

## OHIO VALLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE GENERAL RULES

### Section 1-Official Rules:

1. **The** rules adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association shall govern play in the football games, except in situations specified by these general rules.
2. **The** League Board shall consist of one Representative from each Association. If an organization has more than one person at a league meeting then only one may vote.
3. **The** new elected OYVFL members shall be nominated in January by the current OYVFL board. The new members will be voted on at the first league meeting in February. The nine (9) voting positions are made up of the nine (9) football associations in the OYVFL.
4. **All** OYVFL general rules will be finalized at the June meeting with no revisions to be made until the December meeting of that year. To add or revise any of the general rules, after the June league meeting, there must be a unanimous vote of all OYVFL board members present at said meeting.
5. **Elected Board Positions and Duties:**
  - a. **President:**
    - i. Shall preside at all OYVFL board meetings, of the executive board, shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees, and will perform all other duties pertaining to the office.
    - ii. The president will select chairperson of the standing and special committees subject to approval by OYVFL Board.
    - iii. Will be responsible for casting all tiebreaker votes.
    - iv. Shall not be able to vote for his organization in the event of an absence of his/her league representative.
    - v. Shall represent the league at official occasions.
  - b. **Vice President:**
    - i. Shall preside at OYVFL board meetings in the absence of the president.
    - ii. Shall act as an aide to the president.
    - iii. Shall assume administrative duties of the league that are assigned to him by the president.
    - iv. Succeeds president, if the president resigns from his duties.
    - v. Shall have no voting right, unless they represent their respective programs.

- c. Recording Secretary:
    - i. Shall keep the minutes of all OYVFL board meetings.
    - ii. Shall provide the president with the order of business for each meeting.
    - iii. In addition to the above, the approved copy of the bylaws, all amendments to the bylaws will be filed in the back of the secretary's permanent record book.
    - iv. Attends to all correspondences.
    - v. Shall have no voting right, unless they represent their respective programs.
  - d. Treasurer:
    - i. Receives all monies of OYVFL league
    - ii. Keeps an accurate record of the receipts and expenditures, and payout funds under the direction of the league board.
    - iii. The funds acquired by the league shall be deposited in a federally insured financial institution approved by the league board.
    - iv. Shall present a statement of account at every league meeting.
    - v. An auditing committee of not less than (2) members will be appointed at least two weeks before the last league meeting by the president with the approval of the OYVFL board to examine the treasurer's accounts at the end of each football season.
    - vi. Shall be bonded.
    - vii. Shall have no voting right, unless they represent their respective programs.
6. **An** official league meeting cannot be held without a Quorum of members, or their approved substitutes present.
7. **All** League rules and changes must be voted on by a majority of the members of the Board.
8. **A** representative from each community must be present at all league meetings. If there is an absence, the community association will receive a verbal warning. If there is a second absence, the community association will be issued a written warning to their President, by the League Board. If there is a third absence, the community association will forfeit their next schedule league games.
9. **A** player must play for the district in which he/she attends school. If a player attends a private school or is home schooled, he/she must play for the district in which he/she lives. If a team is found to have a player playing for them that does not abide by this rule, that team will forfeit its entire season.

- a. Out of district players that participate in the OVYFL and have moved from their original program are permitted to play at the program from which they came providing it is on a continual basis. At the point the child misses a season, he must return to the program that he lives in the district of (this does not include injured players that have to sit out for a year. However, they must be on the roster and weigh-in for that season.) The Board must be notified of all players and this will be done on a case-by-case basis. If the Board is not notified this child will be considered an ineligible player.

## **Section II-Coach, Player, Spectator, and Parent Behavior:**

1. **Obnoxious Behavior:** The Ohio Valley Youth Football League encourages players and coaches to bring families and friends to be fans and spectators. This is a family oriented program. Therefore, if a player, coach or spectator becomes unruly or obnoxious in his or her behavior and harasses, intimidates or ridicules the coaches, players or referees, he or she will be warned once by the referee or coach. If he or she persists in such offensive behavior, the offender will be removed from the game, or the referee may reward the game to the offended team by forfeiture
2. **Probation and Rules Infractions:** If it is determined that a head coach of an association has broken the rules of eligibility as determined by the League, then said head coach will be banned from the OVYFL for life. If a second incident, in the same season with that association occurs, and is not brought to the attention of the OVYFL Board by the program's President. He and the Coach who broke rules of eligibility will be banned from the league for life. If a team is new to the League and is automatically on a three-year probation, and they break the rules, they will be removed on the first violation.
3. **Coaching Staff on Sidelines and Team Uniforms:** Each team may have only eight (8) adults on the sidelines. One (1) head coach, six (6) assistant coaches and a trainer. The water boy should be a student or a player. These persons must be indicated on the Official Team Roster. No player associated with any team shall be on the field or bench unless wearing the team jersey. Coaches should have a team shirt and an I.D. badge on their outerwear to signify that they are on the coaching staff or they will not be allowed on the playing field or sidelines. Failure to limit the coaches to eight (8) will result in an unsportsman-like penalty of 15 yards.
4. **Coolers:** No coolers or food allowed into game parks.

