

# THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF BIG SOUTH YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## ARTICLE I- ORGANIZATION

### Section 1.

Objectives of Big South Youth Football, Inc. It is the objective of the Big South Youth Football, Inc. ("BSYF") to provide a recreational outlet purely for the enjoyment of young players ages twelve and under. It is not intended to be used as a hobby for adults seeking to inflate their own egos. BSYF is also not intended to be and does not claim to be a football player-producing factory for building future stars. Its purpose is simply to provide an enjoyable recreational experience with emphasis on participation instead of perfection.

The goal of every organization with a team should be to see that all play with the best adult leadership that can be provided. Special emphasis should always be placed on those selected to serve as directors and coaches. These very important individuals fill the most important positions because of their day-to-day contact with the participants during these very critical formative years. Even though they are volunteers, each organization should be very selective in the screening process and not allow just anyone who is willing to be a director or coach.

### Section 2.

Big South Youth Football Policy. It is the policy of the Big South Youth Football to promote the development of good character and citizenship in young people through the game of football. It is the purpose of the Big South Youth Football to achieve this through fair play, good sportsmanship, and fellowship with good adult leadership. It is absolutely against our policy for any person either as a participant or a spectator to engage in arguments, to use abusive language, to harass officials, or to exhibit any behavior not in harmony with these general intentions.

### Section 3.

**Membership-** BSYF membership consists of organizations dedicated to the objectives and policies of BSYF. These organizations shall administer Franchises, as defined herein below, for participation in BSYF in accordance with Article II of this Constitution and Bylaws. The Franchise members of BSYF shall be those organizations set out in Schedule 1.3.1.

- (a) **Annual Pre-Season Meeting:** An annual pre-season meeting of the Franchise Members shall be held on the second Sunday in June of every year at a place and time to be determined by the then existing Board of Directors. The Board Chairperson shall preside over the annual meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting shall be to vote on any by-law amendments, and to vote on any rule of play changes.
- (b) **Annual Post-Season Meeting:** An annual post-season meeting of the Franchise Members shall be held on the Sunday prior to the NFL Super Bowl every year at a place and time to be determined by the then existing Board of Directors. The Board Chairperson shall preside over the annual meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting shall be to discuss the preceding season of play, to vote on any disciplinary or punitive business, to elect a Board Member for any Board vacancies, to propose consideration of any by-law amendments, and to propose consideration of any rule of play changes.
- (c) **Substitute Annual Meeting:** If any annual meeting shall not be held on the day designated by these by- laws, a substitute annual meeting may be called in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 3(d) of this Section. A meeting so called shall be designated and treated for all purposes as the annual meeting.
- (d) **Special Meetings:** Special Meetings of the Franchise Members may be called at any time by the Board Chairperson Board pursuant to the written request of not less than three (3) Board Members or not less than five (5) Franchise Members.

**Notice of Meetings:** Written or printed notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be given not less than five (5) days before the date thereof, either personally or by electronic mail or by wireless communication at the direction of the Board Chairperson to each Franchise Member. In the case of an annual or substitute annual meeting, the notice of meeting need not specifically state the business to be transacted. In the case of a special meeting, the notice of meeting shall specifically state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

- (a) **Quorum:** Most of the Franchise Members represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Franchise Members.
- (b) **Informal Action by Franchise Members:** Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Franchise Members may be taken without a meeting by an electronic mail vote so long as the Franchise Members consent by acknowledgment in such electronic mail transmission to a vote by electronic mail. If two (2) or more Franchise Members object to an electronic mail vote, then such action shall be taken at a duly noticed special meeting as set out herein above. If any Franchise Member fails to object within three (3) days of the electronic mail transmission calling for a vote on the action, then said right to object shall be waived and such Franchise Member shall be deemed to have abstained from such vote.
- (c) **Proxy:** No proxy will be accepted in any voting situation. If the designee of the Franchise Member delegated to vote for a Franchise Member is not present, no vote will be counted. If the designee of the Franchise Member delegated to vote for a Franchise Member is not able to attend a meeting, a Franchise Member can send a substitute designee provided the regular, delegated designee has notified the Board Chairperson.
- (d) **Sanctions and/or Removal:** Each Franchise Member shall be subject to sanctions and/or removal upon good cause shown that such Franchise Member has violated these Bylaws and Constitution or has taken actions or failed to take actions to the detriment of BSYF. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that each Franchise Member is providing fair and quality opportunities to play, learn and compete in the game of football to the youth within its Franchise Boundaries in accordance with the BSYF Constitution and Bylaws as well as continuing to strive to improve the experience of football in accordance with up-to-date standards.
  - **Probationary Status-** Upon application for a Special Meeting of the Membership as set out hereinabove and notice as required therefore, a Special Meeting shall be held for the Board to conduct a hearing and provide the Franchise Member the opportunity to be heard on any alleged violation of the BSYF Constitution and Bylaws that rises to action hereunder. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the Board shall issue its decision on whether good cause exists to place a Franchise Member on Probationary Status in writing to the accused Franchise Member within seven (7) days of such hearing. Together with such decision, the Board shall define the conditions of the Probationary Status of the accused Franchise Member to include, without limitation, (1) Corrective action necessary to come into compliance with the Bylaws and Constitution; (2) Financial penalties such as a fine (not to exceed \$500.00) or loss of home event(s); and (3) Administrative sanctions such as removal of voting rights or removal from the Board. Such Probationary Status shall not exceed two (2) years.
- (i) **Removal-** Except in extraordinary circumstances, no Franchise Member shall be subject to a vote for removal unless the Franchise Member has had a hearing for Probationary Status and has failed to satisfy the conditions thereof. In the event good cause exists to call for a vote for removal, then upon application for a Special Meeting of the Membership as set out hereinabove and notice as required therefore, a Special Meeting shall be held for the Board to conduct a hearing and provide the Franchise Member the final opportunity to be heard on the

issues presented. Following the hearing, all Franchise Members shall vote on removal of the Franchise Member; and if two-thirds of the Franchise Members present vote to remove the Franchise Member, then a final vote of the Board shall be held requiring a two-thirds approval ratifying the memberships vote to remove the Franchise Member. In the event of removal, the Franchise Member shall be removed effective immediately.

- (i) **Readmission after Removal-** After no less than two (2) years of removal, any organization that wishes to be readmitted into BSYF, must reapply for admission as any new organization seeking entry as a Franchise Member and follow all procedures as set out here.

## Section 4 Board of Directors

**Board of Directors-** All governing powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of BSYF shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors or by such Committees as the Board may establish pursuant to these By-laws.

