BAYOU BANTAM FOOTBALL LEAGUE(BBFL) BYLAWS

UPDATED 5/24/2026

1. ORGIANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

1.1.1.1 PURPOSE:

The Bayou Bantam Football League (BBFL) is an "independent" organization which provides an organized, full contact football program for the youth of Lafourche Parish. It shall be the objective of the league to teach basic skills, techniques and fundamentals of football. It shall also be the objective of the coaches and league personnel to practice always, a sense of sportsmanship, keeping in mind the recreational values of the program.

1.2 ORGANIZATION

The BBFL is an association of individual youth leagues throughout Lafourche Parish bound together with one set of governing rules of conduct and play. The BBFL is governed by an Executive Committee, consisting of the Presidents of each league. The Executive Committee establishes the rules and policies of the BBFL by majority vote.

1.3 MEMBERSHIP

The BBFL will maintain four franchises, South Lafourche, Central Lafourche, Thibodaux and Chackbay. South Lafourche will maintain rights to two franchises (Tigers and Tarpons), Central Lafourche will maintain rights to two franchises (Trojans or Bills/Cardinals), Thibodaux will also maintain the rights to two franchises (Vikings and Hurricanes) and Chackbay will maintain one franchise (Cajuns). In the event, any league cannot effectively man a certain franchise due to lack of registration, any recognized organization within Lafourche Parish is eligible to petition for membership in the BBFL. Prospective franchises must demonstrate and maintain an organizational framework with an elected board and a commitment to the BBFL to uphold the rules and standards. Acceptance is contingent on a 2/3 majority vote of current members in good standing.

1.3.1 New organizations must apply in writing to the League President. All applications must be received no later than June 1st of the current year. Petitions received after that date will be held until the end of the regular season before any actions or discussion take place

1.3.2 Organizations from outside Lafourche Parish cannot petition for new Membership unless approved by the BBFL's Executive Committee.

1.3.3 All new organizations shall enter a probation period of not less than one year and not more than three years prior to receiving full membership and voting rights on the Executive Committee.

1.3.3.1 New organizations will have no voting rights while in probationary period.

1.3.4 New Organizations shall meet minimum requirements as follows.

- Provide ample parking for all participants and spectators
- Provide concessions
- Provide playing field
- Provide viewable score keeping for spectators and officials with a time clock
- Provided covered press box with sound and electricity for officials and announcers
- Provide active non-profit 501©3 status
- Provide restroom facilities (cleaned portable toilets are acceptable)
- Provide boundaries between spectators and playing field
- Provide all field markings and equipment
- Provide player certified player equipment for at least 120 players (helmets, shoulder pads, etc.)

1.4 OVERVIEW

BBFL youth football players are organized into teams by their respective League in accordance with the BBFL rules and policies. Team placement is based on age. Teams compete during the regular season based upon a BBFL managed schedule. At the end of the regular season, all teams are selected to compete in a single round of playoff games to determine the two best teams to advance to the Super bowl. These two teams will Compete in the Super bowl to decide one champion.

2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 The BBFL is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of a Presidents of each individual League.

2.1.1 Elected officials of each individual league will hold office for one year. New elections will take place no later than June 1st but not before the Super Bowl has been played each year. Newly elected officials will take their positions immediately upon being elected.

2.2 DUTIES OF OFFICERS OUTLINED

2.2.1 **PRESIDENT**: Will keep order in the organization, attend all outside meetings concerning the organization, promote the general welfare of the organization in the community to the best of his/her ability. He/She will see that order is maintained throughout all BBFL meetings. The President will only be allowed to vote in the event of a tie.

2.2.2 **SUPER BOWL HOST**– Will be responsible for coordinating Super Bowl events and activities. All awards and activities must be approved by the Executive Committee and/or League President. All participating BBFL franchises will share equally in the cost of Super Bowl Awards, payable to the purchasing franchise no later than August 1st.

2.2.3 **PLAYOFF HOST**– Will be responsible for all Playoff costs, events and activities. All activities must be approved by the Executive Committee and/or League President.

2.2.4 **EXHIBITION GAME HOST**– Will be responsible for all Exhibition Game costs, events and activities. All activities must be approved by the Executive Committee and/or League President

2.3 VOTING PRIVILEGES

Each league, South Lafourche, Central Lafourche, Thibodaux and Chackbay, will maintain their respective board and have three Executive votes at all BBFL meetings. To vote, three representatives from the league committee voting should be present. Although it is preferred that all Executive Committee members must be present, voting through email is acceptable.

2.4 MEETINGS

Meetings are held at least once a year during the Off season. Meetings during the regular season will be called as deemed appropriate. Attendance by each league's President and members is strongly recommended. If the President cannot attend, an appointed second shall attend on the League's behalf. Special meetings shall be called by any member of the Executive Committee should the need arise. Meetings will be held in a location most suitable for the board and league. This location should be one that is most convenient for the entire Executive Committee, league and community (usually centralized) to attend.

2.4.1 For meetings to be official, which includes but, is not limited to law changes, new law discussion, the acceptance of laws or law abolishment and / or any other league business to take place, it is preferred that all Executive Committee members must be present. However, voting through email is acceptable. This would include all league presidents or an appointed second.

2.5 FINANCE

Each franchise will be responsible for their portion of the leagues insurance. Cost will be divided amongst each team on a team by team basis. If one individual team pays the insurance outright, they are to be reimbursed prior to August 1st.

2.6 SCHEDULING

Schedules will be prepared by the League President and be voted on by each Franchise president. The schedule will only contain League games, playoffs, Super Bowl and All Star/Exhibition Games (If Applicable). All schedules will be prepared in accordance with the criteria set out in these rules. Changes to the schedule due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances will be posted on the BBFL website as well as local League sites. Standings from the A team will determine that Franchise's bye week for the next season. Super Bowl winner will get first pick, Super Bowl runner up will get the second pick, then the 3rd, 4th, 5th,etc.

2.7 CONDUCT

The BBFL's integrity and stature is dependent on all its members upholding the highest level of character and decency. As such, any member determined to be acting contrary to the ideals of the League may be sanctioned. Such sanctions may include reprimands, fines, probations, suspensions, or expulsions from the Executive Committee as determined by the BBFL League President. Appeals may be directed to the BBFL's Executive Committee within 48 hours of notification by the BBFL's Board. Final appeals of the Executive Committee's appeal rulings may be directed to the BBFL Board if submitted in writing within 48 hours of the ruling.

2.7.1 If previously sanctioned and any further violations occur, the individual can be removed from the Organization without a hearing

2.7.2 In order to impeach a member of the organization, with just cause, 2/3 of the total Executive Committee members must approve it by vote only after a hearing is completed between the all members of the Executive Committee.

2.8 GOVERNING RULES

Louisiana High School Association (LHSA) rules apply to all scheduled League games unless amended by these Official League Rules. Any questions not covered by the Official League

Rules, official interpretation thereof, or any conflict not subject to protest shall be decided by the League's Executive Committee in the best interest of the League.

