Franchises cannot be accepted into the League if the new Franchise's boundaries conflict with a Franchise already in the League; however, if the Franchised Team approves of the new Franchise to operate in their area, the Bill George Youth Football League after submission may accept the new Franchise. A new Franchise will be accepted into the Bill George Youth Football League after submissions by the Admissions Committee and passed by a 2/3 majority of the governing board at two consecutive Board meetings.
- (E) New Franchises shall not be admitted into the Bill George Youth Football League unless approved by 2/3 majority of the governing board, or if the new Franchises have an In-Town Program with corresponding Bill George Youth Football League weight classes that participates in a program outside their In-Town Program.
- (F) Each new Franchise seeking a Franchise in the Bill George Youth Football League will be required to pay \$300.00 in addition to all regular League fees. A \$200 refund would be given after successfully completing its TWO-YEAR probationary term and becoming a certified Bill George Youth Football League Franchise.
- (G) Each Franchise must submit to the BGYFL Executive Board, a General Liability and Non-Owned-Automobile Liability certificate of insurance no later than their current insurance policy's expiration date, or at the July BGYFL meeting, whichever comes first, holding the Bill George Youth Football League, Inc. harmless, and naming the Bill George Youth Football League, Inc. as a primary and non- contributory additional named insured. The general liability policy will be on an occurrence basis with an insurance company whose rating, according to BEST, will be A-X or better, and must have the following minimum limits of liability:

General Aggregate:	\$1,000,000 CSL
Products & Completed Operations Aggregate:	\$1,000,000 CSL
Personal & Advertising Injury:	\$1,000,000 CSL
Each Occurrence:	\$1,000,000 CSL
Fire Damage (Any one fire):	\$50,000
Medical Expense (any one person):	\$5,000
Non-Owned Automobile Liability	\$1,000,000 CSL

All suits or incidents, that name or may name a Franchise or the BGYFL must be submitted to the BGYFL Executive Board within 30 days of the occurrence or at the next regularly scheduled BGYFL meeting, whichever comes first.

Failure to supply the BGYFL with a proper certificate of insurance or report an occurrence within this time period will result in a Major Franchise Penalty.

The Bill George Youth Football League must also be required to purchase a Director and Officer's Professional Liability policy at a \$1,000,000 CSL limit of liability including prior acts coverage. This policy will be on a claim made basis unless an Occurrence Policy is available and affordable.

All insurance policies must be submitted to the BGYFL Secretary and are subjected to review and approval of the BGYFL Executive Board and Board of Directors.

All Franchises are encouraged to purchase their own Director's and Officer's Professional Liability Insurance Policy, as well as secondary accident insurance policy covering all of their participants.

The BGYFL is required to purchase their own General Liability and Non-owned Auto at the same limits and Company Rating, as required of all other Franchises.

- (H) Each Franchise will have on file with the Bill George Youth Football League the name of the organization to whom the franchise was granted and submit a copy of said organization's charter and/or by-laws as applicable.
- (I) Probationary Period - New Franchises will serve a TWO-YEAR probationary period, each year a majority vote of acceptance will be required to maintain its eligibility, upon receiving required votes of approval each of the two years, said Franchise shall be acclaimed as a Certified Bill George Youth Football Franchise. If said Franchise fails to attain the above requirements during its probation time; it shall be deleted from the Bill George Youth Football League Organization and no refund as stated in Section (G) of this Article will be made. The probationary vote will take place 12 months from the initial admission date and 24 months from the initial admissions date but no later than the March meeting in the respective years.
- (J) Admission Date - New Franchise shall not be accepted prior to the February meeting, with the understanding the new Franchise must attend the monthly meetings, but have no vote until the regularly scheduled BGYFL July meeting. No more than two (2) new Franchises can be admitted to the BGYFL in any one season by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at two consecutive meetings. The Board of Directors may, only with unanimous vote, vote in favor of admitting more than two (2) Franchises in said Season.
- (K) The 2006 season established a player's BGYFL base franchise. (Regardless of where he or she lived in 2006) In order to transfer to another BGYFL franchise (without playoff penalty) in a subsequent year one of the following items MUST be met:
1. A player physically moves residences and their new residence is within a new BGYFL town or park district boundary. (The player can stay with his/her base franchise OR they can switch to the franchise that falls under the boundaries of their new residence.)
 2. A new franchise is admitted to the BGYFL and the player's current residence resides in the newly admitted franchises town boundary or park district boundary.
 3. The player's current franchise will not be fielding a team at the player's age or weight class.
 4. A player will be allowed one change of franchises between his/her 5th and 8th grade season in order to align himself/herself with the boundaries of their future high school that they will attend OR a new Middle School/Jr. High. located in a different BGYFL franchise boundary. (There will be no flipping back and forth – one exemption for one move. You can not go back under this exemption anytime in your BGYFL career and the 2006 season moves will count toward this one move exemption.)
 5. President's Exemption – Both franchise Presidents agree to transfer and verify via their signature.

If a player transfers franchises and does not meet one of the above five exemptions than the player will NOT be allowed to participate in any BGYFL sanctioned post-season play. A signed transfer form must be presented to the executive board and cross referenced to the FINAL LAMINATED ROSTER by week two of the regular season. If a player does not have a fully signed transfer form on record with the BGYFL AND a confirmed "Yes" on the laminated roster (by week two of regular season) then the player will not be allowed to participate in playoff/super bowl games. Illegal participation, verified by the executive board, in playoff/super bowl games will cause the player's team to forfeit all post season play. Going forward your base franchise is the franchise you played for in the prior season.

- (L) Each Franchise is required to provide the BGYFL league Secretary of the Executive Board, no later than the **August** Regular Board Meeting, a list of their Head Coaches, for the upcoming season, including Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Home and Work Telephone Numbers, as well as ACEP or NYSCA Approval #. Failure to comply will result in a Minor Franchise Penalty for each month or portion thereof that the failure continues.
- (M) Franchise are required to submit a complete listing of all Assistant Coaches and ACEP or NYSCA approval numbers to the BGYFL league secretary at the regularly scheduled September Meeting. League Secretary must be made aware of any change in Head Coaches and Assistants within 7 days of any change. Failure to comply with either will result in a Minor Franchise Penalty.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

- (A) Annual Meeting - An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held during the month of December of each year for the purpose of electing and installing Officers, and for the transaction of such business as may come before the Board of Directors.
- (B) Regular Meetings - A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on a specified day of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.
- (C) Special Meetings - Special meetings may be called either by the President, two other Officers, or upon written request of four Representatives. Written notice of any special meeting, stating the place, day and hour, shall be sent to each Representative at least 72 hours prior to the time of said meeting. The purpose for which said meeting is called shall be stated in the written notice.
- (D) Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of all meetings, except where the same conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the League.
- (E) A quorum will be considered as 2/3rd's of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCIAL POLICY

- (A) The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the League and it shall be a permanent policy to place all incomes in a League Treasury, directing the expenditure of the same in such a manner as will give no individual or Franchise advantage over another.
- (B) No purchase shall be made without approval of the Board of Directors.
- (C) The Board of Directors may authorize any Officer or Officers, Agent or Agents of the League, in addition to the Officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the League.
- (D) All checks, drafts or other orders of payment of money shall be signed by two of the following Officers: President / 1st Vice-President / Treasurer.
- (E) All funds of the League shall be deposited to the credit of the League in such banks or other depositories as the Board

of Directors may select.

- (F) The Organizational Year of the League for purposes of Organizational Functions, such as the terms of elected Officers, shall begin on the First Day of January in each year and end on the thirty-first Day of December of that year. For Financial purposes and the filling of all Regulatory Reports with the Federal, State and Local Agencies, the Fiscal Year shall be coincidental with the Organizational-Year.
- (G) All purchases in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) must be made after competitive bids are received and reviewed by Franchise representatives, from at least two (2) different sources. All such bids are to remain on file for membership review for a minimum of two (2) years. Treasurer evaluates bids and reports on bids obtained.
- (H) The Executive Board shall institute policy relative to the preparation and acceptance of an annual budget, and periodic and annual Article presentation for financial reports. Annual budget to be prepared no later than April.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

- (A) In the event of dissolution of the League all monetary funds and physical equipment will be divided equally among existing Certified Franchises.

ARTICLE XI –ORGANIZATION RULES

- (A) Current year rule change forms will be issued at the regularly scheduled January meeting. Rule changes can be read as early as the Feb meeting but no later than the April meeting. Any franchise can submit a rule change between Feb and April for the upcoming season except as outlined in Sec. B below.
- (B) By-laws or Rule changes, additions, or deletions, effecting age, weight, and/or grade requirements must be adopted no later than the January meeting and presented to the Executive board 1 week prior to the December regularly scheduled meeting.
- (C) Any rule or by-law change, addition, or deletion must be read and approved by a majority of the board at 2 consecutive official BGYFL sanctioned meetings.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

- (A) All BGYFL Rules and Regulations, changes and additions, shall be adopted by the Board of Directors no later than the MAY meeting of the current year and submitted to the Executive Board one (1) week prior to the March regularly scheduled BGYFL meeting, with the exception of Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulation changes and additions affecting Age, Weight and Grade Participation requirements, which must be adapted no later than the December Meeting, and presented to the Executive Board one (1) week prior to the November regularly scheduled BGYFL meeting. There must be two (2) readings and approval given by the Board of Directors at two (2) consecutive official BGYFL scheduled meetings for any change or addition to become in force in the BGYFL Constitution By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE XIII - INTERPRETATION

- (A) Interpretation of this Constitution and Bylaws, or any Rules or Amendments passed thereunder, shall rest with the Executive Board.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

BILL GEORGE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (INC.)

