

2018 B.C.J.F.L. Officers

President	Tom Fox (Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River)
Vice President	Nick Conti (Northern Valley)
Secretary	Joe Auburn (Glen Ridge)
Treasurer	Rob Greenwald (Waldwick)
Scheduling/Playoffs	Tom Fox (HHK/SR), Nick Conti (NV), Rob Greenwald (Waldwick)
Weigh-In	Tom Fox (HHK/SR), Nick Conti (NV)
Weekly Standings	Tom Fox (Ho-Ho-Kus/Saddle River), Nick Conti (NV)
Rules/Infractions Committee	Nick Conti (Northern Valley, Chairperson) Joe Auburn (Glen Ridge) Sergio Piccinich (Norwood)
Safety Officer	Joe Jannelli (Waldwick)
Website Manager	Veronica Matullo

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INTRODUCTION AND COMPOSITION

The Bergen County Junior Football League is formed for the purpose of providing junior football in a ***hospitable environment***. It is recognized that adolescent and pre-adolescent sports all too often assume an overly competitive atmosphere as a result of overzealous adult influence. This atmosphere, while sometimes resulting in excellent play, is considered more often detrimental to the vast majority of youth in this age group. It is also recognized that only the highest excellence in teaching and sportsmanship can be sought. The rules, therefore, shall be designed to maintain such excellence while preventing the over-coached competitive environment of the youth in the league's respective communities.

The adopted philosophy of the Bergen County Junior Football league is "Athletes First – Winning Second" By this statement we mean that every decision you make as a town should first be in the best interest of your athletes, and second in the desire to win.

The league shall consist of an appropriate number of divisions to enable each team to play eight regular season games by playing all divisional opponents plus as many out-of-division opponents as needed. The schedule shall be constructed to have each team rotate through out-of-division opponents with the minimum of repeats.

The league is incorporated as a corporation not for profit in June 1993 as the Bergen County Junior Football League. The certificate in corporation was filed with the Secretary of State in Trenton, New Jersey pursuant to New Jersey Statute Title 15, "An act to incorporate associations not for pecuniary profit," and a certificate of corporation was duly filed with the Bergen County Clerk's office in June 1993.

The league shall be affiliated with USA Football's Head's-Up™ program and shall appoint a commissioner to ensure that the league is compliant with program obligations by April of 2015.

Each town, or combination of towns in the league will be required to field a PeeWee, Junior and Senior Team.

ADMINISTRATION

- A. League officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and a Treasurer to be elected at the December meeting by majority vote. The President will also appoint the Rules Chairperson, Schedule Chairperson, USA Football League Commissioner and Weigh-In Chairperson on a rotating basis.
- B. A four-person Executive Committee comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary and the Treasurer will conduct the administration of the league. Any grievance must be brought before a presidential appointed three-person committee, which shall report to the assembled quorum of the membership at an open meeting. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the total membership.
- C. Each league community member will be assessed an annual fee based on league needs payable at the February meeting to cover the cost of conducting league business including the head official's fee. The treasurer shall give a financial report at each meeting.
- D. Each community shall have one vote in any given voting situation and will have one voice during the discussion phase.
- E. Official spokesperson for a member shall be League Representative and/or alternate in any official discussions (maximum two representatives per team) at any meeting. Habitual absence (less than 50% attendance of League meetings) will result in a forfeiture of a home game in the following season.
- F. Accident and Liability Insurance are considered the responsibility of each individual town and may be provided in those towns either by individual parent's policies or team insurance. The league, however, shall not require duplicate team insurance. Accident and Liability insurance is compulsory for each team. The league shall maintain insurance as required by
- G. All major injuries in practices or games must be reported to the league secretary in the week in which they occur to be compiled during the December meeting.
- H. There will be six (6) regular meetings per year as follows. In addition to business that comes up as appropriate the following schedule of business will be conducted at each of these meetings:

1. Second Wednesday in December
 - a. Election of officers

2. Second Wednesday in January
 - a. Installation of officers elected at December meeting
 - b. Appointment of Committees and Chairpersons
 - c. Announcement of previous season's league championships
 - d. Review of previous season's injuries
 - e. Review of previous season's problems
 - f. Review and vote on new applications for league memberships (applicants will not be present when league reps vote on acceptance). At the President's discretion, the vote may be conducted via a special meeting or through email.
 - g. Proposals for new league rules to be read and discussed. Rule proposals are to be submitted in writing to the head of the Rules Committee and the officers at least 1 week prior to January meeting

3. Second Wednesday in February
 - a. Payment of League Fees
 - b. Latest date to vote on new applications for league memberships. Consideration for membership due to extenuating circumstance may occur the February meeting by approval of the President with the advice and consent of the league representatives.
 - c. Vote on rule changes (to be effective as of date of the meeting)

4. Fourth Wednesday in March
 - a. Welcome new members
 - b. Review of league rules (old and new)

5. Fourth Wednesday in May
 - a. Discuss schedule issues
 - b. Submission of available home game dates and preferences

6. Fourth Wednesday in August
 - a. A coach from each team from all member towns (preferable the head coaches) must attend this meeting
 - b. Review of schedule
 - c. Review of new high school rules
 - d. Review of weigh-in procedures
 - e. Scheduling of B-games among coaches

7. Special meetings may be called by the President at any time.

- I. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall act in his behalf.