- (a) **Number and Qualifications of Board Directors-** The Board shall consist of a representative from each organization that is a member of the Big South Youth Football league (BSYFL.)
- (b) **Team of Board Members-** Each designee of a Board Member shall hold office until his death, resignation, retirement, removal, disqualification, or his successor is elected and qualified.
- (c) **Election of Directors:** Except as provided in Paragraph (d) of this Section, upon the expiration of the terms set forth in Schedule 1.4.1, the Board Members shall be elected at the Annual Post-Season Meeting of the Franchise Members; and the Franchise Member that receives the highest number of votes for a particular seat shall be deemed to have been elected. If any Franchise Member so demands, election of an open Board seat shall be by ballot. There shall not be cumulative voting.
- (d) **Vacancies:** In the event of resignation, retirement, removal, disqualification or death of a designee of a Board Member (the "Leaving Designee"), the remaining designees representing the Board Members shall appoint a successor designee to replace the Leaving Designee. The successor designee may be selected from a non-Board Member, but the Board shall make all reasonable efforts to appoint a successor designee from the Board Member represented by the Leaving Designee.
- (e) **Board Chairperson:** The Board Chairperson shall be elected each year by the Board at the first Board Meeting following the Annual Post-Season Meeting of the Franchise Members. The highest vote getter shall be the Board Chairperson, and the second highest vote getter shall be the Board Vice Chairperson. The Board Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board or these By-laws. The Board Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board or these By-laws.

- (f) **Secretary-Treasurer:** The Board Chairperson shall elect a Secretary-Treasurer each year from the existing Board Members. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep accurate records of the acts and proceedings of all meetings of BSYF and the Board. He shall have general charge of the League records. He shall have custody of all funds and securities belonging to BSYF and shall receive, deposit or disburse the same under the direction of the Board of Directors. He shall keep full and accurate accounts of the finances of the Corporation in books especially provided for that purpose; and he shall cause a true statement of its assets and liabilities as of the close of each fiscal year and of the results of its operations and of changes in surplus for such fiscal year. The statement so filed shall be kept available for inspection by any Franchise Member a period of ten years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, in general, perform all duties incident to this office and such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board Chairperson or by the Board of Directors.
- (g) **Removal:** Any Board Member may be removed at any time with or without cause by vote of the Franchise Members if the number of votes cast to remove such Board Member exceeds the number of votes cast not to remove the Board Member.
- (h) **Regular Meetings of the Board:** A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in March following the Annual Post-Season Meeting of the Franchise Members and every other month thereafter: (i) May; (ii) July; (iii) September; and (iv) a playoff seeding meeting. In addition, the Board of Directors may provide, by resolution, the time and place for the holding of additional regular meetings.
- (i) **Special Meetings of the Board:** Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the Board Chairperson or any Board Member.
- (j) **Notice of Meetings of the Board:** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held without notice. The Board Chairperson or Board Member calling a special meeting of the Board of Directors shall, at least two days before the meeting, give notice thereof by any usual means of communication. Such notice need not specify the purpose for which the meeting is called. Attendance by a director at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called.
- (k) **Quorum:** Most of the Board Members fixed by these By-laws shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.
- (l) **Manner of Action:** Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the act of much of the Board present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be deemed the act of the Board of Directors.
- (k) **Informal Action by Directors:** Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting by an electronic mail vote so long as the Board Members consent by acknowledgment in such electronic mail transmission to a vote by electronic mail. If two (2) or more Board Members object to an electronic mail vote, then such action shall be taken at a duly noticed special meeting as set out herein above. If any Board Member fails to object within three (3) days of the electronic mail transmission calling for a vote on the action, then said right to object shall be waived and such Board Member shall be deemed to have abstained from such vote.
- (l) **Proxy:** No proxy will be accepted in any voting situation. If the designee of the Board Member delegated to vote for a Board Member is not present, no vote will be counted. If the designee of the Board Member delegated to vote for a Board Member is not able to attend a meeting, a Board Member can send a substitute designee provided the regular, delegated designee has notified the Board Chairperson.

## Section 5 Committees

- (a) **Executive Committee:** There shall be a standing committee known as the "Executive Committee". It shall consist of the Board Chairperson, the Board Vice Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer. This committee shall meet regularly as needed to handle administrative and clerical duties of BSYF, or any other duties assigned thereto by the Board of Directors.
- (b) **Rules of Play Committee:** Each year at the first Board Meeting following the Annual Post-Season Meeting, the Board Chairperson shall appoint a three (3) Board Member Panel to explore and investigate the rules of play changes discussed at the Annual Post- Season Meeting. This committee shall be charged with the duties of presenting the recommended and proposed rules of play changes at the last Board Meeting prior to the Annual Pre-Season Meeting. All rules voted in (approved by a majority vote) must remain in effect for at least two years. The only exception to this rule is if the rules changes are for safety reasons.
- (c) **League Expansion Committee:** The League Expansion Committee, which shall be a five (5) member panel consisting of at least three (3) sitting Board Members appointed by the Board Chairperson upon application by an organization for entry into BSYF as a Franchise Member. They will meet with such organization wishing to join BSYF and report their recommendation to the Board of Directors. A two-thirds vote of the Board Members will allow them membership into BSYF under a "Probationary Period".
  - (i) **Initiation Fee.** Any newly approved Franchise Member shall pay an initiation fee of \$250.00, which must be paid at the Annual Pre-Season Meeting.
  - (ii) **Probationary Period:** Each new Franchise Member shall participate under a "Probationary Period" of two years. During the second year, the new Franchise Member shall have voting rights, but shall not be eligible to serve as a Board Member. Following the second season, the Board shall re-confirm its membership into BSYF with full rights as a Franchise Member.
- (d) **Protest Committee:** The Executive Committee shall serve as the Protest Committee. The Board Chairperson shall communicate, in any manner he so desires, any disputes concerning the rules, players or coaching situation, to the Protest Committee. The Protest Committee has final word on protests or violations.

# ARTICLE II – LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

## Section 1. Definitions.

- (a) "League" or "BSYF" shall be defined as the Big South Youth Football league.
- (b) "Franchise" shall be defined as a geographic area model encompassing boundaries servicing youth participating in the League limited to those boundaries as defined in Schedule 2.1.1.
- (c) "Franchise Member" shall be the organization selected by the Board to service the Franchise.
- (d) "Franchise Member Designee" shall be the individual duly authorized by the Franchise Member to vote and take League action on behalf of the Franchise Member.
- (e) "Franchise Football Team Set" shall be the set of teams organized by the Franchise Member to service the Franchise.
- (f) "Football Team" shall be the team serving as a Franchise Member's entry for a particular age division in the Franchise Football Team Set.
- (g) Administrative Fee \$200.00

