

Tri-State Youth Football League



2022 Rule Book

Tri-State Youth Football League COACHE'S CODE OF ETHICS

The function of a coach in the Tri-State Football League (TSYFL) is to be aware of and provide to the children in their charge the opportunity for fun and enjoyment, teach proper football skills and techniques, to practice good sportsmanship and physical fitness, which are the emphasis of the TSYFL. The coach shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on each player and thus shall NEVER place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character and sportsmanship.

The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity as a coach in all personal contact with players, officials and the public. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players. The coach shall master the league rules and shall teach them to the team members.

The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules. The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship of spectators, both directly and by working closely with the game administrators and league officials. The coach shall respect and support league officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against officials. Public criticism of league officials, game officials or players are considered unethical.

The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the game before and after the contest.

Sport Concussion Law

In April 2013, Tennessee became the 44th state to pass a sport concussion law designed to reduce youth sports concussions and increase awareness of traumatic brain injury. The legislation, Public Chapter 148, has three key components:

1. To inform and educate coaches, youth athletes and their parents and require them to sign a concussion information form before competing.
2. To require removal of a youth athlete who appears to have suffered a concussion from play or practice at the time of the suspected concussion.
3. To require a youth athlete to be cleared by a licensed health care professional before returning to play or practice.

Both public and private school sports and recreational leagues for children under age 18 that require a fee are affected by the new law. The law covers all sports.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Athletes who have, at any point in their lives, had a concussion have an increased risk for another concussion. Young children and teens are more likely to get a concussion and take longer to recover than adults. The new concussion law is an opportunity to make playing sports safer for Tennessee's young athletes.

Listed below are the websites to obtain the required forms, trainings and guidelines that will equip coaches, parents and athletes to recognize and respond to sports related concussion.

www.cdc.gov/concussion/Headsup/training/index.html

www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.asp:x?courseID•38000

Background Screening

Tri-State Youth Football League Volunteer Screening/ Background check

PURPOSE

It is the intent of this policy to establish certain guidelines wherein the Tri-State Youth Football League ("TSYFL") and its affiliated recreation centers can seek to protect our program participants by investigating the background of administrators, coaches and volunteers who will be coaching in or administering TSYFL sanctioned programs.

GENERAL

- A. Criminal background screenings are conducted by an outside third party who specializes in such work.
- B. Any person who has been found guilty, pled guilty; or pled no contest, regardless of adjudication, or has a pending charge pertaining to, any of the disqualifying offenses listed in this policy will be immediately disqualified from administrative, coaching and/or volunteer positions with the TSYFL or an associated recreation center. The TSYFL also reserves the right to disqualify a person for any crime that would be considered a potential risk to children and/or vulnerable populations. A candidate who willfully fails to comply with this background screening policy shall be automatically disqualified.
- C. This policy will apply to all TSYFL administrators, coaches and volunteers. Both head and assistant coaches participating in sanctioned TSYFL athletic leagues. If a recreation center already conducts background screenings on their coaches and volunteers then these screenings will be accepted. If there is any doubt as to who should be screened, the general rule is anyone who would potentially have unsupervised access to children in an TSYFL approved program. Each administrator/coach/volunteer will be screened when they first volunteer for the position and then every 12 months thereafter for as long as he/she continues participating in TSYFL sanctioned programs. *The criminal background screening is mandatory, there are no exceptions.*

SCREENING PROCESS

All candidates for the above-mentioned positions must sign a Release Form for Criminal History, which give the TSYFL the right to check criminal history records and verifies social security numbers. This work is executed directly, through www.protectyouthsports.com, and the secure URL at which coaches can execute their TSYFL background check will be provided by them.

The cost associated with these background screenings will be paid by the administrator, coach or volunteer.

No other personal information (e.g. work history, financial, credit, etc.) is checked or researched. The company executing background checks has agreed to such terms contractually, and confirms such direction annually.

The company never forwards any individual's information to the league where no issues are discovered.

The third party contractor conducting the checks will cross-reference the screening results with the disqualifying crimes listed in this policy. A pass/fail grade will then be relayed to the TSYFL based on the cross-reference. A pass grade for any candidate that has zero disqualifying crime matches, a fail grade for any candidate that has one or more disqualifying crime matches. All information pertaining to the background check will remain with the third party contractor, subject to the applicable laws requiring disclosure. The TSYFL will not be informed of the results of any background check; rather, the TSYFL will only be issued a pass/fail grade for each candidate.