- J. All rulebook changes must be proposed in the January meeting with the approval to be decided in the February by a majority vote. During the January meeting each proposed rule change will be discussed among the members. One league representative (the rule sponsor) shall be appointed to work with the Chairperson of the Rules Committee to draft the language of the rule proposal. The rule proposal shall be voted on at the February meeting and either passed or rejected. The wording of the rule cannot be amended during the February meeting and re-voted upon during the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

- A. Applications for membership must be submitted in writing to the President. No application for the current year will be accepted after the February meeting without the approval of the President with the advice and consent of the league representatives. For the sake of clarity, any team seeking to add an additional town, borough, or other geographical entity to the group it draws on for players shall be considered as an application for membership. Merger of a BCJFL team with another program or team whether such team is a current BCJFL member or not shall be considered as an application for membership.
- B. The Executive Committee will examine the applicants as to sponsorship, equipment, playing field and sufficient squad strength. This committee will report at the January meeting or a special meeting, if necessary, their findings. Vote by mail ballot or special meeting will be taken and respective communities notified by the third Monday in February of the league's decision.
- C. A two-thirds majority vote of the **total** membership eligible to vote at the time shall be required to admit new members.
- D. Any new member after January 1, 2013 will serve a probationary period not to exceed two playing seasons, and shall have no voting rights. A vote for full member status will be conducted at the January meeting following the second playing season comprising the new member's probationary term. The vote shall require a simple majority. Failing to achieve a majority for ending the term, the member shall remain on probation until the next January meeting when another vote will be held. To expel the team from the league during their probationary period a resolution must be submitted, seconded, and voted on by two-thirds of the total membership.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- A. If evidence of rule violation is presented to the President, he will call a meeting of the Executive Committee and/or Rules/Infractions Committee within 72 hours of receipt of such evidence
- B. This committee will examine the evidence and report to the membership at an open meeting.
- C. Member under investigation will be given full opportunity for defense before the committee and will be allowed to address the membership
- D. A two-third vote of the **total** membership will be necessary to expel a member from the league.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. Senior Group (**see weigh-in addendum on page 25**) – shall consist of any player **not** having reached their 14th birthday before January 1st of the playing year (shall not be 15 years old during the playing year). Players in the 9th grade and higher in any case are ineligible. For the sake of clarity, a player may play more than 3 seasons at the Senior level so long as the age and grade requirements are met. Maximum offensive backfield and end weight is 140 pounds. Backfield/End weight will increase to 145 pounds for mid-season weigh-in & playoff weigh-in. Maximum offensive line weight between the ends is unlimited. Line only players must be down linemen or defensive ends but not linebackers or defensive backs on defense and they may not drop into pass coverage. They must align on the line of scrimmage and are not restricted with respect to any horizontal position on the line of scrimmage, e.g. they may align as wide from the center as they wish.
- B. Junior Group – any player not having reached their 12th birthday before January 1st of the playing year is eligible (shall not be 13 years old during the playing year). Players in the 7th grade and higher are ineligible except when they will not have reached their 12th birthday before January 1st of the playing year and are therefore scholastically 1 year ahead of their 6th grade peers. Maximum offensive backfield and end weight is 112 pounds. Backfield/End weight will increase to 115 pounds for mid-season weigh-in. Maximum offensive line weight between the ends is unlimited. Line only players must be down linemen or defensive ends but not linebackers or defensive backs on defense and they may not drop into pass coverage. They must align on the line of scrimmage and are not restricted with respect to any horizontal position on the line of scrimmage, e.g. they may align as wide from the center as they wish.
- C. PeeWee Group – any player not having reached their 10th birthday before January 1st of the playing year is eligible (shall not be 11 years old during the playing year). Players in the 5th grade or higher are ineligible regardless of age. Maximum offensive backfield and end weight is 85 pounds. Maximum offensive line weight between the ends is unlimited. There will be no mid-season weigh-in for Pee Wees except for new players. Line only players must be down linemen or defensive ends but not linebackers or defensive backs on defense and they may not drop into pass coverage. They must align on the line of scrimmage and are not restricted with respect to any horizontal position on the line of scrimmage, e.g. they may align as wide from the center as they wish.
- D. Any player 5 pounds or less under the maximum weight at the time of the first weigh-in will be re-weighed at the midseason weigh-in. Any player originally designated as backfield/end may convert to line only without being re-weighed. In addition, any player that does not make weight at the pre-season weigh-in, but is less than 5 pounds over the weight limit, may come back at the mid-season weigh in to be re-weighed. These players will be designated as line only/re-weigh or (lo/rw) for roster purposes. These players will be required to make the original weight; they will not get any growth allowances. If the player makes the weight his designation will change from line only

and he will be able to play the backfield positions. This does not apply to the PeeWee division as there are no mid-season or playoff re-weighs for PeeWees.