## Section 2. Franchise Football Teams.

- (a) **Age Divisions:** Franchise Football Team Sets slated for BSYF participation shall be broken down into four (4) age divisions:
  - (i) "Tiny Mites" shall be teams comprised of players ages six (6) and under.
  - (ii) "Mighty Mites" shall be teams comprised of players ages eight (8) and under.
  - (iii) "Junior Varsity" shall be teams comprised of players ages ten (10) and under.
  - (iv) "Varsity" shall be teams comprised of players ages twelve (12) and under.
- (b) **Qualifications:** Franchise Members shall enter Football Teams as set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Section.
  - (i) **Dues-** The annual dues for each Football Team shall be \$50.00 (i.e., a Franchise Member entering a Franchise Football Team Set at all four age divisions shall pay dues in the amount of \$200.00). Dues shall be made payable to Big South Youth Football and shall be paid at the Annual Pre-Season Meeting of Franchise Members. All dues paid shall be non-refundable.
  - (ii) **Entry-** By paying the foregoing dues, each Franchise Member shall be deemed to have affirmatively designated their Franchise Football Team set for competition in the upcoming football season. Failure to pay the foregoing dues will preclude participation of any Football Team from competition in the upcoming football season. Any Football Team entered for competition that fails to compete shall be subject to the forfeiture fees set out herein unless the Franchise Member withdraws such Football Team from prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. No Franchise Member shall withdraw a Football Team from participation after July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.
    - (i) **Roster-** Each Football Team shall be duly entered and in good financial standing with BSYF as set forth herein above, rosters shall be submitted at the Official's and coaches meeting in August and shall consist of players duly registered and certified for competition in BSYF as set forth herein below. No roster shall have more than 48 players. **If a team has 12 or less players at the start of the season, then they can add a player after the season starts but may only add a maximum of 5 players through the season.** Players added must participate in a minimum of half the regular season games to be eligible for playoff participation.
    - (ii) **Franchise Football Team Sets-** Except as set forth herein, it shall be the sole discretion of the Franchise Member to determine the appropriate number of Franchise Football Team Sets to serve a

Franchise(s). Accordingly, for good cause shown at the Annual Pre-season Meeting, a Franchise Member may freely enter or withdraw Franchise Football Team Sets so long as it maintains at least one (1) Franchise Football Team Set. However, it is NOT the policy of BSYF for Franchise Members to regularly cut and select an elite number of participants to limit its Franchise Football Team Sets. It is the policy of BSYF to serve all youth within the BSYF Franchise(s). For any Franchise Football Team Set with 36 players on each of its rosters, must submit a written report by the usual means of communication shall be made by the Franchise Member Designee to the Board Chairperson as to the intention and plan for the division of the Franchise(s) being served into an additional Franchise Football Team Sets.

- (c) **Game Forfeitures:** A game or games may be forfeited for rule violations. If a Football Team fails to show up to participate in a scheduled game, the Franchise Member will pay a \$1,000.00 penalty to the Host Organization. **All BSYFL organizations are expected to participate in all games, conference, or non-conference. Forfeit fee will be enforced for both conference and non-conference games.**

### Section 3. Football Players.

- (a) **General Eligibility:** All Franchise Members will be required to open their rosters to all youth in the community or town of that BSYF Franchise(s) regardless of their race, creed, or physical ability so long as the Football Team roster has not attained the maximum numbers as set out herein.
- (b) **Player Eligibility for Certifications:** All players must BSYF certified as set out herein prior to participation in any BSYF sanctioned regular season game, **and the player must be certified by the first regular season game.** If a player chooses to certify with an older group, that player must participate with the group they certify with for the entire season.
- (i) **Age Eligibility-** For any BSYF age division, the player's league age shall be determined by the player's age as of August 1st of the current season. To compete in BSYF as a Tiny Mite, the player must attain the age of five (5) years of age prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year of the current season.
- (ii) **Franchise Eligibility-** All players must attend school within the boundaries of the Franchise being served by the Football Team (the Franchise for home-school students shall be determined by the Board). The only exception shall be a Variance, Release or Transfer approved by the Board in accordance with the following provisions:
- **TRANSFER-** Any player that has played a previous season for a BSYF Franchise Member, and during a subsequent season, such player attends a school in a different BSYF Franchise; then, such player must attain a "Transfer" from the BSYF Franchise Member that such player previously played for. Upon presentment of proof of the player's new school enrollment, a Transfer shall be freely given. If a Transfer is denied, then the player shall apply a written appeal request to the Board and such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the appeal procedure set out herein below.
  - **RELEASE-** Any player that has played a previous season for a BSYF Franchise Member, and during a subsequent season, such player for any reason other than that allowed for a Transfer set out herein above desires to play for a different BSYF Franchise, or has never played in

BSYF and is within the boundaries of one BSYF Franchise and desires to play for a different BSYF Franchise; then, such player must attain a "Release" from the BSYF Franchise Member servicing the proper Franchise for the player. A Release shall be given in the discretion of the BSYF Franchise Member that the player previously played for. If a release is denied, then the player shall apply a

written appeal request to the Board and such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the appeal procedure set out herein below.

- **VARIANCE-** This rule obtains to a player that does not attend school in the boundaries of any BSYF Franchise or wishes to play for a franchise other than the properly designated franchise for his school area. A variance shall not be required for any player wishing to play for the franchise he played for during the season immediately prior to the current season, regardless of his current residence or school area. Otherwise, a Variance shall be required from the properly designated franchise member for the player's school zone, or in the case of a player that does not attend a school within the boundaries of any BSYF Franchise, a Variance shall be required from the Board. A Variance shall be freely given. If a Variance is denied, then the player shall apply a written appeal request to the Board and such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the appeal procedure set out herein below. Therefore, to be 5 variances per age group granted for each organization. Only one variance is needed per family with siblings. If a player is already on an existing team or roster from the previous season, no variance is needed.

NOTE: EXPRESSLY GRANTED HEREIN THESE BYLAWS STANDS THE VARIANCE THAT ANY PLAYER CERTIFIED FOR PLAY IN THE PREVIOUS BSYFL WITH A FRANCHISE MEMBER'S FOOTBALL TEAM MAY REMAIN WITH SUCH TEAM REGARDLESS OF HOW THE BSYF FRANCHISE BOUNDARIES EFFECTS THE PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY FOR THE DURATION OF THAT PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY IN BSYF.

- **TRANSFER/RELEASE/VARIANCE APPEAL PROCEDURE-**

If a player is denied a Transfer, Release or Variance by a Franchise Member, the player shall submit a written request for an appeal hearing to the Board Chairperson by electronic mail communication. Upon such written request, the Board Chairperson must appoint a three-member panel consisting of the Board Chairperson (unless the Board Chairperson is an interested party) and two non-interested Board Members. The Board Chairperson shall preside over the meeting (unless the Board Chairperson is an interested party, then the Board Vice Chairperson shall preside). Each interested party, being both affected BSYF Franchise Members and the player, shall be given no less than three (3) days written notice by electronic mail communication of the date and time and place of the hearing, but in no event shall such hearing occur more than ten (10) days from the written request for the appeal from the player. The appeals panel shall enter a decision on the day of the hearing, and such decision shall be final.

- (iii) **Behavioral Eligibility-** Franchise Members shall have discretion in excluding youth from BSYF participation for not exhibiting behavior in accordance with the policy of BSYF; however, if a player applies for a Release, then such Release shall automatically be submitted to the Board's appeal panel as set forth herein above.
- (v) **Eligibility by Mistake-** Players who have received full BSYF approval and are later found to be ineligible through a mistake will not be penalized and may at the discretion of the Board of Directors be allowed to stay on the team with full eligibility for the remainder of the season. In no event shall this excuse any intentional failure to report such player ineligibility.
- (vi) **Dual Participation within BSYF-** No player shall participate on two or more BSYF Football Teams except as permitted by the Board of Directors. This includes two different age division Football Teams within the same Franchise Football Team

**Any player that participates in two or more BSYF football games in the same day shall result in a forfeit of the second game only.**

**This includes the second game in which the player participated and/or was dress for.**

**Middle School Athletics Participation-** Players participating in Middle School athletics (specifically including Football) shall be eligible to compete in BSYF so long as (1) the player meets the age requirements of BSYF; (2) the player is on the League Approved Roster; AND (3) for participation in the BSYF Playoffs, the player has competed MARKED PRESENT in, no less than, four (4) regular season BSYF games for the team, for which the player appears on the League Approved Roster.

