

TCYFL

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - TCYFL

A. Name and Purpose

The organization will be known as the **TCYFL**. The TCYFL promotes organized youth football in a travel league format and is comprised of selected Member Communities in the Chicagoland area, represented by local youth tackle football organizations. The TCYFL strives to educate players emphasizing fundamentals and develop athletes at a variety of levels based on the player's age, weight, and experience. The TCYFL helps make its youth tackle football players' better citizens both now and in the future.

B. Mission Statement

The TCYFL will encourage and inspire our youth, regardless of race, religious affiliation/belief, gender, creed, ethnicity, or national origin; and facilitate participation in practicing good health, citizenship, character and sportsmanship. First and foremost, the TCYFL promotes the welfare and wellbeing of the player, free from the adult lust for glory.

QUOTE: "It is OK to try to win a Championship, but never, ever at the expense of any player on either side of the ball."

C. Conflict of Interest Avoidance

No Executive Officer, League Representative, Alternate Representative, or Member Community will enter into any contract with the TCYFL for monetary benefit or profit. All such persons will avoid situations where a conflict of interest might arise or exist.

D. TCYFL By Laws

The TCYFL By Laws comprise the legal authority, operating mechanisms and ultimate character of conducting TCYFL business. The TCYFL Constitution, subject to any By Laws limitations, is intended to provide policy and procedural direction and guidance on matters of day-to-day League operations. While subordinate to the By Laws, the Constitution provides specific implementation mechanisms for League and League participant's conduct and interactions. As such, the Constitution is a supplement to, not a substitute for the By Laws.

Section 2 – TCYFL Membership

A. Membership Qualification

TCYFL Member Communities will be selected qualified organizations. All organizations participating in the TCYFL must place at least one (1) Big 10 team at each level and must do so to maintain the status of a Member Community in good standing. Failure to do so will result in a \$500 fine, probation for the Member Community and ineligibility for all of the

Member Community's teams in the Playoffs unless the Executive Board grants an exception prior to the start of the season. Each team will be considered on an individual basis determined by the Executive Board.

There is no Member Community Pac 10 team requirement. The number of Pac 10 teams each town fields will determine the overall number of teams on a League wide basis at each level. The TCYFL will make every effort to schedule a minimum of four teams at each Pac 10 level competing in the TCYFL. The number of teams at each Pac 10 level must be an even number. If the initial total offering from all Member Communities results in an odd number of teams at a Pac 10 level, the Member Community with the most teams at that level will eliminate one team by distributing that team's players to the other teams from that Member Community.

Member Communities with over 700 total Tackle Players, calculated to include players in the TCYFL, in-house, other Leagues, etc. (i.e. "total helmets") will, with prior Executive Board consultation and approval, field at least two Big 10 teams at each level.

B. Community Member Duties

Each Member Community will establish and enforce local policies and procedures to assure compliance with all TCYFL Constitution and Football Playing Rules provisions.

Maintenance of Good Standing Status (requisites):

1. Obey all TCYFL Constitution and Football Playing Rules provisions
2. Pay all dues, fees and/or fines when due and in no case more than 30 days after notification.
3. Provide Field Marshall for all host site games.
4. Discipline and/or fine local coaches as appropriate for any coaching ethics violations.
5. Zero tolerance for coaches and/or Member Community board members attempting to cut or drive away a less talented player.
6. Attend at least two-thirds of all TCYFL meetings.
7. Maintain an active local board instrumental in managing all affairs.
8. Always maintain sufficient and appropriate liability insurance and submit a copy of the Certificate of Insurance to the TCYFL at the first meeting each year.
9. Treat all visitors (players, coaches, parents, fans, cheerleaders, etc.) with common courtesy, dignity and respect.

League Representatives or Alternate Representatives will serve a minimum of four (4) hours working at TCYFL playoff games (other than one in which they might be coaching).

C. Community Geographic/Territorial Boundaries

In order to protect Member Community identities and to avoid confusion, each Member Community will provide the TCYFL with its organizational boundaries. Player home addresses will determine a player's participation in a Member Community program. Any player residing in an area that does not participate in the TCYFL will be exempt from the address criteria outlined above. Each Member Community will notify the TCYFL in writing

of its organizational boundaries, as well as any exceptions to TCYFL community geographic/territorial boundary procedures.

During registration, Member Communities will notify all players that they should enroll in their "Home" organization based on recognized boundaries. Anyone transferring to play out of their residency boundary is required to get the appropriate residency waiver form from the organization they are a resident of AND bring it to the organization they are asking to play in. A player may submit an application (and payment by check) to an Outside organization, but the Outside organization cannot formally enroll the player (and should not cash a payment by check) without the approval of the Home organization. Registration data will include full address and zip code. Member Community violations may be subject to the usual and customary sanctions for misconduct.

The TCYFL will establish and maintain a Boundary Committee chaired by an Executive Officer, responsible for managing all matters associated with Member Community Boundary definitions, Player Residency Forms (**Schedule A**), and any discussions and/or disputes concerning Boundary matters.

Resolving Territorial Disputes: If a player residing within the boundaries of one organization (X) wishes to participate in another organization's program (Y), the procedure will be as follows:

1. A Representative of the organization (Y) in which the player wishes to participate will present a written request to the Boundary Committee using TCYFL Schedule A. The request must be signed by: a Representative of the organization (Y), the player, the player's parents/guardians and a Representative of organization (X). The signature is an indication of knowledge of the request, not necessarily acceptance or approval. Each Representative is responsible to obtain appropriate information regarding this request including discussion within the organizations.
2. The TCYFL Boundary Committee will review and discuss the request at which time any disputes must be raised and resolved. Any overt action to encourage a player to play in another organization and/or induce a player to leave an organization is considered inappropriate and will be viewed as an unacceptable justification for a request.
3. If not resolved by the Boundary Committee to the satisfaction of all parties involved, the Executive Board will provide a ruling on the request within seven (7) days of the issue elevation from the by the Boundary Committee to the Executive Board. All such rulings are final.

An organization violating or demonstrating intent to violate territorial boundary provisions will be subject to the following:

First Violation - Loss of voting rights for one year.