5. **Admission:** Regular games: \$2.00 adult  
\$1.00 students, children 6 and under  
Free
- Play-Off games: \$3.00 adult  
\$2.00 students, children 6 and under  
free
- Super bowl games \$4.00 adults  
\$2.00 students, children 6 and  
under free.
- Make-up games: Free admission after ½ time of the  
6<sup>th</sup> grade game

### **Section III-Preview Games, Procedures, Protests, Time Limits:**

1. **Forfeit Time:** Forfeit time for all Leagues is fifteen(15) minutes after scheduled game time. Forfeit shall be declared when there are less than the minimum of eleven(11) players of a coach's team present to play. Officials shall not permit coaches to hold up the start of the game while waiting for additional players when at least eleven (11) are present for play.
  - A. If a game cannot continue due to weather or darkness, it will be completed the next day (if permitted). If the game is canceled, the League Board will decide when the game will be made up.
  - B. A game will resume where it ended: clock, down, distance, spot of ball, score and quarter.
  
2. **Protests:** Official's decisions are final in all judgment calls. Correct procedure for placing a game under protest for a non-judgment call consists of:
  - A. At the time of the infraction, "Time-Out" must be requested.
  - B. Notify officials and a Board member that a protest is being lodged.
  - C. Protest fee of \$25.00 is given to a Board Member or head coach. Fee is refunded if protest is won, forfeited if protest is lost.
  - D. After a protest has been lodged with the officials and Board member, both head coaches will be brought to center of field and informed that the game is being played under protest. Excessive delays in the game by either team will be cause by forfeiture by the offending team.
  - E. Protest will be written and given to the Board within five(5) days of the infraction.
  - F. Information such as an ineligible player does not require a protest. Pointing out the infraction to the Board members and verification of the same, is an automatic forfeiture. However,

the Board will hold a meeting to decide a protest or an ineligible player.

3. **Game Length:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades (4) eight (8) minute quarters  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (4) eight (8) minute quarters  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade (4) eight (8) minute quarters  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade (4) eight (8) minute quarters  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade (4) eight (8) minute quarters
4. **Ties:** There shall be no ties. Ball will be placed on the 20-yard line. Officials will explain the procedure. On the second attempt to break the tie, the ball will be put on the 10-yard line and game will continue until there is a winner.
5. **Safety:** After a safety, ball is placed at 50-yard line.
6. **No Coaches Allowed Past the 25 Yard Line:** Also no fans along sidelines if at all possible.
7. **Ball Sizes:** Wilson Ball (Leather or Composite)  

1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	K-2 (Wilson or Nike)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	K-2 (Wilson or Nike)
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	K-2 (Wilson or Nike)
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	TDJ (Wilson or Nike)
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	TDJ (Wilson or Nike)
8. **Eighteen (18) Point Rule:** When a team is eighteen (18) points ahead of it's opponent, 4 of the 4 starting offensive backs must be removed from the backfield. If the 18<sup>th</sup> point is scored on a touchdown, the extra point is a continuation of play. The backs need to be removed on the next offensive series. Failure to do so will be an unsportsman-like penalty. (15 yards) This rule will be 24 points for the SUPER BOWL ONLY!!!
9. **Punting: Grades K1 – 5** when the offensive team declares a punt, the clock will stop running. The referee will then step 25 yards and the clock will run off 15 seconds. The 15 seconds will elapse regardless of the time it takes to walk off the 25 yards. The clock will not begin again until the offense has snapped the ball. Any punt from the 40-yard line will be placed on the opponent's 25-yard line for grades 1-5. No Punting Inside Opponent's 30 Yard Line.

**Grade 6** the play is living accepted that there would be no contact with the center.

10. **Run and Kick PAT's:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade the play is live except that there will be no contact with the center, fake PAT kick attempts are allowed. The penalty will be the same as that listed for punting. K-5 will have no rush or fakes attempts. PAT's will be awarded 2 points if successful.