- (c) **Player Disqualification-** Any player that is "ejected" or "disqualified" under these Bylaws and Constitution shall be expelled from the remainder of that game and the following game to the extent that no punitive measure taken herein these Bylaws and Constitution impose a more severe penalty. Notwithstanding any changes to the NCHSAA rules of play or North Carolina middle school rules of play, any player receiving two (2) unsportsmanlike fouls shall be "ejected" from that game and suspended from the next game. Any time a player is expelled from the remainder of a game and the following game, such player shall attend the expelled game(s) on the sidelines, wearing their game jersey.

## **Section 4 Certifications**

**Player Certification-** All players must submit to League Certifications as provided for herein under Section 4 of this Article prior to participation in BSYF Competition. The following will be needed for certification:

(1)An original birth certificate with raised seal is the only record of proof of birth except as allowed by the Board Chairperson in writing based upon extraordinary circumstances such as foreign birth, adoption records, or orphan records, etc.]; (2) Players must be present with Game Jersey Number indicated; (3) A school record indicating enrollment (for this purpose, an enrollment letter from the school on the school letterhead or the report card from the player's last marking period shall be satisfactory) [the Board Chairperson's electronic mail determination of the Franchise for a player that is home-schooled shall be accepted for home-schooled players]; and (4) the appropriate Variance, Release or Transfer documentation, if applicable. Any time a player's school certification is questioned to the Board Chairperson, a school certification form must be obtained by the parent or guardian from the school for proof of grade and school attending and submitted to the Board Chairperson within five (5) days. If a player is found in violation of providing inaccurate or misrepresented Player Certification Documents: (1) the player shall be suspended for the remainder of the year; (2) all games that the player participated in shall be forfeited; and (3) The Board shall conduct an inquiry and implement any appropriate sanctions, if any, on the violating coach and/or administrator and/or Franchise Member.

**Weigh-ins/Certification Verifications-** All certifications will be conducted on the 3rd Saturday of August of every season by the league referees. A makeup weigh-in for players not able to attend the weigh-in will be set by the Board Chairperson. A player must have prior approval to be excused from the original scheduled weigh-in. A player will not be allowed to weigh-in twice. The weight recorded during the 1st weigh-in will be the player's weight of record.

The age of the player must be within the limit of the age division they will be participating. Each year the player must be certified at weigh-in prior to participation in BSYF games. Players must be present at this certification, or they will not be eligible to participate in BSYF. The Board Chairperson or their designee will certify players by verifying the following:

1. The player presented is within the proper age division for his/her participation by verification of the player's birth certificate.
2. The school/address is within the boundary of the Franchise for which the Football Team serves, or the player has presented an approved Transfer, Release

- or Variance; and
3. The weight of the player is correct and appropriate restrictions applied.

Also, applicable restrictions will be documented in the League Registration. The player's helmet must receive appropriate restriction markings as set out hereinafter.

After all verifications of all players on a Football Team, the Football Team's head coach or Franchise Member Designee will be given a BSYF Roster Certification Form of all players on the BSYF Approved Roster. It is the Football Team's head coach or Franchise Member Designee's responsibility to review and certify the roster's completeness and accuracy. After review, the Football Team's head coach or Franchise Member Designee will verify its completeness and accuracy by signing the BSYF Roster Certification Form. After certification by the Football Team's head coach or Franchise Member Designee, the Board Chairperson or his/her designee will finalize approval of certification of each Football Team's roster by signing and applying the BSYF Seal to the BSYF Approved Roster. Upon final approval by the Board Chairperson or his/her designee, the BSYF Approved Roster shall not change unless approved by the Board Chairperson or his/her designee together with notice to all Franchise Member Designees. Any player not on the BSYF Approved Roster or not correctly listed on the BSYF Approved Roster shall be ineligible for competition.

After all teams for competition in BSYF are certified and BSYF Approved Rosters are finalized, a compilation of BSYF Approved Rosters together with all League Registrations attached thereto will be provided to each Franchise Member. Each host organization shall use such compilation for the purposes of checking registrations prior to competition at its facilities. The compilation retained by the Board Chairperson shall be the official version of said compilation for the purpose of verifying the authenticity of any issues presented.

## Section 5 Coaches

- (a) **General Eligibility-** All Franchise Members shall select quality and knowledgeable coaches in the community or town of that BSYF Franchise(s) regardless of their race or creed. All Franchise Members shall employ some process to perform background checks to ensure the safety of the youth competing in BSYF.
- (b) **BSYF Head Coach-** Each football team and cheer team shall designate who its Head Coach is for the BSYF game. The head coach for football shall be required to complete and have the required USA football certification. Each Head Coach shall be responsible for knowing the BSYF Bylaws and Rules of Play in accordance herewith. Each Head Coach shall be held responsible for the actions of his or her fellow coaches as well as informing such coaches of the provisions of the BSYF Bylaws and Rules of Play in accordance herewith.
- (c) **BSYF Coach Pass-** Each Football Team shall receive five (5) coaches' passes. This will entitle the bearer of such BSYF Coach Pass free entry into any BSYF event. The BSYF Coach must wear the BSYF Coach Pass, with his/her picture displayed, around their neck by lanyard, or otherwise, so that the BSYF Coach Pass is always visible in the vicinity of the chest.

**Sideline Use-** Only individuals with a BSYF Coach Pass shall be allowed on the sideline. However, no more than five (5) adults (16 or older) shall be allowed on the sideline during a BSYF game for each Football Team. The BSYF Coach must wear the BSYF Coach Pass around their neck by lanyard, or otherwise, so that the BSYF Coach Pass is always visible in the vicinity of the chest. If a Football Team has more than five (5) adults (16 or older) on the sideline during a BSYF game or one of those adults fails to bear the BSYF Coach Pass in

accordance with this Section, then in such event, the Head Referee shall issue a warning to the head coach of the Football Team. In the event the violation is not remedied immediately by the Head Coach and compliance with this Section is not maintained for the duration of that BSYF game, then for each continued violation, the Head Referee shall penalize the Head Coach with a personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. **In addition to the above referenced coaches pass, an additional badge/administrative pass shall be allowed for each organization representative.**