If the third party contractor reports any "fail" grade to the TSYFL, the TSYFL shall notify the candidate that he or she is disqualified for their desired position. The TSYFL will also notify the appropriate recreation center if their candidate is disqualified. Upon request, the candidate will receive a copy of the background check from the third party contractor.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To help ensure confidentiality, recreation center board members and the TSYFL administrators should not be notified of a coach's criminal history. The criminal background reports shall be kept in a secure location by the third party contractor for a period as required by applicable law.

APPEALS PROCESS

If a candidate's background check includes a charge set forth on the list of disqualifiers below, the TSYFL shall immediately disqualify a person from their position. There shall be no appeal of a decision to disqualify a candidate, if the candidate's relevant criminal history is accurate; all decisions are final.

If a candidate wishes to dispute the content of the profile report, the candidate shall contact the third party responsible for conducting the background check by calling the telephone number listed on the report. The candidate is responsible for providing any or all documentation to support his or her claim.

DISQUALIFYING CRIMES

If a candidate (1) has been convicted of, (2) has a charge pending against him or her in which it is alleged that he or she has committed any of the following crimes, or (3) has a record of a conviction of an equivalent offense in another state, the candidate will be disqualified from the position with any program approved by the TSYFL.

All Sex Offenses

Examples include, but are not limited to: child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.

All Felony Violence Offenses

Examples include, but are not limited to: murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.

All Felony offenses other than violence or sex within the past ten (10) years.

Examples include, but are not limited to: drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.

All Misdemeanor Violence offenses within the past seven (7) years. Examples include, but are not limited to: simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit and run, etc.

Two (2) Misdemeanor Alcohol offenses within the past three (3) years or three (3) or more offenses within the past ten (10) years.

Examples include, but are not limited to: driving under the influence, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, etc.

All Misdemeanor Drug offenses within the past five (5) years or two (2) or more offenses within the past ten (10) years.

Examples included, but are not limited to: simple drug possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.

Any other misdemeanor within the past five (5) years that would be considered a potential danger to children.

Examples include, but are not limited to: contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, etc.

WHY THESE CRIMES?

The National Recreation and Park Association (**NRPA**) has reviewed the resources of the National Association of Professional Background Screeners and sought the counsel of recognized background screening experts to develop a set of Recommended Guidelines for Volunteer Background Screening in park and recreation settings. These guidelines were produced as a result of this review.

Any coach participating on the field MUST have a concussion certificate and background check certificate on file to participate as a coach. No exceptions will be made!!

Definition of a Rec. Park- Must offer all ages 5-12. it must have the facilities, concessions, bathrooms, fields, ect. In your community. It must have a board of directors, be available to anyone interested and post sign ups.

A- PARKS:

The purpose of the league is to provide an organized recreational football program for children, ages 12 and under, who are interested in playing and learning the skills of football, cheerleading, team work and good sportsmanship.

MISSION OF THIS LEAGUE:

1. To provide the children in our organizations an opportunity for learning, fun and enjoyment.
2. To teach proper Football and Cheerleading skills and techniques.
3. To teach and practice good sportsmanship and physical fitness.

This program will always promote safety first, by adhering to strict controls over age, weight, proper equipment and behavior of all participants, adults, coaches, officials and spectators.

*ALL PARKS MUST HAVE A MANDATORY COACHES MEETING.

B- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The governing authority of the TSYFL will be made up of league presidents. These presidents will meet, discuss and agree to all rules and by-laws that relate to the operations of TSYFL. This league will be governed by the (Roberts Rules of Order). The presidents can appoint anyone they deem necessary to assist with day-to-day operations.

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND PARK PRESIDENTS MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE.

A league president and two vice presidents will be elected at the beginning of each year by the league presidents. It will be the responsibility of these presidents to see that all rules and by-laws are carried out, and to see that schedules are made and followed.

The governing authority of the TSYFL reserves the right to change or modify any rule or by-law, when it is deemed necessary to promote good sportsmanship and/ or safe game practices.

The governing authority agrees to meet and discuss any complaint those players, coach,

or parent may have. Once both sides of the complaint are heard, the governing authority will rule on that complaint, once a ruling is made, there is no appeal process.

A league president can authorize a stand in for meetings. This is not encouraged and should only be done in the event of an emergency. This stand in will only vote if the league president authorizes them to do so, by notifying the other parks president.

