

PACIFIC YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

“P.Y.F.L.”



OFFICIAL RULES AND BY-LAWS

(proposed Rev. 03/17/2026)

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#### ARTICLE I STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

##### SECTION A – OBJECTIVE.

The objective of this program is to inspire youth, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin, to practice the ideals of health, citizenship, and character, to bring our youth closer together through the means of a common interest in sportsmanship, fair play, and fellowship; to impart to the games elements of safety, sanity, and intelligent supervision; and to keep the welfare of the player first, foremost, and entirely free of the adult lust for glory.

##### SECTION B – SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

- A. To acquaint the players with the fundamentals of the game rules: passing, running, kicking, blocking, and tackling.
- B. To teach through the game, sportsmanship, love of the game, and the ability to take a few knocks and bumps.

##### SECTION C – DIVISION FRAMEWORK.

- A. PYFL can have a two-division system. To maintain uniformity, teams must fall into one of the following divisions:
- B. 1st division – experienced teams and players competing for PYFL Superbowl title.

- C. 2nd division – teams with less experience and lower skill level. Division 2 will play for a spot in the post season tournament.
- D. Teams that wins division 2 will qualify for division 1 Superbowl playoff as bottom seed in the tournament.
- E. All playoff teams from the prior season will automatically be in division 1.
- F. All new teams will have the option for placing their teams in division 1 or 2. PYFL Executive Board will make the final decision on team placement after the Jamboree and/or Certification.
- G. Each team so classified must be formed in accordance with the requirements as set forth in Article II of this rulebook.

#### SECTION D – CHAPTER DUTIES.

It shall be the duty of each Chapter to establish the necessary procedures to assure compliance with the rules contained in this book, bearing in mind that no Chapter may establish rules that contradict the rules and regulations contained herein. Each Chapter must submit a policy statement on the rules/policies they use to form teams within their Chapter. When a player signs up at the chapter level, the chapter must put the date and time the player signed up. All signups must be open to all prospective participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.

NOTE: To remain a Chapter in good standing with the PYFL all organizations must accept and meet the following standards:

- A. Obey all Rules, Regulations, and By-laws.
- B. Pay all fees, fines, and bills within 30 days of receipt.
- C. Provide Game Field Commissioners and Auditors for all home games.
- D. Fine/Discipline coaches as appropriate for coaching ethics violations.
- E. To not allow coaches to cut or run-off weaker players.
- F. Attend special meetings as called and all conference meetings.
- G. Maintaining an active board capable of managing their own internal affairs and satisfying all PYFL administrative requirements.
- H. Treating visitors as if they were the home team.
- I. When a player signs up at the Chapter level, the Chapter must put the date and time the player signed to verify the last to sign first-to-be-let-go policy of the Conference when a team is over booked

#### SECTION E – TERMINOLOGY.

- A. Use of the term "PYFL" in this rulebook refers exclusively to the Pacific Youth Football League.
- B. The term "Chapter" refers to a chapter franchised by the PYFL under the rules and regulations of the PYFL By-laws.
- C. A "franchised team" has met the requirements of its Chapter and the PYFL.
- D. An "associate chapter" has applied for membership in the PYFL

## ARTICLE II PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

### SECTION A – PLAYER REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **MUST BE AN AMATEUR.** To be an amateur under PYFL football rules, players CANNOT:
- B. Play for monetary benefits such as cash merchandise, or any compensation, nor compete against any professional athlete.
- C. Compete under an assumed name or compete on any outside tackle football team during the same season.
- D. **PLAYER CONDUCT.** If a player is ejected from a game by the CIF Officials for any reason, the ejected participant's name must be printed on the PYFL score reporting form. Both participating chapters are required to report the participant in question. This participant will be categorized as an ineligible player in the next game and the rules regarding an ineligible player will apply. If the player is ejected from another game, they will be suspended from the PYFL for the rest of the season. The same rule applies to coaches.
- E. **SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS.** Every player shall be encouraged to maintain a sound scholastic record and must be a full-time student in good standing (i.e., no dropouts.) A Chapter may be stricter than the PYFL, but not more lenient. If a Chapter chooses to require a C average to be maintained by their players, they may do so without permission from the PYFL.

## SECTION B – AGE and DIVISIONS

### AGES

- A. For the Season, the playing age of the player is their age as of July 1st. Age will determine the division they will play; see below table for more detail by age.
- B. A player must be at least 6 years of age prior to December 31st to be eligible for participation.

### DIVISIONS

| DIVISION | AGE                       |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 7U       | Cannot turn 8 before 7/1  |
| 9U       | Cannot turn 10 before 7/1 |
| 10U      | Cannot turn 11 before 7/1 |
| 11U      | Cannot turn 12 before 7/1 |
| 12U      | Cannot turn 13 before 7/1 |
| 14U      | Cannot turn 15 before 7/1 |

Players can play up from their division; however, they will **NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY DOWN** for any reason. Once a player has certified up on a division, they may not recertify down for any reason at any chapter. Nor can a player switch teams once he/she has been certified unless their team folds.

### PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

No player shall register or certify if they have not attained and does not maintain a sound physical condition. The attainment of a sound physical condition should be attested to by a duly qualified physician. No player can participate in any type of physical training without first obtaining health certification.

## Game Date Check in

- A. Each team will have only one registered coach and/or team manager at check-in.
- B. Both teams' coach/manager must have their official PYFL roster on hand.
- C. Game day check-in must start 20 minutes before the games official start time.
- D. Before Approaching all players on each team line up in roster book order.
- E. If not in roster book order, the team shall leave the area, and the next team will enter.
- F. Players are to line up without helmets on
- G. Each player's face will get matched to their team's official certified roster while going through the line.
- A. Any ranking member of the PYFL may observe check-ins at any given time.
- B. Once the Check in is complete, no additional players may play in the game.

## CERTIFICATION PROCESS:

- A. The PYFL Certification Committee(s), which shall consist of the PYFL executive board, will conduct certification of all players. Procedure, time, and place will be given to the Chapters no later than two weeks prior to that Chapter's Certification Day.
- B. The Conference certification process will commence after the official start of the season. Only certified players may continue to participate in contact football after the certification date. A player may certify before the date if they are not able to attend the scheduled certification by contacting the PYFL Vice President and planning.
- C. The PYFL will prepare a main list of all players that are ineligible to play, to give to all chapters.
- D. Chapter Responsibility: (Returning player certification book) Each Chapter will do everything in there to expedite the certification process on their Certification Day. Certification will be done on a team-by-team basis. Each team is to provide a typed roster for certification. Pen and ink changes will be made on the spot, as necessary. Ineligible players will have a line (ink on the original only) drawn through their name, and the Team Rosters will then be certified with the signature of the Certification Auditor. The original will go to the Vice President of the PYFL to be processed and returned. The PYFL will keep a copy. The paperwork certification will occur at least three (3) days prior to player certification at regional sites. These sites will have a PYFL Executive Board Member present. Each Chapter will provide at least one person for each division to assist with the review of the certification documentation of neighboring chapters, as directed by the PYFL Executive Board.