- E. All procedures on weight and age will be determined by a majority vote of the league representatives at regular meeting. Any exceptions to the Eligibility requirements under paragraphs A, B, or C of this section for a particular player shall be referred to the Rules and Infractions Committee for a hardship case exemption. The Committee shall review the requests and make a recommendation on the hardship case to the President. The President shall hold a vote of all League representatives on each hardship case either by meeting or by written poll. Players involved in hardship cases, including but not limited to players participating from towns outside of the residence boundaries of a program, shall only be allowed to play if a simple majority of League representatives vote in favor of the hardship exemption. In each case, the vote shall close in a period of time based on the discretion of the President. The majority of votes at the close of the period shall be recorded as the result.
- F. Each player will have one of the following weight designations on the team roster:
- OK – no weight restrictions, for entire season
 - LO – Line only, as previously described
 - RW – no weight restrictions, but must be re-weighed at mid-season
 - LO/RW – can convert to backfield eligibility if under the original weight at mid-season weigh-in

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY/WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

- A. On the second Saturday following Labor Day, team coaches must weigh each squad member in the presence of the Weigh-In Committee on a scale provided by the Weigh-In Chairman and certified by the County Board of Weights and Standards. All non-participant females must be cleared from the weigh-in site. A birth certificate will be presented for each player to the Weigh-In Committee. Late submissions shall not be permitted without review by the Rules/Infraction Committee and approval of the President. In addition, two (2) photo cards for each player shall be present to Weigh-In Committee with completed information including **current** photos of each player. Blank I.D. player cards will be supplied by the league at the August meeting. Furthermore, two registration squad rosters will be presented to the Weigh-In Committee. The form of the rosters shall be supplied by the league at the August meeting.

All players must live in the town(s) which represent(s) the team on which they play unless otherwise allowed by a League resolution or action of the Rules/Infraction Committee and approval of the President. A team must petition to register a player who does not live within one of their representative towns, but who attends a parochial or private school within such a town. A hardship allowance will be granted only in the event that a team needs players to be able to safely compete.

Each player will be permitted to step on the scale once at each weigh-in. No exception will be made to the above. Squad Rosters shall include the following:

- Jersey number (no duplicate numbers)
 - Name
 - Date of Birth (to be filled in from BIRTH CERTIFICATE present at weigh-in)
 - Legal residence of the player including town/phone number
 - Weight classification, i.e. OK, LO, OK-RW, LO-RW (to be filled in at weigh-in, re-weigh and playoff re-weigh as is appropriate)
 - Name of coach/names of assistant coaches
- B. The President will appoint a Weigh-In Chairman who will have the responsibility for making all arrangements at a central point for the weigh-in of all players. Each league member will assign a representative for each team to assist at the weigh-in. The Weigh-in Chairman will notify team representatives of the time and place of the weigh-in. All players must be accompanied at weigh-ins by team coach, league representative or other person authorized by Weigh-in Chairman.
- C. The original roster shall be given to the Weigh-In Chairman at the 1st weigh-in, who in turn shall forward copies to membership teams with an additional copy to the league secretary following the alternate weigh-in. Photo I.D. Cards will be stamped by the league and one (1) copy will be returned to the appropriate team coach. The team photo-cards will be placed in a loose-leaf notebook arranged on the pages in the same order as they appear on the roster. The book will also contain a copy of the official league roster. These photo rosters will be exchanged between head coaches prior to the start of all league games. Penalty for not having photo albums at a game will result in forfeiture. Time will be allowed for a team to produce their album before the completion of a game.
- D. A 2nd or alternate weigh-in will be held on a date to be determined by the Weigh-in Chairman. This weigh-in shall be for those players unable to attend the first weigh-in. Any player who missed the original roster cannot be eligible to play until the completion of the midseason weigh-in, unless approved by the league's Executive Committee. Players approved to be added to the roster after the first weigh-in, cannot play the first game.
- E. A midseason weigh-in will be conducted the **Wednesday evening before the 5th regular season game**. All players who are within 5lbs of the maximum backfield/end weigh must be present for this weigh-in unless they wish to switch their category to "line only." Any team may add new players to their rosters at this point by presenting their photo I.D. cards, birth certificates, and all other required materials at this re-weigh session. Should they qualify for the league, they may play in all the remaining games thereafter. (See addendum on page 29)

- F. Failure to submit any of the aforementioned documents to the Weigh-in Chairman at the first weigh-in shall result in the declaration of the offending team as ineligible to compete in any of the league scheduled games of the season.
- G. A player will be considered to have made the weight as long as the scale has not at least reached the next full pound. For example: if the weight limit is 140, a player will be considered to not make the weight only if the scale reads 141 or higher. Anything below 141 (e.g., 140.9), the player would make the weight.