C- Liability Insurance:

The TSYFL governing authority, league president, coaches, officials, manager and/or sponsors, or any other person(s) that are working in the TSYFL shall not be held responsible for any injuries to persons or property as a result of this program.

Each organization/league will be responsible for their own insurance and/or team's welfare, regardless of where they are playing.

Each organization/league will have a medical release form signed by a parent of each player in the event that medical treatment is needed at an away game, when no parent is there to authorize it.

D- League Fees:

Each organization shall pay a \$150.00 registration fee per team annually but never to exceed \$1000.00 per organization, prior to the jamboree, to join the TSYFL. This money is used to pay for trophies or any other costs agreed upon by majority of the TSYFL governing authority.

E- Team Organization:

Each organization/league will offer football to children in the following age groups:
5/6 year old 7/8 year old 9/ 10 year old 11/ 12 year old

SIGN-UPS (each organization/league is responsible for holding their own sign-ups)

1. No sign ups until April 1st.
2. Mandatory sign-ups May 1st thru last full week of June.

3.. Parks may sign up players until WEIGH-IN, park option. All teams will be decided by August 15, you can add players to the teams until the Weigh-in but no new teams can be added after August 15. Sign-ups can be reopened if deemed necessary by the governing authority of the TSYFL. A coach who is in need of players can contact their respective league president, who will contact the other presidents of the TSYFL.

4. Teams will start with a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 31 players. Teams are allowed five coaches. Must split teams at 32.

5. Teams that have to split have to have an equal number of younger kids on each team. For example, if 10U splits: you have to have the same number of 9-year-old kids as 10 year old kids on each team.

4. Organized team practices/conditioning practices can begin June 1st. Practice with pads cannot begin until July 1st. Use of footballs is allowed in conditioning practices.

Transfers: There is no transfer rule. TSYFL expects that you will not solicit or offer incentive other teams' players.

Age Groups: The cut-off birthdates for all age groups is April 30th of each year. Example: If you are 8 years old & born **on** or before April 30th. You will play as an 8 year old.

Each organization/league with two or more teams per age group **MUST** split the ages of their players equally, example: If 8U splits: you have to have the same number of 8-year-old kids as 7-year-old kids on each team. Your Team Roster must be approved by the TSYFL Board.

Any park that does not have enough to fill a team must submit a roster of those players to the appropriate age group director to be released. Only these players will be released. Those players may return to their home park the following year if so **desired**

F- Playtime:

6U: Each practicing player must play starting position 1st and 3rd quarter. No playing time rules will apply in playoffs If you have more than 22 players the extra players will have a starting position 2nd and 4th quarter. There are no playing rules in the playoffs.

1. Any coach caught not playing kids as rule states is automatic minimum one game suspension. He must then come before the ethics committee, appointed by the President, for further sanctions. Second offense, coach is removed for remainder of season including playoffs.

If a player is being disciplined and are not going to play in the game must remove their helmet and shoulder pads. They will not be able to play in that game. If a coach or parent is

going to discipline a player they must do it for the whole game, they cannot just pick a quarter to discipline. The head coach must notify the other coach & official during the pregame.

If a team has nine players, that coach may choose to play with nine players, the opposing team will play with 11. The league will allow a 10-minute wait time of the scheduled game time before they forfeit. A Team cannot play with less than nine players. If a player is coming in late they may play, coaches option.

Nine Player Rule: One time with nine players (next time will be forfeit.) Opposing coaches' option to drop to nine players. New forfeit fee raised to \$250.00 and it will go to hosting park. If hosting team forfeits they will pay refs and forfeit fee to TSYFL. Forfeit fees must be paid with team fees. If it is used it must be replaced by the next game, if not used it will be refunded to each park once season is over.

If not paid, the TSYFL has the option to not let the team's park that forfeits the game, back into the TSYFL the following season.

Note: Any coach's offensive or defensive that is not 10 yards deep from the deepest player or yells out in the direction of the ball carrier will be penalized 15 yards unsportsmanlike conduct. This will be strictly enforced. After two unsportsmanlike penalties, the coach shall be replaced on the field as coach.

NO COACHING allowed after ball snap.

More specific rules for each individual age group will be as follows.