## Playing Age.

- A. Proof of a new player's age must be presented at the time of initial certification. Proof of age is by State (or County) issued certified copy of birth certificate. If this cannot be provided, then at least one of the following will be furnished:
  - 1. Passport/Immigration documentation
  - 2. U.S. Military Birth Registration or ID card
  - 3. Federal Government Birth Certificate
  - 4. County Birth Registration
  - 5. Passport/Immigration documentation
  - 6. U.S. Military Birth Registration or ID card
  - 7. Federal Government Birth Certificate
  - 8. County Birth Registration
- B. Report Cards are required for all 14, 12 & 11.
- C. Removal. The reason for removing a participant must be stated in writing (and dated) to the Chapter, PYFL Vice President, and Athletic Director. Under no circumstances can the team staff remove a participant from a certified roster. Dropped participants' names shall be left on the Certified Roster but shall be lined out in a manner that will leave the information legible.



## SECTION C – INSURANCE

- A. A player requiring the services of a doctor (illness or injury) cannot return to practice or game play until he has a written release from the doctor. The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that the written releases are obtained and are available for review on request.
- B. Each PYFL chapter will purchase insurance through the PYFL Insurance Commissioner.

## SECTION D – TEAM COMPOSITION

- A. Each team shall consist of a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of twenty-eight (28) certified players. However, individual chapters may choose to certify additional players above the 28.
- B. After Certification Day, a Chapter team may fill vacancies in its roster up to 25 players. However, no team may increase the size of its roster over the amount originally certified after the second game of the season, unless they fall below 16 eligible players. One reason for a forfeit situation is if a team has less than 16 players available for a game. The coach must call the PYFL Athletic Director and if he still feels that the team can play with a short-staffed team, he may request to do so. If fewer players show up than expected, it is up to the coaches involved and the Game Field Commissioner to decide if the game will be played, or a scrimmage held. If a game is played, the results will stand.
- C. Any player added to a team must meet all requirements of this rulebook. (See Article V, Section A)

## ARTICLE III

### COACHES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

#### SECTION A – ELIGIBILITY: The following are prerequisites for adult participation in PYFL:

- A. Head Coach must be 21 years of age or older. They must attend a mandatory Head Coaches meeting annually at a time and location specified by the PYFL. Each Head Coach must be CPR & First Aid Certified, and a copy of their card must be on file with the PYFL.
- B. A 21-year-old or older head coach or assistant must be present at all practices and games.
- C. All personnel must register with their Chapter on the team registration and roster forms.
- D. Every board member, head coach, assistant coach and team parent is required to undergo and pay for a background check. They must have no conviction(s) of any crime, which would cause them to register under Section 290 of the California Penal Code. Failure to pass the background check according to PYFL guidelines will result in disqualification from serving in any role.
- E. They may be found ineligible by their Chapter or by the General Membership of PYFL for conviction of any crime. A petition for clearance can be presented to the Executive Board for review.
- F. The chapters will collect verifiable information necessary to check all coaches, 18 years and older with the Megan's Law files. (Provide valid driver license or utility bill if the license has the wrong address).
- G. Each Chapter is encouraged to conduct a Coaching and Conditioning Clinic at the start of each season.
- H. The Head Coach of each team in the Conference will be required to PASS a test on CIF rule book and PYFL rule book. The test will be made up of 30 questions. Coaches must pass with a score of 85% (26 or more correct answers) or better to be certified as a PYFL coach for the season.
- I. All Coaches must complete the USA Football Heads Up Football Coaches Certification.

#### SECTION B – RESPONSIBLE TEAM OFFICIAL.

- A. The Head Coach shall have complete responsibility for the conduct and activities of his team and shall be held accountable by his Chapter and the PYFL.
- B. All persons charged with the responsibility for a team must be familiar with the PYFL Rule Book and comply with the provisions set forth.
- C. The individuals responsible for a team shall ensure that coaching ethics, spectator control, and any other game control requirements are always adhered to.

#### SECTION C – COACHING ETHICS.

- A. All members of team staffs of PYFL shall adhere to the following coaching ethics:
- B. Will not criticize players in front of spectators, but reserve constructive criticism for private, or in the presence of the team.
- C. Will accept decisions of officials on the field as being fair and called to the best ability of the officials.
- D. Will not criticize the officials, the opposing team, the coaches, or fans, by word of mouth or gesture.
- E. Will emphasize that good athletes are diligent students, and both are physically and mentally alert.
- F. Will strive to make every football activity serve as a training ground for life, and as a basis for good mental and physical health.
- G. Will emphasize that winning a game is the result of TEAMWORK.
- H. Will not use abusive or profane language before anyone connected with the game.
- I. Will not be on the playing field under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs.
- J. Use of tobacco on the playing field is prohibited (this includes smokeless).
- K. Will always set an example in personal conduct.

## SECTION D – ACT OF DISBARMENT.

- A. A Coach, other adult acting in an official capacity, parent, or spectator may be barred from further participation in the PYFL by violation of any of the following acts:
- B. Paid Coach - by receiving any portion of his annual income for services as an Athletic Director or Coach in PYFL.
- C. By striking any Coach, official, spectator, or other participants in the PYFL.
- D. Any sufficient cause, such as un-sportsmanlike conduct or profane language, whether on the field or as a spectator.
- E. Any method that is injurious to the health of the player.
- F. Will not knowingly permit a player to re-enter a game once he is badly bruised or injured to such an extent that further play would jeopardize his health.
- G. He shall not permit a previously injured player to practice, scrimmage, or play in a game without a written release from the doctor.
- H. He will abide by the team doctor or physician's decision in all matters of injury.
- I. He will not permit an ineligible player to participate.
- J. He shall not indulge in un-sportsman like conduct.
- K. He must remain in compliance with coaching ethics.
- L. He must never attempt to discourage run-off or cut weaker players.
- M. Encouraging, celebrating, or rewarding the intentional injury of opponents through a bounty system where dangerous acts are compensated with money, merchandise or social media clout as currency.
- N. Knowingly misplacing a player in an incorrect division will result in immediate disqualification of the player and a one-game suspension for the head coach
- O. Any player, coach, parent, or team official who publicly bad-mouths or posts disparaging remarks about the PYFL or its Chapters on social media or other public platforms may be subject to disciplinary action including game suspensions and/or fines up to \$500
  - a. Social media” includes but is not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, X / Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, Online forums, blogs, or message boards, Group chats or messaging platforms (including text threads, WhatsApp, etc.) Both public and private posts may be subject to review if they impact the League or its participants.
  - b. The following conduct on social media is prohibited when it involves League participants, teams, officials, or operations: Harassment, bullying, or intimidation of players, coaches, referees, volunteers, or families. Posting threats, abusive language, or discriminatory remarks. Posting false or defamatory statements about League officials, chapters, or participants. Sharing confidential League information, disciplinary matters, or internal communications. Encouraging unsportsmanlike conduct or violence. Posting images or videos intended to embarrass, shame, or target a minor participant. Coordinating or promoting actions that undermine League operations or events.