Second Violation - One-year suspension from TCYFL

Charges/violations of the territorial dispute procedure are subject to review by the Executive Board. A \$100 protest fee must accompany each charge. The organization

that is not favored by the Board's decision is responsible for payment of this fee within seven (7) days of the decision.

Coaches moving from one Member Community's organization to another Member Community's organization must obtain prior written approval from the TCYFL and both organizations if the Coaches and/or any Member Community recruit, induce or in any other way influence players and/or families to participate in another Member Community's organization.

D. Team Colors

The TCYFL will approve, register and record team colors in **Schedule B**. The TCYFL must approve any and every Member Community's helmet, jersey and/or pants color change in advance as a Football Playing Rule change. When playing opponents' team colors might conflict, the Member Community with longer TCYFL tenure will have its choice of colors, while the newer TCYFL Member Community will decide to wear alternate non-conflicting team colors. League Representatives will explore, verify and coordinate any such arrangements in advance whenever scheduled to play an opponent with similar team colors.

E. Member Community Participation in Other Leagues

No TCYFL Member Community will participate in non-TCYFL league play without prior Executive Board approval. In all such exceptional cases, a Member Community participating in non-TCYFL league play must meet all TCYFL requirements and maintain its status as a Member Community in good standing. Any non-TCYFL organizations participating in any TCYFL activities must abide by all TCYFL Constitution and Playing Rules provisions.

F. Post-TCYFL Season Tournament Play

After the end of the TCYFL season, Tournament Play is permitted but Member Communities must inform the TCYFL prior to starting any player preparation. Such Tournament Play includes any TCYFL Member Community participation in non-TCYFL events including but not limited to participation in tournaments in other States.

G. Pre-TCYFL Season Seven-On-Seven Play

Seven-On-Seven Play is permitted but Member Communities must inform the TCYFL prior to any organized participation. Member Communities may not use Seven-On-Seven Play to circumvent TCYFL practice, conditioning or other rules.

H. TCYFL Governance

The affairs of the TCYFL will be managed by or under direction of its Board of Directors and Executive Officers as specified in the TCYFL By Laws.

I. Executive Board and League Council

The Executive Board (Board) will consist of eight members, and no more than three Advisors. Executive seats are as follows: The President, the Senior Vice President, four Vice Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer, each of whom will be elected or appointed as provided herein. The five Vice Presidents will oversee Big 10 and Pac 10 football operations. The League Council will consist of League Representatives in a total

number equal to the number of Member Communities in good standing with the TCYFL. Alternate Representatives may represent the interests of their Member Community in the absence of their Representative.

J. New Member Community – TCYFL Admittance

The TCYFL may accept new Member Communities with a majority vote of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities. Newly accepted Member Communities have immediate voting privileges. The TCYFL has the right, by majority vote of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities, to suspend or dismiss any Member Community within the first year of their membership without obligation to refund any fees or dues paid.

K. Voting

Representatives acting on behalf of Member Communities in good standing may vote upon any matter before the TCYFL and/or propose any Constitution or Football Playing Rule change. Each Member Community (and all of its representatives) must comply with all TCYFL Constitution and Football Playing Rules provisions, attend a minimum of two-thirds of regular monthly TCYFL meetings and render dues, fees or charges within thirty (30) days as required. Failure to do so may result in expulsion, provided that thirty (30) days written notification is given after a two-thirds majority League Council vote.

L. Membership Dues

The TCYFL will collect dues to provide a traveling trophy or plaque for each championship team at each level and provide individual trophies for each participant in the Division and League Championships game at every level. The TCYFL by majority vote of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities will determine the level of Membership Dues and the date payable. Member Communities whose membership dues, fees, or charges are thirty (30) days past due may lose their voting rights pursuant to a review and majority vote of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities.

The TCYFL will collect yearly dues of \$1,500 from each organization, which covers up to your first five teams, plus \$300 per team thereafter. The \$1,500 is payable at the February TCYFL Board Meeting. The TCYFL will also collect \$1,000 for each additional set of Big 10 teams fielded by a Member Community. Additional team fees are payable at the September TCYFL Board Meeting, giving each Member Community enough time to determine the number Pac 10 teams it will field.

An additional, refundable, amount may be charged at the discretion of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities. This additional amount would represent a “show of good faith” that each organization is not considering leaving the TCYFL in the current year. Member Communities must commit to annual TCYFL membership at the February meeting each year and post a minimum \$250 deposit applicable toward its yearly dues and/or any additional amount as charged above. The total yearly membership dues and any additional amounts are due and payable in full at the March meeting. If the total amount due is not paid at the March meeting, the TCYFL will charge an administrative (late) fee of 10% of the total amount due, assessed on a monthly basis, beginning at the time of the April meeting.

M. Member Community Annual Review

The TCYFL will conduct a Member Community annual review no later than January. Member Communities will rate every other Member Community and all other organization's teams, players, coaches, Representatives and any other relevant items using a Member Community Annual Evaluation Form (**Schedule C**). Evaluation criteria will include the following: sportsmanship, compliance with rules, safety, facility, attendance at League meetings and home players. The TCYFL will present results to the League Council.

N. Member Community Identification with High School Districts

The TCYFL recommends individual organizations use players from within their local Communities' geographic High School Districts in order to create Community spirit and prevent hardships from inordinate routine travel times/distances.

Section 3 – TCYFL Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

The TCYFL will hold regular League Council meetings on the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month unless changed by the Executive Officers. The TCYFL will conduct its meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and will consider matters affecting all aspects of League play. The TCYFL will approve and adopt actions subject to approval by majority vote of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities. Member Communities missing more than one meeting in any calendar year will be subject to a fine of at least \$50 per meeting missed.

B. Special Meetings

The League President or by any three (3) voting members may call a Special Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held in January at which time the Council will elect Officers.

Section 4 – TCYFL Officers and Committees

A. Executive Officer Voting Rights

Executive Officers may vote as a League Representative only if they are registered as the Alternate League Representative and the primary League Representative is not present. Exception: The highest-ranking TCYFL Executive Officer may not cast a vote as a League Representative due to the possibility of having to cast a tie-breaking vote.

B. Executive Board Powers

The Executive Board, comprised of the Elected Executive Officers, will have the authority to conduct all TCYFL business, including but not limited to entering into contracts, and receiving and disbursing money on behalf of the TCYFL, subject to oversight by the League Council.