2.8.1 Game play is governed by the current edition of the Louisiana High School Association of High School Football Rules and the BBFL additions contained herein.

2.8.2 The BBFL reserves the right to rule on any inconsistencies identified between written BBFL and LHSA rules.

2.8.3 Certain LHSA rules outside of game play and equipment requirements may be considered as guidelines, but not requirements for BBFL play. Other LHSA rules do not apply to the League.

2.8.4 All BBFL activities are governed by the BBFL rules and regulations.

2.8.5 Individual articles and laws may only be amended at the end of each season.

2.8.6 Suggestions to change / amend any law or article can be received throughout the season by any Bayou Executive Committee Member.

2.8.7 Proposals for any change / amendment to any law or article will be submitted in writing and addressed to the BBFL Executive Committee. Voting, however, will not take place on any proposal until the season has concluded (After Super Bowl has been played).

2.8.7.1 New amendments will be forwarded to the BBFL Executive Committee. Committee will then see that a copy of the proposal is forwarded to each organizational President. Voting will then take place at the next scheduled BBFL Executive Committee meeting.

2.8.7.2 No law(s) shall be changed after the start of the official practice date, August 1st of the current year.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND REGULATIONS

Organizations will draw players from their local Lafourche Parish High School Districts. All players participating in the BBFL must play within their own Lafourche Parish High School District. Terrebonne Parish will be included with Terrebonne Parish teams.

3.1 The following boundaries are set**:**

3.1.1 Thibodaux:

Any player who residing within the **Thibodaux High School District** will participate with the Thibodaux franchise. Definitive lines will be established based on high school districts.

3.1.1.1 Players between Shannon Canal and HWY 308, Lafourche Parish may sign up with either Chackbay or Thibodaux Franchises starting in the 2024 Season. Players signing up in this way will remain with the signing franchise and not switch without BBFL Committee's approval.

3.1.2 Chackbay**:**

A definitive boundary line will be set from the Thibodaux district at the canal commonly referred to as the Shannon Canal. This canal is located west of Woodland Heights Trailer Park and east of the Eric Andolsek Memorial park. It is also located just to the east of the easternmost part of the Thibodaux City limits. Any player residing in this defined boundary will participate with the Chackbay franchise

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3.1.2.1 If a 25-player minimum is not reached by July 1st, Chackbay may register players from South Vacherie, North Vacherie, and Assumption Parish up to Highway 70 N. These registrations must be disclosed and approved by the Executive Committee.

3.1.2.2 Players between Shannon Canal and HWY 308, Lafourche Parish may sign up with either Chackbay or Thibodaux Franchises starting in the 2024 Season. Players signing up in this way will remain with the signing franchise and not switch without BBFL Committee's approval.

3.1.3 Central Lafourche:
Any player residing within the Central Lafourche High School district will play in that organization. Definitive lines will be established based on high school districts.

3.1.3.1 RESERVED FOR ADDITIONAL BOUNDARY PROPOSAL

3.1.4 South Lafourche:
Any player who is residing within the **South Lafourche High School District** will participate in that franchise. Definitive lines will be established based on high school districts.

3.1.4.1 If a 25 minimum is not reached by July 1st, South Lafourche may register players from South Terrebonne or East Houma.

3.1.5 Westside Braves:
A definitive boundary line is in the process. Westside Braves will be allowed to grandfather players who have previously played for that franchise. Previous rosters have been submitted to the board. The boundary line will be determined based on new players and returning players. The boundary may be determined by school districts or locations.

3.2 FRANCHISE COLORS
Each franchise will maintain a consistent set of colors. Franchise colors of a new membership applicant as well as existing franchises wishing to change their colors must be submitted in writing and approved by the BBFL Board prior to purchase and use.

3.3 REGISTRATION
Each organization will handle its own registration in accordance with the By-laws of the BBFL age, weight, and residency requirements. All players participating in the BBFL must play with the organizational boundaries outlined in 3.01 of the BBFL By- laws.

3.3.1 Player registration costs will be determined each year by the respective organizations. New players must provide a copy of their birth certificate which becomes property of the organization in which they are participating.

3.3.2 An open early registration and an open secondary registration will be scheduled each year. As of 2022 there will be no league maximum limits on players but must achieve a 25-player minimum unless approved by the BBFL committee. Each franchise will determine its own maximum.

3.3.2.1 Reserved

3.3.2.2 If a player refuses to play where he/she is designated or assigned by the BBFL, he/she shall sit out that season.

3.3.2.3 A player who meets all BBFL's eligibility requirements can participate in both BBFL and Middle School Football.

3.3.2.4 The head coach reserves the right to determine if a player can be on a Franchise team after five consecutive league activities are missed. This issue must be brought up before the local organization board during their next scheduled meeting.

3.3.2.5 It is the local organization's responsibility to keep and maintain a complete list of players and cheerleaders. This list will include the individual's updated physical address, contact phone numbers and total number of years participated in the organization.

3.3.2.6 Brothers cannot play for different franchises unless there is a one-year time from the time the oldest child graduates from the BBFL until the younger child enters his first registered year. The parents may elect to have the younger child participate in the same franchise as the older child. In case of indecisiveness, the child will enter the open draft. Once a child starts with a Franchise, that player will not be allowed to move to another franchise. If more than one year has passed and the younger sibling enters the BBFL it is the parents' discretion on whether the new player (sibling) will be on the same team as the older sibling or if the new player (sibling) will enter the open draft. If the parent cannot decide, the new player (sibling) will enter the open draft. This rule does not apply if the family has moved from one area to another and more than one year has passed when the new sibling begins to participate in the BBFL. (All siblings must show proof of relation by means of an original or certified birth certificate prior to any draft or team placement)

3.3.2.7 If a player moves from one High School District to another High School District within Lafourche Parish, he may elect to remain on the original team drafted. However, it is the responsibility to see that he makes all

team requirements without conflict. If elected to play in the Organization where they have moved, that player will enter the open draft for that Organization.

3.3.2.8 No exceptions will be made to facilitate any type of stacking of franchises, placing of players or any other type of player placing among franchises. The only requirement for the mandatory franchise placing of players is outlined in.

3.3.2.9 No Head Coach, assistant coach, team parent or any other person not mentioned shall contact, recruit or otherwise solicit Players from another Team or direct new players to a team. Evidence of such actions will be considered a breach of these by-laws and subject to significant sanctions by the BBFL to include, but not limited to, expulsion from their local Franchise as well as the BBFL.

3.3.2.10 An approved list will be maintained by the BBFL Committee that will be completed no later than two weeks prior to weigh in of players who do not meet the boundary criteria or special cases approved by the BBFL Committee, any players found outside of this list that do not meet the boundary criteria will be considered ineligible player and bound to rules set forth in these bylaws.