#### **Section IV-Players and Practice:**

1. **Roster Limits;** If an organization is splitting, they must have enough players to split at each grade level (15 kids per team). If they do not have enough players to split (maximum of one team per organization), they should have the number by the next year. If they do not, then the Board would review this after the first year to decide what action to take. This is on a case-by-case basis.
2. **Eligibility:** Players will be placed on a team according to their grade in school subject to the following age restrictions:
  - No child on the 1<sup>st</sup> grade team can turn 8 before October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No child on the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team can turn 9 before October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No child on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team can turn 10 before October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No child on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team can turn 11 before October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No child on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team can turn 12 before October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No child on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team can turn 13 before October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No 7<sup>th</sup> grade players

\*\*\*\*Players may play up in grade level. No player may play down a grade level even though they are not restricted from that by age. The penalty for using an ineligible player will be forfeiture of the games played with said player. The player will then be moved up to the appropriate grade.

3. **Practice:** Conditioning cannot start before Monday in the last full week of July. There must be four (4) days of conditioning and the first day of contact shall be no sooner than the following Monday. Any violation of this rule will result in the forfeiture of the 1<sup>st</sup> regular season game by the violating team.
4. **Sign-ups:** All teams (1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>) must require copies of birth certificates and pictures in game jerseys for all players, which must be presented along with the official rosters at the official weigh-in. These copies must be with the coaches at every game. Each community shall set their own sign-up times. If a team's roster falls below a reasonable number (15) of players the League Board will meet at the team's request and decide what steps are to be taken to resolve the problems. This will be done on a case-by-case basis.

5. **The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in August will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Official weigh-in for the OVYFL football season.**
6. **At the 2<sup>nd</sup> weigh-in, all OVYFL associations must have one (1) representative per team to help finalize rosters. Violation of this rule will cost the association \$50.00 per missing representative.**
7. **Official Roster:** An official roster listing the child's name, jersey number, grade and school must be turned into the League's President before the 1<sup>st</sup> official weigh-in, he/she will not be able to run the ball and cannot play until 2 **head**-coaches have signed off on the roster verifying the child with game jersey before the 1<sup>st</sup> regular season game. Any child who does not have a birth certificate turned in cannot play or dress with the team. If a child signups after the second weigh-in, 1) he will not be able to run the ball, and 2) The program must notify the League President of addition to the team's roster. The roster must also list the assistant coaches.
8. **A player can only be listed on one (1) OVYFL roster and play for that team only, exception would be if the grade above falls below the reasonable number of fifteen (15). In a split program the player must remain with their split team. Ex. A player on the Red team cannot go a play for the Blue team.**
9. **Weight Limits:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> grade less then 66 lbs. in the backfield
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade less then 76 lbs. in the backfield
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade less then 91 lbs. in the backfield
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade less then 106 lbs. in the backfield
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade less then 126 lbs. in the backfield
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade No weight limit

**\*\*\*\*\*Child will have one opportunity to step on the scales and will not receive a second opportunity.\*\*\*\*\*All players must be present at the official weigh-ins.** (see Section IV, #5). A player that does not meet the above weight requirements may line up on the line of scrimmage and catch a pass **down field**. He may not line up in the backfield and be eligible. That player may line up as a tight end only, not a split end or wide out. Rule infraction will result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down.

10. **Record Ties:** All League ties will be determined by the League Directors at the next League meeting and based on the following criteria:
  - a. Overall record
  - b. Head to head record
  - c. Draw numbers to determine seed
11. **Coaches on the Playing Field:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade may have two (2) coaches on the field from each team. Coaches must be at five (5) yards deeper than the deepest man behind the offensive and

defensive lines after the quarterback is under center. There will be no talking after this time from either the defensive or offensive coaches. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades may have one (1) coach on the field from each team. Coaches must be at five (5) yards deeper than the deepest man behind the offensive and defensive lines after the quarterback is under center. There will be no talking after this time from either the defensive or offensive coaches.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will not have any coaches on the field.

During a timeout no more than three (3) coach's will be allowed on the playing field.

12. **Officials:** There will be two (2) officials for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade game. There will be three (3) officials for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade games. **Note: Game can proceed with two (2) officials if necessary.** An additional official will be added to work the clock during all playoff and Super bowl games.

#### **Section V- New League Members:**

1. Any new member community, who joins the Ohio Valley Youth Football League, must have a regular size football field, bathrooms and scoreboard with clock.
2. In case of emergencies, an alternate location may be used, and/or the officials on the field may keep the time and score.
3. All home fields must have men and women's bathrooms.
4. New teams will be put on a three (3) year probation period.

#### **Section VI-Trophies:**

1. The team hosting the Super bowl will provide the following trophies/medallions.
  - a. Football:
    - i. 31" Team trophy for Super Bowl winner.
    - ii. 24" Team trophy for Super Bowl runner-up.
    - iii. All players will receive a 3" medallion.
  - b. Cheerleading:
    - i. All cheerleaders will receive a 3" medallion.

These rules have been reviewed and approved by all members of the Ohio Valley Youth Football League. Last revision date is 6/11/08.