C. President

The President will act as the TCYFL's chief executive officer, preside at meetings, appoint committees, assure compliance with all TCYFL Constitution and Playing Rules provisions and implement actions and decisions of the League Council.

D. Senior Vice President

In the President's absence, the Senior Vice President will temporarily assume all the President's duties and operate under all the President's responsibility, authority and power granted under the TCYFL By Laws, Constitution and Football Playing Rules.

E. Vice Presidents

Vice Presidents will oversee Big 10 and Pac 10 football operations and assure compliance with Football Playing Rules and implement the decisions of the League Council.

F. Treasurer and Secretary

The Treasurer and Secretary will perform duties and hold responsibilities as specified in the By Laws.

G. Committees

An Executive Officer Will Chair each TCYFL Committee and a League Representative may serve as Co-Chair. League Representatives will each serve on a minimum of one committee.

H. Ultimate Authority

As specified in the By Laws, the Executive Board is empowered to promulgate final resolution on any business matter, critical decision, conflict resolution, or disciplinary matters brought. Any one of the Officers directly involved in any such matter is excused from the final vote and/or resolution of the matter. The Executive Board may invite disinterested Representatives to assist in resolving any such matters.

I. Executive Officer Candidate Eligibility

To run for office all Executive Officer candidates must have served a minimum of one year as a League Representative from a Member Community in good standing and must have attended at least seventy-five percent (75%) of League functions. Member Community Presidents may not serve concurrently as a TCYFL executive.

Section 5 – League and Division Structure

A. Divisions

Generally, the TCYFL's Member Communities will compete in postseason playoffs in multiple classes based upon the total tackle program enrolment of each Member Community. When there are an odd number of teams in the TCYFL, the division representing the lower half of enrollment will include an odd number of teams and the division representing the higher half of enrollment will include an even number of teams.

Each Member Community will report its total tackle enrolment to the TCYFL one week prior to the first game and at any other time required by the TCYFL. Total tackle enrolment is intended to include all tackle football players participating in any manner under the auspices of a Member Community's youth football program, including in-house and all travel players. A simple guideline might be to count the number of helmets issued. Changes in tackle enrolment must be reported to the TCYFL as the information becomes available. Each Member Community must keep accurate records of its tackle enrolment and allow the TCYFL to take reasonable steps to verify accuracy.

B. Executive Board Determination

Prior to the start of each season, the Executive Board will determine the final composition of all TCYFL Football Playing Divisions, Conferences, etc.

ARTICLE II. RULES and CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 1 – General

A. Weight Tampering, Performance Enhancing Drugs and Substances

No TCYFL participant, including by not limited to coaches, representatives, players, other Member Community persons or any agents thereof will administer any weight reduction or performance enhancing drug or substance of any kind to any player in the TCYFL. The TCYFL will be immediately suspend and banish any violator from the League. Also, see Acts of Debarment herein.

B. Coaching Eligibility/Requirements

Head Coaches must be at least nineteen (19) years old and Assistant Coaches must be at least sixteen (16) years old as of September 1 of the season. The Head Coach must attend all League mandated coaches' gatherings, meetings and clinics annually at a time and place determined by the TCYFL.

Head Coaches must be certified by USA Football, attend a PCA Training and attend a Heads-Up Tackling Clinic. Each Community is encouraged to conduct regular coaching and conditioning clinics. The TCYFL may require Head Coaches of any team to demonstrate knowledge (by test or otherwise) of the TCYFL Constitution and Football Playing Rules.

C. Coach Identification

Member Communities will submit a Coaches Roster (**Schedule K**) when due, but in no case later than two weeks prior to the first scheduled regular season game, listing the names, contact information and coaching certification for all Head and Assistant Coaches. Coaches will wear TCYFL issued Coaching Identification Tags at TCYFL games.

D. Conflict Resolution

In the event of a controversy, dispute or disagreement ("Conflict") by, between or among persons or communities subject to the TCYFL By Laws, Constitution or Football Playing Rules, or in the event of accusations of violations or conduct inconsistent with the same,

then all interested parties will abide by these Conflict Resolution procedures.

The League Representative is authorized to initiate email communications regarding Conflicts addressed to the TCYFL President, Secretary and appropriate Vice President(s) provided that the Representative copies their own Member Community President on all such correspondence. The TCYFL may address any replies to the Representative with copies to the Member Community President and if advisable to the Member Community Alternate Representative.

Conflict Resolution will elevate through an ascending succession of facilitators until final resolution is achieved, as follows:

1. Initial Level: resolution by the Parties involved.
2. Representative Level: resolution by the League Representatives of the involved Member Communities.
3. President Level: resolution by the Presidents of the involved Member Communities.
4. TCYFL Constitution Commission: final resolution.

First, at the Initial Level, the parties involved should attempt to resolve the Conflict between or among them in a fair, ethical, practical and respectful manner as soon as possible. A resolution at this Level must be to the satisfaction of all interested parties; all parties are expected to abide by the TCYFL rules and conduct provisions in framing and executing a resolution. A compromise resolution should take into account the potential for TCYFL Executive Board sanction should one or another interested party prevail at a higher level of Conflict Resolution. A resolution may include written acknowledgment of the potential violations expressing a plan for improvement and may also include self-imposed sanctions consistent with the spirit of the applicable TCYFL rules and conduct provisions.

If the parties to a conflict are not able to resolve the conflict at the Initial Level to the satisfaction of all parties involved, then the dissatisfied part(y)(ies) will contact their respective League Representative(s) to elevate conflict resolution immediately to the Representative Level, when the interested Representatives will begin Conflict Resolution immediately. In the case of an unsatisfied referee or other person who does not have a League Representative, that referee or other person will contact a League Representative of any Member Community involved in the conflict. The same principles described above for the Initial Level will apply at the Representative Level.

If the Representatives are not able to resolve the conflict to the satisfaction of all parties involved, then the dissatisfied part(y)(ies), or their League Representative(s), will contact their respective Member Community President(s) to elevate conflict resolution immediately to the President Level when the interested Presidents will begin Conflict Resolution immediately. In the case of an unsatisfied referee or other person who does not have a League Representative, that referee or other person will contact a President of any Member Community involved in the conflict. The same principles described above for the Initial Level will apply at the President Level.