5 / 6 Yr. Old Rules (6U)

1. Shall play 8-minute quarters with an 8-minute halftime.
2. Defensive lineman must be lined up on the outside shoulder of the offensive guard. All interior defensive lineman (Tackle to Tackle) Must be in a 3- or 4- point stance (exception: DE). Defensive guards must engage the outside shoulder of the offensive guard before going into the "A" gap or 0,1,2, holes.
3. No nose guard allowed. Any linebacker inside the tackle box (Tackle to Tackle) must be 3 yards off the line of scrimmage.
4. Offensive plays are allowed to be run through the "A" gaps as long as it is a hand off. If QB runs the ball, they must run outside of guards but not

behindcenter unless they are in shotgun formation 5 yards from the line of scrimmage before the snap.

5. Offensive center/ guards can't have splits more than one arm length apart.
6. Coaches must be at least 10 yards behind the deepest player before the snap. Coaches cannot follow the play(s) down the field while a play is in progress or instruct his players either on offense or defense once the ball is snapped. 6u will have 2 coaches on the field.
7. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are not allowed to line up in the offensive backfield. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to receive a pass but only in the end-zone.
8. Defensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to advance fumbles and or interceptions.
9. The ready for play signal or time to snap the ball is 40 seconds.
10. No kick-offs/punts. Kick-offs will be placed on the 40-yard line. On the 4th down the team can go for a 1st down or announce a punt. The ball will be advanced 30 yards from the down marker: ball cannot be advanced inside the 20-yard line.
11. Scoring: 6 points-TD, 1 point running extra point in, 2 points passing in extrapoint. (Must be a forward pass beyond the line of scrimmage). ALL PATs and field goals will be live.
12. Clock stops per TSSAA High School Rules. Clock will stop to move or reset chains.
13. 2-time outs 1st half- and 3-time outs 2nd half.
14. Safety: Ball will be placed on the 50 yard-line.
15. Weight limit is 75lbs for 6u and 95lbs for 8u
16. 6U: Each practicing player must play starting position 1st and 3rd quarter. No playing time rules will apply in playoffs If you have more than 22 players the extra players will have a starting position 2nd and 4th quarter. There are no playing rules in the playoffs.

7/8 Yr. Old Rules: (8U)

1. Shall play 8-minute quarters with an 8-minute halftime.
** Rules 2 - 4 are used ONLY in the Jamboree and First 3 Season Games**
2. Defensive lineman must be lined up on the outside shoulder of the offensive guard. All interior defensive lineman (Tackle to Tackle) Must be in a 3- or 4- point stance (exception: DE). Defensive guards must engage the outside shoulder of the offensive guard before going into the "A" gap or 0,1,2, holes.
3. No nose guard allowed. Any linebacker inside the tackle box (Tackle to Tackle) must be 3 yards off the line of scrimmage.
4. Offensive plays are allowed to be run through the "A" gaps as long as it is a hand off. If QB runs the ball, they must run outside of guards but not behind center unless they are in shotgun formation 5 yards from the line of scrimmage before the snap.
5. Offensive center/ guards can't have splits more than one arm length apart.
6. Coaches must be at least 10 yards behind the deepest player before the snap. Coaches cannot follow the play(s) down the field while a play is in progress or instruct his players either on offense or defense once the ball is snapped. 8u can have 1 coach on the field.
7. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are not allowed to line up in the offensive backfield. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to receive a pass but only in the end-zone.
8. Defensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to advance fumbles and or interceptions.
9. The ready for play signal or time to snap the ball is 40 seconds.
10. No kick-offs/punts. Kick-offs will be placed on the 40-yard line. On the 4th down the team can go for a 1st down or announce a punt. The ball will be advanced 30 yards from the down marker: ball cannot be advanced inside the 20-yard line.
11. Scoring: 6 points-TD, 1 point running extra point in, 2 points passing in extra point. (Must be a forward pass beyond the line of scrimmage). ALL PATs and field goals will be live.
12. Clock stops per TSSAA High School Rules. Clock will stop to move or reset chains.
13. 2-time outs 1st half- and 3-time outs 2nd half.
14. Safety: Ball will be placed on the 50 yard-line.
15. Weight limit is 75lbs for 6u and 95lbs for 8u