- c. Chapters and team leadership are responsible for promoting respectful communication among parents and participants. Addressing minor disputes before they escalate publicly. Failure to cooperate may result in additional disciplinary measures.

## ARTICLE IV

### PLAYING FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT

#### SECTION A – FIELD SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

The fields shall have the following:

- A. All divisions will play on regulation field, 120 x 53-1/3 yards. Exceptions must be approved by the PYFL on a yearly basis.
- B. All fields will be properly marked to include yard markers. The use of CIF defined pylons at the end zones will not be required, although some equivalent, less expensive markers are to be used.
- C. The home team shall furnish a down marker with letters at least six inches high and a ten-yard chain.
- D. A visible clock, which is readable from both benches, is required for all games. If official time is kept on the field, a two (2) minute warning will be given in all four (4) quarters.
- E. The chain gang will operate from the home side of the field. No member of the coaching staff of either team that is playing may staff the chains or down markers. Whenever possible, adults will be used on all chain gangs.
- F. The home team should provide at least one qualified medical attendant. (see Article VII Section A,4)
- G. A first aid kit must be available at all games.

## SECTION B – OFFICIAL BALL.

The official ball shall be:

### 7u and 9u Divisions

- Size: 10" – 10 ¼"
- Long axis circumference: 24" – 24 ¼" Small axis circumference: 17 ½" – 18" Weight: 10-12 oz.
- Example: Rawlings AG4 9u

### 10u and 11u Divisions

- Size: Length 10 1/4" -10 1/2"
- Long axis circumference: 25" - 25 1/4" Small axis circumference: 18 1/4" -18 1/2" Weight: 12-13 oz.
- Example: Rawlings AG4 12U

### 12u and 14u Divisions

- Size: Length 10 1/2" -10 3/4"
- Long axis circumference: 26 1/4" - 26 3/4" Small axis circumference: 19" - 20 1/4" Weight: 13-15 oz.
- Example: Rawlings AG4 YOUTH

Official balls made of rubber or leather may be used interchangeably if previously agreed upon before the start of the game and the head official has been notified in advance of the start of the game.

If the provisions of subparagraph (a) through (b) above are used: each team is, then responsible for ensuring that a satisfactory ball is furnished. Since name brand balls may differ slightly in size, the opposing offense has the right to carry their own game ball onto the field. The officials should be notified in this event, and both balls should represent as close as possible, the descriptions above.

Balls are not required to have stripes of any specific kind or color.

## SECTION C – MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

All teams must be equipped during all practice contact sessions, scrimmages, and games with equipment meeting the minimum protective standards found to exist in the following equipment:

- A. **Helmet**---The helmet is the single most important piece of equipment a football player wears because it protects the nerve center of the entire head. The helmet shall be either one or two-piece construction of high-quality fiber or plastic-type material, head cushion or head suspension type. At a minimum, a double bar shall be attached to the helmet. The chinstrap will be standard equipment for all helmets. Helmets must be NOCSAE approved.
- B. **Shoulder Pads**---Shoulder pads shall be corrugated molded fiber or plastic material for sanitary reasons) and shall be padded with coated washable finish, have adjustable elastic underarm straps, and should be of a cantilever type.
- C. **Girdle and Hip Pads**---Hip and kidney pads shall be made of heavy padding to protect the kidneys, hips, and spine. They can be of vinyl coated material, with or without fiber inserts. Care must be taken to guard the exposed edge of the hipbone, the base of the spine, and the kidney area.
- D. **Thigh Guards**---Thigh guards shall be of a molded, corrugated fiber or plastic material.
- E. **Knee Pads**---Kneepads shall be constructed of a shock absorbing material and cover knee
- F. **Game Jerseys**---Game jerseys for all Divisions should consist of an all-cotton, rayon/cotton, or cotton/nylon material. Double shoulders and double elbows are optional. It is recommended that numbers be sewn on; however, air-dye or processed stenciling can be used if desired. It is recommended that 6-inch front numbers and 8-inch back numbers be used. No duplicate jersey numbers per team is allowed.
- G. **Pants**---Pants may be of either a shell or one-piece construction, natural or colored. One-piece pants must have removable pads. Knit material is recommended, with either tunnel belt loops or attached web belt. Thigh guard pockets should be cotton drill cloths, and for longer wear should be hanging from the waistband. Kneepad pockets should be sanitized drill cloth or similar material envelope style.
- H. **Footwear**---Footwear for all Divisions, screw in rubber molded cleat, bar cleated Little League baseball shoes, and tennis shoes are permissible. Steel, aluminum, or nylon with metal cap cleats, is not allowed. All footwear must be in good condition. All one-piece molded shoes are permissible.
- I. **Mouthpiece**---A mouthpiece approved by or prescribed by a licensed doctor or dentist must be always worn.
- J. **Supporter**---An athletic supporter of soft material must be worn at all practices, games, etc. No other device may be used unless approved by a licensed doctor and stated in writing.
- K. **Athletic Cups**--- The requirement for players to wear protective cups will be at the discretion of each chapter. Chapters may establish internal rules on mandatory cup use based on safety standards and age group

## ARTICLE V

### CONDITIONING AND PRACTICES

#### SECTION A – CONDITION AND PRACTICES.

- A. Organized team activity may occur year-round, without full football equipment, as described in item “F” below.
- B. Conditioning or practice sessions shall not exceed two (2) hours in any one day.
- C. Until Week 1 (Game 1), there shall be no more than six (6) practice sessions per week.
- D. After Week 1 (Game 1), practice sessions may be up to four (4) practice sessions per week..
- E. There shall be no physical contact except for calisthenics and isometrics for the first ten (10) hours of practice. No man-on-man contact until after 20 hours of practice.
- F. Full football equipment, Helmet, Shoulder Pads, 7-piece pad set, can be worn starting the second 10 hours of official practice, and used for dummy contact only. There shall be no man-on-man contact until after 20 hours of practice.
- G. Helmets can be worn starting on the third official PYFL day of practice.
- H. Practices occurring twenty-four (24) hours or less before a scheduled game will be conducted without physical contact.

#### SECTION B – AB1 FOOTBALL LAW

- A. No team or chapter will conduct more than two full-contact practices per week.
- B. The full-contact portion of practice will not exceed 30 minutes in any single day.
- C. At least one independent, non-rostered individual, appointed or approved by the hosting PYFL chapter, shall be present at all practice locations. This individual must hold current and active certification in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED) use, and concussion protocols. They shall have the authority to evaluate and remove any youth tackle football participant from practice who exhibits signs of injury, including but not limited to symptoms of a concussion or other head injury.
- D. Each participant removed from practice due to a head injury will be reported to the PYFL Executive Board.

## ARTICLE VI

### SCHEDULING OF SEASON AND POST SEASON GAMES

SECTION A – SCHEDULING. The PYFL shall establish schedules subject to the following limitations:

- A. PYFL will set the starting and ending dates of all seasonal play. No team will play before or after these dates unless special permission is granted by the PYFL.
- B. All teams are limited to a season of (13) games, including quarter and semi-final games, or post-season games.
- C. PYFL Final Championship Games are excluded from the above rules.
- D. A period of at least seventy-two (72) hours must elapse from the conclusion of one game prior to the playing of another game by the same team, except as waived by PYFL for play-off game conflicts.
- E. All games shall begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m.
- F. Divisions may be separated into East & West. If this occurs, all teams from the same chapter will play together in the East or West.