If the Presidents are not able to resolve the conflict to the satisfaction of all parties involved, then the dissatisfied part(y)(ies), or their Member Community President(s), will contact the TCYFL Executive Board to undertake conflict resolution immediately by the TCYFL Constitution Commission.

A TCYFL Executive Officer or Executive Board appointee will chair any convened TCYFL Constitution Commission. The TCYFL President and/or Executive Officers will appoint a minimum of three and maximum of seven Commissioners, choosing them from among TCYFL Executive Officers, Member Community Presidents, and/or Member Community Representatives (or Alternates), excluding individuals associated with the parties of interest in the subject dispute.

The TCYFL Constitution Commission is the ultimate authority for Conflict Resolution and its decisions by majority vote are final.

The Commission or any interested party subject to Commission sanction may request a prompt Commission hearing. The Commission will set reasonable limits on the hearing's length, set the hearing's agenda and determine who may address or present information to the hearing. The Commission may impose any sanction, penalty, or fine as specified in the TCYFL Constitution and/or Football Playing Rules; or at its option impose other appropriate penalties, including fines of up to \$1,000, individual/team/Member Community warnings, probations, suspensions, debarments, banishments, game forfeitures, and/or Member Community Rule changes. Fined parties must pay amounts due within 72 hours of the final decision. Failure to comply with the Constitution Commission's rulings may result in additional sanctions, penalties and/or fines.

Time is of the essence in Conflict Resolution. All parties interested in the Conflict and involved in its resolution at any level must treat resolution as a top priority. There will be a 72 hour (three day) maximum consideration period at each of the three Conflict Resolution levels. If a resolution is not achieved within 72 hours at any level, the matter will be elevated to the next level, when a new 72-hour consideration period begins immediately. At the Initial Level the 72-hour period begins when the Conflict arises. Interested parties need not wait 72 hours to elevate Conflict Resolution to a higher level if it is clear a resolution will not be achieved at that level. If elevated to the highest level, the Constitution Commission will achieve final resolution by the later of: (1) 72 hours after elevation to the Commission, or (2) the next scheduled TCYFL game for any players, coaches or Member Communities involved. The TCYFL Executive Board may, at any time during the resolution process, or if it is dissatisfied with an agreed resolution, elevate the Conflict immediately to the TCYFL Constitution Commission level.

Conflict Resolution facilitators should use all available means of communication with all interested parties, including but not limited to discussion in person, by telephone, e-mail, etc. It is strongly suggested that discussion be in person and by telephone, supplemented by e-mail if necessary. E-mail alone is not conducive to effectively communicating or resolving Conflict and is not an acceptable substitute for talking in person or on the phone. To assure timely handling, elevation must be done first by communication in person or telephone and followed up by e-mail with a copy to the TCYFL President and Secretary.

Upon achieving resolution at any of the three Conflict Resolution levels, the Representatives or Presidents of the Member Communities involved will send one mutually agreeable e-mail to the TCYFL President summarizing the Conflict and the satisfactory resolution.

E. TCYFL Football Playing Rules

The Board of Directors will publish Football Playing Rules annually. The Rules will specify unique TCYFL provisions and provide a guide to Football Operations.

F. Various Fines – All Payable To “TCYFL Cares”

1. EOEO violation - \$250 fine, will result in a suspension after proven guilty, and may result in forfeiture of game.
2. Cheating on Age/Weight/Ineligible players - \$500 (suspension)
3. Excessive Idiocy (winning by >40 points) - \$500 first offense, \$1000 2nd offense, \$1500 3rd offense.
4. Coach Ejection - \$100 plus a one game suspension, with any second ejection from that coaching staff subject to an additional \$200 fine and up to an additional two game suspension.
5. TCYFL Meeting Absence: \$25 for 1; \$50 for 2; \$100 for 3; and Member Community probation for 4 absences
6. Player failing to make weight for three games - \$100
7. Failure to complete the proper process for residency forms-\$50(split between TCYFL Cares and the offended MC)
8. Ineligible Rosters--

LEVEL 1:

Will encompass a clerical error on any member community person's part including coach, parent or member community official that does not result in an ineligible player situation (a league typo or mistake is exempt) where, after league investigation, no intent and/or level a child plays at is affected. Example being a birth date supplied as July 15th when it should have been June 15th of the same year.

PENALTY: is \$250 fine. Corrected paperwork to be filed and updated in database, No suspensions or forfeits. The Executive Board reserves the right to weigh the circumstances of each occurrence.

LEVEL 2:

Will encompass intent and/or gross negligence (defined in part, but not limited to, time of year in which issue is discovered, history or multiple issues within a community be it players, coaches or parents) once proven by league investigation. For this case, the mistake, whether intentional or not, would have resulted in a player being placed on an incorrect team. For example, birthdate is 9/15 but is listed as 8/15 where the league cutoff is 9/1. Likewise, an incorrect or outdated address placing the player outside the agreed upon boundaries for the community and team the player is playing in or with and no sign off from member community or out boundary form. TCYFL will notify all its members that action was taken.

PENALTY: is \$500 fine per player in violation. Head coach is suspended for 2 games; player must be placed on team he belongs for future games. For the player, if applicable, corrected paperwork to be filed and updated in the database before player may return to play. The Executive Board reserves the right to weigh the circumstances of each occurrence.

LEVEL 3:

Will encompass any prior violation in a 3-year period by any coach or member community.

PENALTY: \$1000 fine per player in violation. The head coach or coaches are banned from coaching in the TCYFL for 1 full football season and players are suspended for the remainder of the season. If in-season, that team, or teams as it were, are ineligible for the playoffs for the current season. The member community is put on probation for one year. TCYFL will notify all its members that action was taken. The Executive Board reserves the right to weigh the circumstances of each occurrence.

LEVEL 4:

Will encompass intent by a member community to recruit, alter, and repeated roster violation for the purpose of winning.