3.4 CONDUCT

The conduct of each franchise's players, coaches and spectators is the responsibility of the organization to which that franchise is a part. Systems should be established and maintained by each organization to identify and communicate the acceptable conduct of its members and guests as well as an enforcement plan to ensure proper conduct. The enforcement plan will include proactive investigations by the organization. Reports on findings and subsequent organization disciplinary actions shall be reported to the BBFL. The BBFL retains the right to impose additional sanctions as it deems appropriate in the best interest of the BBFL. Failure to appropriately maintain proper conduct or react to unacceptable conduct will be considered a breach of membership and subject to sanctions by the organization by the BBFL.

3.5 FRANCHISE FEES AND DUES

Each organization is required to pay all franchise fees and dues assessed by the BBFL

3.5.1 All specific franchise fees and dues (if applicable) will be paid by August 1st. .

3.5.2 Non-payment or delayed payment of all fees and/or dues will result in the organization, franchise or individual's suspension from the BBFL until the debt is paid. In addition, all voting rights of that organization will be suspended until the debt is paid.

3.5.3 Chronic non-payment of fees, insurance and /or dues shall prompt a BBFL Review of the organization and potential extended sanctions including permanent suspension or expulsion from the BBFL.

3.5.4 All fees, dues and fines must be paid to the BBFL prior to Playoffs or forfeit their ability to participate in the Super Bowl.

3.6 DOCUMENTATION

3.6.1 Each organization shall provide and/or update player documentation required by the BBFL during the Official Weigh-In of each calendar year.

3.6.2 Documentation will be signed by the franchise head coach and where appropriate, the League President.

3.6.3 Documents will include but are not limited to:

- Contact information for the Organization's President
- Organization's roster of Elected Officials (if applicable)
- BBFL By-laws
- BBFL Conduct
- BBFL player drafting rules

3.6.4 Policy changes will be reported to the BBFL and submitted in writing within 30 days of incorporation.

3.7 PENTALITIES

Penalties for the failure of member organizations to follow the rules and regulations set herein shall include sanctioning of the entire organization. Specific sanctions may include forfeiture of games, loss of BBFL voting rights, suspension of franchises or individuals, exclusion from the BBFL post season competition and expulsion from the BBFL by the Executive Committee.

4. TEAM POLICIES

4.1 LEAGUE AND DIVISIONS

The BBFL is structured to establish various levels of competition based upon age and weight. The BBFL has established this system to provide reasonable competition for players from the individual Leagues within Lafourche Parish. There are four Franchises (South Lafourche, Central Lafourche, Thibodaux and Chackbay) that are separated into three divisions, A TEAM, B TEAM and C TEAM.

4.2 COMPOSTITON OF TEAMS

4.2.1 "C – TEAM" 7 AND 8 YEARS OF AGE

6 years of age may be allowed with Parental Permission and Franchise approval. Each League may determine the number of 6-year-olds that will be accepted prior to first registration or the first draft.

4.2.1.1 AGE REQUIREMENT: No player can be 9 years of age on or before October 1st of the season.

4.2.1.2 WEIGHT REQUIREMENT: Unlimited along the offensive and line (End to End).

4.2.1.3 No player more than 105 lbs. will play in the offensive backfield (RED DOT).

4.2.1.4 No player more than 105 lbs. will play in the defensive backfield (RED DOT). This includes linebackers.

4.2.1.5 No player whose weight prohibits them from playing in the offensive or defensive backfield may receive a hand off, receive a pass nor advance any lateral or punt.

No player over 100 lbs. (Red Dot) will be allowed to participate/play on any special teams.

4.2.2 "B – TEAM" 9 AND 10 YEARS OF AGE

4.2.2.1 AGE REQUIREMENT: No player can be 11 years of age on or before October 1st of the season.

4.2.2.2 WEIGHT REQUIREMENT: Unlimited along the offensive and defensive line (END to END).

4.2.2.3 There is no weight limit for B TEAM preventing a player from carrying or catching the ball. ANY player may play any position on offense or defense.

4.2.2.4 All B TEAM players will be present for the weigh in for verification purposes only.

4.2.3 " A – TEAM" 11 AND 12 YEARS OF AGE

4.2.3.1 AGE REQUIREMENT: No player can be 13 years of age on or before October 1st of the season.

4.2.3.2 WEIGHT REQUIREMENT: Unlimited along the offensive and defensive line (END to END).

4.2.3.3 There is no weight limit for A TEAM to prevent a player from carrying or catching the ball. ANY player may play any position on offense of defense.

4.2.3.4 All A TEAM players will be present for the weigh in for verification purposes only.

4.2.4 CURRENT AGE CUT OFF

The current age cut off is October 1st. For the 2027 season, the cut off date is being moved to September 1st. For the 2026 season, we are allowing players to play whose birthday falls between September 1st and October 1st. If a player turns 13 from September 1st to October 1st, the player is eligible to play. If a player turns 9 from September 1st to October 1st, the decision of the team that player will play on will be decided by the President of the franchise and the player's parents/guardians. This rule also applies for kids who turn 11 from September 1st through October 1st.

4.3 PLAYER REGISTRATION AND DRAFTS

Drafts will only be held if a franchise consists of two or more teams

4.3.1 Each organization shall handle its own registration as set forth in the BBFL Bylaws. Player refunds are not allowed once a player has participated in "any" team activity or has received equipment.

4.3.2 All players participating in the Bayou Bantam Football League must play with the organization in their own public high school district. For Thibodaux and Chackbay, the district will be separated on LA 20 at the canal commonly referred to as the Shannon Canal. This canal is located west of the Woodland Heights Trailer Park and east of the Eric Andolsek Memorial Park. It is also located just to the east of the eastern most part of the Thibodaux City limits. A player will participate in Chackbay if the player resides within the Sugar Ridge Subdivision. Section 4.3.2 Amended by Sections 3.1.1.1, 3.1.2.2 and 3.1.4.1.

4.3.3 Only players residing in Lafourche Parish will be allowed to register and participate in BBFL unless defined in section 3.01 or otherwise approved by the BBFL Executive Committee.

4.3.3.1 If a player moves from Lafourche Parish into a neighboring parish, it is the parents' discretion if the child will continue to play in the BBFL. If the child misses any year once moved that child will be ineligible for any remaining years.

4.3.3.2 All Franchises with multiple teams participating in the BBFL will conduct an equitable draft, following written BBFL by-laws and under the supervision of the Franchise President. Any member of the Executive Committee will be allowed to attend if deemed necessary. The draft will be structured to assure that all teams in each division will distribute the available player talent equally.

4.3.3.3 All franchises which consist of multiple teams shall not participate in any manner deemed to be "stacking of teams" with the best available athletes.

4.3.3.4 To prevent "Stacking" in a case when a Franchise has two teams, all new players will enter the draft and attend a Scouting combine.