RULE I - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- (A) General Purpose - To inspire youth, regardless of race, creed, or color; to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship, and physical fitness; to bring area youths closer together through the means of common interest, sportsmanship, fellowship, and athletic competition; to encourage adults to behave in an exemplary manner when supervising youth; and to keep the welfare of the youth foremost and free from any adult compulsion for power and glory.
- (B) Specific Purpose - To promote safety-first play by encouraging only programs with strict controls over ages and weights, equipment, and behavior of adult coaches and spectators; to acquaint players with such fundamentals as blocking, tackling, running, kicking, passing and of maintaining a sound physical, mental and moral condition.

RULE II - PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

- (A) Ages and Weights - Regarding each current year:

70 lb. maximum at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 9 before August 1
(Must be 7 by September 1 of current year to be eligible for 70)

80 lb. maximum (*or striper 88Lbs*) at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 10 before August 1

90 lb. maximum (*or striper: 99Lbs*) at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 11 before August 1

100lb. maximum (*or striper: 110Lbs*) at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 12 before August 1

115 lb. maximum (*or striper: 127Lbs*) at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 13 before August 1

130 lb. maximum (*or striper: 143Lbs*) at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 15

Varsity: 175 lb. Maximum (*or stripers: unlimited weight*) at Official First Game Weigh-In/Not 15 before September 1;

Non high school students who turn 15 between September 1st. and the day after championship day can only play at the Varsity level.

Striper Rule Definition:

A striper player is anyone designated to play only offensive line (not including TE) or defensive line (not including DE). The maximum amount of stripers a team can have on the field at a time is (5) five. At no time may a striper advance the football and if such a player ever gains possession of the football the play will immediately be blown dead. Stripers will not be allowed to punt or kick and they are not allowed on kick or kick receiving team. Weekly weight allowance for stripers follows the same guidelines as for non stripers. All striper players must be defined no later than week 2 of the regular season and will be designated as such on the final team roster. Once a player is designated a striper, that player will remain a striper for the remainder of the season.

70 Pound Instructional Division

The Instructional Division will be governed by the same playing/equipment rules as the 80lbs. Division except for the following differences:

- a.) See Rule III part (G) for weight and equipment allowances.
- b.) Players in the Instructional Division cannot be 9 years old prior to August 1st of the current year. Players also must have turned 7 years old prior to September 1st of the current year. The age limits in this division are final and not subject to board petition.
- c.) The Instructional Division will have only (1) division. No Gold or Silver distinction.
- d.) Each franchise will be allowed to place (3) *three teams* in the Instructional Division. Also, in order for the franchise to be eligible to place an Instructional Division team, they must also field at least (1) one team in the 80 lbs. division in the same year.
- e.) For the Instructional Division to be supported in any playing year, there must be a minimum of (6) six teams committed to the division. If there are not six teams committed by the May board meeting, then games will not be scheduled and fees refunded to the franchises.
- f.) There will be no scores reported to the BGYFL and standings will not be kept. There will be no post season playoffs or Super Bowl of any kind.
- g.) Each player in the Instructional Division is **REQUIRED** to play a minimum of (10) ten plays from scrimmage during **EACH** scheduled football game, **REGARDLESS** of roster size. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure this rule is followed. This playing rule is subject to team and franchise rules regarding practice and disciplinary issues. Head Coach's are responsible for documenting playing time and may be subject to board review during the season.

(B) Physical Requirements - No player shall be registered as a Qualified Player if he/she has not attended and does not maintain a sound physical condition. The maintenance of a sound physical condition shall be the responsibility of the parent.

- 1.) Parental Consent - Each player must have the written consent of his/her parent(s) or guardian on file with his/her respective Team in order to participate in the Bill George Youth Football League.

(C) Falsification of League Records;

1. Player - If any Player presents any false information at a League Registration, that player will be immediately suspended and barred from a future participation in the Bill George Youth Football League.
2. Coach(s) - If any Coach(s) is found to have given any false information in order to register an ineligible player, the offending Coach(s) shall be immediately suspended and barred from all future participation in the League.
3. Any player rostered on a Bill George Youth Football League Team shall not be rostered nor play on any other Football Team during the current year.
4. No High School Students will be allowed to participate in the Bill George Youth Football League.
5. In numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, any game in which an ineligible Player participated shall be forfeited.
6. All changes to age, weight, and grade requirements must be submitted no later than the November meeting

and ratified no later than the December meeting.

RULE III - TEAM AND LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS0

- (A) Approved forms of proof of birth date
- 1) Birth Certificate by State or Federal agency.
 - 2) Baptismal Certificates signed by qualified members of the clergy indicating date of birth.
 - 3) Other proofs of birth including but not limited to Passports and Alien cards or other recognized religious certificates signed by a qualified legal religious official who is not related to the participant indicating date of birth.
- All questionable proofs of birth must be submitted to the Weigh-in Committee and the Executive Board for their review and approval.
- (B) Each club will submit a team commitment by the regularly scheduled July meeting along with their check payable to the Bill George Youth Football League for an amount approved by the board of directors for each team submitted. If the club does not field a team they have committed to, they will forfeit this fee. Any franchise adding to their team commitments after the regularly scheduled July meeting but prior to the August meeting, will pay the league fee plus a penalty of \$500.00 per team. The executive board must approve the addition and may deny such a request.
- (C) Franchises are required to provide a check payable to the BGYFL for 50% of the ref fees at the regularly scheduled August meeting. The balance of the refs' fees is due and payable to the BGYFL no later than the regularly scheduled October meeting. Referee fees will be announced at the July board meeting, by the League Secretary. A grace period of seven days will be given each franchise, provided their check is received by the BGYFL Treasurer and deposited in the designated BGYFL bank account. Any Franchise making a late payment for the ref fees will be assessed a Minor Franchise Penalty.
- (D) Rosters - Any player registered by and entered on the Roster of any team in the Bill George Youth Football League shall not be permitted to participate in any League with any other Team of the League, except to advance to a higher Division. Once a player participates in a game or dresses for a game in a higher Division, he/she is no longer eligible for play in a lower Division, and must be removed from the Roster of the lower Division Team. Violation of this Rule will result in forfeiture of the game in which the person played. This Rule will be invoked after official protest is lodged and accepted.
- (E) Franchise Commitment – By the 2004 season, participating franchises must commit all their tackle football teams to the BGYFL. This includes all football players participating in tackle football from the age 8 and older. (Age 8 by August 1st of the current year)
- (F) League weigh-in

There will be no pre-season weigh-in effective with the 1998 season. Each franchise will be required to maintain and control the content and accuracy of all team rosters submitted to the BGYFL executive board. Correction of any problems or movement of players between rosters (as allowed by BGYFL rules) will be the responsibility of each franchise. Team rosters and all birth certificates are due to the weigh-in committee no later than 8 days prior to the first league game for verification.

No roster movement after the 2nd week of the regular season. Players eligible to be moved after the first week of the season are those who did not make weight for the first league game and as a result did not play. If a player made weight for the first game they are not eligible to move to a different roster. The league will provide a temporary roster for week #1 to all teams. The opposing head coach will mark Y or N for each player on the roster designating if they made weight or not, players who are absent will be marked as N. Any changes to week 1 rosters (as allowed

in these rules) will be made by the requesting franchise. The updated roster along with the temporary week 1 roster shall be turned into the league for player movement verification. After week 2, all rosters are final.

Final rosters will be made available to all teams after week 2.

Weigh-in forms and disc (utilizing a format determined by the weigh-in committee) must be completed in numerical order by jersey number, player's name, date of birth, and any other information as deemed necessary by the weigh-in committee. The completed disc will be turned into the weigh-in committee with copies of all players birth certificates or approved proof of birth at a date and time set by the weigh-in committee.

Players will wear all game equipment except helmet for all game day weigh-ins.

Player's jersey number must be registered with the league.

- (G) Pre-Game Weigh-In - Pre-Game Weigh-Ins are mandatory, the official electronic scale, supplied by the home team, will be used to record maximum weight allowable for that game (Player's Weight, Equipment Weight, and Growth Factor, if applicable). All equipment worn for the weigh-in (including gym shoes) must be worn in the game. Player's will not be allowed to change equipment after the weigh-in is completed, except for equipment that is broken or damaged. All player's who do not meet the weight for that game will not be eligible to play in that game. We recommend that each team arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. The allowed equipment factor (NO helmets to be worn) will be added as follows:

70lb Division - 8 lbs. Equipment = 79 lbs. First week
Stripers are not allowed at 70Lb
80lb. Division - 8 lbs. Equipment = 89 lbs. First week – Non Striper
Striper Weight = 97 lbs. First week
90lb. Division - 9 lbs. Equipment = 100 lbs. First week – Non Striper
Striper Weight = 109 lbs. First week
100lb. Division - 10 lbs. Equipment = 111 lbs. First week – Non Striper
Striper Weight = 121 lbs. First week
115lb. Division - 11 lbs. Equipment = 127lbs. First week – Non Striper
Striper Weight = 138 lbs. First week
130lb. Division - 12lbs. Equipment = 143 lbs. First week – Non Striper
Striper Weight = 156 lbs. First week
Varsity 175 lbs./Unlimited Division - 14lbs. Equipment – Non Striper
Striper Weight = 190 lbs. First week

- (H) Growth Factor - The allowed Growth Factor for all players is a rate of one pound per week starting the first week (See above paragraph III (G)). A growth Factor of one pound per week will be allowed for the entire season. The total Growth Allowance is, therefore, a maximum of eleven pounds over the period of the season up to and including all playoff games including championship day.
- (I) Game Scale - The home team's official electronic-type scale must be on hand for each game. The official electronic-type scale must be used for all pre-game weigh-ins, for each game being played. A balance type scale will be allowed if the electronic scale is not functioning.