- (i) **Water boys and Equipment Managers-** Football Teams are allowed to have no more than two (2) water boys and/or equipment managers on the sideline during a BSYF game. So long as such water boy(s) or equipment manager(s) are 15 years of age or younger, then it is not necessary for such water boy(s) or equipment manager(s) to have a BSYF Coach Pass, nor will such water boy(s) or equipment manager(s) presence count as one of the five (5) allowed sideline individuals as to set forth herein above. However, in the event such water boy(s) or equipment manager(s) is an adult (16 or older), then such water boy(s) or equipment manager(s) shall have a BSYF Coach Pass, and such water boy(s) or equipment manager(s) will count as one of the five (5) allowed sideline individuals as to set forth herein above. Violation of this provision is subject to the penalty provisions set forth herein above under "Sideline Use".
- (ii) **Removal of BSYF Coach Pass-** The Board of Directors hereby retains all discretion to remove a BSYF Coach Pass from any holder for actions or failure to take actions to the detriment of BSYF.
- (d) **Coach Disqualification-** Any coach that is "ejected" or "disqualified" from a game shall be expelled from the remainder of that game and the following game. If a coach is "ejected," "disqualified" and/or suspended by BSYF, such coach must leave the playing complex immediately and cannot be on the grounds where the playing complex is located.
  - (i) **Events that Result in Mandatory Expulsion.** (1) If a Coaching Staff (this includes all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and anyone affiliated with the Coaching Staff) receives two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in one game, then the Head Coach receive a warning from the Head Referee that they now have two unsportsmanlike violations. If any one single assistant coach receives 2 unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in one game, then that coach shall be ejected from the game. If the Coaching Staff receives a 3rd unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, then the Head Coach shall be "ejected" from the game. (2) If one assistant coach is ejected twice in the same year, that assistant coach will be expelled for the remainder of the season and the Head Coach shall be "ejected" from the game. (3) If any Football Team receives three unsportsmanlike fouls in a game, the Head Coach shall be "ejected" from the game.
- (e) **Coach/Franchise Assignment:** All coaches that have coached previously in BSYF are assigned to the BSYF Franchise Member that such individual previously coached for. Except as set forth below, if a coach coaches for another BSYF Franchise Member without an approved Transfer, Release or Variance, then such coach will be expelled from participation in BSYF until reinstated by the Board and the violating BSYF Franchise Member shall be in violation of this Bylaw provision and subject to sanctions, therefore. The only exception shall be a Variance, Release or Transfer approved by the Board in accordance with the following provisions:

**TRANSFER-** Any individual that has coached a previous season for a BSYF Franchise Member, and during a subsequent season, such coach moves into the boundaries of a different BSYF Franchise; then, such coach must

attain a "Transfer" from the BSYF Franchise Member that such individual previously coached for. Upon presentment of proof of the coach's new residence, a Transfer shall be freely given. If a Transfer is denied, then the coach shall apply a written appeal request to the Board and such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the appeal procedure set out herein below.

**RELEASE-** Any individual that has coached a previous season for a BSYF Franchise Member, and during a subsequent season, such coach for any reason other than that allowed for a Transfer set out herein above desires to coach for a different BSYF Franchise, or has never coached in BSYF and is within the boundaries of one BSYF Franchise and desires to coach for a different BSYF Franchise; then, such coach must attain a "Release" from the BSYF Franchise Member servicing the proper Franchise for the coach. A Release shall be given in the discretion of the BSYF Franchise Member that the individual previously coached for. If a Release is denied, then the coach shall apply a written appeal request to the Board and such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the appeal procedure set out herein below.

- **VARIANCE-** Any coach that does not reside within the boundaries of any BSYF Franchise; or any individual that has coached a previous season for a BSYF Franchise Member, and during a subsequent season, such coach resides in a different BSYF Franchise, but elects to remain coaching for the BSYF Franchise that it started coaching for; then, such coach must attain a "Variance" from the BSYF Franchise Member servicing the proper Franchise for the coach, or the Board in the case of a coach that does not reside within the boundaries of any BSYF Franchise. A Variance shall be freely given. If a Variance is denied, then the coach shall apply a written appeal request to the Board and such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the appeal procedure set out herein below. NOTE: EXPRESSLY GRANTED HEREIN THESE BYLAWS STANDS THE VARIANCE THAT ANY COACH DURING THE 2011 SOUTHLAND FOOTBALL SEASON FOR A 2012 FRANCHISE MEMBER'S FOOTBALL TEAM MAY REMAIN WITH SUCH TEAM REGARDLESS OF HOW THE BSYF FRANCHISE BOUNDARIES EFFECTS THE COACH'S ASSIGNMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THAT COACH'S PARTICIPATION IN BSYF.
- **TRANSFER/RELEASE/VARIANCE APPEAL PROCEDURE-** In the event a coach is denied a Transfer, Release or Variance by a Franchise Member, the coach shall submit a written request for an appeal hearing to the Board Chairperson by electronic mail communication. Upon such written request, the Board Chairperson must appoint a three-member panel consisting of the Board Chairperson (unless the Board Chairperson is an interested party) and two non-interested Board Members. The Board Chairperson shall preside over the meeting (unless the Board Chairperson is an interested party, then the Board Vice Chairperson shall preside). Each interested party, being both affected BSYF Franchise Members and the coach, shall be given no less than three (3) days written notice by electronic mail communication of the date and time and place of the hearing, but in no event shall such hearing occur more than ten (10) days from the written request for the appeal from the coach. The appeals panel shall enter a decision on the day of the hearing, and such decision shall be final.
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## **Section 6 Officials.**

- (a) **Booking Agent and Rates:** The Board shall engage the services of a "Booking Agent" for all game officials. Such game officials shall be qualified and of the caliber to officiate NCHSAA games or, at a minimum, North Carolina Middle School games. The Booking Agent and the current rates therefore said agent and officials shall be set forth on Schedule 2.6.1 and incorporated herein by reference.
- (b) **Games:** All BSYF games shall be officiated by four (4) officials, to wit: two-line judges, one referee and one timekeeper. In the event of

an unexpected absence, injury, or illness of an official, the Field Marshal can allow the games to proceed with three (3) officials.

**Equipment Check:** The Officials are responsible for making sure that player helmets are NOCSAE approved, that the helmets fit appropriately and that chin straps are appropriately fitted. The Officials are also responsible for checking to make sure that the players have appropriate cleats and mouth pieces as indicated in the equipment section.

**Section 7 Cheerleading-** BSYF shall govern all Big South Youth Cheerleading ("BSYC") Squads in accordance with the Cheerleading Regulations set forth on Schedule 2.7.1. Annual Cheer Dues \$50.00 per cheer team in the organization.