4.3.3.5 If applicable, a scouting combine day will be used to evaluate the players registered before the 1st draft. It is mandatory that all new players attend. It is required that each player go through a minimum of four different drills chosen by the franchise president: (Examples Below)

- Twenty – yard dash (Timed)
- Twenty – yard slalom course (Timed)
- Square pattern (Timed)
- Full sprint
- Side shuffle or cariocas
- Back pedal
- Three passes (five and out, ten and in, streak)

4.3.3.6 At least two members of the BBFL committee must be present at drafts other than the drafting franchise.

4.3.3.7 Any new player registrations received by any board member, coach, assistant coach, manager or any one not mentioned, after the scouting combine, will be forwarded to the appropriate league's President. A second draft will then be conducted one week prior to the 1st official weight-in for all new players registered. NO NEW PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER AFTER THE 2ND DRAFT and/or the "Official Weigh-In", NO EXCEPTIONS

4.3.4 PLAYER DRAFT

4.3.4.1 A draft is to be held if a Franchise has multiple teams with a minimum of 50 players on each "A", "B" and "C" teams for a 25/50 split.

4.3.4.2 The "A" Teams will draft first, followed by the "B" Teams and finally the "C" Teams.

4.3.4.3 Siblings of players already on a specific team's roster and/or the Head Coach's child or children will automatically be placed on the team in their age group within the franchise of said sibling or Head Coach Parent. This placement will not count as a draft pick but will be counted in that team's total number going into the draft. (If siblings enter the draft within the same football season, the parent must choose only one of the siblings to enter the draft. Once that child is drafted by a team, the sibling will be placed accordingly within the same franchise. All siblings must show proof of relation by means of an original or certified birth certificate prior to any draft).

4.3.4.4 The number of returning players and the number of players referenced in.**4.04.10.03** are figured into the total number of players allowed on one team. The maximum number of players that can be selected during the draft in each age group is then determined by subtracting the number of returning players and the number of players referenced. That number is the number of players, a team may select from each age group.

4.3.4.5 The team with the worst record in a specific Franchise from the previous regular season will choose first, provided neither team reaches the playoffs. If neither team reaches the playoffs and finishes with the same record, then the team with the least amount of points allowed will be second in the selection process. If both teams reach the playoffs, the team advancing the farthest shall choose second. If both teams lose in the first round, then the team with the worst record in a specific Franchise from the past regular season will choose first.

4.3.4.6 The first three rounds of the draft are open, with any registered player from any age group who attended the scouting combine eligible for selection.

4.3.4.7 Upon completion of the third (3rd) round, teams will be evaluated on the number of players age groups that are on their rosters. The team with the lesser number of players in the upper age group will then select two players from the upper age group for every one player the team with the greater number of players in the upper age group selects. This will continue until there are an equal number of players in a group.

4.3.4.8 Once the draft is completed for the upper age group, the same procedures outlined in 4.04.10.07 will be utilized in drafting the lower age group.

4.3.4.9 Any player who has registered but did not attend the scouting combine will be placed in the second draft or be chosen blind during the initial draft. A player can only be chosen "blind" if both head coaches agree to do so. Unless specified by a given franchise, the second draft position will be determined by a coin flip between dual franchises as the winner of the coin flip will choose first. This will continue until the rosters are full or there are no more names left in the hat. If the rosters reach capacity, the remaining players will be put on a waiting list, and their registration fees will be refunded.

4.3.4.10 The draft will be completed once all teams have a maximum number of 50 players on their roster.

4.3.4.11 The drafting laws are established to allow teams to draft players in a fair and impartial manner while allowing the BBFL to maintain control. These draft procedures will promote sportsmanship while allowing for the equal distribution of players in all age groups. These procedures will provide roster spots for players who participated during the previous year and registered during the designated registration periods.

4.4 COACHING

4.4.1 Any vacant Head Coach position will be filled with the best possible candidate available after a vote by the local Franchise's Board members.

4.4.2 Each Franchise will strive to provide a qualified, well trained coaching Staff for each Team it sponsors within its franchise. Coaches and support staff will conduct themselves always with sportsmanship and integrity and exemplify the BBFL values.

4.4.3 All Head Coaches will make every effort to attend your local Franchises scheduled meetings.

4.4.4 All coaches and support staff MUST be certified by the N.Y.S.C.A. and may be subject to a background check. Proof of Certification must be shown at time of official Weigh In NO EXCEPTIONS. Anyone not able to verify certification as a coach will be removed from the "Official" Roster and not be allowed to coach under any circumstances. Proof of Certification must be shown at the official weigh-in schedule of the current season or will be ineligible to participate the current season.

4.4.5 Head Coach or Franchise President may present credentials in the absence of the coach.

4.4.6 Each Team shall have a minimum of one volunteer coach be required to complete an annual concussion recognition course which is in accordance with the provisions set forth by the LOUISIANA YOUTH CONCUSSION ACT No. 314. (Each Franchise is allowed to exceed

this number at their own discretion.) The concussion recognition education course required by this Act shall include the following information: (CDC HEADS UP Concussion Training)

- How to recognize the signs of and symptoms of a concussion.
- The necessity of obtaining proper medical attention for a person suspected of having sustained a concussion.
- The nature and risk of concussions, including the danger of continuing to play after sustaining a concussion and the proper method and statutory requirements which must be satisfied for a youth athlete to return to play in the athletic activity.

4.4.7 Franchises will designate a qualified Head Coach for each Team it sponsors. The designated Head Coach for each team will be responsible and accountable to the Franchise and BBFL for that Team's actions and conduct throughout the preseason, regular season and post-season activities. The individual will be verified by the sponsoring Franchise to be of high moral character and disclosed of all actual alleged or investigated cases of crime against a child or abuse of a child. All will be required to fill out the BBFL's disclosure form and may be subject to a background check. (See Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B").

4.4.8 It is required that all Head Coaches be 21 years of age or older and all Assistant Coaches and Support Staff be 18 years of age or older before July 31st of the season.

4.4.9 All coaches must carry out BBFL bylaws and rules and not make them up as they go along.

4.4.10 A limit of seven coaches and three managers are allowed in player box along the sideline during any game. This will be strongly enforced.

4.4.10.1 Only coaches and managers listed on the official roster for that individual team are allowed on the sidelines.

4.4.10.2 Hired Photographer with credentials that are approved by the executive committee may be along the sidelines that shall not interact with players and coaches and must not interfere with game play (i.e K.P. Steib Photography)

4.4.10.3 Executive Committee may enter sidelines and be available for officials in the event of a ruling dispute.

4.4.11 All coaches and staff MUST be able to show proof of all certifications required by the BBFL. They must also be equipped with a pictured I.D. and their N.Y.S.C.A. credentials at all home or away sites. Coaches failing to show these required items prior to the game time will not be allowed to coach from anywhere within the facility. They will also be required to pay gate fee to enter the facility and remain outside of the playing field and/or team sidelines. For games within regulation, "C" Team games will be played with two coaches in the backfields, five yards behind the farthest player.

4.4.12 The Head Coach will be responsible for the actions of his/her assistants, staff and players.

4.4.13 Any coach (head/assistant) / manager who violates the BBFL laws or football rules will be subject to removal pending a BBFL Executive Committee review.

4.4.14 Coaches (head/assistant) / manager will refrain from using any loud and/or lascivious language during any game, practice and or league function.