H. Specific Weigh-In Procedures

In order to expedite the weighing in of league team members, the following procedures are to be followed:

- 1. Each team must be ready for weighing 15 minutes before the time they are assigned.
- 2. Each team player must be lined up in the order in which they appear on the roster (alphabetical by last name).
- 3. Each team member must have his photo card and birth certificate in hand or in the hands of their team representative or coach.
- 4. Each team being weighed must have two adults present, one to sit at the weigh-in table and the other to maintain the orderly flow of participants
- 5. A player may be weighed without exterior clothing at the discretion of the coach and with the consent of the player and parent. Players must at least have on underwear.
- 6. Items Required:
 - A. Two (2) photo cards
 - 1. Pictures must be glued to the cards. (Staples will not be accepted).
 - 2. Cards must be filled in as set forth in the league rules.
 - B. A legal birth certificate (original or copy) is required. This is a certificate issued by State, Federal or Local government. Church baptismal certificates are not acceptable. You can obtain the proper certificate by contacting the city hall where the child was born. Any team having a problem obtaining a birth certificate should contact the weigh-in chairman at least two weeks in advance of the weigh-in. *Passports or Green Cards for non-citizens are acceptable.
 - C. Team Roster (two copies required)

7. Players who are unable to attend the official weigh-in may attend the alternative weigh-in on the following Wednesday. Failure to make either weigh-in makes a player ineligible until midseason.
8. Maximum weight Offensive Backfield and Ends and Defensive Linebackers/Backfield
 - a) Pee Wees 85 pounds
 - b) Juniors 112 lbs./115 mid-season
 - c) Seniors 140 lbs./145 mid-season

*PASSPORTS MUST BE VALID AND CANNOT BE EXPIRED

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. aa field 80 yards in length from goal line to goal line with 10 yard end zones, and by 40 yards in width shall be provided. Yard lines shall be marked a minimum of every 5 yards with an additional marking of the 35-yard lines. Pylons and/or cones must mark the end zones and mid-field and preferably each 10-yard line (i.e. 10, 20, 30, and 40).
- B.
- C. The home team shall procure and pay for three officials are who shall be assigned by Bergen County Junior Football League Officials Associations. For each PeeWee game at least 2 on-field referees shall officiate the game; for each Junior and Senior game at least 3 on-field referees shall officiate the game. **No official may officiate a game involving a team having a representative town in which the referee resides.** The Home Team is not required to pay 3 referee fees if only 2 referees officiate a game if the PeeWee game is played first or last in the order of the games; the Home Team is required to pay 3 referees if the PeeWee game is scheduled between the other two games.
- D. A Junior football (Rawlings Pro 5 Jr., Wilson TDJ and Wilson Duke Jr.), and Senior football (Rawlings R5-Y, and Wilson TDY) ten yard chains, down markers, goal line markers and benches for the players. The Pee Wee Games will use a Wilson K2 or Rawlings R5-PW. (The same size Rawlings, Wilson & Nike Composite balls may also be used).
- E. For safety of spectators and players, a fence or rope barrier shall be erected at least 15 feet from the sidelines running the entire length of the field. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in an automatic \$50.00 fine each game date. The head coach of each team shall be responsible to the league for the conduct of his spectators.
- F. Team colors may not be changed without permission of the league. New members must submit colors to the league for approval.

- G. The home team will notify the opposing team and officials as soon as practical before game time of weather or any other causes making the playing of the game impossible. On bad weather days, if both teams have arrived at the field, both team reps will inspect the field for playability prior to the first game. **Safety comes first!** In the event game officials arrive at the playing field and the game is subsequently called off due to inclement weather, full payment will be made by the home team.

Make-up game for postponed games should be played on the following day, weather permitting.

- H. Violations of Home Team's responsibility are to be reported within 48 hours to the Executive Committee who will take such actions as they deem necessary. The penalty for violations can include retroactive forfeiture of the game at which they occurred.
- I. The home team must notify the scheduling chairman of Junior & Senior game results at a time designated by the scheduling chairman. Teams must notify the President of any changes in game dates, times or the order of play (PeeWees, Junior, and Seniors) as soon as such changes occur in order to facilitate scouting.
- J. Sideline Rule - Only Coaches who are involved in the current game will be permitted on the sideline.
- K. No team in the league may have players who participate in organized football in another organized tackle football league. Any such player will be declared ineligible for play in the BCJFL, and the team for which he plays will be subject to the penalties for playing with an ineligible player. For the sake of clarity, each team's players must only participate in the BCJFL.
- L. No organization of which a BCJFL team is an affiliated (controlled, managed, organized, funded, supported or otherwise associated) may have teams as members other organized tackle football leagues. For the sake of clarity, each organization must have all its teams' players at each level participate only in the BCJFL; however, BCJFL teams may play "B" games or scrimmage against teams in other leagues.

EQUIPMENT FOR ALL PLAYERS

- A. NOCSAE approved helmets with facemasks
- B. Shoulder Pads
- C. Padded Football pants
- D. Game jersey with easy to observe numerals
- E. Canvas top sneakers or leather shoes with molded rubber cleats (**plastic or removable cleats are permitted**)
- F. Athletic Supporter with hard cup for boys
- G. Mouth guard protector
- H. A **three inch strip of reflective tape (red)** provided by the league will be fixed at the **front and rear of helmets on all line-only players.**
- I. Hard casts are prohibited. But soft casts are permitted with medical doctor's written certification at game time. Player's coach will notify opposing team Head coach and officials prior to game time.