## **Cheer Rules and Regulations**

### **Regulations**

1. All organizations are mandated to have at least one team participate in BSYC conference competition whether it be showcase or compete. Failure to participate will result in a \$500 fine for the organization.
2. Cheer competition is scheduled for the first Sunday in November.
3. Cheerleaders are required to have their picture taken for the roster. This will be the same day and location as football weigh ins.
4. Big South Cheer (BSC) will adhere to the same rules and regulations as Big South Youth Football (BSYF) regarding Age limits, Waivers, Roster cut-off date.
5. Cheer rosters will be checked at Competition by BSC board. Any cheerleaders not listed on the roster and who have not been certified will unfortunately not be able to participate in the competition.
6. Big South Cheer will be issued three passes per team.
7. Big South Cheer strongly encourages all cheer organizations to perform a halftime routine. Home team will perform first mid field then, guest team will perform.
8. Cheerleaders are prohibited from wearing any jewelry during practice, games, and competitions.
9. Cheer uniforms must not have midriff showing and skirts length must fully cover bloomers.
10. Routines must abide by rules listed below or risk being disqualified when competing.
11. You must have 6 cheerleaders to have a team. If you have less, you are allowed to combine age groups to get to 6 or more cheerleaders. For example, if you have 10 girls signed up for your 5/6 team and 5 girls for your 7/8 team then you can move up a 6-year-old to get up to 6 cheerleaders.
12. Any squad with 19 girls or below is allowed to have up to 3 passes which includes Team Mom. Any squads from 20-29 cheerleaders are allowed 4 passes which includes Team Mom. Any squads with 30+ cheerleaders will be allowed 5 passes per team. Please reach out to Kalee with any questions.

## **Cheer Rules 5/6 and 7/8**

### **Partner Stunts**

- No basket tosses allowed
- One spotter per stunt group (spotter needs to be 18 years or older)
- Single leg stunts are only allowed at waist level.
- Two leg prep level stunts and below are allowed.
- Stunts above prep level are **not** allowed.
- All inversion and swing up stunts are prohibited.

### Tosses

- All tosses are prohibited. This includes sponge, aka load in or squish tosses.

### Pyramids

- Pyramids must follow stunt and dismount rules
- Two leg extended stunts must be braced on at least one side by a top person at prep level or below with hand-arm connection only. The connection must be made at or below prep level. Prep level top person must have both feet in bases' hands. Exception: shoulder sit, flat back, straddle lift or shoulder stand.
- Prep level single leg stunts must be braced by at least one person at prep level or below with hand- arm connection only. The connection must be made prior to initiating the single leg prep level stunt.
- No extended single leg stunts, no extended single base stunts.
- Hanging pyramids are **prohibited**.

### Dismounts

- Straight cradles, no twisting.
- No dismounts are allowed from extended stunts in pyramids.
- Cradles may not land in prone position (on stomach).
- Flyer cannot hold signs while cradling.

## **CHEER RULES AGES 9/10 and 11/12**

### Tumbling

- All skills with hand support performed from a standing position are allowed. Examples: forward rolls, backward rolls, handstands, front/back walkovers, cartwheels, round-offs, front/back handsprings are allowed.
- Connection of more than one of the above skills is allowed.
- Jumps connected to a back handspring are allowed.
- Series tumbling is allowed.
- Flips, Tucks, and aerials are prohibited.

### Partner Stunts

- Two leg extended stunts are allowed.
- Single leg prep level stunts are allowed. Single leg extended stunts are prohibited, including a single leg show n go that goes above prep level.
- Twisting during the load-ins is limited to the one-half twist.
- 360 sponge to sponge is allowed
- Inversions in partner stunts and downward inversions (except for the double based forward/backward suspended roll) are **prohibited**, **Pancake/fold over/waterfall, inversions are prohibited**.
- Inversions from the performing surface are allowed providing there is no release.

### Tosses

- Sponge tosses and basket tosses are allowed. Examples: toe touch, pike, tuck, pretty girl, twist.
- No quick tosses.

### Pyramids

- Single leg extended stunts are permitted if the top person is braced by at least one top person at prep level or below with hand-arm connection only. Braced connection must be made before extending above prep level and remain until no longer in a single leg extended stunt or the initiation of the cradle. Prep level top person must have both feet in bases' hands. Exception: shoulder sit, flat back, straddle lift or shoulder stand.
- In pyramid transitions, the flyer must always maintain contact with at least one base/back spot.
- Hanging pyramids are prohibited.

## **Dismounts**

- Cradles from prep and extended 2 leg stunts, must not exceed more than 1 1/4 twisting rotation. Twisting dismount from a single leg extended stunt in a pyramid is prohibited.
- Cradle from single leg prep level stunts, must not exceed 1 twisting rotation.
- Other positions during cradles are allowed example: toe touch, pike, tuck, etc.
- Cradles may not land in prone position (on stomach).
- Flyer cannot hold signs while cradling.

## **Section 8. BSYF Post Season**

- (a) **Playoff Tournament-** The Playoff Tournament shall be a single-elimination tournament consisting of all teams seeded and bracketed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the regular season standings. The Board of Directors shall have the sole discretion in changing seeds for competition purposes.
- (b) **Bowl Series/Silver Bracket Playoff Tournament-** In the interest of fair play and competition, the Board of Directors reserves the right to formulate a Bowl Series or a Silver Bracket Playoff Tournament for lower seeded teams. The Board of Directors shall have the sole discretion in determining the method of determining the seeds for this purpose.
- (c) **Play Off Seedings-**
- (i) **The playoff seeding will be determined by a coin toss in the event of a regular season tie after head-to-head consideration. If three or more teams are tied, then the playoff contenders will draw numbers to determine seeding.**

## **Section 9. Team Sponsors.**

BSYF teams should be sponsored by those organizations or companies whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of youth. Approval of sponsors is required from the Board of Directors. No firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale of use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted as a sponsor.

# **ARTICLE III- RULES OF PLAY**

## **Section 1. General Rules of Play.**

All official rules for the play of football as promulgated by NCHSAA as currently in use will be the basic set of rules in BSYF Football, except when noted herein.

## **Section 2. Additions/Modifications to the General Rules of Play.**

- (a) **Footballs-** Only footballs constructed of genuine leather or composite leather shall be allowed in BSYF competition. For the Tiny Mite and Mighty Mite Age Divisions, all BSYF games must be played with a "Pee-Wee" sized football (Wilson K2 or comparable). For the Junior Varsity Age Division, all BSYF games must be played with a "Junior" sized football (Wilson TDJ or comparable). For the Varsity Age Division, all BSYF games must be played with a "Youth" sized football (Wilson TDY or comparable).
- (b) **Equipment-**All equipment must be N.O.C.S.A.E. approved. All uniform jerseys must be numbered; however, there shall be no rules regarding specific numbers for certain positions. Removable plastic cleats are permitted so long as they do not have metal tips. White or clear mouthpieces are prohibited. Helmets shall have the four- snap chin

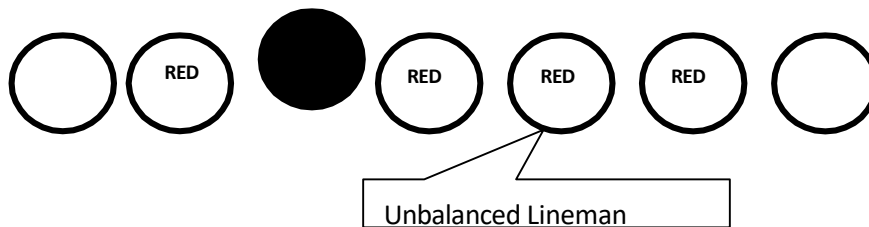
straps. Helmet visors must be clear with no exceptions.