Any player failing to make the weight has the right to be weighed in just shirt and shorts (No stripping down will be allowed). The Home Team has the responsibility to provide an area for this purpose. Still failing to make weight said player is ineligible for that game. He must then make weight less the equipment allowance

All players are eligible to weigh in prior to the start of the game. There is no time element involved.

If a player arrives after the Start of the Game, that player may not participate in the Game until he/she weighs in at half time. Players must be weighed by both head coaches.

No player may weigh-in without full game equipment, except the helmet (Refer to Article VI, Section (A))

Exception: Cold weather clothing; after a player has officially made weight in the equipment described in Article VI, 1-11, the player is allowed to add clothing as necessary to keep warm, provided the player does not eliminate or cover any of the equipment required in Article VI, 1-11.

- (J) Penalties For Over-Weight Players - Any Player found to be over the league weight limit is ineligible to play in that game.
- (K) Participants born on 08/01 of current year are eligible to play at the younger weight level if they qualify by weight.
- (L) Participants are allowed to move from gold division to the silver division or from the silver division to the gold division, or between weight levels prior to the submission of rosters at the annual league meeting. Roster moves after this date and prior to the second game of the season, can only be made as follows:
 - A.) A gold rostered player may move up in weight class to either the higher gold or higher silver division team.
 - B.) A silver rostered player may move up in weight class to either the gold or silver division team or to a gold team within his original weight class.
- (M) Any individual who negligently violates the Game Weigh-In procedures will be charged with a Personal Disciplinary Penalty.
- (N) Any Individual who intentionally violates the Game Weigh-In procedures will be charged with a Personal Minor Penalty.

RULE IV - SEASON AND GAME RULES

- (A) Practice - Practice sessions/team meeting may start the Monday of the week starting August 1st, but not prior to July 26th. At all contact practice sessions, all players must wear full safety-first equipment, as required by Article VI. Any team's practicing before said date (above), The Head Coach will be charged with a Personal Major Penalty.

Pre-season Camps are not considered practice. however, in order to have a pre-season camp the franchise must abide by the following procedures:

- 1) The Camp must be held between July 4th and July 23rd of the current year.
- 2) A fee must be charged for participation in the camp.
- 3) All BGYFL reps must be notified of the camp prior to June 15th of the current year and participation must be open to all franchises. A flyer should be provided to each franchise rep as well as to the Secretary of BGYFL.
- 4) The camp may stress fundamentals, drills, speed, and participation games. At no time may a head coach work with only the players that he will coach in the upcoming season nor may he conduct any drills or run plays that might be construed as a pre-season practice.
- 5) The camp cannot exceed 2.0 hours per day and is limited to five days total.
- 6) No equipment can be worn and all contact must be in a controlled manner.

- 7) Any camp held by a franchise must be deemed as optional. Players and parents should never feel pressure that a camp is "MANDATORY" in any way. Attendance at camp will have no bearing on circumstances of the upcoming season as far as positions, try-outs or playing time.
 - 8) Failure to adhere to the above rules will lead to a Franchise Major Penalty.
- (B) Regular schedules and season - The first Game will be scheduled based upon the calendar presented by the Executive Board.. The first eight weeks will consist of League play and an additional three weeks will comprise Post Season Play-offs. All regular season games shall be scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays exclusively. Re-scheduling games weather-related or situations outside the control of the League will be reviewed by the Executive Board and scheduled as needed to complete season play or Play-offs. The League will pay for lights only when the league schedules the night game.
- (C) Game Rules: If during a game, a 21 point differential occurs, the following rules will be applied
1. Courtesy Rule: A 21-point deficit (or greater) at the beginning of or during the 4th Qtr will trigger a running clock. (During this time of a running clock all football will be played as normal). All coaches with a final score of 21 points or more or had a score that triggered a running clock may be required to submit a report to the league by Wednesday of the following week describing how the game was handled to keep the score in control. If the report is not received by Wednesday of the following week, the coach will not be allowed to attend the next BGYFL scheduled game. If decided by the BGYFL Executive Board that a coach is intentionally running up scores or not trying to control the game, further disciplinary action may be taken.

A Coach who feels the Opposing Coach has intentionally run up the score can file a Complaint with the Board. The Complaint will be examined by the Board and the Officials of the Game in question. If, in the opinion of the Board, the Complaint is valid, the offending Head Coach will be charged with a Personal Disciplinary Penalty. On a second Offense by the same Coach, a Personal Minor Penalty will be accessed.
 2. Jersey Number by Position is NOT required.
 3. Extra-Point by Run or Pass are from the three (3) Yard-Line. Teams will score two (2) Points for forward pass or kick, one (1) Point for a Run. Kicking for a PAT or a Field Goal is not allowed at the 80 and 90 pound level.
 4. Coaches may "roam" between the 20 Yard-Lines at all levels providing that they are NOT coaching on the Field of Play. At the 80lb Level, one Coach is allowed on the Playing Field. All Coaches on the Playing Field MUST refrain from Coaching once the Offensive Huddle breaks.
 5. Time Outs - Each Team is permitted three Time Outs per half. During an official Time Out, one Coach may go to the team on the field or they can bring the whole team over to the sideline.
 6. Intermission - Between the 1st and 2nd and 3rd and 4th Quarters, Intermission will be for two minutes, between Half's, 10 minutes. At these intermissions the Coach may call his Team to the Sidelines to talk to them.
 7. Kick-Offs will be from the 40 Yard-Line for all weight divisions.
 8. Three Game Officials for all Weight Classes. Two Officials shall be required to play a League Game. The option to Play with one Official shall be recognized by the League, ONLY if both Coaches agree to Play under this circumstance.
 9. Penalties – Governed by the rules of the I.H.S.A. EXCEPT for items specifically noted on the division's game card AND all games will be played under the following rule pertaining to the game clock and change

of possession: IHSA rules govern the clock EXCEPT in regards to change of possession. During all BGYFL sanctioned games the clock will restart after the change of possession when the chains have been set and the official chops the game (play) clock.

10. Mandatory Play: All players rostered in the Silver Division shall play a minimum of 6 plays in each official league sanctioned game, subject to Franchise or team disciplinary and safety rules. The BGYFL encourages all franchises to incorporate in their Franchise By-Laws a Gold Division mandatory play rule at all levels to ensure that all rostered players participate in each official league game.
- (D) The BGYFL Gold Division is split into two divisions based on fielded teams in the prior year. For the 2009 season the divisions will be as follows:

AFC

Lombard
Elmhurst
Glendale Heights
Hanover Park
Hinsdale
West Chicago
Streamwood

NFC

Bartlett
South Elgin
Carol Stream
Downers Grove
Glen Ellyn
Bloomington
Wheaton

The look back rule for determining AFC and NFC placement is based the number of teams a program fields at the 80, 90, 100, 115 and 130 weight classes in the prior football season. Due to the implementation of the division format there will be no petitions reviewed for teams wanting to leave the gold division at any time. The division assignments may be modified by the Executive Board to eliminate byes and similar schedule matters arising due to final franchise commitments and quality competition in both the Gold and Silver Division.

- (E) Fair Draft Rule: Should a franchise have more than one team in both the same division and the same weight class then it shall distribute players between such teams equally in numbers and abilities as follows:
- a. After assignment of the sons/daughters (if any) of two coaches, the rest of the draft will be determined by coin flip and then proceed with alternate picks of one or two players until all players are drafted, or
 - b. Pursuant to such other similar procedures as shall be approved by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may ask for documentation of the draft selection of players.

Notwithstanding the use of a fair draft procedure, rosters are subject to Executive Board review. A determination by the Executive Board that players have not been fairly assigned shall result in disqualification of the team from the playoffs and the placing of the team's franchise on probation.