PLAYING RULES – JUNIOR AND SENIOR GROUP

The National Federation of High Schools Rule Book (of the current year) shall be the rule guide with the following exceptions:

- A. Free substitutions shall be allowed.
- B. Line only players may not advance the ball at any time. The ball becomes “dead” at the moment of possession by a line only player.
- C. Three time outs per half shall be allowed.
- D. The game shall consist of four quarters. Each quarter shall be a 9 minute Federation rule clock for Juniors’ only. Seniors will play 10 minute Federation rule clock quarters.
- E. Each bench will be notified when there are four minutes remaining in the second and fourth quarter.
- F. Time out for injury shall be charged to the officials.
- G. When time out is called for injury, the player involved must retire from the game for at least one play.
- H. No sleeper plays shall be allowed, i.e. plays that involve deception with respect to whether the play has commenced or whether a player is participating on the field.
 - a. The 40 yard line shall be midfield. The kicking team will kick from their 30 yard line, and the receiving team will place a minimum of five men between their own 35 and 40 yard line. Ball kicked out of bounds on the kick off will be placed on the 30 yard line or where it went out (receiving team choice). Ball kicked into or through the end zone will be placed on the 15 yard line.
- I. The point after touchdown will count as one point when attempted from the 2.5 yard line and two points when attempted from the 5 yard line.
- J. The half time shall be 15 minutes maximum.
- K. All coaches and players will contain themselves between the 20 yards lines. Penalty: 5 yards.
 - a. Due to the length of the field each penalty that is assessed as 5 yards under NFHS rules shall be assessed as 5 yards in the league. Each penalty that is 15 yards under NFHS rules shall be assessed as 10 yards in the league.
- L. No spring practice and no practice prior to the **2nd Saturday of August.**

- M. Following Labor Day, no team shall be permitted to hold more than 3 weekday/night practice sessions each week. One weekend practice shall be permitted when there are no games. "B" games do **not** count as practices.
- N. No coach or official of the Bergen County Junior Football League Member Organization may participate in any pre-season football activity of any kind involving the children. Coaching clinics for educational purposes for the coaching staff are excluded. The league requires that all coaches, assistant coaches, program administrators and cheering advisors, take a safety certification course, i.e., ACEP, NYSCA, or Rutgers Program.
- O. Offensive team will be allowed 30 seconds to put the ball into play.
- P. The punter may not exceed maximum backfield weight.
- Q. One player from each team may go to the sidelines for conference during a time out or one coach may go on the field to confer with his team.
- R. All teams must show up for the game with a minimum of 13 players in full equipment under penalty of forfeiture. The recommended number, however, is 15.
- S. The official roster of each team must consist of a minimum of 15 players. The recommended number, however, is 20.
- T. The kick off receiving team – No player over the maximum backfield weight can line up behind the 35 yard line
- U. No player over the maximum backfield/end weight can line up or play in the offensive backfield. No line only player can occupy an eligible line position, that is no line only player may be the last man on the end of the offensive line. Any line only player on the line must ultimately be covered by a player who is not line only (either OK or OK-RW).
- V. On a 4th down punting situation, the players back behind the line of scrimmage whether or not intending to receive the punt cannot exceed the maximum backfield/end weight, i.e. they must be OK or OK-RW.
- W. Whenever a 24 point spread is achieved in the course of the game, the leading team must substitute in the second string with the following exception, the leading team can keep 3 place holders on the line only to protect the second teams back field. If the team chooses use 3 places holders on the line they must identify the 3 place holders to the opposing team. Each team is still encouraged to replace the entire starting team and shall only use the place holders if they believe there is a serious mismatch between the B-team and the opposing A-team. The A-team losing by 24 points is prohibited from blitzing their A-team players against any B player. This rule will be in effect until such

time that the point spread drops below 24. Skill position players should be substituted first, providing there are enough available players on the roster. If necessary, adjustments including playing individuals out of position in the case of smalls squads should be done in order to keep the point spread down. If the substituting coach requires one an official's time out shall be taken to allow him to make the necessary changes when the 24 point spreads occurs. The penalty for violating the point rule will be a two game suspension for the head coach and the loss of a home game the following season.

- X. Decisions of the game officials may be protested at any time during the game only where the decision involves interpretations of the playing rules. Where there is a violation of player and/or position eligibility, as defined in Bergen County Football Official Rules, it must be protested at the time of the alleged infraction. Officials will be required to immediately record the nature of the alleged infraction and their observation of regarding the infraction. Protest of both playing rules and player and/or position eligibility must be made to the league President in writing, immediately after the game. The officials, in the case of the latter protest, will be required to file their written observations made at the time of the protest within 48 hours. The coaches must accept the officials' decision in a matter of judgment. The officials' integrity should never be questioned on the field. Officials will be furnished with copies of the current league rules.
- Y. Any infractions of these rules must be called to the official's attention at the time of the infraction. He will then note your complaint and report it. If proven guilty, the offending team will automatically forfeit the game. In addition, any league member who feels the 24 point rule has been violated, may present a written report to the President, through their League Rep.
- Z. The use of radio equipment, headsets, and/or video-taping equipment, will be allowed by either or both teams during their games only. None of the above, including voice recording equipment, may be used for scouting purposes or in Pee Wee games. The home team, however, must provide equal access to observation vantage points, or provide equal vantage observation point, before the game begins. Violations of the scouting rules on videotaping or voice recording will result in the following:
- The results from all games that the violating team has participated in will stand. However, the team will not be eligible to compete in league playoffs or championship games. They will be will able to participate in any non-title crossover games. The offending coach or town representative will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and the full next season. After serving the full suspension, he may apply to the league for re-instatement.
- AA.No member of the Bergen County Junior Football League, coach or player will be allowed to observe/scout any game, including their own from, the end zone area.