4.4.15 Coaches (head/assistant) / managers will remember that all players are detrimental to the team's success and will not single out any player in a manner that ridicules, degrades or has a negative impact on the players emotional wellbeing.

4.4.16 Head Coaches should make themselves available to parents to discuss their child's progress or any other concerns parents may have regarding their own child. This should take place prior to and after any game or scheduled practice. No discussions will take place during any game or scheduled practice.

4.4.17 No coach (head/assistant) / manager will enter the field of play during any game unless otherwise directed by the game officials, retrieve player equipment or check on injured players. This includes crossing sideline boundaries.

4.4.18 No coach (head/assistant) / manager will engage in any fistic altercation with any official, opposing or same team coach (head/assistant) / manager, fan or player parent for any actions taken during a game and/or scheduled practice. Coaches (head/assistant) / manager should attempt to resolve all such matters in a professional, courteous manner. If the problem persists, local law enforcement should be notified.

4.4.19 Coaches (head/assistant) / manager will provide a safe and enjoyable setting for players to learn during all games and scheduled practices.

4.4.20 Coaches (head/assistant) / manager will format all scheduled practices and games so that they provide a setting where everyone participates and has fun.

4.4.21 OPEN

4.4.22 Coaches (head/assistant) / managers will communicate with all players, officials, parents and fans in a positive manner.

4.4.23 All coaches (head/assistant) who violate the BBFL by-laws, local Franchise by- laws, or Football Rules will be warned and/or made aware of their actions the first time. However, if the said coach violates any other rule or by law, that coach shall permanently be removed from the BBFL.

4.4.24 Any coach who is ejected from a Bayou Bantam Football League game or event will be suspended for one (1) week. This suspension means not attending practice for the week following the ejection and not allowed on the sideline with the team for the next scheduled BBFL game or event.

4.4.24.1 If the ejection occurs during the last game or event of the season, said coach will incur suspension for the week preceding the first game or event and said game or event of the next season. After said coach is

ejected twice in one (1) season, they will be removed from the BBFL. Said coach will be allowed to return the next season on probation.

4.4.24.2 Upon returning and the said coach is once again ejected; the said coach will be permanently removed from the BBFL.

4.4.24.3 If said coach goes the entire following season with no ejection, probation is lifted for the next season. In the case of a coach's ejection, a BBFL Executive Committee review will be held.

4.4.25 The President of the Franchise that has incurred the ejection is responsible for filling out an Ejection/Misconduct Form and getting it to the BBFL President.

4.4.25.1 The BBFL President must be notified of the ejection within twenty- four (24) hours. The BBFL President must notify the head coach of the opposing team of the following weekend within twenty-four (24) hours.

4.4.25.2 If the ejection is not reported within the 24-hour period, a $100.00 fine will be paid to the BBFL by that franchise. If ejected coach fails to notify his/her local franchise President, that coach will incur a one- week suspension and the $100.00 fine will not be enforced.

4.4.26 The Head Coach shall reserve the right to choose their own assistants and staff whether their coaching / staff roster is full or not. Once chosen, assistants and staff members will be voted on by the local Franchise Board.

4.4.27 Any Head Coach, Assistant or staff personnel that assumes that title and/or performed that function during any season cannot transfer to another team within that Franchise without the approval of their local Board through a formal letter to the Board outlining their reasons for transfer. The BBFL Executive Committee will then vote on the transfer to decide if the transfer is justified.

4.4.27.1 The local franchises' Board will be made aware of such moves in a timely manner. To allow a reasonable time to process the request, letters of justification should be received by the board no later than one month prior to the first scheduled team practice.

4.4.27.2 A Head Coach, Assistant or staff personnel transferring between teams will not be allowed to carry or transfer roster players from their previous team onto their new team other than their own child or children.

4.4.27.3 The Executive Committee will respond to the request with a formal letter of approval or denial prior to the first day of practice allowed. Copies of both letters will be submitted to the BBFL Executive Committee and will serve as official notification to the BBFL Executive Committee. Approvals are contingent on

the new Team's final Official Roster submission and the new team Head Coaches approval

5. PLAYER POLICIES

5.1 ELIGIBILITY Only youth between the ages of six and twelve years of age may participate in the BBFL. All youth shall play in the appropriate age class for which they are eligible. There shall be no waivers.

5.1.1 For eligibility in the various divisions, a Player's age on October 1st of the current year will determine the given player's football age.
Example: A player who becomes 10 years old on or before October 1st will play as a 10-year-old. A youth who becomes 10 at any time after September 30th of the current year will play as a 9-year-old. (Meaning if a player turns 10 on October 1st or thereafter of the given calendar football year, the player will participate during the current football season as a 9-year-old.)

5.1.2 For the 2027 season, the cut off date will be moved from October 1st to September 1st. For the 2026 season, we are allowing players to play if they fall into the dates of September 1st through October 1st. Example: if a player is turning 13 on September 3rd, that player is allowed to play. If a player is turning 9 on September 3rd, the player may play for C team or B team. This will be a decision made by the President of that franchise and the player's parents/guardian. All players that fit into this grey area of September 1st through October 1st must be presented to the board.

5.2 PLAYER CREDENTIALS
All documents must be turned in on every player at the Credentials Meeting to be held at time of the Weigh-In. (NO EXCEPTIONS)

5.2.1 Documents will consist of:

- One copy of his/her birth certificate
- A physical address of the player's primary residence
- Player's participation in the official weigh-in as outlined in section 6

5.2.2 All player credentials must be correct and collected prior to the credentials Meeting. Any player credential which is not in compliance according to the BBFL by- laws will result in a $100.00 fine per player credential. This fine will be made payable to the BBFL and that player will not be allowed to participate in any BBFL or local franchise activity until the credentials are completed. Human error will be overlooked; however, intentional misplacement or intent to fraud in any manner will incur the $100.00 fine. This fine will only be mandated after a BBFL Board hearing and the accused is found to be in violation.

5.2.3 Any player in question of a physical address must provide a copy of parent's auto insurance policy providing physical address.

5.3 **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

The BBFL recommends that all players obtain a physical examination by his/her personal physician before participating in any type of football activity. No player will be allowed to participate in any BBFL activity if non-play is recommended by a Physician. It is the responsibility of the parents and each respective Franchise to determine and monitor the health of individual players on a continuing basis.

5.3.1 Any player with an injury requiring a cast or other such brace must provide their respective Franchise with a Physician's Release Form prior to any involvement in practices or game play.

5.4 DUAL LEAGUE/HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Any youth who is trying out for an inter-scholastic Jr. High School/Middle School football team or is part of that squad, may participate in the BBFL. However, it is the player and parent's responsibility to see that they make all required team events. If the player is only available for games, this may be grounds for removal from the BBFL.

5.5 A player may play with only one franchise and on only one team.

5.6 CONDUCT

The conduct of each Player is the responsibility of the Head Coach and the Franchise in which they participate. Systems shall be established and maintained by each Team and Franchise to identify and communicate acceptable conduct of its Players as well as an enforcement plan to assure proper conduct. Failure to appropriately maintain proper conduct or react to unacceptable conduct will be considered a breach of these by-laws and subject to sanctions by the BBFL.