- (c) **Clock-** For the Tiny Mite, Mighty Mite, and Junior Varsity age divisions, BSYF games will be played with four (4) ten-minute quarters. The clock will stop only on time-outs and player injuries. The final two minutes of each half shall be timed as a regulation NCHSAA regulation varsity clock in all divisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the officials may stop the clock at any time for consultations or other matters for the benefit of the game. For the Varsity age division, BSYF games shall be timed in accordance with a North Carolina Middle School regulation clock, being four (4) eight-minute quarters.
  - (a) **Play Clock-** The play clock will be enforced in all age divisions. Specifically, in the Tiny Mite age division, any Football Team that appears to be intentionally manipulating the start of the play clock (i.e., by delaying the setup of its defense), then the Head Referee shall stop the game clock and issue a warning to the Head Coach. In the event the violation is not remedied immediately by the Head Coach and compliance with this Section is not maintained for the duration of that BSYF game, then for each continued violation, the Head Referee shall stop the game clock and shall penalize the Head Coach with a personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. **The play clock for each age group shall be as follows: 30 second for MM, JV, V and 40 seconds for TM.**
  - (b) At the beginning of each BSYF game, during the coin toss the officials shall conduct the following rules.
  - (c) **Mercy Clock-** In all BSYF games, upon either team achieving an eighteen point (18) or more lead, the game clock shall run continuously. At the time in any BSYFL game during the season when an 18 point or more lead is obtained, the officials will conduct the following rules to both head coaches.
    - (1) The team that is at a deficit shall choose any (3) players of the opposing team that will not be eligible to participate in the game until the deficit becomes less than 18 points.
    - (2) No team will be asked to participate with less than (11) players at any given time. Example – If a team has (13) players, they would only be expected to have (2) players that would not be eligible in the game until the deficit becomes less than 18 points.
    - (3) At the time when a 18 point or more lead is obtained and players become ineligible to participate in the game, the defense of that team will not be allowed to blitz the opposing teams offense.
  - (d) **Game Start Time-** No regularly scheduled BSYF games shall start earlier than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
  - (e) **Kickoffs-** There shall be no kick-offs in the Tiny Mite age division; rather in place of a kickoff, the receiving Football Team shall start on offense from its own 40-yard line, and in place of a free kick following a safety, the receiving Football Team shall start on offense from its own 20-yard line. For all other age divisions, the kicking Football Team will kick off from their own 45-yard line.
  - (f) **Half-time-** Half-times will be 5 minutes. Homecomings, player introduction or other activities by the host team must be communicated to the Board Chairperson prior to game day. Time

between games will be five minutes.

- (g) **Ties-** All BSYF Games ending in a tie will be played off using high school rules limited to two overtimes, after which the game will be considered a tie except in playoff games where the game will be played until a winner is declared.
- (h) **4th Down Options-** All BSYF Football Teams have 4 options on 4<sup>th</sup> down, to wit: To go for the 1<sup>st</sup> down, punt the ball, field goal attempt, or advance the ball 20 yards and the ball will turn over on downs. In event of a punt, a rush is allowed just not over center. In the event of a field goal attempt a rush is allowed just not over center.
- (i) **PAT** – If a team successfully kicks an extra point, then it will count as 2 points. There is no rush allowed and the holder cannot leave the area, or it will be ruled a dead ball.
- (i) **In the common unbalanced line scenario below, if the “unbalanced Lineman” is a red taper, then he is:**
- (1) NOT in a position where he might become a ball carrier.
  - (2) IS considered an offensive lineman; and
  - (3) NOT eligible for a pass.

Therefore, he would be ALLOWED within the Bylaws to be the third unbalanced offensive lineman to the left or right of the football, so long as he meets the foregoing criteria. To this ruling, this unbalanced offensive lineman would now be considered an offensive tackle.



PLEASE NOTE THAT CONSEQUENTLY, THE DEFENSIVE TEAM WOULD BE ABLE TO EXTEND A DOWN RED-TAPER DEFENSIVE LINEMAN TO THE “HEAD- UP” POSITIONING OF THIS UNBALANVED, EXTRA OFFENSIVE TACKLE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THIS UNBALANCED, EXTRA OFFENSIVE TACKLE IS A RED-TAPER OR NOT.

### Section 3. Specific Age-Division Restrictions.

#### Varsity Division

- **AGE** (Players ages twelve (12) and under)- A player in the Varsity Division shall not attain the age of 13 years of age prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year.
- **WEIGHT-** There shall be no weight limits (unlimited weight) in the Varsity only age group. A player in the varsity division can play both Big South League and middle school football (dual participation.)

#### Junior Varsity Division

- **AGE** (Players ages ten (10) and under)- A player in the Junior Varsity Division shall not attain the age of 11 years of age prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year.
- **WEIGHT-** A player in the Junior Varsity Division who exceeds 125 pounds cannot advance the ball on any offensive play. Therefore, said player cannot be in a position where they might become a ball carrier (i.e., backs, ends, receivers, or punter) and must be an offensive lineman (i.e., tackle, guard, or center). However, an offensive tackle that exceeds 125 pounds shall NOT become eligible for a pass. For unbalanced lines, a red taper must be covered

by a non-red taper (short side tackle). A player in the Junior Varsity Division who exceeds 125 pounds must be in a down lineman position (a 3- or 4-point stance) on defense lined up within the outside shoulder of the left offensive tackle to the outside shoulder of the right offensive tackle (head-up). If said player is lined up in a position other than a ball advancing position and retrieves an unintentional fumble, intercepts a ball, or receives a kick-off, then he/she shall be permitted to advance the ball. All red tapers shall be on the front line (10 yards off the ball) on the kickoff return team. The penalty for the first violation of this rule shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. The penalty for the second violation of this rule shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. The penalty for the third violation of this rule shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty and loss of down with the ejection of the player and coach.

- **MARKINGS-** A player in the Junior Varsity Division who exceeds 125 pounds shall be required to have a 1.5 inch by 1.5 inch Red, or other visible color for red helmets, marking placed upon both sides (i.e., front and back) of said player's helmet immediately at weigh-ins. Failure to have said markings on such a player's helmet will result in that player being disqualified for competition on that day.

#### **Mighty Mites Division**

- **AGE-** (Players ages eight (8) and under)- A player in the Mighty Mites Division shall not attain the age of 9 years of age prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year. If a player is age seven (7) the current playing year, they may play in this division.

**WEIGHT-** A player in the Mighty Mites Division who exceeds 95 pounds cannot advance the ball on any offensive play. Therefore, said player cannot be in a position where they might become a ball carrier (i.e., backs, ends, receivers, or punter) and must be an offensive lineman (i.e., tackle, guard, or center). However, an offensive tackle that exceeds 95 pounds shall NOT become eligible for a pass. For unbalanced lines, a red taper must be covered by a non-red taper (short side tackle). A player in the Mighty Mites Division who exceeds 95 pounds must be in a down lineman position (a 3- or 4-point stance) on defense lined up within the outside shoulder of the left offensive tackle to the outside shoulder of the right offensive tackle (head-up). Notwithstanding the foregoing, any player on defense aligned from the outside shoulder of the left offensive tackle to the outside shoulder of the right offensive tackle and within one yard from the ball shall be in a "down" position, being a three- or four-point stance. If said player is lined up in a position other than a ball advancing position and retrieves an unintentional fumble, intercepts a ball, or receives a kick-off, then he/she shall be permitted to advance the ball. All red tapers shall be on the front line (10 yards off the ball) on the kickoff return team. The penalty for the first violation of the foregoing shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. The penalty for the second violation of the foregoing shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. The penalty for the third violation of the foregoing shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty and loss of down with the ejection of the player and coach.