Teams may film their games from the end zone as long as they stay off the field and out of the way.

BB. Any player acquiring 2 personal foul penalties (unsportsmanlike conduct, unnecessary roughness, targeting, horse collar tackling) shall be ejected from the game.

- a. If the ejection occurs in the 4th quarter of the game, the player shall be subject to suspension from the next game specified by the Ejection Rule.
- b. If the ejection occurs before the 4th quarter, the player shall not be subject to suspension from the next game specified by the Ejection Rule.
- c. If any of the personal fouls involves verbally abusing an official or fighting with another player, than the Ejection Rule shall apply in full and the suspension specified under the Ejection rule shall be enforced regardless of the quarter in which the infraction occurred.

PLAYING RULES - PEE WEE GROUP

The Federation Rule Book shall be the guide with the following exceptions:

- A. Free substitution shall be allowed.
- B. Coaches or players on the field may call a time out (5 time-outs per game allowed).
- C. The game shall consist of four quarters. Each quarter shall be an 8-minute Federation rule clock.
- D. Each bench will be notified when there are 4 minutes remaining in the 2nd and 4th quarters.
- E. Time out for injury shall be charged to the officials.
- F. When time out is called for injury, the player must retire from the game for at least one play.
- G. No sleeper play shall be allowed.
- H. Once coach from each team shall assist the officials with instruction of play of the PeeWee level.
- I. A 40 yard line shall be midfield. The kicking team will place 5 men on the 35 yard line. A ball kicked out of bounds on the kickoff will be placed on the 30 yard line; in the end zone to the 15 yard line.
- J. The point after touchdown will count as one point when attempted from the 2.5 yd line and two points when attempted from the 5 yd. line.
- K. Half time will be 10 minutes maximum.
- L. All coaches and players not on the field will contain themselves between the 20 yard lines. Penalty: 5 yards
- M. Two (2) coaches from each team may remain on the field during the game. These coaches must be behind their entire team when the ball is put into play. The coaches' conduct shall be exemplary at all times and they shall not materially slow down or impact the game. No coach should be reading offense or defense of or anticipating plays and then direct the players on the field. No coach should give verbal direction to the players once the ball is snapped.

- N. Due to the length of the field each penalty that is assessed as 5 yards under NFHS rules shall be assessed as 5 yards in the league. Each penalty that is 15 yards under NFHS rules shall be assessed as 10 yards in the league.
- O. There will be no spring practices and no practice prior to the **2nd Saturday in August**.
- P. Following Labor Day, no team shall be permitted to hold more than 3 weekday/night practice sessions each week. One weekend practice shall also be allowed when there are no games. Scrimmages are considered games.
- Q. No coach or official of the Bergen County Junior Football League may participate in any preseason football activity of any kind involving the children. Coaching clinics for educational purposes for the coaching staff are excluded. The League requires that all coaches, assistant coaches, and cheering advisors take a safety certification course, i.e. ACEP, NYSCA, or Rutgers program.
- R. **The offensive team shall be allowed 45 seconds to put the ball in play after formation of the huddle. COACHES MUST ASSIST OFFICIALS IN ENFORCING THIS RULE.**
- S. All punts shall be free punts – that is to say, there will be no rushing, everyone holding position for the snap and punt.
- T. No team shall be permitted to play more than 9 games, including non-scheduled games against an organized team during the regularly scheduled season. (Scrimmages unlimited)
- U. **Whenever an 24 point spread is achieved in the first half or 18 points in the second half of the game, the leading team must substitute the entire second string, or as many remaining players dressed for the game until such time that the point spread drops below 24 or 18. Skill position players should be substituted first, providing there are enough available players on the roster. If necessary, adjustments including playing individuals out of position in the case of small squads should be done in order to keep the point spread down.** If the substituting coach requires one an official's time out shall be taken to allow him to make the necessary changes when the 24 or 18 point spread occurs. The penalty for violating the point rule will be a two game suspension for the head coach and the loss of a home game the following season.
- V. Two paid officials will be present for each PeeWee game.
- W. Line-only players may not advance the ball at any time. The ball becomes “dead” at the moment of the possession by a line-only player.
- X. All punts must be at least 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage and must occur between the tackles on the line of scrimmage.

- Y. No player over the maximum backfield/end weight can line up or play in the offensive backfield. No line only player can occupy an eligible line position, that is no line only player may be the last man on the end of the offensive line. Any line only player on the line must ultimately be covered by a player who is not line only (either OK or OK-RW).