RULE V - COACHES, MANAGERS, AND OFFICIALS

- (A) Coaches - Each Team shall appoint one Head Coach and Assistant Coaches. A Football Coach should be sure his

behavior at all times, sets a good example for the players in his charge. He should always remember to:

1. Not criticize Players in front of Spectators; but reserve Constructive Criticism for private.
2. Accept decisions of Officials on the Field as being "fair" and "called" to the best ability of the Officials.
3. The coaches will identify themselves to the referees before the game, print their own name on the game card, print the referees name on the game card, and give the referees the game card showing the rule differences that apply to the weight level for that game, and be responsible to have each of the attending referees sign said game card next to their printed name. All game cards must be postmarked to the to the BGYFL Treasurer within 72 hours of the last regular scheduled weekly Sunday game. Failure to do so will result in a ten dollar fine for missing or late game card. Game comments, protests, or complaints should be printed on the reverse side of the game card and signed. To expedite a response to your comments, complaints, and/or ejection's need to be called into the Bill George hot line answering system. The number of the hot line is to be distributed to all head coaches at the annual coaches meeting. All protests should be signed by the opposing coach as evidence of notification.
4. Not criticize the Opposing Team, their Coaches, or Fans by word-of-mouth or gesture.
5. NOT permit (sweating-down) tactics so that a Player will make the Weight.
6. A Referee that is affiliated as a Coach with a Franchise in the Bill George Youth Football League has been declared ineligible to Officiate any Game in which a Team from that Franchise is playing, unless approved by the Directors of the Bill George Youth Football League.
7. NOT permit a Player to re-enter any Game after he/she is badly bruised or hurt.
8. No coach or any franchise member may recruit individual Players, NOR may he/she recruit any Player who has or is participating for another Franchise. If in fact it is proven then the Head Coach and or the franchise will be charged with a Major Penalty.
9. ANY misconduct of a Coach that is obscene, obstreperous or otherwise detrimental to the welfare of the Players, League, Officials or the Spectators will be charged with a Personal Major Penalty.
10. All Head Coaches must be at least 21 years of age, and all assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age
11. All Head coaches and non first year assistant coaches must be certified by National Youth Sports Coaching Association (NYSCA), American Coaching Effectiveness Program (ACEP), or BGYFL approved accreditation before he/she is allowed to coach in a BGYFL sanctioned game. The BGYFL encourages all first year coaches to be certified in a similar manner.
12. Coaches are prohibited from holding more than one practice session in one day. Any Head Coach found to have practiced more than once in a day will be charged with a Personal Minor Penalty.
13. Any ejection of an assistant coach, player, cheerleader or agent of the team that is on the team's sideline will AUTOMATICALLY be subject to the following disciplinary procedures:
 - a) The person must leave the playing area immediately and will not be permitted to stay on the sidelines. (Failure to leave may and will cause affiliated team to forfeit game)
 - b) The person is automatically suspended for **two** weeks without recourse to the BGYFL board of directors. A **two**-week suspension means that the person is barred from participating in **any** BGYFL activity. This includes practices with that team or any other team throughout the next two weeks, and may not be on the sidelines for

the next two weekend's games. The person can resume activities at practice on the third Monday following the ejection. NOTE: A first time ejection in the final game of the season WILL carry over to the first two games of the next season. **Player or Cheerleader suspensions remain at one week. *If an assistant coach is ejected, the head coach of that team will be put on probation.**

****This means that if the head coach has already been ejected or gets ejected he is done for the season.***

- c) During the same football season, if the person is ejected for a second time then they are automatically expelled from the league. They will not be allowed to participate in any BGYFL sponsored practices, games or events for the rest of the season. They will be allowed to petition the BGYFL executive board for re-admission to participate in the subsequent football season.

- 14. Bye weeks are not applicable to the rule.

Ejections and suspensions must be reported on the game report by both Head Coaches and to their BGYFL Rep Coaches need to report the persons name and if a player a jersey number is needed. The Franchise Rep must report the incident to the Director of Football Operations (gold or silver) with in 24 hours.

- 15. It will be the responsibility of each Franchise, to appoint a Franchise athletic director whose responsibility will be to keep on file in the Franchise minutes, any participant injury resulting in a doctor, hospital, chiropractor, or other medical professional consultation, examination, surgery, etc.

The Athletic Director and the Franchise will be responsible to guarantee that individual not be allowed to participate in any practice, rehearsal, or BGYFL event without written permission from the physician or other approved medical professional.

It is the responsibility of the parent and/or legal guardian to notify the Head Coach of any such injury, and it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to notify the Franchise's Athletic Director. All such incident reports and permission notes or waivers must be available for review by the BGYFL Executive Board or their designated committee.

Failure to comply will result in a Franchise Minor Penalty.

- 16. No electronic or other mechanical device (including cell phones) shall be used, directly or indirectly, for communication by Team, field or sideline personnel while on the field or the sideline during a game unless approved by Game Officials and the Opposing Team. Such approval shall be noted on the Game Card. The first unapproved use of such a device shall result in a warning; a second unapproved use shall result in an immediate ejection of the Game and a Personal Minor Penalty.
- (B) The Head Coach and one Assistant from each Weight Class, Bill George Youth Football League Representatives, Directors and Commissioners shall attend an Annual Mandatory Pre-Season Clinic sponsored by the Bill George Youth Football League and supervised by the Executive Board, which will emphasize the Bill George Youth Football League Philosophy, Purpose, Constitution and By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations. All Participants will be recognized and registered with the Bill George Youth Football League Coaches, Representatives, Directors or Commissioners. Upon attending THREE years of Bill George Youth Football League Clinics, the Participant shall be recognized as a Permanent Registered Member. This shall be a Franchise responsibility.
 - (C) The BGYFL encourages each franchise to require their Head Coaches to have at least two meetings with the parents of the participants on his team to discuss game decorum, league rules, and how and when to voice their questions.
 - (D) In addition to the BGYFL Annual Mandatory Pre-Season Clinic held in August, each Head Coach is required to

attend periodic Head Coach's Clinics at their weight level, as called and chaired by an approved BGYFL Head Coach at their weight level. A head Coach will be required to attend at least one (1) Head Coach's Clinics in any one calendar year (1/1 to 12/31).

(1) The BGYFL must provide each Franchise with one Head Coach's handbook for each team committed to by the regularly scheduled June Meeting, BGYFL must disburse these handbooks at the August Annual Mandatory BGYFL Clinic. The handbooks are supplemented by materials on the BGYFL we site for which all parents, franchise officers and coaches are responsible.

RULE VI - PLAYING EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING FIELD

(A) Equipment - All Teams must be fully equipped with a complete line of "High-Quality, Safety-First" Equipment for every Player taking part in any Practice, Scrimmage or Game. The following items are mandatory in all Divisions.

1. Helmet - Construction should be either 1 or 2 piece, "high quality fiber" of plastic - type material, nose guard and chin strap. ALL HELMETS AND FACEMASKS MUST BE NOCSAE APPROVED WITH THE WARNING LABELS DISPLAYED.
2. Shoulder Pads - Shoulder Pads should be corrugated, molded fiber or plastic material and for sanitary reasons, should be padded with a coated, washable finish. Adjustable underarm straps should be of a cantilever type.
3. Hip and Tailbone Girdle Pads - Hip and Tailbone Pads should be of corrugated fiber of plastic material covered on the inside with shock-absorbing material.
4. Thigh and Knee Pads – Thigh and Knee Pads should be constructed of durable, shock absorbing material.
5. Jerseys - Home Team shall be first option of Jersey Color. Visiting Teams with traveling Jerseys shall revert to their Home Color Jersey if colors are contrasting. 6. Jerseys - Home Team shall be first option of Jersey Color. Visiting Teams with traveling Jerseys shall revert to their Home Color Jersey if colors are contrasting. All Franchises shall provide team jersey color to the BGYFL by the December meeting for the upcoming season. Any changes in franchise team jersey colors must be approved by the BGYFL Executive Board.
6. Pants - Pants may be made of either shell or one-piece construction, natural or colored. Color Jerseys and Pants will be coordinated by the League.
7. Mouth Guard - Each Player must be fitted with a durable Teeth and Mouth Protector and is required to wear it during Practice and Game sessions. All mouthpieces must have a connected strap that is securely and visibly attached to the faceguard. Mouth guards cannot be clear in nature and must have a distinct color.
8. Athletic Supporter - Each Boy must wear a good quality Athletic Supporter and Cup during all Practices and Game sessions.
9. Shoes - Detachable cleats, with non-metal cleat tips; all molded, rubber-cleated shoes or gym shoes are allowed.
10. Rib Protectors - All Players are to be equipped with Rib Protector Pads.

(B) Footballs:

The home team MUST supply a new or fairly new, fully inflated, football to the officials prior to the coin toss. The footballs can be used for multiple games at the discretion of the game official. Extra new game footballs must be kept at the game site in case of a game official denial of a reused football. The footballs, per the level, must be the

following:

70 & 80	Wilson K-2 Football
90 & 100	Wilson TDJ Football
115 & 130 & Varsity	Wilson TDY Football

The officials, at their discretion, can allow additional footballs to be brought into the game due to deflation, wear or weather purposes (i.e. to keep a dry ball in play). Otherwise, the same football should be used continually throughout the football game.

(C) Fields:

1. The Standard IHSA 100-yard Field must be used for all weight levels.
2. In case the Home Team cannot obtain a Playing Field and the Visiting Team has a field available; the Game shall be played at the Visiting Team Field or the Home Team will forfeit.
3. All franchises committing fourteen (14) or more participating teams in a given football season will be required to have two (2) home football fields. Franchises with twenty-eight (28) or more participating teams in a given football season will be required to have (3) home football fields. All fields must be in accordance with the bylaws governing field requirements.

(D) Field Equipment and Home Team Responsibilities - Each Home Team shall be required to furnish Down Markers, First-Down Chain, plus Chain Gang. The Home Team has the right to decide which Side of the Field the Chains will be kept on and must supply the following:

1. Lined Field, including Sidelines, End Zone Lines and Yard Lines every ten yards either painted, chalked or burnt.
2. Benches for both Teams.
3. All fields will have restraining ropes, minimum of five yards from Field Boundaries. The Boundary Ropes will run continually around the entire Field. Only Players, Coaches, Managers and Officials will be allowed inside these confines.
4. The Stanchion should be constructed as to not present a hazard to a Player who might run or be knocked into them. They may NOT be of wood or heavy gauge metal construction. They will be of metal or plastic, sturdy enough to hold the rope, but light enough to bend if contacted.
5. Where Shelter Facilities are available to a Home Team, the same Facilities must be available to the Visiting Team. If not, neither Team shall use the Shelter. Failure to provide equal facilities will result in forfeit of the game by the Home team. This will be determined by the Head Official prior to the start of the second half, only if the Visiting Head Coach files a complaint.
6. All Playing Fields are to provide public restrooms for both men and women.
7. All Franchises shall have goal posts on both ends of their 100-yard playing field.
8. ALL PERSONS participating and/or attending ANY BGYFL Youth Activity are prohibited from consuming alcohol and/or illegal drugs while on the premises of the game or practice fields, including the parking lots, during any BGYFL activity. Any infraction of this rule by a parent or other person believed, in the sole discretion of the Executive Board, to be affiliated with a Franchise, will result in that franchise being assessed a Franchise Major Penalty for the first offense in the current year; 2nd offense in the current year

results in another Franchise Major Penalty with probation and loss of franchise voting privileges for 1 year; 3rd offense in the current year results in a third Major Penalty.