16. After 3 games the "A gap" is open to run and you can have a nose guard.

9 / 10 Yr. Old Rules

1. Shall play 8 – minute quarters and an 8-minute halftime.
2. One coach allowed on the field for the 4th quarter only, must remain 10 yards deep from the line of scrimmage prior to the snap. Coach must remain 10 yards deep while play is in progress. No coaching after the ball is snapped.
3. 30 seconds for ready, play, snap.
4. No live kick allowed. Ball will be placed on the 30-yard line at the beginning of each half. On 4th down, team can go for the 1st down or they have to punt. It is a dead ball until punted.
5. Scoring: 6 points for TD, 1 point -running in extra point, 2 points passing in extra point, must be a forward pass and beyond the line of scrimmage. All PATs and field goals will be live.
6. Normal clock stops per TSSAA High School Rules. Clock stops to move/reset chains.
7. Two-time outs 1st half- and 3-time outs 2nd half.
8. Linebackers / Defensive Backs that are inside of the tackle box (tackle to Tackle) must play yards 3 yards deep from the line of scrimmage and cannot rush any gaps until the ball is snapped.
9. Nose guard may be positioned over the center.
10. All interior defensive lineman (Tackle to Tackle) MUST be in a 3- or 4-point stance (exception: DE)
11. Offensive center/guards can't have splits more than one length apart.
12. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are not allowed to line up in the offensive backfield. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to receive a pass but only in the end-zone.
13. Defensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to advance fumbles and or interceptions.
14. Weigh limit is 125

11 / 12 Yr. Old Rules

1. Shall play 8 – minute quarters with an 8-minute halftime.
2. 25 seconds for ready, play, snap.
3. Kick-off and punting are mandatory. Kick-off is from the 40 -yard line on 100-yard fields.
4. Scoring: (6) points-TD. Extra Points will be (2) Points-passing or (1) point running in. (3) points-field goal. Rushing allowed on field goal. Must be a forward pass. All PATs and field goals will be live. Onside kicks can be inside or outside of the hash marks.
5. Normal clock stops per TSSAA High School Rules. Clock will stop to move or reset chains.
6. No coaches allowed on field.
7. Two (2) time outs 1st half & 3 time outs the 2nd half.
8. Only stickered player will be allowed to return punts or kick-offs. In the event a non- stickered player receives the ball they will not be allowed to advance it.
9. Punter and kickers do not have to be stickered. It is also a dead ball until punted. Punter cannot walk up to the line of scrimmage and kick the ball. Must be at least 5 yards from the line of scrimmage to punt.
10. All interior linemen (Tackle to Tackle) Must be in a 3- or 4-point stance (exception: DE)
11. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are not allowed to line up in the offensive backfield. Offensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to receive a pass but only in the end-zone.
12. Defensive NON-STICKERED players are allowed to advance fumbles and or interceptions.
13. Weight limit is 155 pounds
14. Each organization is allowed 4 Middle School Players on the roster, but they CAN NOT play until their Middle School season is over.

G- Weight Limit /Illegal Players:

There is a weight limit for all offensive backs in each age group. All offensive backs must weigh in and have their weight recorded prior to playing in the Jamboree. No weigh-ins will be allowed after the last scheduled weigh-in. A control # will be on each sticker and the # will be recorded. A non-stickered player may not line up in the offensive backfield. Any weigh-in must be observed by at least two TSYFL officials. There is no weight limit on offensive ends or receivers going out for a pass. Offensive ends and receivers cannot run the end around or reverse if they have not been properly weighed in and had their weight

recorded. There will be no limit placed on the number of kids that can run the ball.

- 5&6 YEAR OLDS.....(75).....LBS (GYM SHORTS)
- 7 & 8 YEAR OLDS.....(95)LBS (GYM SHORTS)
- 9 & 10 YEAR OLDS.....(125) LBS (GYM SHORTS)
- 11&12 YEAR OLDS.....(155) LBS (GYM SHORTS)

Player Verification: BOOK CHECKS ARE MANDATORY BEFORE EACH GAME. Each player must have player info, medical release, copy of birth certificate and current photo in the team book and be listed on the league approved roster.

Any coach who knowingly plays an illegal player shall be dismissed from coaching.

Any team playing an illegal player will have their games forfeited. The opposing team shall be credited with that win and the offending team can be removed from the league.

In the event of a cancellation, the referees must be notified at least 2 hours in advance. If they are not notified and make a trip to your facility, you will be responsible for paying them for the game.