SCOUTING

- A. No team shall scout or observe any other team's practice or scrimmage. No team shall use members of their representative towns or communities to observe or scout practices or scrimmages, nor shall they use information made available by such members. It is the responsibility of the team's head coaches to ensure town and community members are informed of applicable league rules prohibiting inappropriate activities under league rules. There is one exception to this rule: teams playing each other on the first game of the season, if both teams consent to allow each other's last scrimmage to be scouted by the other, and if both of their opponents in said scrimmages also consent, then the teams may scout each other's final scrimmage.
- B. Game films may be taken of your opponent only on the day you play them. There will be no exchange of game films.
- C. Scouting of the Junior and Senior games only is permitted. No video or audio tape recording is allowed.
- D. It is strongly recommended that any team representative, who is scouting another opponent, wear a team hat, shirt or jacket so they are easily identified. In addition, it is required that the "scout" announce himself to both teams upon his arrival.
- E. Scouting of the PeeWee games is not permitted. The purpose of this group is instructional with no emphasis on win/loss record.
- F. The following penalty will be applied for any team that is proven to have violated the scouting rules pertaining to the use of recording equipment and/or the scouting of PeeWee games:
 - The results from all games that the violating team has participated in will stand. However, the team will not be eligible to compete in league playoffs or championship games. They will be able to participate in any non-title crossover games. The offending coach or town representative will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and the full next season. Subsequent to the suspension period, he may apply to the league for re-instatement.
 - Penalties for violations of all other scouting rules (i.e. not announcing that you are scouting) will be determined by the Rules/Infractions Committee.

SCHEDULING

- A. The League President will appoint a scheduling chairman. Proposed schedules will be presented to the league representatives who must review schedule promptly, and date revisions must be agreed upon by the scheduling chairman. Official schedules will then be sent to all league representatives.

- B. Schedule will be prepared to show all games in PeeWee, Junior and Senior Groups to be played on Friday night, Saturday night and Saturday morning. Junior Group games are to start at 8:45 am and Senior Group games to start at 10:15 AM. In the event that the Junior game is completed prior to 10:15 AM, the Senior game shall begin within 10 minutes. PeeWee games shall be played on Saturdays following Senior games. On Friday nights, the PeeWee games begin at 6:00 PM, Juniors at 7:00 PM, and Seniors at 8:30 PM. In the event the Junior game finishes early, the Senior game will begin 10 minutes after the Junior game ends. Saturday night games begin at either 5:00 or 6:00 PM with the following order: PeeWees, Juniors followed by Seniors.

- C. All teams must meet league obligations in accordance with official league rules, and all scheduled games must be played as scheduled under penalty of forfeiture of the entire league schedule, and suspension from the league the following year. Any and all special problems or unusual schedule conflicts due to weather or otherwise, may be referred to the executive committee for decision. Any changes in dates, times, or order of play must be reported to the scheduling chairperson and President as soon as is possible.

- D. Any team refusing to play a scheduled game shall forfeit that game and will be responsible for officials' fees for that game.

- E. Any community which, for whatever reason, cannot or will not field a PeeWee, Junior and Senior team for the entire season will upon the decision of the President:
 - 1. Have all games scheduled for that season scheduled as away games.
 - 2. Be responsible for the official's fees for one game on the date games are scheduled. The home team has the option of scheduling a second game with another team to fill in the missing game at no cost to them for the officials, and pay officials' fees.
 - 3. May lose a home game in the following season.
 - 4. May be placed on probation.

LEAGUE SCORE – PeeWee, JUNIOR AND SENIOR GROUPS ONLY

- A. Following each Junior and Senior league game, each team will receive a ‘league score’. Such score shall be assigned in accordance with the following:

Winning teams	2 pts. each
Tie games	1 pt. each
Losing teams	0 pt. each

- B. Each week, the league score sheet will contain the weekly game scores and a Win, Loss, Tie record in addition to a league point score.
- C. League division winner shall be determined by reference to the cumulative League points at the end of the season, and not by Win, Loss, Tie record, or point differentials. (See Playoff Rules, page 28)
- D. The league will recognize National and American division champions based on league points and then the power points earned by each of the teams, and finally divisional won/loss record (percentage). Head-to-head record shall be used to break ties where possible.
- E. There will be no playoff games in case of a tie. A coin toss shall be used to break ties.
- F. For the PeeWee Group, there will be a record kept of records and points scored, and there shall be a league championship at the PeeWee level. The PeeWee teams shall be ranked across Divisions and the top two PeeWee teams shall qualify for the PeeWee League Championship. All other post-season PeeWee games will be consolation games.

EJECTIONS

If a player, coach or team representative is ejected from a contest because of either verbally abusing an official or fighting an opposing player, the following shall be enforced:

- A. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next contest.
- B. For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection plus suspension from the team's next two contests.
- C. For a third offense by an individual in the same season, ejection plus suspension for the remainder of the season.
- D. Enforcement shall carry over into the following season if necessary to meet the penalty.
- E. Physically abusing an official shall result in permanent expulsion from any future participation in the Bergen County Junior Football League.
- F. No one will be allowed on the playing field under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- G. No coach will be allowed to physically abuse players.
- H. Notification of ejection is the responsibility of the crew chief to report to the League President via an email or written correspondence that includes a description of the incident.
- I. The use of Air Horns by anyone in attendance at the games is prohibited.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- A. Order of Business (Agenda)
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Inquiries from the Public
 - 4. Correspondence
 - 5. Reports
 - 6. Approval of Bills
 - 7. Approval of Requisitions
 - 8. Old Business
 - 9. New Business
 - 10. Comments from Members
 - 11. Adjournment

- B. Rules Governing Meetings – in the conduct of its business, the procedure of the Board shall be governed by “Robert’s Rules of Order”

- C. Procedure – orderly procedure shall prevail at all meetings
 - 1. Members wishing to speak shall address the chair and be recognized
 - 2. The president may call upon other members to participate in the discussion of questions before the members
 - 3. Non-Board members who wish to present their views or relate information to the members may request permission to do so orally or in writing.