PENALTY: \$1500 fine per player in violation. Player(s) are suspended for 2 games and placed on correct level teams if applicable. Head coach or coaches banned from TCYFL coaching permanently, the entire member community is placed on probation for two years and is banned from post season for the current season play. If the violation is discovered after the season, the entire community is banned from postseason play for the following season. TCYFL will notify all its members that action was taken. The Executive Board reserves the right to weigh the circumstances of each occurrence.

Section 2 – Football Playing Rule Changes and Clarifications, and Protests

A. Ordinary Procedure for Changes

The TCYFL will review Football Playing Rules annually. TCYFL Officers, Committees, and/or Member Communities may propose Football Playing Rule changes at the February TCYFL League Council meeting using the form in **Schedule D**. All such proposed changes will be presented for debate at the March Board meeting and will be voted upon at the April meeting. Any proposed changes will be accepted if approved by a majority vote of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities at the April meeting.

B. Extraordinary Procedure for Changes

The TCYFL will not consider Football Playing Rules changes outside of the ordinary change procedure unless it is determined that a rule, without change or addition, would lead to harm or injury to a League player. To be considered for amendment, 100% of the Executive Board must agree to the change and bring the amendment to the League Council for approval, where an eighty percent (80%) majority of a quorum of eligible voting Member Communities is necessary for approval. Any such change would become effective immediately upon approval.

C. Protest

Any Member Community may protest a TCYFL decision; however, a referee's interpretation is not subject to protest. All protests must be filed with an Executive Board Member in writing along with a \$50 non-refundable fee within 48 hours of the alleged infraction. The Executive Board will use its best efforts to address the protest prior to the next scheduled game and publish all decisions at the next succeeding TCYFL meeting.

D. Requests and Clarifications

The League Representative is authorized to initiate email communications regarding requests for Exception Players, rules clarifications, etc. addressed to the TCYFL President, Secretary and appropriate Vice President(s) provided that the Representative copies their own Member Community President on all such correspondence. The TCYFL may address any replies to the Representative with copies to the Member Community President and if advisable to the Member Community Alternate Representative. No Member Community may act on any such request without a written Reply form the TCYFL President.

Section 3 – TCYFL Participant (Coach and Player) Conduct

A. Ethics, Behavior and Leadership by Example

TCYFL Participants will abide by the letter and spirit of all TCYFL By Laws, TCYFL Football Playing Rules, TCYFL Parent/Family Member Pledge (**Schedule L**) and TCYFL Coach Pledge (**Schedule M**). Coaches will not criticize or demean any player in an inappropriate fashion and will never humiliate a player in front of the team.

Coaches and Players will accept all referee decisions and calls on the field as fair and final, having been called to the best of the ability of the referee.

The Head Coach has complete responsibility for the conduct of his or her coaching staff, players, fans, etc.

Coaches will not criticize referees, opposing coaches, or others by word or gesture.

Coaches will emphasize good sportsmanship to all players.

Coaches will not use abusive or profane language in performance of their coaching duties.

Coaches will never be on or near the game or practice field under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

Coaches will never use tobacco products on the game or practice field.

Coaches will always set an exemplary personal example of conduct .

Coaches will not grab a player's face mask.

Coaches will sign and agree to abide by the TCYFL Coaches Pledge, subject to oversight by the TCYFL Coaching/Ethics Committee.

Any TCYFL participant (including but not limited to coaches, players, family members, fans, etc.) using profanity or showing any verbal or physically threatening actions before, during or after any TCYFL function may be suspended and/or permanently barred from TCYFL activity. Any TCYFL participant involved in any physical violence will be permanently barred from all TCYFL activity.

B. Acts of Debarment

A Coach or other adult acting in an official capacity may be suspended and/or permanently barred from TCYFL activity if he or she exhibits any of the following:

1. Threatening bodily harm or striking any other participant (coach, referee, TCYFL official, player, board member, spectator, etc.)
2. Exhibiting continual acts of poor sportsmanship or unsportsmanlike conduct, or abusive language, whether on the field or as a spectator.
3. Allowing an ineligible player to participate in a TCYFL game.
4. Failing to comply with TCYFL Participant Conduct provisions.
5. Promoting, encouraging or engaging in inappropriate or unsafe weight reduction activities, including but not limited to: steam rooms, use of rubber (or other similar) "sweat" suits, insufficient (quality or quantity) food intake, or any other method that is unhealthy.

C. General Code of Conduct

All League Representatives and their alternates will always conduct themselves with class and dignity in any and all situations. The Executive Board members will always be the epitome of class and dignity and will always lead by positive example.

D. Ejections

The TCYFL treats all Participant ejections most seriously. The TCYFL will maintain a thorough, true and correct record of all ejections.

E. Consequence of Player Ejection

If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, the player will be suspended (not be allowed to participate in any way) for the following game, whether it is a regular season, playoff or championship game. If the ejection occurs during the last game of the season, the player will be suspended for the first game of the following season.

A second player ejection will result in suspension of that player for the next two (2) scheduled games. A third player ejection will result in the suspension of that player for remainder of the season.

F. Consequence of Coach Ejection

If a coach is ejected from a game for any reason, the coach will be suspended (not be allowed to participate in any way) for the following game, whether it is a regular season, playoff or championship game. If the ejection occurs during the last game of the season, the coach will be suspended for the first game of the following season. Any coach ejected from a game, for any reason, will serve an automatic one (1) week suspension. Ejected Coaches must appear before the TCYFL Coaching/Ethics Committee within one week of the ejection to answer for their behavior, subject to possible additional sanction by the Coaching/Ethics Committee and/or TCYFL Executive Board.

A second coach ejection/suspension, for any reason, will result in suspension of that coach for the remainder of the season. An ejected coach must move to the parking lot or beyond, in any case away from the playing field and fan areas.

G. Ejection Notification

The Member Community Score Reporter or League Representative will report all names of ejected players and/or coaches to the TCYFL within twenty-four (24) hours of the game in which the ejection occurs. Referees will also report all ejections.

The referee will report any and all ejections to the League Representative or other home site representative immediately upon occurrence.

TCYFL will notify all Member Communities of upcoming game(s) that involve a coach or a player that has been suspended.

H. Violence

Any coach who displays any act of violence towards a player, game official, League official or another coach will be permanently banned from coaching in the TCYFL.