H- 24 Point Spread Rule/Mercy Rule:

During regular season games, if the point differential is 24 points or more, the game is officially over and the final score is recorded at that time. The clock will only stop for charged time outs, injuries, and scores. The clock will run normally. The winning team will pull its primary players/starters from the skilled positions including the offensive backfield and play other players in those positions for the 2nd half of the game.

The losing team will have the ball placed on the 20-yard line of the winning team. They will maintain possession of the ball until they go through their allotted number of downs by turnover or score. If the ball is turned over on downs, the winning team takes over and the continuation of regular play is started. If the winning team scores, the procedure will be repeated. Upon the losing team scoring, the ball is placed as on the first play following a score for age groups 5-10 and a kickoff will take place for ages 11-12. This procedure will be for all regular season games and is not an option.

For playoffs, beginning with the point differential of 24 points or more the procedure will be for the continuation of regular play with the clock being continuously run and only stopped for official timeouts. The winning team is not required to pull its primary players/starters from the skilled positions. If the point differential goes below 24 points, regular timing rules will be used.

The Mercy Rule is not an option in regular season or playoff games.

Coaches whom intentionally do not make an effort to abide by the Mercy Rule will be brought before the governing authority of the TSYFL who will decide what penalty to be imposed for violation. If a coach is brought a second time, the coach can be suspended from their coaching duties.

I- Officials:

The TSYFL is responsible for scheduling of TSSAA officials for all games played on their home fields. Officials are paid by the hosting organizations gate admissions. There will be three Officials for all games.

Officials can be scheduled by calling or texting Warren Diegel at 503-0767, or emailing him at wdiegel@gmail.com. Officials paid \$45.00 per game. Any problems with the officials, report it to your league president.

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player, manager, coach, spectator or scorekeeper conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, or commits any act, which maim or injury an opposing player if deemed deliberate, he/she will be ejected from the game and will not be allowed to return until its completion. If said person continues the unsportsmanlike conduct, such as heckling or baiting the referee, he/she shall be removed from the park.

When a player or coach is ejected from the game, the player or coach must sit out the entire next scheduled game. If a coach is ejected twice in the season, he/she must be removed from all coaching responsibilities.

The head coach is responsible for his coaches, parents, fans and players. Referees are going to be strict on all rules relating to this. In cases where a park has Homecoming you must notify the scheduling umpire so he can make necessary arrangements.

J- Admission:

Admission to regular season games at all locations and playoffs will be \$5.00 per person age thirteen (13) and above. Ages twelve (12) and under are free, & Senior Citizens (65+) are \$2.00. Stadium Games/ Events will have a separate entrance fee TBD.

K- Equipment

All equipment must conform to TSSAA rules including but not limited to:

1. Mouthpieces must be colored and attached to helmet. Face shields must be clear. This equipment must be used during all games and practices.
2. Helmets and shoulder pads must be well fortified with foam rubber.

****MUST BE NOSHA APPROVED****

3. Pants must have hip pads, foam kneepads, hard fiber thigh pads and butt pad.
4. Shoe soles/cleats must be composed of rubber base. **No metal, hard plastic, screw in or other similar synthetic products are allowed.**
5. Footballs:

5 thru 8 Yr. Old- JUNIOR SIZE OF K2 or similar brand.

9 thru 12 Yr. Old- JUNIOR SIZE- TDJ or similar brand.

ALL BALLS MUST BE PROPERLY INFLATED TO REGULATION

L- Special Rules:

1. Parent and other Spectators are NOT allowed on sidelines (including standing at the fence.) Only the following will be on the field:
 - Coaches and Assistant Coaches
 - Handling chains or Down Markers (Adults Only). Down Markers will be held on the home team side.
 - Timekeepers (approved by referee)
 - PARENTS/ SPECTATORS MUST REMAIN IN THE STANDS AT ALL TIMES – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
2. All Home Parks are responsible for security at the facility.
 - Use of alcohol, profanity or tobacco is NOT Allowed on the field or sideline. Enforcement of this rule will be according to TSSAA Rules.
 - All games will conform to the TSSAA rulebook for High School with the exception of those being listed and agreed upon within these by-laws.
3. No Electronic devices are to be used on sidelines or game field. Ex. Go Pro's, video cameras, cell phones, drones, blue tooth, headsets, walkie- talkies, etc.
4. All rescheduling must be done by the governing authority.
5. In the event of a tie ball game, it will go into overtime as directed by TSSM High School Rules. There will be a coin toss and 4 plays each from the 10-yard line.
 - There will be a limit of one overtime per game during week days/school nights and two on weekends. Playoffs will have no limit.