9. All franchise fields shall have protective padding on all goal posts. The goal posts shall be padded with resilient, shock absorbing material to a height of at least 6 feet above the ground.
10. All Franchise fields must be equipped with a phone at the field dedicated to emergency situations for the purpose of calling paramedics, doctors, hospitals, etc.
11. All franchises must be equipped with a PA system or Megaphone with a 200-yard range for each BGYFL sanctioned game weather permitting. We encourage that the use of the PA system and the announcer be used to read the BGYFL purpose before every game and promote responsible fan participation.
12. Each Franchise will supply a updated map to the BGYFL Secretary no later then the July meeting of each year. The map must include
 - A) Directions to the Franchise Game Field
 - B) Directions and phone numbers to the nearest hospital or medical facility serving that area.
 - C) Paramedic and Fire Department Phone Numbers.
 - D) Name and phone number of a franchise representative.These maps will be distributed at the mandatory BGYFL coach's clinic.
13. Each Franchise will designate an Athletic Director who can meet with the coaches and referees prior to game time to discuss:
 - A) What emergency plans are in place?
 - B) If there are paramedics available and who and where they are.
 - C) Where the nearest phone is.
15. Each franchise must have on display the BGYFL issued banner promoting the purpose of the BGYFL.
16. Failure to supply and field equipment, pre-game, game procedure listed throughout Article VI will result in a \$25 Fine per violation per game with a maximum penalty of \$250 per day, payable to the BGYFL, subject to review by the Executive Board. If amount equals \$1000 in a current season a Franchise will be charged with a Franchise Major Penalty.

RULE VII - PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- (A) The support of Parents, both Mothers and Fathers, is essential to the success of any Youth Program; but this support should be in such activities as Fund Raising, Promotion, Equipment Maintenance, Team Sponsorship and other Volunteer Activities as well as loyal, but fair, Fan Support in the Stands on the Day of the Game.
- (B) Parents must clearly understand the aim of the Football Program, which is to teach their youngsters Good Sportsmanship, Fair Play and a Love for the wonderful Game of Football.
- (C) Parents must NEVER interfere with operation of the Team just because their son happens to be a Member of that Team. They will be better Supporters of the Team if they understand just what the Coaches are trying to do.
- (D) One of the best ways to inform them is to hold a Team, Pre-Season Meeting at which the objectives of the Program can be described, the mechanics of the operation, the various jobs that need to be done and people who will be needed to do them.
- (E) The Bill George Youth Football League (INC.) Rules state that the Coach should attempt to have every Player who is physically fit see Action in every Game. The Coach is the best judge of the Player's ability and capability, and the Parent should not question his use of Personnel, Plays, Strategy or Methods.

- (F) Any misconduct by Parents of a Player playing could result in the Player being dropped from the Team (after careful review by the Executive Board).

RULE VIII - THE REGULAR SEASON AND PLAY-OFF GAMES

- (A) Regular Season Games that end in ties will go to "Bill George League Tie-Breakers" for one try, if still tied, it stands 1/2 Win and 1/2 Loss.
- (B) Each Team is given a series of four Downs from the Ten-yard Line, once each.
- (C) In case of a tie at the end of Regulation Play of any Play - off Game the "Bill George League Tie Breaker" will go into effect.
1. Each Team is given a series of four Downs from the Opponent's Ten-yard Line.
 2. In the event that the Tie is not broken, subsequent series of Downs will be given to each Team until the Tie is broken. Games will NOT be decided by penetration.
 3. One time-out is to be awarded per Team to be used on Defense or Offense. Any unused time-outs from the Second-Half are carried over into the Tiebreaker.
 4. In the event that a Team scores a Touchdown in an Overtime Period, the Extra-Point-Play must be attempted, unless the Game has been decided by virtue of the Touchdown.
 5. Any Team involved in consecutive play-off or tiebreaker, shall be allowed a 10 minute intermission.

RULE IX - TEAM DIVISIONS-PLAYOFF-DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

- (A) Gold and Silver Division Alignment

1. Gold Division

The Gold Division shall be composed of all franchise teams at the respective 80lb., 90lb., 100lb. 115lb, and

130lb weight levels who do not qualify to participate in the Silver Division, or, who do qualify, but elect not to participate in the Silver Division. The Gold Division shall also be composed of those teams which are required to be in the Gold Division by virtue of the “Franchises with one or more teams at one weight level rule described below.

The Gold Division shall have two separate conferences as follows:

<u>AFC</u>		<u>NFC</u>	
Hinsdale	Streamwood	Bartlett	Wheaton
Elmhurst	Glendale Heights	Downers Grove	Bloomingtondale
West Chicago	Lombard	South Elgin	Carol Stream
Hanover Park		Glen Ellyn	

The foregoing assignments may be modified as required by the Executive Board to eliminate byes and similar schedule matters arising due to final franchise commitments.

2. Franchises with One or More Teams at One Weight Division

Franchises with one or more teams at the 80lb, 90lb, 100lb, 115lb., or 130lb weight levels must designate and field at least one team in the Gold Division. Franchises with three teams must field at least one team in the Gold Division and up to two teams in the Silver Division. Franchises with four teams must field at least two teams in the Gold Division and up to two in the Silver Division, with a cap of two gold teams for franchises fielding five or more teams.

This rule shall supercede subsequent Rule IX (A) 3.

3. Silver Division

The Silver Division will be composed of no less than 5 teams at a weight level. Silver Division teams shall be composed *generally* as follows:

- A.) Players new to organized youth tackle football.
- B.) Players from Franchises meeting Gold Division team participation requirements.
- C.) Players who played in the Gold Division the previous year; and
- D.) Players who played in the Gold Division on teams with losing records (excluding byes) and also had 3 or more Courtesy Losses.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Silver team shall have more than 5 players, in the aggregate, from winning (Excluding byes) Gold Division teams, or any Gold or Silver Division team having three or more courtesy rule wins in the previous season (unless such team’s franchise has met its Gold Division team requirements).

4. Deadline for Franchise Designation of Silver Division Team(s)

All franchises must designate the teams which shall participate in the Silver Division by a date specified by the BGYFL governing board.

5. Playoff points will be awarded for conference games only. The top six teams in the AFC will advance to the playoffs and the top six teams in the NFC will advance to the playoffs. Unless there are ten or more teams then 8 teams will make the playoffs. There will be no Kansas City tie-breakers in the Gold Division. In case of a tie the following criteria will be followed:

First Criteria: Head to head **conference** competition.

Second Criteria: Best win loss percentage against common **conference** opponents. All teams tied must have played at least one common opponent.

Third Criteria: Strength of Schedule - Teams will be awarded points equal to number of wins of teams they have beaten or tied in the **conference** plus 1. A bye win is a win but has no strength of schedule points.

Fourth Criteria: A BGYFL executive board supervised coin toss

Brackets for the Gold playoffs are as follows if there are eight or less teams. If nine or more teams then they will have eight teams qualify for the playoffs. **(There will be no Gold Division Kansas City tie-breakers):**

#1 Seed vs. Bye

#4 vs. #5

#3 vs. #6

#2 Seed vs. Bye

NOTE – If there is an uneven amount of conference games for certain teams in a division then they will receive a conference bye to equalize the amount of conference games played.

This rule shall supercede subsequent Rule IX (A) 6.

6. Gold/Silver Division Playoff and Championship

Play-Offs for ten Teams or more in a Weight Class: A Weight Class containing ten or more teams will be contained in one division. The top EIGHT finishers shall qualify for post-season play. Seeding will be by records. Ties in standings will be determined by criteria outlined in Article IX, Section A Item 8a. (listed below.).

First Round - #1 Home VS. #8. #2 Home VS. #7. #3 Home VS. #6. #4 Home VS. #5.

Second Round - Winner of #1 and #8 to play Winner of #4 and #5. Winner of #2 and #7 to play Winner of #3 and #6.

Winners of Round Two advance to the Championship Game.

Play-Offs for nine or less Teams in a Weight Class - A Weight Class containing nine or less teams will BE ONE Division. The top SIX finishers will qualify for Post-Season Play. Home Team will be the higher-seeded Team (#1 High and #6 Low).

First Round - #1 Bye. #2 Bye. #3 Home VS. #6. #4 Home VS. #5.

Second Round - Winner of #3 and #6 to play seed #2. Winner of #4 and #5 to play #1.

Winners of Round Two advances to the Championship Game.