- D. Voting – roll call vote shall be taken and recorded on all motions which involve expenditure of money, elections, or when requested by any member.

POSTSEASON RULES

Both Division winners will automatically make the League Championship Playoffs (Super Bowl) playoffs regardless of record and shall receive a bye from the first round of the playoffs. The next 2 best records (#3-#4) will also make the playoffs regardless of their division.

Seeding for the playoffs will be based on league points record.
#1 will play #4 and #2 will play #3.

The next four best teams regardless of division shall qualify for the League Cup with seeding as above. All postseason rules applicable to the League Championship shall apply to the League Cup. Teams not qualifying for the Championship or League Cup shall play a consolation game during the first week of the playoffs.

All ties must be broken for each team in the league.

Tie Breakers: Should there be a tie, it will be broken in the following order. This system will be used both for determining entry into the playoffs and seeding of the playoffs.

Head to Head
Power Points*
Division Record
Coin Flip

If there is a three-way tie between the two Divisions, the tie within the same Division must be broken first. Whichever team ends up second place in the Division is automatically not eligible to host the playoff game.

*Power Points - Glen Ridge and Waldwick-MP are tied for second place in the league after the eighth game of the season, both with a record of 6-1-1. Head to head, during the season they tied or didn't play, which brings in to play the Power Point System. The six teams Glen Ridge beat had a combined record of 25 wins – 22 losses – 1 tie, while the combined record of the teams Waldwick-MP beat was 23 wins – 23 losses – 2 ties. A team receives two points for every one of their opponent's wins. So in the case of Glen Ridge (25x2) they would get 50 Points and Waldwick would receive (23x2) 46 Points. A team also receives one point for every one of their opponent's ties. So Glen Ridge would earn an additional 1 Point and Waldwick-MP would earn an additional 2 Points. Glen Ridge's total would be 51 Power Points and Waldwick-MP's would be 48 Power Points.

OT Rules – There will be NO ties in the Playoffs. Should a game be tied at the end of regulation, the lower # seed will call a coin flip. The winner of the flip will decide if they want to go on offense or defense first. It is NOT sudden death. Both teams will get the ball from the opponents 20 yard-line. There will not be a coin flip at the end of each OT. The teams simply alternate possessions. The team on offense first in OT #1 will go on offense 2nd in OT #2. At the

end of 3 OT's if a game is still tied both teams MUST go for a 2-point conversation after a touchdown.

SENIOR DIVISION WEIGH-IN ADDENDUM

Maximum Weight for Offensive Backfield/Ends & for Defensive Linebackers/Backfield

Rule is for SENIORS ONLY

Seniors 140 lbs max @ initial weigh-in
 145 lbs max @ midseason weigh-in
 145 lbs max @ pre-postseason weigh in

The following terms shall apply:

- A. Five pound increase in the maximum weight shall be allowed at midseason and post-season
- B. All players must re-weigh midseason and pre-postseason to remain eligible become eligible as Offensive Backs/Ends & Defensive Linebackers/Backfield* who were designated as OK-RW, or LO-RW. For LO-RW, they must qualify at the initial weigh weight of 140 lbs at midseason and but can qualify at 145 lbs during post-season
- C. Midseason Weigh In will be conducted on the Wednesday evening before the 5th regular season game
- D. Pre-postseason Weigh In to be conducted on the Sunday before the First round playoff games
- E. Pre-post season weigh-in will be for PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS ONLY

*Players who weigh less than 125 pounds on the original weigh-in will be exempt from re-weighing at the mid-season and pre-playoffs.

ALL OTHER RULES RELATING TO PLAYER WEIGHT REMAIN IN EFFECT.

**Bergen County Junior Football League
Uniform Color Guide and Participating Localities 2018 Season**

Municipality	Jersey	Pants	Helmet	Participating Localities
Closter	White	Royal Blue	Royal Blue	Closter, Demarest, Haworth
Northern Valley	White (A) Navy Blue (H)	Navy Blue	Gold	Northvale, Old Tappan, Rockliegh
Tenafly	Black	Black	Black	Tenafly, Alpine
Norwood	Black White (v Tenafly) Black (SR & JR)) White	Green (PW) Black (SR & FRJR)	Black (SR&FR&PW)	Norwood, Harrington Park
Dumont	Gray	Gray	Orange	Dumont
Glen Ridge	Red	Gray	Gray or White	Glen Ridge
Waldwick/MP	Navy Blue	Navy Blue	Silver	Waldwick, Midland Park
HoHoKus/Saddle River	Navy	Gold	Gold	Ho-Ho-Kus, Saddle River
Cresskill	Yellow	Black	Black	Cresskill