6. Play cards must be on wrist.
7. If helmet comes off, not due to contact, player must exit for one play. Kick-offs: no contact until ball travels 10 yards. (11/12 only).
8. If a coach is arrested or has been arrested and charged, He/She is indefinitely suspended until the case has been finalized.
9. Any Ejection or Fighting by Coaches or Players is an automatic ejection and a \$100 Fine.

Penalty: Player-suspended that game and next game

Coach-suspended rest of season and must meet with discipline committee before being re-instated. (Discipline committee will be Board President and Assistant Presidents if a Discipline Committee isn't formed.)

10. Two un-sportsmanlike penalties in a game will result in automatic ejection.

Penalty: Player-suspended that game and next game Coach-suspended that game and next game

(Discipline committee has right to increase suspension due to severity of penalty.)

11. ***NO FIREWORKS PERMITTED AT ANY TSYFL SCHEDULED EVENT.***

12. **Blocking Below the Waist:**

A player shall not block an opponent below the waist except to tackle a runner or player pretending to be a runner. Blocking below the waist is making initial contact below the waist from the front or side against an opponent other than a runner. Contact with an opponent's hand(s) below the waist that continues into the body below the waist is considered blocking below the waist. No blocking in the back in free blocking zone.

M-Jamboree & Playoffs:

The locations for the Jamboree and Play-Offs will be decided upon at the beginning of the season. The Jamboree and Play-Offs will be rotated between all of the participating organizations.

During the jamboree, the field will be split: two teams on each end. At the end of 30 minutes, two teams will swap ends. The clock will run nonstop, it will only stop for serious injuries. There will be two refs on each end of field. For the first half the home team will be on offense, visitors will be on defense. For the second half, home team will be defense and visitors will be offense. We will have 12-minute periods with a 3-minute break, running clock.

All offensive backs/ball runners are required to weigh in and have their weight recorded prior to play in the Jamboree. Refer to section F for additional information regarding this requirement.

No kick-offs during the Jamboree

*In Play-Offs no inter park play first round only.

*In Play-Offs, after 3rd overtime period, both teams must go for the 2pt conversion.

N- Pregame Administration:

BOOK CHECKS SHOULD BE COMPLETED Before the play of each game. Call together the head coaches, football umpires and officials. Ask if there are any questions needing clarification before the game begins. Make sure to at least go over these rules before each game.

13. Any Special Playtime Rules listed in THIS Rulebook for Your Age Group.
14. If any player is not to play for sickness, injury or discipline reasons make sure they are not in helmet and shoulder pads. Let the official and opposing coach know at the coin toss prior to the game starting. If player refuses to play he cannot reenter game once he sits, notify officials.
15. **ONLY the** five coaches with passes allowed on sidelines. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
16. Extra point: 2-point try must be a forward pass beyond the line of scrimmage to count as a 2-point conversion.
17. TSYFL reverts to TSSAA rulings if not listed in the TSYFL Rule Book.
18. There is no protest procedures after a game is ruled complete, any situation must be handled during the game. If any situation occurs, time may be called and the TSYFL Officials called to the field to make a league ruling.
19. Football Officials judgment may not be challenged. Once another play has been run, there is no going back to that situation. This conference MUST occur before the game is ruled over. If the ruling is in favor of the challenging coach, no time out will be charged, if that coach is over ruled a time out will be charged to that team. If that team does not have any time outs remaining a flag will be thrown and a 10-yard penalty will be enforced. If additional conferencing is needed call the Age Group Director.
20. HOME TEAM Football President is in charge at every TSYFL Game.
21. **Chain Crew will be provided by the home team and MEMBERS MUST BE ATLEAST 16 YRS. OF AGE. THE CHAIN CREWS ARE TO ASSIST THE OFFICIALS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GAME AND ARE NOT TO ASSIST WITH COACHING IN ANY FORM. THEY ARE NOT TO HECKLE OR HARASS THE OFFICIALS IN ANY WAY.**

TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEGAL DISPUTES

Section 1. To encourage reasonable discussions between actual parties to any legal disputes regarding TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE sanctioned activities; to prevent additional disputes between parties to legal disputes; to limit contact and communication between parties to a legal dispute when legal counsel to all parties are not present; and to establish procedures for the suspension from TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE activities of those who are involved in legal disputes with TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Section 2. Effective June 27, 2021 any Tri-State Youth Football League board member , official, participant, official, team, coach, sponsor, related party (including but not limited to parents of participants, officials ect.) or any other person who threatens legal action against TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, or has a lawyer contact TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE regarding a dispute of any kind shall be automatically suspended from all TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE activities until such legal discussions with TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE are concluded to the satisfaction of the TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE board.