## SECTION B – NON-FRANCHISED TEAMS.

- A. Teams shall not practice, scrimmage, play, or otherwise compete against a non-franchised team, unless permission is granted by the PYFL Athletic Director.
- B. A non-franchised team shall be defined, as any team that is not a member of a Chapter franchised by the PYFL.

## SECTION C – SCRIMMAGES.

- A. “Controlled” scrimmages can be scheduled, but such scrimmages shall not exceed five (5) pre-season scrimmages prior to the first regular scheduled game). No scrimmages shall take place prior to the Saturday at the end of the third week of practice.
- B. Under no circumstances may a team play or scrimmage a team, which is not in the same age classification. This includes practices and/or scrimmages with High School teams.
- C. NOTE: Two teams in the same Chapter and Division can co-practice and scrimmage together throughout the season.
- D. Scrimmage constitutes a practice session and shall not exceed 30 minutes of actual playing time in length.
- E. All scrimmages shall be “controlled.”
- F. Participation in a Jamboree constitutes one scrimmage.

## ARTICLE VII GAME REGULATIONS

SECTION A – HOME TEAM REQUIREMENTS. All member Chapters must provide/arrange for the following:

- A. An official set of PYFL Rules and Bylaws must be available at the playing field.
- B. Each Chapter will provide benches for the visiting teams.
- C. Each Chapter will provide a Game Field Commissioner for all home games.
- D. A member of the opposing team may observe the auditing process along side of the auditor.
- E. Audit must include both teams. All players will be checked for the minimum number of action plays per game.
- F. Both auditors are introduced to head coaches before the start of the game. The audit will be conducted from each team's bench area or immediately behind the bench. No official audits can be accepted from the press box or top of grandstand locations. Each coach should come to understand that the Auditor is on the sideline to assist the Team Monitor in his duties, and not to interfere. The team coach or manager may check with the PYFL Auditor throughout the game to ensure his team chart agrees with the Auditor's chart. The Auditor is on the sideline to allow immediate assistance when asked and will not bother coaching staff unless there appears to be a problem. Audit sheets will be a three-part form. The third copy is to be exchanged with the opponent before the game. The second copy is for the team to keep. The original is to be given to the game commissioner.
- G. At the conclusion of the game, the white audit sheets will be collected by the home team and given to the chapter rep with the rest of the weekly sheets for that month and be hand delivered to the PYFL Vice- President at its next monthly PYFL general meeting.
- H. A minimum of one state-licensed emergency medical technician, paramedic, or higher-level licensed medical professional shall be present during all preseason, regular season, and postseason games. The emergency medical technician, paramedic, or higher-level licensed medical professional shall have the authority to evaluate and remove any youth tackle football participant from the game who exhibits an injury, including, but not necessarily limited to, symptoms of a concussion or other head injury. Failure to provide a certified EMT at any home game will result in a \$500 fine and possible forfeiture of the game
- I. Each home site may choose to have a defibrillator available for the medical team at all games, however it is not required.

NOTE: In the event of any dispute, most weight will automatically be given to the testimony of the official auditors.

COMMENT. Everyone should recognize that participation audits are not conducted to provide a basis for Game Protests. Instead, they are conducted to ensure that no player is forgotten, needlessly embarrassed, or deprived of his legitimate right to participate. By the time a Protest gets filed, the young person's feelings have already been abused. However, we must also recognize that the only legitimate way we can guard against unscrupulous or opportunistic abuse of this rule is to enforce it! Strict adherence to the above procedures by all Chapters will go a long way towards helping us achieve our real goals. Coaches that do not support PYFL policies of player participation are not wanted in this conference!

The Head Coach of the home team is responsible to contact the Head Coach of the visiting team before Wednesday night during the week of the game to discuss the following: game time, game location, parking location, parking rules, jersey color and provide a map of restrooms, warm up areas, concessions (if applicable) , restrooms, parking, etc.

If the two teams have the same jersey color, it is the responsibility of the home team to have a contrasting jersey available. If the visiting team has not heard from the home team Head Coach, they should attempt to contact the home team.

NOTE: The higher seed going into post-season games for their division will elect jersey color.

Final decision on conflicting colors will rest with the game officials.

## SECTION B – PLAYING RULES.

- A. No unauthorized personnel are allowed on the field during the game. Game officials will clear the field before the game is resumed. The only exceptions are the 7u, 9u and 10u divisions.
- B. Sideline Personnel Limit and Credential Requirement:
  - i. To maintain proper game management and player safety, each team shall be limited to no more than ten (10) authorized adult sideline representatives during any game. Authorized sideline representatives include coaches, team staff, and other approved team personnel.
  - ii. All sideline representatives must wear a visible PYFL-issued badge at all times while on the sideline. This includes coaches' badges and sideline access badges issued by the league or organization.
- C. Individuals who do not display the required credentials will not be permitted on the sideline and must remain in the spectator area.
- D. Teams are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. Failure to comply may result in the removal of unauthorized individuals from the sideline and potential disciplinary action as determined by the league.
- E. Two coaches from each team are allowed on the field during each 7u game. One coach from each team is allowed on the field during each 9u game. One coach from each team is allowed

on the field during the first four (4) scheduled 10u games. In 10u, if one team has had a bye both sets of coaches are allowed on the field on the fifth week.

- F. After the fourth scheduled 10u game, coaches are not allowed on the playing field, exception being if the 30- point rule is in effect, then the coaches are allowed to re-enter the playing field under the same rules as Section I (a) through (e).
- G. Coaches can call offensive or defensive signals in the huddle but must stay back, out of the way, after the huddle breaks. As soon as the quarterback is in position to receive the snap, the defensive coaches on the field must be at least twenty-five (25) yards away from the ball and cannot communicate with their players again until the play is over. The offensive coaches on the field must be at least fifteen (15) yards away from the ball and cannot communicate with their players until the play is over. A first warning to the coach will be given to comply with the rule, then the second infraction results in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against the coach for non-compliance of the rule.
- H. Coach cannot speak while ball is in play (Referee may assess major penalty see rule "C" above).
- I. Participation is strictly optional; but Coach changes can only be made during time outs or with changes in possession.
- J. In all divisions but 14u division, if the offense lines up in a formation where the player receiving the ball is not directly under the snapper, there cannot be a defensive player on the line of scrimmage that is directly over (in front of) the snapper. The defensive player on the line of scrimmage must line up to either side of the snapper (shaded or in a gap).
- K. There can be defensive players on the line of scrimmage on both sides of the snapper (both gaps).
- L. A blitzing defensive player cannot be directly over the snapper. Any defensive player must be at least two (2) yards off the ball/line of scrimmage, if lined up directly over (in front of) the snapper.
- M. If the offense initially lines up in a formation where the player receiving the ball is directly under the snapper (under center) and then moves or shifts to a formation where the player receiving the ball is not directly under the snapper, the defense does not have to change their alignment, if there were defensive players lined up directly over the snapper before the offensive move/shift.
- N. A first warning to the coach will be given to comply with the rule, then the second infraction results in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against the coach for non-compliance of the rule.
- O. During charged time-outs, a Coach may join his team's huddle on the field, or the team's players and the team's. Coaches may converse with each other; ten (10) feet inside the field from the sideline (see CIF Rule Book).
- P. No member of the Coaching staff is allowed on the playing field unless a player is injured or they have permission from the officials. If both teams are on one side of the field, the allowed space is from mid-field to the twenty nearest a team's bench. If teams are on opposite sides of the field, the restraining area shall be between the twenty-five-yard lines.
- Q. Game Official's Assistants (Chain Gang) will be positioned on the home sidelines.