5.7 PENALTIES

The integrity of the BBFL and the safety of the Players on the field during practices and games rely on these Payers placement rules. Penalties for not following these rules will result in game forfeitures. Sanctions shall also be issued against the Franchise administrators, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Team Staff of the Team found supporting or allowing such activities, where appropriate.

5.7.1 Over/Under Age Player Participation

The penalty for an over or under age Player's participation in the BBFL games, when discovered (whether protested or not) and verified through reasonable means will result in a minimum forfeiture of all games in which the illegal player has participated and that Player's suspension from any further BBFL activities for the current season.

5.7.2 Ineligible Player Participation

The penalty for a Player who did not legally weigh-in with the BBFL when discovered (weather protested or not) and verified through reasonable means, will result as a minimum in forfeiture of all games in which the illegal Player has participated. Further, the Player and Coach must receive written approval to continue to play, from the BBFL Executive Committee after a hearing by the BBFL Executive Committee is held.

5.7.2.1 A player dressed out on the sidelines is considered participating and subject to section 5.07.02

5.7.3 Unauthorized Player Certification

The penalty for a youth who fraudulently weighs-in with forged or illegal documents, by having someone else weigh-in for them, or other fraudulent methods when discovered (weather protested or not) and verified through reasonable means, will result as a minimum in forfeiture of all games in which the illegal Player participated, plus the suspension of the Player and the Coach for the remainder of the season and potential future seasons.

5.7.4 Unauthorized Player Participation

If a player is found to be playing for a team other than the jurisdiction of residence or approved in writing by the executive committee, the Player will be suspended for the balance of the season, and the Team will forfeit the games in which the illegal Player participated. Additional penalties may be imposed on the Franchise, Team, Coach, Assistant Coaches or Staff in flagrant cases provided a BBFL Executive Committee hearing is conducted.

5.7.5 Any Player who violates the BBFL by-laws, local Franchise by-laws, or Football Rules will be warned and/or made aware of their actions the first time. However, if the said Player violates any other rule or by-law, that Player shall be removed from the BBFL for the remainder of the season.

5.7.6 Any Player who is ejected from a BBFL game or event will be suspended for one (1) week. This suspension means not attending practice for the week following the ejection and not allowed on the sideline with the team for the next scheduled BBFL game or event.

5.7.6.1 If the ejection occurs during the last game or event of the season, said Player will incur suspension for the week preceding the first game or event and said game or event of the next season. After said Player is ejected twice in one (1) season, they will be removed from the BBFL. Said Player will be allowed to return the next season on probation.

5.7.6.2 Upon returning and said Player is once again ejected, said Player will be permanently removed from the BBFL.

5.7.6.3 If said Player goes the entire following season with no ejection, probation is lifted for the next season. In the case of a Players ejection, a BBFL Executive Committee review will be held.

5.7.7 The President of the Franchise that has incurred the ejection is responsible for filling out an Ejection/Misconduct Form and getting it to the BBFL President.

5.7.7.1 The BBFL President must be notified of the ejection within twenty- four (24) hours. The BBFL President must notify the head coach of the opposing team of the following weekend within twenty-four (24) hours.

5.7.7.2 If the ejection is not reported within a 24 hour period, a $100.00 fine will be paid to BBFL by that franchise. If ejection is not reported to the franchise President by the Head Coach, that Coach will incur a one-week suspension and the $100.00 fine will not be enforced

5.7.8 Other Player Infractions

Penalties for other Player infractions not specifically noted here shall be determined by the BBFL Executive Committee and may include forfeiture of games, loss of League voting rights, suspension of teams and expulsion from the BBFL by the Executive Committee.

6. WEIGH-IN

The BBFL maintains standard weight-in policies and procedures to document the eligibility of all players, determine the player's official weight and to assure they are properly placed within places on the playing field. These procedures are mandatory for all players. With A and B TEAM not actually having a weight limit, players must still be present for verification purposes.

6.1 The BBFL does not encourage or condone forced weight loss in any form of players to play in specific positions. Certain minor weight loss is experienced with increased activity, due to normal practice schedules and should be expected. Significant weight may be unhealthy and should only be controlled under the care of a physician and not as part of this league.

6.2 Every player participating in the BBFL will be required to attend and participate in the official BBFL weigh-in. One official weight-in will be held in a centralized location to minimize traveling for all and to maximize participation.

6.2.1 If a player is not available to weigh-in on the official weigh-in date, the BBFL President must be notified 24 hours before the day of the official weigh-in is to take place. Notification to the BBFL President will be made in writing in the form of E-Mail or handwritten letter outlining their reasons for the absence.

6.2.2 If a player is not weighed on the given date and has not notified the BBFL President, the player will not play, NO EXCEPTIONS.

6.2.3 Players that have submitted letters to the President will be allowed to attend a second weigh-in. Only these players will be allowed to weigh-in at the second weigh-in, NO EXCEPTIONS.

6.2.4 The date and time will be determined by the BBFL. The second weigh-in will follow the procedures outlined in these by-laws for the official weigh-in. However, the location may be changed to benefit all players (REF: travel) that are required to attend.

6.3 One representative from each organization will be present at the weigh-in and will sign off on the player weight-in sheet. A copy of the weight-in sheet will be given to all head coaches of the teams in the age group, he/she is the Head Coach. (Please note that proof of age for all players may be required and should be made available by each individual franchise).

6.3.1 Every player will weigh-in on a scale chosen by the BBFL Executive Committee. This scale will be certified and utilized at both weigh-ins.

6.4 **TIMES AND DATES**

The official BBFL weigh-in will be held at a date and time to be determined by the BBFL Executive Committee and must be at least two

weeks prior to the first game. Time and places of the official weigh-in will be furnished to each franchise on or before end of the second week of practice.

6.5 **ALLOWABLE ATTIRE**

During the weigh-in procedure, Players must wear their assigned team game jersey with the number assigned to that player. This number will be used by the BBFL and will be made a part of the roster. Additionally, players shall wear standard street attire and be in possession of his helmet. As a minimum, players may wear gym type shorts. As a maximum, players may wear only one of each item of clothing. Players will also have their regulation/game helmet at the time they are to weigh-in.

6.6 **Structure**

At their assigned time, one team is brought to the BBFL designees by the Head Coach or designated Assistant Coach acceptable to the BBFL Executive Committee. Only the BBFL President or designee and the Head Coach or designated Assistant Coach may be in attendance for the player weigh-in of a specific team. The BBFL will be represented by members of the BBFL Board, local franchise board members, BBFL designated witness, Scale Monitor and Weight Recorder. No others may be in attendance for the player weigh-in of any team.

6.6.1 If a player wishes to disrobe to meet weigh requirements, the parent/guardian of said player will be present. If none are available, said player will not be allowed to disrobe to meet the weight.