Any Player removing their helmet to swing, throw, hit, or threaten anyone else will be suspended for a minimum of one game and may be banished from the TCYFL. The TCYFL Executive Board may also consider other sanctions.

I. Executive Board Determination

The Executive Board will review and make final determination of conduct issues.

J. Parent/Family Code of Conduct

Parents, Families, and all fans will always be supportive of all players on all teams . Parents and Families are subject to provisions of the TCYFL Parent/Family Member Pledge (Schedule L), subject to oversight by the TCYFL Coaching/Ethics Committee. The TCYFL recommends that Member Communities make the Parent/Family Member Pledge available to all constituents and/or post it on their websites.

ARTICLE III. OFFICIAL TCYFL FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Schedule	OFFICIAL TCYFL FORMS AND DOCUMENTS
A	Residency
B	Team Colors
C	Community Annual Evaluation
D	Proposed Football Playing Rule Change
E	Exception Players
F	Dual School/TCYFL Player Game Monitor
G	Referee Card
H	Weight and Age Parameters
I	Supplement to Schedule H (Weekly Weight Parameters)
J	Official TCYFL Player Roster Form
K	Official TCYFL Coach Roster Form

L	TCYFL Parent/Family Member Pledge
M	TCYFL Coach Pledge

**TCYFL CONSTITUTION
SCHEDULE A - RESIDENCY**

2015 SEASON

REQUEST for PARTICIPATION in NON-RESIDENT ORGANIZATION

Player Name	
Player Home Address	
Player Home Phone	
Member Community for Player Home Address	
Preferred Member Community	
Member Community Preference Justification	
Player Signature	
Parent/Custodial Guardian Signature	
League Representative of Member Community for Player Home Address	
League Representative of Preferred Member Community	

TCYFL CONSTITUTION

SCHEDULE B - TEAM COLORS 2015 SEASON

(Predominant color designated)

<u>Member Community</u>	<u>Helmet</u>	<u>Jersey</u>	<u>Pants</u>
Antioch	Black	(H) White, (A) Maroon	Black
BANA	Gold	Blue	Gold
Barrington	Red	White	Black
Bartlett	Navy Blue	White	
Buffalo Grove	Black	Black	Gold/Black
Cary	White	Blue	White
Crystal Lake	Silver	Black	Silver
Dundee	Blue	Blue	Red
East Aurora	Black	Red	Black
Elgin	Navy Blue	(H) Orange, (A) White	Navy
GPH	Blue	Orange/Blue	Navy
Grant	Red	Black/Red	Black
Grayslake	Green	(H) Black, (A) White	Green/Black
Huntley	Black	Black	Black
Johnsburg	Blue	Yellow	Blue
Kenosha	Black	White/Royal	Black
Lake in the Hills	Gold	Black	Black
Lake Villa	Gold	(H) Red, (A) White	(H) Black, (A) Gold
Lake Zurich			
Libertyville	Black	Orange/Black	Black
McHenry	Black	Black/White	Black
Mundelein	Black	Black	Black
Naperville	Black	Red	Black
North Chicago	Red	Red	
North Shore	White	Neon Green	Neon Green
Oak Park	Orange	Orange	Navy
Plainfield	White	Green/Gold	Green/Gold
Portage Park	Black	White	
Prairie Ridge	Silver	Maroon	Silver
Prospect Heights	Black	Black	Black
Round Lake	Blue	(H) Blue, (A) White	Blue
Schaumburg			
Streamwood			
Villa Park	Silver	(H) Black, (A) Grey	Black
Warren	White	White	White
Wauconda	Black	Purple	
Waukegan	Gold	Purple	Purple
WKCYF	Black	(H) Black, (A) White	Black
Woodstock	Gray	Royal Blue	
Zion Benton	Maroon	Maroon	Black

TCYFL CONSTITUTION

SCHEDULE C - COMMUNITY ANNUAL EVALUATION – 2015 SEASON

Rate each Member Community on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = worst rating; 10 = best rating). Do NOT rate your own Community.

TCYFL Member Community	Sportsmanship	Compliance with TCYFL/Game Rules	Safety	Facility Quality (Home Field)	Participation Quality at Meetings	Home Players' Conduct
Antioch						
BANA						
Barrington						
Bartlett						
Buffalo Grove						
Cary						
Crystal Lake						
Elgin						
GPH						
Grant						
Grayslake						
Huntley						
Lake in the Hills						
Lake Villa						
Lake Zurich						
Libertyville						
McHenry						
Mundelein						
Naperville						
North Chicago						
North Shore						
Oak Park						
Plainfield						
Portage Park						
Prairie Ridge						
Prospect Heights						
Round Lake						
Schaumburg						
Streamwood						
Warren						
Wauconda						
Waukegan						
Western Kenosha Co.						
Woodstock						
Zion Benton						

Evaluating Community	Representatives Signature	Date
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**TCYFL CONSTITUTION
SCHEDULE D – PROPOSED FOOTBALL PLAYING RULE CHANGE**

Date	
Proposed Change for Season (year)	
Proposing Member Community	
League Representative Signature	

REQUESTED CHANGE	
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CHANGE JUSTIFICATION	
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**TCYFL CONSTITUTION
SCHEDULE G - REFEREE CARD - 2015 SEASON**

Game Date	
Game Site	
Division (Big 10 or Pac 10)	
Weight Level (Fly, Bantam, Feather, Middle, Light or Heavy)	
Member Community Submitting Referee Card	
Person Submitting Referee Card	
TCYFL Opponent	
Referees (all names – available from Field Marshall)	

Comments on Referee Performance	
Justification for Comments	
Overall Referee Grade (1 – 5 scale, with 1 = very poor and 5 = very good)	