INTERIM RULE FOR 2009 ONLY

Playoffs for SILVER DIVISION ONLY IN 2009 - Seven regular season games will be scheduled. Half the teams will have four home games and the other half will have three home games. After the seventh game of the season, sixteen teams (fifteen in the case of an odd number of committed teams) will make the playoffs. There will be no Kansas City Shootout for any playoff seeds and the criteria outlined in RULE IX, part 8, A. will be followed. All teams that do not make the playoffs will have an eighth game scheduled. The playoff bracket for such a division will be as follows:

1 vs. 16, 8 vs. 9, 5 vs. 12, 4 vs. 13, 3 vs. 14, 6 vs. 11, 7 vs. 10, 2 vs. 15

If there is an odd amount of teams committed, the top 15 teams will make the playoffs and the number one seed will get a bye. The remaining teams will then be guaranteed an eighth regular season game. The eighth regular season game will be scheduled by the executive board based on regular season home games and wins/losses. Exec board scheduling is final.

7. BGYFL Executive Board Authority to Change Silver Division Teams; Fair Draft Rule

(a) The Executive Board of the BGYFL shall have the ability to take whatever action it deems necessary to carry out the goal of having teams composed of new or less skilled players compete in one division which has greater competitive parity than would be the case if those teams were not segregated into a separate division.

(b) Fair Draft Rule

Should a franchise have more than one team in both the same division and the same weight class then it shall distribute players between such teams equally in numbers and abilities as follows:

(i) After assignment of the sons (if any) of two coaches, the rest of the draft will be determined by coin flip, and then proceed with alternate picks of one or two players until all players are drafted, or

(ii) Pursuant to such other similar procedure as shall be approved by the Executive Board.

Notwithstanding the use of a fair draft procedure, rosters are subject to Executive Board review. A determination by the Executive Board that players have not been fairly assigned shall result in disqualification of the team from the playoffs and the placing of the team's franchise on probation.

8. Division Tie in Standings

(A) Ties in Standings - In case of a Tie in the Standings at the end of the Regular Season Play, the Standing will be determined as follows:

First Criteria: Head to head competition. Only applies if all teams tied have played each other one time.

Second Criteria: Best win loss percentage against common opponents. All teams tied must have played at least one common opponent.

Third Criteria: Strength of Schedule - Teams will be awarded points equal to number of wins of teams they have beaten or tied plus 1.

Fourth Criteria: A BGYFL executive board supervised coin toss

(B) In the case of a tie for a final play-off spots (Silver Division or Gold Division with ten or more teams committed), the following criteria shall be used:

First criteria: Head to head – only to be used when all teams that are tied have played each team at least once.

Second Criteria: Best win loss percentage against common opponents – only applies if all tied teams have played at least one of the same opponents.

Third criteria: Kansas City Shoot-Out with one first down from the 20 yard line.

When more than two teams are tied the following criteria shall be used for the Shoot-Out

Three teams tied: A BGYFL supervised blind draw – the first two teams drawn will play with the winner facing the third team picked

Four teams tied: A BGYFL supervised blind draw - with the first two teams playing each other and the remaining two teams playing each other. The winners of these games will play each other.

Five Teams: A BGYFL supervised blind draw – First two teams play, second two teams play, fifth team receives first round bye. First round bye team plays the winner of game one. The winner of this game will play the winner of game two.

- (B) Single Elimination Tournament - Championship Day - Will be a two-day affair. The Gold Division Championship will be played one day and silver the other, days to be determined by the Championship Day Committee. Games will be played on a high school field or other appropriate field as designated by the Championship Day Committee. The team having the best record will be the home team and have their choice of sidelines.
- (C) BGYFL to supply all Wilson game balls on Super Bowl weekend sized as per Rule VI (B) Footballs.

RULE X - ROSTERS, PROTESTS, ARBITRATION AND PENALTIES

- (A) Rosters - Roster size for all Weight Divisions will be limited to 32 Players. A squad of 33 Players or more will require two Teams, with both Teams participating in the Bill George Youth Football League.
- (B) Protests:

Protests will not be accepted during game play. Issues or concerns about game play rule interpretations may be brought to the BGYFL Executive Board via the town rep. Game films will be reviewed however the board will not review any referee judgment calls such as holding, clipping, ball spots or any other rule interpretations.
- (C) Arbitration - There will be NO Arbitration of Players from adopted Age or Weight Categories, except for physically or mentally handicapped children. A Doctor's Certificate or School Record would have to be presented to the League, stating the "condition" of the Child and that Child could participate in a contact sport.
- (D) Penalty's:
 - 1) Franchise Penalty:

Minor = \$50 Fine
Major = \$100 Fine
2nd Major = \$250 Fine Plus Franchise Probation

4 Minor Penalty's = 1 Major Penalty
3 Major Penalty's = Go before the BGYFL Reps for possible expulsion and or other sanctions
 - 2) Personal Penalty:

Discipline = Warning
Minor = 1 week Suspension
Major = 1 year Suspension

4 Discipline Penalty's = 1 Minor Penalty
3 Minor Penalty's = 1 Major Penalty
 - 3) Probation is being loss of voting privilege for current year, and required to pay entrance fee the same as a new Franchise.
 - 4) All fines to be paid at the following BGYFL Meeting. If all fines are not paid in full prior to the playoffs the franchise may be eliminated from the playoffs.

RULE XI - SPECIFIC GAME RULES

All League Games are played under the Rules and Regulations of the IHSA, except for the difference and limitations note in the Bill George Youth Football League Rules and Regulations.

- (A) Time of Quarters - All weight Classes to use a ten-minute Stopped Clock.
- (B) 80lb. and 90lb. Weight Divisions will use a free punt. The punting Team must declare the Kick. Both Teams must hold a minimum of seven men of the Line of Scrimmage until the Ball has been kicked. The Snap must be between the center of the legs, directly to the Kicker. The Kicker must kick the Ball within a normal three to four seconds. If the Ball goes over the Kicker's head, he/she must kick from the point the Ball is picked up, immediately, and he/she may not advance the Ball by running. If the Kicker advances the Ball, the Official will whistle the Play dead and direct the Kicker to the spot he/she picked the Ball up, and kick from that spot, with NO penalty to the Kicking Team. After the Ball is kicked, Play continues as a Regular Play.

RULE XII - FLAG FOOTBALL

The Bill George Youth Football League recognizes the Community Flag Football Program as a separate entity, which provides an introduction to the Bill George Youth Football Tackling program.

**BILL GEORGE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUES (INC.)
RULES AND REGULATIONS
CHEERLEADING & POM
2009 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Article XIII - Statement of Purpose

- (A.) General Purpose - To encourage Youth athletic activities, promote sportsmanship and fitness. To maintain a sound mental, physical and moral condition.
- (B.) Specific Purpose - To provide an opportunity to Cheer and Dance in a safe manner, develop qualities of sportsmanship, teamwork, self-confidence, poise and enthusiasm.
- (C) BGYFL Franchise Representatives will serve as the voting body with regard to decisions brought forth regarding the by-laws and competition rules. Such decisions will then be ratified by the BGYFL Board of Directors.
- (D) The BGYFL Cheer Board will assist and support the Franchise Representatives in the continued development of the BGYFL Cheer Program and serve as a liaison between the Franchise Representatives and the BGYFL Executive Board.

Article XIV - Governing Bodies

- (A.) BGYFL Cheer Board – The BGYFL Cheer Board shall consist of the BGYFL Cheer President, Vice President, Secretary and By-Laws Officer. The BGYFL Cheer Board shall represent BGYFL Cheer to the BGYFL Executive Board on all matters surrounding Franchise complaints and disciplinary actions as related to cheerleading activities that require review and approval by the BGYFL Executive Board. The BGYFL Executive Cheer Board shall act in support of the BGYFL cheerleading and pom by-laws and rules. **A**
- (B) BGYFL Cheer Board Elections - The Cheer President, Vice President and Secretary shall be elected bi-yearly at the November meeting. The terms will be off set with the Cheer President and By-Laws Officer being elected in even numbered years and the Secretary and Cheer Vice President being elected in the odd numbered years. All positions are subject to the BGYFL Executive Board approval. The BGYFL Cheer Board Franchise Representatives shall submit nominations for all term ending vacating board positions by the adjournment of the October meeting. The ballot will be forwarded to all Franchise Representatives prior to the November meeting. All candidates may provide a biography to franchise BGYFL representatives prior to the November meeting. Ballots will be turned into the Secretary at the November meeting for tabulation. Results of the Cheer election will be forwarded to the BGYFL Executive Board for approval. Beginning in January 2009, any candidate accepting a Cheer Board position will forfeit their BGYFL Franchise Representative voting rights.
- (C.) Eligibility for Nomination to a Cheer Board position – Nominees for board positions shall only be incumbent Officers, Commissioners, League Directors, past officers, alternate franchise representatives or franchise Executive board Members whom have attended a minimum of SIX ~~regularly~~ scheduled BGYFL cheer board meetings of the current year.
- (D.) Cheer President: The position of Cheer President will be a non-voting position and will only vote to break a tie. The Cheer President shall:
 - Oversee all BGYFL cheer board meetings
 - Co-Chair BGYFL Cheer Competition
 - Any other duties deemed necessary
- (E.) Vice President-The Vice President will assist the Cheer President in all matters. The Vice President will take over for the President in the event of absence, illness or inability to continue to act as the President. The Vice-President will Co-Chair the BGYFL Cheer and Pom Competition with the President.
- (F.) Secretary -The secretary will be responsible for the monthly meeting notes and distribution of such within a week on the next scheduled meeting. Any other duties deemed necessary by the Cheer Board.
- (G.) The By-Laws Officer will be responsible for the knowledge of all By-Laws and Rules of BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom and NFHS Spirit guidelines. The By-Laws Officer will receive, review and notify the BGYFL Cheer Board about proposed revisions and amendments and be responsible for making approved updates to the BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom By-Laws and Rules.