- R. Penalties in 7u,9u,10u will be five (5) yards for all infractions, with Unsportsmanlike penalties resulting in ten (10) yards. All penalties in 11us, 12u and 14u Divisions will be per CIF rules. Teams will play 10-yard first downs.
- S. Non-chargeable time-outs will be injury of a player, repair of equipment, and official's time-out. An injured player for whom the clock is stopped, or for whom the ready-for-play signal is delayed, shall be replaced for at least one play. His team shall not be charged with a time-out.
- T. The official will not charge a time-out to a team when the captain calls a time-out and there is cause for the official to have an official's time-out by reason of an injury, etc. He will inform the captain in this case that he was already calling a time-out, which is not chargeable, and that the team's request will not be honored unless the team captain desired to have the additional time-out taken and charged.
- U. Coaches will be informed by the official closest to them of the player's number and the rules infraction for which a penalty is imposed.
- V. Each team will be permitted to have a maximum of ten (10) related personnel on the field. This can include up to seven coaches (head and assistants), trainer, statistician, and team parent. Auditors (2) and water and ball persons (2 each max) under the age of 14 are not counted against this total.
- W. All sideline representatives must wear a visible always PYFL-issued badge while on the sideline. This includes coaches' badges and sideline access badges issued by the league or organization.
- X. The playing time shall be as follows: All division games will consist of four (4), twelve (12) minute quarters.
- Y. (15) minutes maximum will be allowed between halves, including a compulsory three (3) minute warm-up.
- Z. Five (5) minutes prior to the start of the third quarter, the officials shall give each team a warning to ensure that the coaches shall have sufficient time for a proper MANDATORY warm-up period for team members prior to start of play.
- AA. The official rule book for conducting all games shall be the "National Federation of State High School Associations Rule Book", used by the CIF, and more commonly known as CIF Rules. This shall be superseded only by written rules of the PYFL, which are in direct conflict with it. In these cases, PYFL Rules shall take precedence.

NOTE: PYFL rules prohibit the use of sideline placards to communicate with players on the field.

Conversion Scoring. A team will receive: Two (2) points for running or passing and, one (1) point for kicking from the three-yard line [If no goal post is available, kicking is disallowed.] 7u, Pee Wee and 10us may have free PAT kicks after touchdowns. Players can waive arms

but cannot rush the kick. Snap must be at least five (5) yards. If a snap is mishandled, or touches the ground, the play is dead. A converted kick results in one (1) point.

7u, 9u, and 10u Division teams, upon notification to the referees, may elect to free kick. If a free kick is elected, a minimum of seven (7) players both offensive and defensive must stay on the line of scrimmage and there will be no movement until the ball is kicked. Ball must be kicked within 25 seconds. Clock is running. Free kick is for Punting only. Punter must stay directly behind the center.

In the event of a tie, a winner will be determined per the California Tie Breaker Rule. The 7u, 9u, and 10u Divisions will play from the ten (10)-yard line. The 11u, 12u, and 14u Divisions will play from the twenty (20)-yard line, with the opportunity to make a first down. During regular season play, if a tie is not broken after two (2) complete overtime series have been completed, then the game will be recorded as a tie. During the playoffs and championship games, the tie breaker will continue until there is a winner.

#### Mandatory Play Rules

- A. During the regular season, the minimum amount of action plays per game for each eligible player shall be determined by the number of players on that team's official GAME DAY roster
  - a. 22 or less players – Twelve (12) action plays per player
  - b. 23 to 26 players- Ten (10) action plays per player
  - c. 27 or more players – Eight (8) action plays per player
- B. During the postseason, all eligible players will play a minimum of eight (8) action plays per game across all divisions.
- C. All Divisions. Each player shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in each game consistent with his abilities and the strategy of the game.
- D. An "Action Play" is defined as any play in which the ball is legally in play as defined by Rule 4, Section 1 of the CIF Rules. Spiking the ball or taking a knee repeatedly to get players their plays will not count toward the minimum play rule and may result in disciplinary action against the Head Coach.
- E. "Regular Scheduled Game" is any game scheduled by the PYFL officials. This includes, but is not limited to, playoffs.
- F. Free PAT in 7u, 9u, and 10u divisions. Only the center, holder, and kicker shall have that play counted toward their mandatory plays.
- G. Will not "pile it on", as the phrase is used, when a team gets a commanding lead and desires to raise the score as high as it can. Following the scoring of the 30th point over the opposition, the game clock will be a continuous running clock (if it is the 2nd half of the game) with timeouts, injury timeouts, and official's timeouts being the only exceptions. If the scoring of

the 30th point over the opposition occurs during the 1st half of the game, normal clock management will apply for the remainder of the half. The coach with the commanding lead should try to remove dominant offensive and defensive players. Once the running clock is declared, it will remain a running clock even if the winning team's lead becomes less than 30 points. Players will not be subjected to the mandatory play rule. However, coaches should still attempt to make sure all players meet the required minimum plays. "Pile it on" shall be defined to include, but not be limited to, the following: attempting to run up the score by passing, running gimmick plays, (if you are ahead by that much, you should be running plays between the tackles by non-impact players) or any other methods trying to embarrass the other team. Blitzing on defense. Intentionally kicking onside after you score. Opposing teams will continue to play their regular defense and not stack the box to defend against the leading team running between the tackles. Failure to do so will allow the leading team to run plays outside the tackles or pass.

#### League Standings and Playoff Seeding.

The following is the official method for determining the first and second place teams of the PYFL's geographical region conference of each division only in the event of a tie. The first criterion is the only basis for determining conference standings.

Conference champions are automatically the top seeds in their division. Overall record dictates the seed of the champions.

- A. (#1) Win/Loss record of games played within their own conference.
- B. If tied (#2) Win/Loss records of games head-to-head of tied teams within their own conference. If tied (#3) Strength of schedule, based on opponents won-loss record.
- C. If tied (#4) Drawing from the hat.
- D. After the conference champions, the remainder of the playoffs will be determined by the following criteria: (#1) Win/Loss record.
- E. If tied (#2) Win/Loss records of games head-to-head of tied teams.
- F. If tied (#3) Strength of schedule, based on opponents won-loss record. If tied (#4) Drawing from the hat.