6.6.2 Head Coaches or designated Assistant Coach will provide the Recorder with a completed and accurate weigh-in roster prior to team weigh-in. This weigh-in roster can be obtained and down loaded from the BBFL web site. This copy becomes BBFL property. A copy of the team's official weigh-in roster will be provided to their respective Head Coach by the BBFL.

6.6.3 Prior to being weighed, players will face the Recorder so that their proper jersey number can be observed by the Recorder. Player will then state their first and last name to the Recorder. During this process, no one will be allowed to speak to the player except the Recorder. The player will step onto the scale after being told to do so by the Recorder. A weight will be obtained by the Scale Monitor and read out loud. The Recorder will then place the weight in the blank provided on the official weigh-in roster. If a player meets or exceeds the weight criteria of an age group, a sticker of the designated color will be placed on the person's helmet. This will continue until the entire team has weighed-in. (This sticker is NOT to be removed. If deliberately removed, the player and head coach will be considered ineligible.)

6.6.4 Players will weigh in only once and that weight will be recorded, players will not be able to step back on the scale to reweigh NO EXCEPTIONS.

6.7 INELIGIBILITY

Any player not attending the first weigh-in, or with special permission outlined in 6.02.01 through 6.02.01.02, will not be able to participate in BBFL sponsored games and/or events. No weight-ins shall be scheduled after the opening day of the regular season.

6.8 CONDUCT

The conduct of the players during the weigh-in procedures is the responsibility of the Franchise in which they participate and the Head Coach. Systems shall be established and maintained by each Franchise to identify and communicate acceptable conduct of its players as well as an enforcement plan to assure proper conduct. Failure to appropriately maintain proper conduct or react to unacceptable conduct will be considered a breach of these by-laws and subject to sanctions by the BBFL.

6.9 **Penalties**

Penalties for the failure of Franchises and/or Head Coaches to follow the rules and regulations set forth herein shall include sanctioning of the Team or the entire Franchise as the infraction dictates. Specific sanctions may include but are not limited to forfeiture of games, loss of BBFL voting rights, suspension of teams or individuals, exclusion from BBFL post season competition and expulsion from the BBFL by the Board. Evidence of fraudulent or intentionally deceiving paperwork will be grounds for immediate expulsion of the player and/or Head Coach.

7. EQUIPMENT

7.1 EQUIPMENT STANDARDS Equipment used by Franchises and teams shall meet standards of the LHSA rules unless otherwise noted herein. It is the responsibility of each Franchise that equipment will be in good repair and properly fitted to each player.

7.2 Mandatory Player Equipment

All players must be completely uniformed to be eligible to compete in BBFL sanctioned games and events. Mandatory equipment provided by the local Franchises will include:

- Helmet
- Shoulder pads
- Hip, tail, thigh and knee pads (commonly referred to as seven pack, padded girdles may replace some of the individual pads)
- Game jersey with number on front and back
- Game pants

7.2.1 It is the PARENT'S responsibility to provide proper tooth/mouth pieces, practice pants and jerseys and proper footwear. (Mouth Pieces must be of color and not clear or white as to be easily identified by the officials, they must also be attached to the face mask. If not attached to face mask, the mouthpiece will not be deemed suitable, and the player will be removed from the game.)

7.2.2 Athletic supporters (with cup insert) and other personal protection devices are strongly recommended but not required.

7.2.3 Proper footwear will be worn always, no exceptions. No metal spikes.

7.2.4 Face shields may be worn if clear only and players' face is clearly visible, no dark, reflective or colored face shields allowed. (player will be removed from the game until improper face shield is removed)

7.3 ILLEGAL PLAYER EQUIPMENT

No player will participate in any BBFL practices, games or activities with illegal equipment. This includes but is not limited to those items identified in the LHSAA rules and anything deemed unsafe by the presiding officials.

7.3.1 HARD CAST RULE

No athlete is permitted to participate in any BBFL practice, game or other sponsored activity with a hard cast, splint, brace or any other protective appliance except when padded and protected in accordance with LHSAA rules. Any player wishing to practice or play with such a device must first gain written permission from their Franchise's President. The approval of the padding and the player's eligibility for a BBFL game shall be determined by the Game Official. The player will submit a signed written request to the Game Official prior to the game. The request must include a physician's statement indicating the player is clear to play. Copies of the request and physician's statement will also be available for review by the opposing Head Coach.

7.4 GAME UNIFORMS

All teams are required to have one consistent, approved uniform color combination scheme using their Franchise colors at the beginning of each season. These uniforms will be worn at all games, home and away, unless a conflict arises.

7.4.1 Players will maintain the same jersey number throughout the season unless the jersey is damaged beyond reasonable repair or lost.

7.4.2 No jersey will be changed during or before the game unless deemed necessary by the Game Officials and approved by League President. In the event of such a jersey change, both sidelines must be notified. If a player participates with a jersey number not matching the Weigh In roster, the player will be deemed ineligible, and the game will be considered a forfeit.

7.5 GAME BALLS

Official game balls meeting BBFL standards shall be furnished by the home team. The visiting team may elect to use its own ball when on offense providing it is of approved size and material. Placing balls in a game must not delay the game.

7.5.1 Game balls will meet the following sizes and specifications based on age classifications:

- C TEAMS must use K2 type size footballs
- B TEAMS must use K2 type size footballs
- A TEAMS muse use TJY or TDJ type size footballs

7.5.2 This rule will be strictly enforced by the Game Officials and the BBFL. Any team caught using any ball other than those specified for any age classifications, will incur an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty of 15 yards and will incur the same penalty for each offense afterwards.

7.5.3 Ball composition and construction must meet requirements of the LHSAA rules with size dimensions modified to match the balls listed in by-law 7.05.01.

7.6 FIRST AID KITS

Each Franchise must furnish each of its teams with a first aid kit. This kit will be maintained by the Franchise and at all games and practices. The kit shall include, as a minimum, items to stem and control bleeding of minor cuts/abrasions and reduce the possibility of infection.

7.7 PENALALTIES

Penalties for the failure of Franchises and/or Coaches to follow the equipment rules and regulations set forth herein shall include sanctioning of either the Team or the entire Franchise as the infraction dictates. Specific sanctions may include forfeiture of games, loss of BBFL voting rights, suspension of teams, exclusion from BBFL post season competition and expulsion from the BBFL by the Board.

7.7.1 Penalties for players improperly equipped during a game may include warnings, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties or ejection from the game as determined by the Game Officials.

8 PRACTICE POLICIES

8.1 COMMENCEMENT OF PRACTICE

No "team" practice which consist of the use of full pads, game planning/schemes or any official team/coaches' meetings shall commence prior to August 1st of each year. This rule applies to any organized team instruction, such as team positional skill sessions, as well as blocking and tackling drills, running plays, etc. (This does not include any parent meeting(s).) Individual activity by Players or groups which include cone drills, group physical training, to get themselves into condition for the first day of team practice will be allowed after July 1st of each year.