- (H.) Successions – If any Cheer Board member vacates their position prior to the end of their term. The Vice President will succeed the President. If the Secretary or By-Laws Officer vacate, the Executive BGYFL Board will appoint someone based on nominations from the BGYFL Cheer franchise representatives.
- (I.) The Grievance Committee will consist of the BGYFL Cheer Board. The Grievance Committee will hear and respond to all cheerleading complaints and shall act in support of the BGYFL cheerleading and pom by-laws and rules. Recommendations from the BGYFL Grievance Committee shall be reported at the following regularly scheduled BGYFL Cheer Board Meeting. The BGYFL Cheer President shall bring the issues and recommended outcome to the BGYFL Executive Board.
- (J.) The following committees will be formed at the January meeting: Coaches Clinic, and Game Card
The BGYFL Cheer Commissioner will appoint the committee Chairman.
- (K) The BGYFL Cheer Board shall have the authority to make final decisions regarding any rule clarification or infraction with the approval of the BGYFL Executive Board.
- (L) Yearly by-law review and change period will be during the February and March BGYFL cheer board meeting. Any changes must be submitted in writing or via email to the Cheer Board two weeks prior to the February meeting. The first By-law vote is at the BGYFL cheer meeting in February. The second by-law vote is taken at the March meeting. Attendance at the February meeting is required in order to participate in the second by-law vote. A majority vote of all participating franchises is required for a by-law to pass.
- (M) Any amendments to the by-laws outside the yearly by-law review and change period must be voted on and passed by a majority vote of all eligible and/or present participating Franchises.
- (N) Copies of the monthly BGYFL financial report will be provided at all Cheer Board Meetings.
- (O) Minutes will be taken at every BGYFL Cheer Board meeting. Copies of these will be sent to each BGYFL Representative and alternate. The minutes must be approved at the next month's meeting.
- (P) Any and all By-law and Competition Rules changes must be brought before the BGYFL Board of Directors for ratification. Any Cheer Franchise that is not represented by a BGYFL Board of Director may attend the BGYFL Football meeting to vote on the ratifications. The date of this meeting will be made available to all BGYFL Cheer Franchise Representatives.

Article XV - Franchise and Participant Requirements

- (A.) Cheer Season – The BGYFL cheerleading season will start July 1st of each year and may not exceed December 1st of said year. Cheerleaders may perform outside of the season with the approval of the BGYFL Executive Board. Said event requests must be submitted in writing to the BGYFL Executive Board with a detailed explanation of said event. Said event may not include participation in any form of competition. Squads participating in any event outside of the regular season must follow all current BGYFL By-Laws. Any franchise violating this bylaw may be subject to one or all of the bylaw infraction consequences in Article XVI, item I.
- (B.) Franchise Representation – Each franchise must designate at least one representative and one alternate to the BGYFL Cheer Board. Each franchise representative/alternate must be at least 21 years of age. The BGYFL Cheer President will confirm each representative/alternate at the March BGYFL Football meeting with Franchise's BGYFL Football Board representative. After March, any changes to the BGYFL Cheer Board Representation must be submitted, in writing, to the BGYFL Cheer President. Regardless of the number of representatives, each franchise is entitled to one vote.

- (C.) Sanctioning - Sanctioning in the Bill George League Cheerleading and Poms is mandatory. Any town that Does not sanction their cheerleaders will not be able to have cheerleaders on the playing field for any game.
- (D.) Parental Consent - Each participant MUST have a written consent of Parent and/or Guardian on file with the Respective Franchise and authorize BGYFL to use publicity pictures of their child to participate in the Bill George Youth Football League.
- (E.) Insurance - Participants MUST be insured through their respective Franchise.
- (F) Cheer Camps and or Clinics – In order to host a camp and/or clinic the franchise must abide by the following procedures:
 - The camp/clinic must be held between June 15 and July 23 of the current year.
 - The BGYFL Cheer Executive board must be notified of the camp/clinic no later than the two weeks prior to the camp/clinic.
 - The camp/clinic must be opened to more than one squad or one level.
 - The camp/clinic may stress fundamentals, drills, safety and participation. At no time may any of the camp instructors/helpers work with only the cheerleaders that she will coach in the upcoming season and may not focus on only one squad and/or level.
 - Any camp/clinic held by a Franchise must be deemed optional. Cheerleaders and parents should never feel pressure that a camp/clinic is “MANDATORY” in any way.
 Failure to adhere to above rules will lead to a Franchise Major Penalty
- (G) BGYFL participants cannot participate during the season on any other competition squad, (AKA, not limited to All-Stars/Clubs) with the exception of your school’s squad. Exception: BGYFL participants may join other competition squads once the BGYFL team has completed all regular season games.
- (H) New participants to the BGYFL program can register to a team outside of their home town. Those participants who choose to transfer to another BGYFL town must sign and file a recruit/Waiver form with the BGYFL. This is for tracking purposes to allow towns to understand why a participant is leaving. Any disputes with the waiver will be brought before the Cheer Board and BGYFL Executive Board, unless they moved into the transfer to town’s boundaries.
- (I) Ages - Participants shall be placed on Teams by age, year and months, (as of September 1st), providing franchises field teams as follows:

Cheer Level	Age Average (MAXIMUM)	Grade Level (GUIDELINES)	Age (GUIDELINES)	Football Team (GUIDELINES)
Exhibition	7.75	1 st , 2 nd Grade	6, 7 and 8 year olds	70lbs. Team
Level 1	8.75	3 rd Grade	8 and 9 year olds	80lbs. Team
Level 2	9.75	4 th Grade	9 and 10 year olds	90lbs. Team
Level 3	10.75	5 th Grade	10 and 11 year olds	100lbs. Team
Level 4	11.75	6 th Grade	11 and 12 year olds	115 lbs. Team
Level 5	12.75	7 th Grade	12,13, and 14 year olds	130lbs. Team
Level 6	13.75	8 th Grade	12, 13, and 14 year olds	Varsity Team

Participants shall be placed on Teams by age, year and months (as of September 1st). Squads within grade brackets shall not exceed an age average in excess of X.75 years per squad.

- (J.) Roster - Participants on a squad, including all coaching staff and team parents, must be submitted to the

BGYFL Cheer Board at the August meeting. This must include: Grade in school, birth dates, copies of birth certificates, and copies of coach's certification. This is your competition roster. The age average from this roster will be used for competition. In addition, any persons belonging to your Franchise cheer board/committee should be submitted on a separate roster, as these individuals will be considered part of your Franchise squads. These board/committee members must be certified if they are to supervise a practice or work with the cheerleaders.

- The rosters will be reviewed and audited with the attached birth certificates* by the Cheer Board members that are present at the August meeting. *Other acceptable forms: Hospital certificate, alien card, passport, or DCFS form.
- Franchises will have teams indicate, whether they are performing a cheer or pom routine for competition at the close of the August meeting. If not indicated Franchises must notify their selection to the Executive Cheer Board one week prior to the September meeting.
- Certification of Coaches - All Cheerleading Directors and adult coaching staff must be certified. A coach under the age of 18 may not supervise/coach a squad during a practice or game without the certified adult, over the age of 18, member of the coaching team present.
- Cheerleader/Pom Coaches - Must be a minimum of 13 years of age.
- In the event of a girl dropping from the program, it is the responsibility of the town's Cheer Director to inform the Age Average Committee of that change. Age averaging will not be recalculated.
- Squads must be a minimum of 10 girls with a maximum of 26 girls.
- Girls in 1st grade may participate at the exhibition level.
- Squads may not consist of more than two grades. Rostering three or more grades must be approved by a 3/4's majority vote by the BGYFL Cheer Board. If approved, the squad is prohibited from performing in the cheer division at the BGYFL Cheer competition.

(K.) Misconduct – In support of the BGYFL a no tolerance policy will be enforced. Any misconduct of a parent(s) Of a cheerleader will result in that parent being removed from the practice/game/BGYFL function and/or the cheerleader being dropped from the team (after careful review by the Executive Board.)

(L.) Practices - Practice sessions may start July 1st of each year and may not exceed December 1st of said year. Any squad practicing other than between July 1st and December 1st will not be eligible for the Bill George Youth Cheerleading and Pom Annual Competition. Cheerleaders may practice for BGYFL executive board approved events, but may not exceed more than four hours per event. Practice must be conducted by a certified adult supervisor. Practices must follow the immediate previous year's BGYFL by-laws and NFSHS spirit hand book.

(M.) Fees - A charge of \$2.00 per participant on each squad submitted on the rosters will equal the Franchise's Fee, and allow participants access to and participation in all BGYFL sponsored events with the exception of The BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Competition. The franchise fee is due and payable at the August meeting. A \$10.00 fine, per squad, will be assessed for late BGYFL Fees and any incomplete and/or missing roster. An incomplete roster is defined as one missing any of the

Following elements:

- a. Cheerleader birth certificate (or other acceptable form as designated in ARTICLE XV, Item I)
- b. Coaches certification
- c. Missing information on the roster (as stated in the roster template)

The fee is due and payable at the August meeting.

(N.) Meetings – A franchise is required to be represented at all of the regularly scheduled meetings. A \$25.00 fine for each missed meeting is to be paid to BGYFL at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Franchises' that are not represented at a meeting will not be able to discuss or vote on decisions made at the meeting the Franchise was not represented. Any information not received; as a result of non-representation will be that Franchise's responsibility to obtain provided the minutes of the meeting are sent to the current BGYFL Cheer Board member on file. Second vote proxy will be allowed and must be submitted in written to a BGYFL Executive Cheer Board member prior to the meeting.