## SECTION C – SCOUTING RULES.

- A. Films and videotapes may be taken of games.
- B. Films or videotapes can be made available to other teams.
- C. There will be no scouting/video taping of practices, scrimmages, or jamborees.

## SECTION D – SPOTTING RULES.

- A. Spotting (passing information from stands to bench during game) may only be done between the twenty-five (25) yard lines.
- B. Statisticians shall not engage in spotting or any form of coaching during a game.
- C. Wireless headsets and cell phones may be used for coach-to-coach communication only. Use of real-time video review, AI-driven analytics, or remote spotting technologies during live gameplay is prohibited.

## ARTICLE VIII

### RULES AND VIOLATIONS

#### SECTION A – CHAPTER AUTHORITY.

- A. Without limiting any other penalties that might expressly be set forth elsewhere in these Rules and By-Laws, a violation of rules contained within this rulebook shall be managed by the individual Chapter first.
- B. The PYFL has the right to increase the penalty imposed by the Chapter.

#### SECTION B – APPEALS.

- A. A team or individual may appeal a Chapter's decision to the PYFL.
- B. An appeal must specify the articles and sections of the PYFL Rule Book.

#### SECTION C – PYFL AUTHORITY.

Nothing contained herein prohibits the PYFL from acting on a violation without any Chapter formally presenting it, if the PYFL General Assembly and/or Athletic Director decide this action to be in the best interest of the players and the League.

All rulings, determinations, and disciplinary actions issued by the Pacific Youth Football League (PYFL), its Executive Board, or its designated league officials shall be final and

binding upon all Chapters, teams, coaches, players, parents, volunteers, and affiliated individuals.

By participating in the PYFL in any capacity, all parties acknowledge and agree to abide by the authority of the league and its governing body. No decision rendered by the PYFL regarding rules interpretations, disciplinary matters, eligibility determinations, game outcomes, or administrative actions shall be subject to appeal, reconsideration, or external review.

Failure to comply with or attempts to circumvent a PYFL decision may result in additional disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension, forfeiture, fines, or removal from league participation.!

## SECTION D – PENALTIES.

- A. A violation of any rule or rules contained herein may subject a Chapter, team, or individuals to any one or all the following penalties: said penalties are to be levied by the PYFL General Assembly.
- Player Ejection = one (1) game suspension + \$250 chapter fine
  - Coach/Parent Ejection = two (2) game suspension + \$500 chapter fine
  - Coach/Parent Fight = one (1) year suspension + \$1000 chapter fine
  - Illegal Player = player and head coach disqualified for rest of season, team forfeits all games prior to official penalty date, \$1500 chapter fine
  - Forfeiting a Game = head coach receives one (1) game suspension + \$500 chapter fine + all teams within the chapter must forfeit their games that day.
  - No Certified roster on game day = head coach receives one (1) game suspension, team automatically forfeits the game (game is not played), \$200 chapter fine.
  - Guaranteed play rule violation = head coach suspended one (1) game + \$200 chapter fine.
  - Using smaller ball than what is specified for division = team automatically forfeits the game + \$200 chapter fine
  - No field commissioner = \$250 chapter fine
  - No Sideline medic = \$500 chapter fine
  - Wearing full equipment prior to allowable date = head coach suspended two (2) games + \$500 chapter fine
- B. All fines and fees must be paid prior to the playoff meeting or the chapter teams become ineligible for playoffs. (amendment on 10/1/2026)
- C. A \$200 challenge deposit and game film must be submitted when filing a Mandatory Play Rule complaint. The deposit will be fully refunded if the violation is confirmed after review. The deadline to file the challenge is within 24 hours of the game. The challenge can be submitted only by the head coach or chapter representative.
- D. Any player's relative found guilty of any of the aforementioned Acts of Disbarment, (See Article III Section D) shall result in the Chapter suspending the participating player for a minimum of one week from all PYFL functions. A second infraction shall require that the Chapter suspend the child for the balance of the playing season.
- E. In addition to any other provisions providing for forfeiture penalty under these rules, a game may also be forfeited for the following reasons:
- F. Coaches exhibiting un-sportsmanlike conduct toward any game official, player, director, or opposing Coach or player
- G. Parents and/or followers of a team using un-sportsmanlike conduct toward any official, player, Coach, director, or opposing Coach or player.

NOTE: Before the game is forfeited for the foregoing sportsmanship issues, one warning will be given by a director or game official to comply with PYFL Rules

## ARTICLE IX GAME RULES

### SECTION A – GAME OFFICIALS.

- A. The minimum number of officials to be assigned per game in each division will be 7u, 9u, 10u - 3 officials. 11u, 12u, 14u - 4 officials. If no officials show up, the Game Field Commissioner, after a 30–45-minute attempt to get officials for the game, will be responsible for arranging stand in officials. If the head coaches agree to this, the game will stand as played and there will be no protest of the officiating.
- B. The Game Field Commissioner will report the ejection of any Coach or team official to the PYFL Athletic Director in writing, within 24 hours of the incident.
- C. CIF game officials will do their best to inform the appropriate team's coach of the number of the player who commits any infraction.
- D. Game officials are paid in cash, prior to the start of each game, by the home team the amount which is agreed upon by the PYFL and the official's association prior to the season. Failure to pay will result in a forfeit. Official assigner fee will be paid to the PYFL separately.

### SECTION B – PROTESTS.

- A. Protests on matters involving judgment as rendered by an official will not be considered.
- B. Protests of pre-game violations must be registered with the game officials, the Game Field Commissioner, the opponent's Chapter President or his designated official prior to the kick-off.
- C. Protests must specify the articles and section of this and/or the CIF rule book.
- D. The use of video playback, instant replay, electronic review systems, or any other recorded or digital media for the purpose of reviewing, altering, challenging, or overturning officiating decisions is strictly prohibited. All judgments, rulings, and determinations made by game officials during live competition shall be considered final and binding. No game result, scoring play, penalty, clock management decision, or other in-game ruling will be overturned.

### SECTION C – FORFEITS.

If a team must voluntarily forfeit a game, no less than 72 hours (Wednesday night) advance notice must be given by the forfeiting Chapter to the President of the League and the Athletic Director. If less than 72 hours' notice is given, the forfeiting Chapter will be responsible for paying any incurred Officials Fees and a \$100 fine. Forfeit will stand unless there were extenuating circumstances and the Athletic Director can reschedule the game. The Athletic Director's decision is FINAL.



## ARTICLE X

### PYFL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SECTION A – LOCATION. All games must happen in a regulation high school, college, municipal stadium, or other approved facility. The General Assembly President shall inspect and approve locations. The PYFL's Super Bowl Championship Tournament and Jim Thornton Sr. Memorial Invitational Tournament structure will be established at the annual scheduling meeting and will be based upon the number of teams in each division. Whenever the schedule permits, and there are sufficient teams within a division to warrant it (i.e., 26 or more), a 16-team play-off with a 4-game playoff structure may be held. The decision on the set-up and format of the playoff schedule will be made at the scheduling meeting.