- **MARKINGS-** A player in the Mighty Mites Division who exceeds 95 pounds shall be required to have a 1.5-inch by 1.5-inch Red, or other

visible color for red helmets, marking placed upon both sides (i.e., front and back) of said player's helmet immediately at weigh-ins. Failure to have said markings on such a player's helmet will result in that player being disqualified for competition on that day.

- **COACHES ON THE FIELD OF PLAY-** For the first four (4) weeks of the season, no more than one (1) coach per team shall be allowed to be on the field of play. However, during said first four (4) weeks in the season. The head referee may allow at his discretion an additional coach to be on the field if he finds it to be in the best interest of the player and the best interest of the game. Such coaches shall be situated no less than ten (10) yards from the deepest player of his/her team and within the hash marks at the time of the center snapping the ball into play. Such coaches shall avoid the flow of the play by fading to the opposite side of the flow of the play. Any coach that impedes another team's player or interrupts the flow of the play shall be in violation of this by-law provision. The penalty for violation of any provision of this by-law shall be a personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. The Head Referee shall have complete discretion to waive a violation of this rule in the event an offensive team is excessively and unreasonably causing the defensive infraction (i.e., repeated quick snaps).

### **Tiny Mites Division**

- **AGE-** A player in the Tiny Mites Division shall not attain the age of 7 years of age prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year.  
**WEIGHT-** A player in the Tiny Mites Division who exceeds 65 pounds cannot advance the ball on any offensive play. Therefore, said player cannot be in a position where they might become a ball carrier (i.e., backs, ends, receivers, or punter) and must be an offensive lineman (i.e., tackle, guard, or center). However, an offensive tackle that exceeds 65 pounds shall NOT become eligible for a pass. For unbalanced lines, a red taper must be covered by a non-red taper (short side tackle). A player in the Tiny Mites Division who exceeds 65 pounds must be in a down lineman position (a 3- or 4-point stance) on defense lined up within the outside shoulder of the left offensive tackle to the outside shoulder of the right offensive tackle (head-up). Notwithstanding the foregoing, any player on defense aligned from the outside shoulder of the left offensive tackle to the outside shoulder of the right offensive tackle and within one yard from the ball shall be in a "down" position, being a 3-4-point stance. If said player is lined up in a position other than a ball advancing position and retrieves an unintentional fumble, intercepts a ball, or receives a kick-off, then he/she shall be permitted to advance the ball. All red tapers shall be on the front line (10 yards off the ball) on the kickoff return team. The penalty for the first violation of the foregoing shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. The penalty for the second violation of the foregoing shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. The penalty for the third violation of the foregoing shall be illegal participation, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty and loss of down with the ejection of the player and coach. Players cannot line up a nose tackle over center for safety reasons.

**MARKINGS-** A player in the Tiny Mites Division who exceeds 65 pounds shall be required to have a 1.5 inch by 1.5-inch Red, or other visible color for red helmets, marking placed upon both sides (i.e., front, and back) of said player's helmet immediately at weigh-ins. Failure to have said markings on such a

player's helmet will result in that player being disqualified for competition on that day.

- **COACHES ON THE FIELD OF PLAY-** No more than two (2) coaches per team shall be allowed to be on the field of play. Such coaches shall be situated no less than ten (10) yards from the deepest player of his/her team and within the hash marks at the time of the center snapping the ball into play. Such coaches shall avoid the flow of the play by fading to the opposite side of the flow of the play. Any coach that impedes another team's player or interrupts the flow of the play shall be in violation of this by-law provision. The penalty for violation of any provision of this by-law shall be a personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, which shall be assessed as a 15-yard penalty. The Head Referee shall have complete discretion to waive a violation of this rule in the event an offensive team is excessively and unreasonably causing the defensive infraction (i.e., repeated quick snaps).

## **ARTICLE IV BSYFL HOST GAMES**

### **Section 1. Admission to Games-**

Admission price shall be \$7.00 per adult and \$3.00 per student in grades K through 12. There shall be no admission for children under the age of 5. No coolers, food or drinks will be allowed to be brought in by spectators. Only coaches or assistants with approved passes may bring in water or sports drinks in a dispensable cooler(s) designated for player use.

### **Section 2. Field Marshal-**

The Board Chairperson will designate a Field Marshal from the Board for each site during the BSYF schedule. The Field Marshal will be responsible: (a) to attend all games at that site; (b) record and report scores; (c) ensure rosters are checked; and (d) enforce these By-laws of BSYF. All decisions of the Field Marshal will be deemed final.

### **Section 3. Inclement Weather-**

The Franchise Member Designee for the Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall decide on suitability to play the day's games during inclement weather. If games are delayed or cancelled, the Franchise Member Designee for the Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall notify the Board Chairperson ASAP.

### **Section 4. First Responder-**

The Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall be responsible for a First Responder attending all the day's games. A First Responder must, at a minimum, be: (1) certified to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR); (2) certified to administer "first aid" as defined by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association; (3) educated and experienced in injury prevention and management; and (4) ability to organize medical transport, if needed. All organizations shall designate an area for the First Responder noticeable to participants, spectators, and officials (i.e., an identifiable tent or a parked ambulance or emergency vehicle). The Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games failing to comply with this provision before the start of the second game of its host day shall be subject to a \$500 fine imposed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 5. Uniformed Officer-** The Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall be responsible for a uniformed officer attending all the day's games. Playoff Championship games shall have two (2) uniform officers. The Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games failing to comply with this provision before the start of the second game of its host day shall be subject to a \$500 fine imposed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6. Team Verification-** The Franchise Member Designee for the

Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall be responsible for verifying players and their helmet markings using the BSYF Rosters prior to each game at the direction of the Field Marshal.

**Section 7. BSYF Policy-** Prior to each game throughout the day, the Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall read the BSYF Policy as set forth herein.

**Section 8. Payment of Officials-** The Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall be responsible for the payment of all officials as directed by the Booking Agent.

**Section 9. Chain Operators-** The Franchise Member hosting the day of BSYF Games shall be responsible for providing chain operators for each of the day's games. Such operator shall be in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or older.

**Section 10. Spectator Behavior Policy-**

**1st offense** - Warning from police officer and field marshal.

**2nd offense** - Ejected from the playing complex immediately and cannot attend any BSYFL games the following week. Example - If a spectator is ejected on Saturday, they will not be allowed to attend our cheer competition the next day on Sunday along with not attending the following weeks games.

**3rd offense** - Banned indefinitely from any BSYFL events. Example - If any spectator exhibits a type of behavior at any time that legal action is taken by a police officer that individual shall be banned indefinitely, the first 2 offenses would not apply.