(O.) Mascots – Mascots of any kind are not permitted with in the roped off playing field or at any BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Competition. (Minor Penalty/Disqualification at Competition)

- (P.) Competition – Squads may participate in outside competitions as long as the said competition does not interfere with cheering at the minimum required BGYFL football games and BGYFL Cheer and Pom Competition. In addition, all BGYFL By-Laws must be adhered to while participating at an outside competition. (Major Penalty/Disqualification at BGYFL Competition)
- (Q.) Games - All BGYFL rostered squads are expected to cheer as a whole team at all games and must be present from the beginning to the end of each game (with the exception if a squad is rostered to cheer for two separate football teams, than a half of each game is allowed) Participation in the BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Competition is the only exception. Squads are required to cheer at a minimum of 6 (six) games of the regular season for the team they are rostered to. (Minor Penalty)
- (R.) Cheer Schedule: All squads must submit a schedule of the 6 minimum games that they will be cheering at by the September meeting. (Minor Penalty)
- (S.) Participation in the BGYFL Cheer and Pom Competition is mandatory for all Franchise's rostered teams. Exceptions for squads choosing not to participate must be brought before the BGYFL Cheer Board at a regularly scheduled Meeting. (Major Penalty)
- (T.) A fined franchise has until the next meeting, after the notification of the fine, to pay the fine. If all fines are not paid in full prior to Competition the franchise may be eliminated from the BGYFL Cheer Competition.
Exception:
- If a fine(s) is in question and is under further review with any of the BGYFL boards, the fine will not need to be paid until after the review session or meeting.
 - If a fine(s) is determined and given to a franchise at the meeting immediately prior to the BGYFL competition, the franchise will have the next BGYFL Cheer board meeting.

Article XVI - Coaches and Franchises

- (A.) Certification of Coaches - All Cheerleading Directors and adult coaching staff must be certified. A coach under the age of 18 may not supervise/coach a squad during a practice or game without the certified adult, over the age of 18, member of the coaching team present. (Major Penalty)
- (B.) Minimum Age - Cheerleading/Pom Coaches must be a minimum of 13 years of age. (Minor Penalty)
- (C.) Supervision – A Certified rostered adult supervisor must be present during any BGYFL or Franchise sanctioned event. (Major Penalty)
- (D.) Franchise Responsibilities - Where shelter facilities are available to the Home Team, facilities must be of equal protection and made available to the Visiting Teams; if not, neither Team shall use a shelter.
- (E.) Drugs/Alcohol - ALL PERSONS participating and/or attending ANY BGYFL Youth Activity are prohibited from consuming alcohol and/or illegal drugs while on the premises of a game or practice fields and competition facilities, including the parking lots, during any BGYFL activity. Any infraction of this rule will result in the alleged Franchise being assessed a \$100.00 fine for the first offense; second offense results in a \$500.00 fine, probation and loss of voting privileges for 1 year. A third offense will result in dismissal from the BGYFL League.
- (F.) Half-Time Etiquette - The Visiting Team shall perform for the Home Team and return to the sidelines to watch the Home Team perform. After the Home Team performs for the Visiting Team then both squads shall perform to their own side. Half time is 15 minutes. Half-time routines will have a maximum 3-minute limit, with the exception of homecoming that

is a maximum of 5 minutes. Visiting Team - If there is not a Visiting Team, the Home Team will perform to the home side and if time allows will perform to the visitor side at half time. The Visiting Team will be allowed to perform their half-time routine to music at an away game providing they 1) provide their own music and 2) time allows (Minor Penalty)

(G.) Championship Game - Girls on squads performing at the Championship games will receive a complimentary program and cheer memento.

(H.) Bylaw Infractions:

(I.) Franchise Penalty:

Minor=\$50.00 Fine
Major=\$100.00 Fine
2nd Major=\$250.00 Fine Plus Franchise Probation

4 Minor Penalty's=1 Major Penalty
3 Major Penalty's=Go before the BGYFL Reps for possible expulsion and or other sanctions.

(J.) Personal Penalty:

Discipline=Warning
Minor=1 week Suspension
Major=1 year Suspension

4 Discipline Penalty's=1 Minor Penalty
3 Minor Penalty's=1 Major Penalty

3. Probation is being loss of voting privilege for current year, and required to pay entrance fee the same as a new Franchise.
4. All fines to be paid at the following BGYFL Meeting. If all fines are not paid in full prior to Competition the franchise may be eliminated from the BGYFL Cheer Competition.
5. Other fines listed in cheer by-laws supersede those listed in letter (I.)

(I) Game Cards – Game cards will be utilized and signed off by the opposing cheer coach, director, franchise representative or BGYFL game representative **after** each game. All cards are to be turned in weekly to the Game Card Committee. A \$10.00 fine will be assessed for each team not turning in the game cards with the exception of the BGYFL Cheer & Pom Competition.

(J) Coaches Clinic – The BGYFL Cheerleading coaches' clinic is mandatory for all head coaches and is encouraged for all assistant and junior coaches. The clinic will be held yearly prior to the start of the cheer season. A \$25.00 fine will be assessed for each head coach that does not attend the clinic.

** As the Coaches Clinic will under go changes this year (2009), we would like to require that each Franchise have at minimum one coach for each squad they will be fielding this season, attend the Coaches Clinic. As we do not have rosters available by June participation the number of minimum participants will be based on the number of squads each Franchise rostered the previous year and a \$25.00 fine will be assessed accordingly. All Cheer Board members from each Franchise should attend this event

Article XVII - Competition

(A.) All Cheer Board members shall approve a competition budget.

(B.) All Franchise's participating in the BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Competition will be assigned a job. The jobs will be drawn by lottery at the August meeting. Unless requested, a Franchise is exempt from performing the same job at consecutive year competitions. Cheer Board members, or representative, are responsible for the supervisor of their Franchise's assigned job. The Competition Committee will provide guidelines for each competition job.

- (C) BGYFL Cheer Board members and Franchise Representatives will submit competition recommendations to the BGYFL Cheer Board two weeks prior to the March Meeting. A first vote will take place at the March meeting, a second vote will follow at the April meeting. Attendance at the March meeting is mandatory to vote at the April meeting. A major vote is needed to pass said changes.
- (D) All BGYFL Franchises must have available the day of competition the emergency contact information for all participating cheerleaders. (Minor Penalty)(Franchise)
- (E.) The BGYFL Cheer Commissioner must receive competition commitments and payments by the September meeting. A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed, per squad, to towns not paying 1 week prior to the competition.
- (F.) Competition rosters will be certified at the meeting immediately preceding the BGYFL Cheer and Pom Competition. There will be no changes to rosters after that time.
- (G.) All decisions of the judges are final. Any disagreement with scoring or other problems and questions must be directed to the Franchise's BGYFL Cheer Board member. Contact with the judges other than a BGYFL Cheer Board member is prohibited. (Disqualification)
- (H.) Competition squads size not less than 10 and no more than 26.
- (I.) 70 lb level squads will perform at the BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Competition as exhibition. Each squad at the exhibition level will be awarded a Participation Trophy. In addition these squads will be judged and provided a score sheet but scores will not be totaled or used to award place position.
- (J.) All squads participating at the BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Competition must be rostered to a football team. In the event you lose a football team you may have two-squads cheer for one team.
- (K.) Competition Rules will be reviewed and voted on at the March Cheer Board meeting with a second vote at the April meeting.
- (K.) Squads will be grouped in two divisions: A Small Division consisting of squads with 10-17 rostered members and a Large Division consisting of squads with 18-26 rostered members.
- (L.) Squads arriving beyond the "check-in" time of a subsequent level from their own will be disqualified from the competition with no refund in fees.
- (M.) All franchises must have a representative present at all times during the BGYFL competitions. (Major Penalty).

Article XVIII – Safety

- (A.) The Bill George Youth Cheerleading and Poms have adopted all National Federation of State High School Association's current year spirit rules to govern the safety of the BGYFL Cheerleading and Pom Franchises.

Exceptions to NFSHS Spirit Rule 2:

- Section 2, Article 6, Rule 1 - Single Base Cradle Dismounts are not permitted.

- (B.) Artificial fingernails are not allowed. Length of natural nails is not to be further than the fingertip. (Minor Penalty)

- (C.) The use of spotters when engaging in partner stunts is strongly recommended. Back Spotters will be required for all stunts where flyers feet are at prep level or higher. Back Spotters and Bases must maintain eye contact with the stunt. If Front Spotters are used, they may look away from a stunt as necessary to move to adapt the stunt. (Minor Penalty)
- (D.) Jewelry (of any kind) will not be allowed at any time during practices, games or competitions. Exception: A medical alert necklace or bracelet may be worn if taped down. (Minor Penalty)
- (E.) Stunts shall not be higher than two bodies. (Minor Penalty)
- (F.) Collapsible stunts are not permitted. (Minor Penalty)
- (G.) Single twist down dismounts is allowed for Levels 4, 5, &6. (Minor Penalty)
- (H.) Full Pendulums are not permitted. (Minor Penalty)
- (I.) TicToc's (Change of Liberty) are allowed for Levels 4, 5, &6. (Minor Penalty)
- (J.) Basket tosses will be allowed for Levels 4, 5 &6 on proper flooring as outlined in the NFSHS Spirit Rule Book. (Minor Penalty)
- (K.) Coachs/Jr. Coaches, Team Moms are not allowed on the field to assist the squad during a half-time performance (Minor Penalty)