**TCYFL CONSTITUTION SCHEDULE H – WEIGHT / AGE PARAMETERS
2015 Season - FINAL**

	Maximum Weight (1)	Maximum Age (2)
<u>Varsity/Jr Varsity</u>		
Regular	170 lbs.	14
Striper (ineligible ball carrier)	Over 170 lbs.	14
<u>Lightweight</u>		
Regular	130 lbs.	13
“Older/Lighter”	100 lbs.	14
Regular (younger)	135 lbs.	12
Regular (younger)	140 lbs.	11
“Younger/Heavier - Striper ” - Pac 10 only	145 lbs.	11(5)
“Younger/Heavier Exception - Double Striper ” - Pac 10 only	(3)	11(5)
<u>Middleweight</u>		
Regular	115 lbs.	12
“Older/Lighter”	85 lbs.	13
Regular (younger)	120 lbs.	11
Regular (younger)	125 lbs.	10
“Younger/Heavier - Striper ” - Pac 10 only	135 lbs.	10(5)
“Younger/Heavier Exception - Double Striper ” - Pac 10 only	(3)	10(5)
<u>Featherweight</u>		
Regular	105 lbs.	10
“Older/Lighter”	75 lbs.	11
Regular (younger)	110 lbs.	9
Regular (younger)	115 lbs.	8
“Younger/Heavier - Striper ” - Pac 10 only	125 lbs.	8(5)
“Younger/Heavier Exception - Double Striper ” - Pac 10 only	(3)	8(5)
<u>Bantam</u>		
Regular	95 lbs.	8
“Older/Lighter”	65 lbs.	9
Regular (younger)	100 lbs.	7
Regular (younger)	105 lbs.	6
“Younger/Heavier - Striper ” - Pac 10 only	115 lbs.	6(5)
“Younger/Heavier Exception - Double Striper ” - Pac 10 only	(3)	6(5)
<u>Flyweight</u>		
Regular	75 lbs.	6
“Older/Lighter”	50 lbs.	7
Regular (younger)	80 lbs.	5

NOTES:

1. The Maximum Weights are effective for the first game of the season. All weight limits for each level will increase by one-half pound per week for the entire season, including any playoff games. The Maximum Weights include minimum of shirt, football pants with pads or football pants with girdle if the girdle is worn for the game.
2. Player age as of September 1. Players cannot be enrolled in High School.
3. “Younger/Heavier Exception - Double Striper” players must be approved prior to game play by the TCYFL at Aug meeting
4. A maximum of three “Younger/Heavier Stripers”, including no more than one “Double Striper”, may be on the field at any one time.
5. No age exceptions for Younger/Heavier Stripers

CONSULT THE TCYFL EXCEPTION PLAYER LIST FOR SPECIFIC PLAYER LIMIT

**TCYFL CONSTITUTION SCHEDULE I-2015 WEEKLY AGE AND WEIGHT PARAMETERS
SCHEDULE H SUPPLEMENT – TCYFL WEIGHT PARAMETERS(Maximum Weights)**

Week:	8/29/2015	9/5/2015	9/12/2015	9/19/2015	9/26/2015	10/3/2015	10/10/2015	10/17/2015	10/24/2015	10/31/2015	11/7/2015	11/14/2015
Varsity/Jr Varsity												
Regular (ball carrier)	170.0	170.5	171.0	171.5	172.0	172.5	173.0	173.5	174.0	174.5	175.0	175.5

Lightweight												
Regular	130.0	130.5	131.0	131.5	132.0	132.5	133.0	133.5	134.0	134.5	135.0	135.5
Older/Lighter	100.0	100.5	101.0	101.5	102.0	102.5	103.0	103.5	104.0	104.5	105.0	105.5
Regular (younger) 12 yo	135.0	135.5	136.0	136.5	137.0	137.5	138.0	138.5	139.0	139.5	140.0	140.5
Regular (younger) 11 yo	140.0	140.5	141.0	141.5	142.0	142.5	143.0	143.5	144.0	144.5	145.0	145.5
Younger/Heavier Striper	150.0	150.5	151.0	151.5	152.0	152.5	153.0	153.5	154.0	154.5	155.0	155.5

Middleweight												
Regular	115.0	115.5	116.0	116.5	117.0	117.5	118.0	118.5	119.0	119.5	120.0	120.5
Older/Lighter	85.0	85.5	86.0	86.5	87.0	87.5	88.0	88.5	89.0	89.5	90.0	90.5
Regular (younger) 11 yo	120.0	120.5	121.0	121.5	122.0	122.5	123.0	123.5	124.0	124.5	125.0	125.5
Regular (younger) 10 yo	125.0	125.5	126.0	126.5	127.0	127.5	128.0	128.5	129.0	129.5	130.0	130.5
Younger/Heavier Striper	135.0	135.5	136.0	136.5	137.0	137.5	138.0	138.5	139.0	139.5	140.0	140.5

Featherweight												
Regular	105.0	105.5	106.0	106.5	107.0	107.5	108.0	108.5	109.0	109.5	110.0	110.5
Older/Lighter	75.0	75.5	76.0	76.5	77.0	77.5	78.0	78.5	79.0	79.5	80.0	80.5
Regular (younger) 9 yo	110.0	110.5	111.0	111.5	112.0	112.5	113.0	113.5	114.0	114.5	115.0	115.5
Regular (younger) 8 yo	115.0	115.5	116.0	116.5	117.0	117.5	118.0	118.5	119.0	119.5	120.0	120.5
Younger/Heavier Striper	125.0	125.5	126.0	126.5	127.0	127.5	128.0	128.5	129.0	129.5	130.0	130.5

Bantam												
Regular	95.0	95.5	96.0	96.5	97.0	97.5	98.0	98.5	99.0	99.5	100.0	100.5
Older/Lighter	65.0	65.5	66.0	66.5	67.0	67.5	68.0	68.5	69.0	69.5	70.0	70.5
Regular (younger) 7 yo	100.0	100.5	101.0	101.5	102.0	102.5	103.0	103.5	104.0	104.5	105.0	105.5
Regular (younger) 6 yo	105.0	105.5	106.0	106.5	107.0	107.5	108.0	108.5	109.0	109.5	110.0	110.5
Younger/Heavier Striper	115.0	115.5	116.0	116.5	117.0	117.5	118.0	118.5	119.0	119.5	120.0	120.5

Flyweight												
Regular	75.0	75.5	76.0	76.5	77.0	77.5	78.0	78.5	79.0	79.5	80.0	80.5
Older/Lighter	50.0	50.5	51.0	51.5	52.0	52.5	53.0	53.5	54.0	54.5	55.0	55.2
Regular (younger) 5 yo	80.0	80.5	81.0	81.5	82.0	82.5	83.0	83.5	84.0	84.5	85.0	85.5

Each weight limit increases by one-half of one pound per week for the entire season, including playoffs and championships.