SECTION B – GAME DAY CERTIFICATION. The Game Field Commissioner and the Head Coaches will verify each playoff certified roster, the 12-play audit sheet for the game and the certification book with player's pictures before each playoff game.

SECTION C – OFFICIALS. CIF certified officials for the PYFL Super Bowl Championship games per division are as follows: 7u and 9u three (3), 10u and 11u four (4), 12u and 14u five (5). For the Jim Thornton Sr. Memorial Championship Games, 7u, 9u, and 10u divisions three (3). 11u, 12u, 14u divisions four (4). These officials shall be approved by the PYFL Athletic Director. The PYFL will pay for the officials' fees.

SECTION D – SEMI-FINAL GAMES. Shall take place at an individual location. The #1 seed of the 14u division shall host the semi-final games for the 14u, 11u and 9u Divisions. The #1 seed in the 12u division shall host the semi-final games for the 12us, 10us, and 7u divisions. If the #1 seed in either division cannot host the semi-final games, the next highest seed shall be given the opportunity to host. For each game, host chapters/sites will be responsible for providing a clock/scoreboard operator, game field commissioner, and one (1) state-licensed emergency medical technician, paramedic, or higher-level licensed medical professional. Game official fees will be paid by the PYFL. Failure to pay will result in a forfeit.

## SECTION E – SUPER BOWL HOST RULES & REQUIREMENTS.

- A. The Host chapter must have an alternate plan in the event of any of the following:
- B. Field condition is a safety hazard.
- C. Field becomes unavailable that day. (CIF playoffs or other school events)
- D. First game of the day will start no later than 10:00 AM.
- E. The decorations at the stadium should be PYFL colors.
- F. Clothing, hats, and other souvenirs should prominently display the PYFL colors & logo, not the host chapter.
- G. There should be adequate space for warm-ups for teams playing in the next game.
- H. A visible scoreboard and lights must be present.
- I. Adequate restrooms must be available. Locker rooms are not required but are preferred.
- J. Information for the Super Bowl program should be obtained once the semi-finals are set. The PYFL will provide a page, which will have the history of the PYFL super bowls. Front covers may not have corporate sponsorship.
- K. The PYFL will pay for the officials' and EMT fees

## ARTICLE XI

### PYFL ALL-STAR GAME

#### SECTION A – ALL-STAR GAME

- A. The President will appoint the All-Star Committee. The committee will consist of five (5) people, two (2) from the East, two (2) from the West and one (1) Chairperson, along with any Executive Board Member who wishes to participate.
  - a. The All-Star Committee will coordinate:
  - b. Coaching Staff Selection
  - c. Player Selection Process
  - d. Team Composition
  - e. Practices
  - f. Game Rules
  - g. Equipment & Cost
  - h. Press Release
- B. The All-Star Committee will submit its final selection of players & coaches along with the rest of the preparations for the game to the Executive Board for approval.

#### SECTION B – OFFICIALS

For the PYFL ALL-STAR games the following divisions: 10u, 11u, 12u & 14u shall have four (4) CIF Certified Officials. These officials shall be approved by the PYFL Athletic Director. The PYFL will pay for the officials' fees.

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### ARTICLE I

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### SECTION A – MEMBERSHIP.

- A. The PYFL consists of voting members and associate Chapters. To be a voting member, a prospective Chapter must field a minimum of two (2) teams and have their membership application approved by a two-thirds (2/3) -majority vote of the General Assembly. Each Chapter is a separate, independent entity with responsibility for managing their own internal affairs. The only stipulation is that they must agree to abide by all PYFL rules and the decisions of the General Assembly. (See Rules, Article I Section D)
- B. All associate chapters upon acceptance of the general assembly will be on a probationary status for at least the first year. Full member status will be voted on at the January meeting following the probationary season.
- C. Prospective chapters must present their application proposal no later than the February general assembly meeting.
- D. All new chapters must pay a non-refundable \$500.00 fee once accepted to the PYFL within 30 days of joining. Failure to pay the fee will result in dismissal from the PYFL for 12 months.

##### SECTION B – MEMBERSHIP SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL

- A. Any member of the PYFL, and any player, adult, city Chapter, or Board Member is subject to suspension or dismissal from the program by the General Assembly if, in its opinion, their failure to comply with the By-laws or Rules of the PYFL is detrimental to the program and the PYFL.
- B. Evidence of misconduct or failure to comply with the bylaws or Rules shall be presented in writing to the Athletic Director of the PYFL and will outline, in detail, the charge being preferred. At the next regular meeting, or a special meeting if deemed necessary, the complaint will be heard by the General Assembly and a decision will be handed down.
- C. Suspension or dismissal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly, with a quorum of members being present.

##### SECTION C – FISCAL YEAR.

The PYFL will operate on a fiscal year beginning February 01 and ending January 31. This will apply both to financial matters and officer positions.

## ARTICLE II GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## SECTION A – MEMBERSHIP.

The Presidents and vice-presidents from the voting member Chapters of the PYFL will form the General Assembly with each Chapter having two (2) votes. The Presidents and vice-presidents will be considered the primary representatives from their Chapters; two (2) alternates may be named. Associate Chapter representatives will attend and participate in General Assembly proceedings, but they cannot vote.

## SECTION B – THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE PYFL.

- A. The executive board of the PYFL will consist of the following members:
- President.
  - Vice President
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Athletic Director
  - Insurance Commissioner
  - Division Directors (up to six) Member-at-large
- B. Election of the executive board will be held at the first general membership meeting of the calendar year. The term of office of the executive board will run from February 1 to the following January 31st. Each position will be voted upon individually and requires a simple majority of the voting members present to elect a person to the executive board. Term limits are established as follows:
- President - no more than three consecutive years.
  - Vice president - no more than three consecutive years.
  - Treasurer - no more than three consecutive years.
  - Secretary - no more than three consecutive years.
  - Athletic Director - no more than three consecutive years.
  - Member-at-large - no time limitation.
  - Insurance Commissioner – no more than three consecutive years.
- C. At the last general membership meeting of the calendar year, the Secretary of the executive board will recommend to the membership, the names of chapter representatives to serve on the executive board nominating committee. The nominating committee will consist of five people.
- D. The role of the nominating committee is to solicit applications for election to the executive board from the general membership.
- E. The nominating committee will compile a complete list of all applicants and will forward the list to the chapter representatives at least two weeks prior to the first general membership meeting of the calendar year.

Each executive board member, other than the President, has certain duties and functional responsibilities. Each is responsible for appointing an executive staff to assist them in the conduct of their duties. In addition to the traditional duties of these positions, their functional responsibilities are as follows:

- A. Vice President manages the certification process and the Semi-Annual Rules Committee.
- B. Secretary manages the board member nomination process.
- C. Member-at-large manages the officiating process and new chapter membership process.
- D. If a chapter falls below two certified teams, the following season chapter will become an associate chapter and lose all voting rights.
- E. Once chapter increases to above two certified teams, they will regain all voting and chapter rights.