8.1.1 Once school starts, each team will be limited to (2) padded practices and (1) non padded practice per week. The week will be considered to start at the end of a team's game on Saturday until the start of their game on the following Saturday.

8.1.2 If practice is canceled before the start, it may be rescheduled. The date upon which practice is limited to three times a week will be determined each year to coincide with the school.

8.1.3 Coaches will allow all players the opportunity to attend BBFL scheduled events (Nicholls or High School games). No player will be denied the right to miss practice to attend events by not allowing that player to participate in any scheduled games.

8.2 DURATION AND FREQUENCY

Practices will not exceed one, two-hour period per day, five days a week until school starts. Beginning with the first week of school, the number of team practices or team meetings will not exceed three per week excluding games for all age groups as defined in 8.01.01.

8.3 CANCELLATIONS/MODIFIED PRACTICE

Safety of the players, coaches and spectators is paramount. No practices shall be held if dangerous or hazardous conditions exist at the practice site. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to extreme heat, storms, lightning, dangerous winds, soggy turf and others. The BBFL may elect to postpone or modify practice sessions to mitigate such conditions where possible. These may include temporary changes to schedule times of practice, limiting contact and/or equipment during practice, increase water breaks, etc.

8.4 SAFETY

8.4.1 Each team shall be familiar with written BBFL safety procedures and emergency procedures at the practice fields. Franchises, teams and coaches will maintain effective communication tools to contact emergency services should the need arise. Coaches shall be responsible for routine inspection of practice facilities, field equipment and player equipment to ensure safety and proper fit.

8.4.2 Coaches shall not leave a game or practice area until all players have left the site.

8.5 SCRIMMAGES

Scrimmages between teams of different age groups are prohibited. **Scrimmages are allowed with teams outside of BBFL up until the first regular scheduled game of the current season. Scrimmages during the regular season must be approved by the league.**

8.6 USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS, TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL PRODUCTS

There shall be NO use of drugs, tobacco or alcoholic products including vape and e-cigarettes inside of any BBFL Practice or Game facility/field by any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, team parent, fan, Game Official or other BBFL Officials. THIS IS STRONLGY PROHIBITED (ZERO TOLERANCE). The BBFL is responsible for enforcing this rule. If a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, team parent or any BBFL Official refuses to cooperate, he/she will be warned that continued failure to comply with this rule will result in disciplinary action by the BBFL. The BBFL expects all participants and guests of the BBFL to follow BBFL by-laws and Recreational regulations when using any of these facilities.

8.7 TAPING/RECORDING OF PRACTICES

No coaches or team parents will video tape or observe another team's practice before or during the regular season or at any time during the post-season. The practice of videotaping other teams' practices to gain an offensive or defensive advantage shall be considered detrimental and contrary to the best interest of the BBFL program. Any player or member of the coaching staff involved with any of the offenses will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

8.8 CONDUCT

The conduct of each player during, before and after practice sessions is the responsibility of the Head Coach, the coaching staff and the Franchise. Systems shall be established and maintained by each team and Franchise to identify and communicate acceptable conduct of its players as well as an enforcement plan to assure proper conduct. Failure to appropriately maintain proper conduct or react to unacceptable conduct will be considered a breach of these by-laws and subject to sanctions by the BBFL.

8.9 PENALTIES

Penalties for the failure of Franchises and/or coaches to follow the rules and regulations set forth herein shall include sanctioning of either the team or the entire Franchise as the infraction dictates. Specific sanctions may include forfeiture of games, loss of BBFL voting rights, suspension of teams, exclusion from BBFL post season competition and expulsion from the BBFL by the Executive Committee.

9 GAME POLICIES

9.1 GOVERNING RULES

LHSAA rules apply to all scheduled BBFL games unless amended by these official BBFL by-laws. Any questions not covered by the Official BBFL by-laws, official interpretation thereof, or any conflict not subject to protest shall be decided by the BBFL Executive Committee.

9.2 FANS AND HOME SITES

9.2.1 All areas will be responsible for educating all coaches, fans, players, etc of the by-laws and football playing rules concerning the BBFL.

9.2.2 All fans will sit on the designated side of the stadium/field at the area's discretion.

9.2.3 Any fan(s) who disrupts the game, engages in fistic altercations, etc. will be immediately removed from the site. Any BBFL Executive Committee member can remove a fan. When a fan is ejected from a playing site, it will be

the BBFL's discretion to allow that fan back on the site or any other site for the remainder of the season.

9.2.4 No alcoholic beverages, ice chests or outside food or drinks will be allowed inside or around the playing site. Concessions will be sold at all home sites and prices shall be reasonable.

9.2.5 In the case of a playing site being questionable due to extreme weather conditions, the BBFL President along with the local Franchise Presidents, can decide on whether to play at that site or move to an alternate site. Their decision will be final and without recourse. There will be no coin toss or other random method to determine the outcome of any game.

9.2.6 If methods in section 9.01.02 cannot be achieved and a regular season game(s) cannot be played due to weather, all other adjacent games will not be officially recorded for standings. There will be no penalty for any franchise not participating in games of the same day of officially cancelled games by the executive committee.

9.3 OFFENSE

There are no limits to what type of offense a team can run; however, all offensive formations must be legal according to LHSAA playing rules.

9.3.1 For "C" Teams only, the intent of the offensive play cannot be for the Quarterback to advance the ball between the guards, I.E. Quarterback sneak, draw or keep.

9.3.2 There will be NO blocking below the knees (chop blocking) in any age group or at any position. This will incur a fifteen-yard penalty. If the same player is penalized in the same game, this will incur in an ejection and the ejection policy will be enforced.

9.3.3 During the "Snapping"/ "Centering" of the football the center cannot turn the ball prior to the snap, parallel to the line of scrimmage for any reason. This will result in a warning on the first offense and teams will be penalized on the second or repeated violation after the first warning.

9.3.4 For "A,B,C" Teams, Cornerbacks may press if a receiver is lined up on the line of scrimmage.

9.3.5 For "A" team only, will play middle school rules on offense and defense.

9.4 DEFENSE

9.4.1 All teams can play a four, five or six-man front. (Teams will be limited to seven- man fronts within the ten-yard line of defending end zone. "Goal Line")

9.4.2 All team defensive linemen and linebackers must be head-up with the offensive line. (This will not be applied in an instance in which the offense runs a swinging gate formation due to by-law 9.06.01 which states: "there shall be no restrictions as to jersey number by player positions." This rule only applies when the offense is lined up in a "standard" offensive set as it is virtually impossible to recognize who is an offensive lineman without true number recognition. The Standard offensive set within the BBFL, is recognized by the following Double TE set.

9.4.3 For "C" teams only, there will be no lining up directly over the center. Linebackers are required to line up three yards off of the ball and head-up with the offense. (NO Nose Guard is allowed; this includes at goal line)

9.4.4 For "C" teams only, there will be no stacking of players. This does not include any player that is lined up a minimum of three yards from the line of scrimmage.

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9.4.5Only coaches and managers listed on the official roster for that individual team are allowed on the sidelines.

9.4.5