Players may remove ONLY their shoes, socks, helmet, jersey, shoulder pads and rib pads for weigh in.

CONSULT 2015 TCYFL EXCEPTION PLAYER LIST FOR SPECIFIC PLAYER WEIGHT LIMITS

APPLICABLE ON A WEEK TO WEEK BASIS

TCYFL CONSTITUTION SCHEDULE J - FORM OF OFFICIAL PLAYER ROSTER

TCYFL Team Roster – 2015 (for illustration only)

Member Community: Head Coach: Roster Date:

Coach Signature: Field Marshall: Game site:

Division: Premier Elite Big 10 Pac 10 Varsity Light Middle Feather Bantam

	OL	YH	YHS	YHES	Jersey	☛	AB	Player Name (last, first)	Weight	FAIL	DOB	Age	Grade	Player Address
1														
..														
31														

Instructions and Rules: Computer generated forms are required. Indicate any unique team designation in the Member Community box. List players and prepare birth certificates in ascending jersey number order. The Head Coach must sign this roster. Indicate four starting offensive backfield players in the “☛” column. Indicate Older/Lighter (OL), Younger/Heavier (YH), Younger/Heavier Striper (YHS) or Younger/Heavier Exception Striper (YHES) if applicable. Indicate player weigh in absence in the “AB” column. Coaches will exchange a copy of their official league roster prior to the weigh in. Any player exceeding the weight limit for his or her level may not play that day. Indicate actual weight or “√” at game weigh in. Indicate overweight-ineligibility in the “FAIL” column and indicate actual weight at weigh in. The Field Marshall will record and promptly report to the TCYFL President the team, name and weight of any player failing weigh in. Record the Field Marshall’s name where indicated. Each player must wear a minimum of football pants with pads and/or girdle if applicable and a shirt. Neither coaches nor the supervising Field Marshall may waive the weight limit or permit any exception to the weigh in rules of any kind. Each Big 10 team will roster a minimum of 18 players. No roster may exceed 31 players. A Pac 10 team may roster no more than six YHS’s, no more than one of which may be a YHES. A maximum of three YHS’s, including no more than one YHES may on the field at any one time.

TCYFL CONSTITUTION SCHEDULE K - FORM OF OFFICIAL COACH ROSTER

TCYFL Member Community Coaches Roster – 2015 (for illustration only)

Member Community: Representative: Roster Date:

Representative Signature: Page number: Total number of pages:

	Coach Name (last, first)	Level	Coach	Age	CERT	Div.	Coach Home Address	Coach Home Phone
1								
...								
36								

Instructions and Rules: Computer generated forms are required, with each page signed and attested by the League Representative where indicated. **Level** designations are: **V**=Varsity; **L** = Lightweight; **M** = Middleweight; **F** = Featherweight; **B** = Bantamweight and **FLY** = Flyweight. **Coach** designations are: **H** = Head Coach; **A** = Assistant; **S** = Student or other. **Age:** Head Coaches must be at least 19 years old and Assistant Coaches must be at least 16 years old as of September 1 of the season. **CERT** designations are: **ACEP, NYSCA, USA, TCYFL** or **none**. All head coaches must be minimally ACEP, NYSCA or TCYFL certified with documentation provided to TCYFL prior to the first game of the season. **Div.** designations are: **B10** = Big 10, **M** = MAC and **P** = Pac 10.

TCYFL CONSTITUTION SCHEDULE L - PARENT/FAMILY MEMBER PLEDGE

The CHICAGOLAND YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE PARENT/FAMILY MEMBER PLEDGE

PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT, SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR COACH.

1. I pledge to get my player to practice and games on time. I understand that it can be embarrassing for my player to be late. I will be on time to pick up my player after all games and practices. This shows respect for the coaches and other players, and it tells my player that they are my top priority.
2. I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the kids, and I will encourage my player to have fun and keep sports in its proper perspective. I understand that athletes do their best when they are emotionally healthy, so I will be positive and supportive.
3. I will properly define what it is to be a "Winner" in my conversations with my child. Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes or fear of making mistakes discourage them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure of success is not how my player compares to others, but how they are doing in comparison to their own potential best self.
4. I pledge to "Honor the Game," I understand the importance of setting a good example for my player. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and officials. I understand that officials make mistakes. If an official makes a "bad" call against my team, I will Honor the Game and be silent!
5. I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions to my child. I understand that this is the coach's job. I will limit my comments during the game to encouraging my child and other players for both teams.
6. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my player's coach in my player's presence. I understand that this plants a negative seed in my player's head that can negatively influence my player's motivation and overall experience.
7. If I have a problem with my player's coach, I will call the coach to set up an appointment to discuss the problem, and not confront my coach immediately after a practice or game.

I will honor this TCYFL Parent/Family Member Pledge in my words and actions

Signature

Date

**Printed Parent/
Family Member Name**

Member Community

Printed Player's Name

TCYFL CONSTITUTION SCHEDULE M – TCYFL COACH PLEDGE

THE CHICAGOLAND YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE COACH PLEDGE

- * I will remember that the game is for youth, not adults.
- * I will place the emotional and physical well-being of all players ahead of the personal desire to win.
- * I will not allow my self-interest or personal goals to undermine the fundamental principles of the TCYFL.
- * I will practice good sportsmanship and maintain a proper perspective for youth sports.
- * I will provide positive support to all players, fellow coaches, parents, and officials in order to provide a positive sports environment.
- * I will strive to educate myself as to the applicable rules/policies of the TCYFL and abide by them.
- * I will accept my responsibility as a role model, and will strive to project an admirable image towards players and their parents.
- * I will do everything in my power to maximize a safe and positive experience in youth football.
- * I will not use any Tobacco or Alcohol on the game or practice field. To fulfill my coaching duties, I will not be under the influence of Alcohol or Illegal Drugs.
- * I will not condone the use of any weight reduction or performance enhancing drug or substance of any kind to any player.
- * I will not Criticize, Demean or use Profane Language or act in an inappropriate fashion towards any Player, Coach, Referee or Family Member.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Member Community