Further, if a legal action against TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE is filed by a Tri-State Youth Football League board member official, participant, official, team, coach, sponsor, or related party (including but not limited to parents of participants, officials ect.) or any other person against TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, that persons (or any related party's) team and each of its members may be suspended from all TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE activities until such legal actions with TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE are resolved to the satisfaction of the TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE board.

Further, so should any Tri-State Youth Football League board member official, participant, official, team, coach, sponsor, related party (including but not limited to parents of participants, officials ect.) or any other person who sues a Tri-State Youth Football League board member, official or other TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE affiliate with respect to a dispute related to a TRI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL.

Coaches Book Checklist:

1. Official Team Roster
2. Proof of Park Insurance
3. Medical Release for each player.
4. Copy of each player's birth certificate.
5. Recent individual picture of player.
6. Concussion training for each coach.
7. Printed Passing Background Check for Each Coach.
8. Recent individual picture of each Coach

TSYFL Parent, Participant, Coach, Spectator **Code of Conduct**

Every Tri-State Youth Football League Football and Cheer athlete's parent or guardian must read and accepts the Code of Conduct Contract upon registering your child into one of our associated youth programs.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to also share the following code of conduct expectations with any friends and family members who may also attend TSYFL games and events, as all are expected to adhere to the policy.

Thank you for helping to maintain a positive environment for all to enjoy!

I/we Acknowledge that I/we have read the following TSYFL Parent's Code of Conduct Contract, will share it with other friends and family members who may also be spectators, and will adhere to it. I understand that violating the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the TSYFL Board of Directors. This may include but is not limited to restrictions placed on my access to the practice field, expulsion from games, and suspension or termination of my child's participation in the TSYFL Youth Football and Cheerleading Programs without the refund of any fees.

The TSYFL affiliated Football and Cheerleading Programs are volunteer-driven, nonprofit organizations whose mission is to help the youth of our communities, develop the knowledge of and skills for youth football and cheerleading. Each strives to teach and model the values

of sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play to each participant and offer a positive, life-building experience in a safe and healthy environment. In addition, WE WILL HAVE FUN!

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in the TSYFL Football and Cheerleading Programs by supporting and following this code of conduct:

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all participants, (football players and cheerleaders), Coaches, Board Members, League Officials, Game officials, etc., at every practice, game and at any other TSYFL park affiliated activity or event sponsored by the Tri-State Youth Football League. (TSYFL).

I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my child ahead of any personal desire to win and I will applaud good effort in victory and defeat and emphasize the positive points of the game.

I will support the TSYFL rules, the TSYFL rules and the coaches team rules.

I will emphasize the benefit of skill development and practices and how this will benefit my child's game/performance.

I will make every effort to have my child at every practice and game on time and have them fully prepared with the required uniform and equipment.

I will make every effort to be on time to pick up my child at the end of practice.

I will remember that the game is for the participants and not for the adults. This includes remaining in the designated seating area and NOT at the fence or sideline of the field.

I will ask my child to treat other participants, coaches, board members, officials, and fans with respect.

I understand that the TSYFL affiliated organizations are non-profit, volunteer-driven organizations, and I will support the my child's organization by cheerfully volunteering as my schedule allows.

I will be courteous to the participants, coaches and fans of the opposing teams.

I will respect the various facilities properties that we use for practices and games and will follow the rules that they and the County set forth for field usage. **This includes the state law that prohibits smoking on any public school property.**

I will never embarrass my child or the TSYFL organization by verbally abusing/insulting participants, coaches, board members, other parents or officials.

Also, I understand that the stands are **NOT** the place to shout personal instruction.

If something occurs with which I disagree, I will calmly seek an appropriate solution, at the appropriate time. I understand that instigating or participating in a confrontation in front of any child is **NEVER** appropriate and will not be tolerated.

I will never lose sight of the fact that I am a role model. I understand that children imitate their

role models and by acting appropriately I will be modeling what I expect of my child as well as influencing others in the program.

If you have questions about these standards, please see your park president.