## ARTICLE III OFFICER'S DUTIES

### SECTION A: ROLES

- A. PYFL President: will preside over all General Assembly meetings and will appoint all committees; will administer the by-laws and rules of the PYFL as set forth; will be given certain discretionary powers to permit carrying out the policies of the General Assembly expeditiously; will be an ex-official member of all committees and will report directly to the General Assembly. The President will preside over all meetings of the PYFL as needed. This office is for one (1) year beginning February 01 and shall be held for no more than three (3) consecutive years.
- B. Vice President: In the President's absence, the Vice President will appoint a Certification Committee(s) and manage the certification process of all players involved in the PYFL as outlined in Article II, Section B, Number 5, Certification Process. The Vice President will appoint a Rules Committee for the Semi-Annual Rules Meeting. This office is for one (1) year beginning 01 February and shall be held no more than three (3) consecutive years.
- C. Treasurer: shall maintain a petty cash fund. The petty cash fund will be maintained to cover miscellaneous expenses and a record kept and submitted monthly to the Executive Board; will report to the General Assembly, as necessary. He will be responsible for the collection/disbursements of officiating funds. This office is for one (1) year beginning February 01 and shall be held no more than three (3) consecutive years.
- D. Secretary: will assist the General Assembly President in the recording of minutes and any other matters pertaining to the distribution of all information to the Executive Board and the General Assembly. The Secretary will oversee the typing, clerical, and general correspondence duties associated with PYFL administration. The Secretary will distribute minutes of meetings in written form to the member chapters no later than two (2) weeks after the meetings and will conduct the correspondence and keep records and files of same. At the last General Assembly meeting of the calendar year, the Secretary of the Executive Board will recommend to the membership the names of chapter representatives to serve on the

Executive Board Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will consist of five (5) people. The role of the Nominating Committee is to solicit applications for election to the Executive Board for the general membership. The Nominating Committee will compile a complete list of all applicants and will forward the list to the chapter representatives at least two (2) weeks prior to the first General Assembly meeting of the calendar year. This office is for one (1) year beginning February 01 and shall be held no more than three (3) consecutive years.

- E. Member-at-large(s): He will review and investigate all applications of new chapter memberships and report findings to the General Assembly. Executive Board members can assign duties to the Members at Large to assist in the operation of the PYFL. This office is for one (1) year beginning February 01 and has no term limitations.
- F. Executive Staff: Each Executive Board Member other than the President has certain duties and functional responsibilities. Each Executive Board Member has the option to appoint an Executive Staff Assistant to assist them in the conduct of their duties. The Athletic Director is the only standing member of the Executive Staff.
- G. Athletic Director: will conduct drawings for League structure; will schedule regular, post-season, and playoff games; will post and distribute scores of games and standings upon notification from Chapter Presidents; and will manage the protest process as outlined by Article VII, "Protest". The Athletic Director will serve as the chief advisor to the General Assembly on all officiating issues. He will personally approve all officials scheduled to officiate PYFL championship games. He will receive and review all complaints and protests pertaining to officiating throughout the League. He will serve as liaison between various Official Associations and the PYFL. The Athletic Director is elected to this position at the first General Assembly meeting of the calendar year. This office is for one (1) year beginning February 01 and shall be held no more than three (3) consecutive years.
- H. Division Directors: The primary duty of the Division Director is to investigate grievances using the procedures in the bylaws, reporting all findings to the PYFL Athletic Director. They shall attend the annual PYFL Coaches Clinic. They shall distribute a copy of the PYFL by-laws to each head coach. They shall assist the PYFL A.D. evaluate the teams in their division prior to the schedule being made. They shall assist the PYFL A.D. with the game schedule. They may not have a relative in the division they are directing. They will be appointed by the PYFL Executive Board no later than the June General Assembly Board Meeting.
- I. Insurance Commissioner: will be responsible for managing the insurance program. Duties include arrange for the delivery of the insurance certificates, arranging a date for the insurance company to come to a PYFL meeting to discuss our policy, working with the chapters when claim forms are needed.
- J. Game Field Commissioners: During the season, it will be the responsibility of each Chapter to appoint a Game Field Commissioner for their field that is familiar with the PYFL rules and regulations. That Commissioner will be the PYFL host at that field for that day, and the point of contact for all visiting teams. It is imperative that these Commissioners feel as keen a responsibility for the needs of the visiting teams, as they undoubtedly feel for their own home teams! The integrity of the League demands it, and each visiting team has a right to expect it

- K. Commissioner responsibilities will include but not be limited to pre-game briefings of officials; PYFL rule interpretations; certification issues; participation audits; crowd control; protest reports; etc.

Note: Game field commissioners should remain outside the coach's box unless needed. Although Game Field Commissioners are appointed by their individual Chapters, they become ipso facto members of the Executive Staff and are responsible for their actions to Athletic Director and the PYFL President.

Whenever possible, Game Field Commissioners should also be members of the General Assembly

## SECTION B REMOVAL

- A. The Executive Board retains the authority to remove any Executive Board Member or League Officer whose actions are determined to be detrimental to the mission, integrity, operations, or reputation of the League.

Removal proceedings may be initiated for, but are not limited to, the following reasons:

- i. Violation of League Bylaws, Rules, or Policies
  - ii. Conflict of Interest or unethical conduct
  - iii. Failure to perform assigned duties
  - iv. Conduct detrimental to the League or its participants
  - v. Financial mismanagement or misuse of League resources
  - vi. Repeated failure to attend required meetings or fulfill responsibilities
- B. All decisions regarding the removal of an Executive Board Member by the Executive Board are final and binding.
- C. Removal proceedings may be initiated by:
  - i. A majority vote of the Executive Board, or
  - ii. A written petition submitted by at least three (3) Executive Board Members.
- D. The petition must outline the alleged violations or conduct forming the basis for the removal request.
- E. The Executive Board Member subject to removal shall receive written notice of the allegations at least seven (7) days prior to any hearing or vote. The member shall be provided an opportunity to address the Board, present evidence or explanation, and respond to the allegations prior to the vote. Failure of the member to attend the hearing does not prevent the Board from proceeding with the removal vote.

- F. Removal of an Executive Board Member requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full Executive Board, excluding the member being removed. Voting shall occur during a properly called Board meeting.
- G. If removal is approved: The position shall be declared vacant immediately. The Executive Board may appoint an interim replacement until the next scheduled election or appointment process as defined in these bylaws.

## ARTICLE IV

### MEETINGS AND VOTING

Meetings of the entire General Assembly will be held monthly. They will include:

- Membership/Elections Meeting
  - Rules and Bylaws Changes Meeting
  - Schedule Meeting
  - Special meetings as required.
- A. Each chapter has two votes. Each chapter will maintain two primary and two alternate representatives. Two members must be present at a meeting to receive two votes. Associate chapters will not have a vote in general membership meetings.
  - B. The executive board does not vote on issues other than as representatives of their respective chapters, except on matters of protest.
  - C. All meetings will be conducted by "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised", and in strict compliance with PYFL Rules and By-laws. All business to be conducted by a simple majority vote except as defined herein. It is well understood that all protests will be managed by the PYFL Athletic Director, and that combined meetings of the entire General Assembly will be required to conduct elections, grant waivers, or change Rules. Otherwise, the decisions reached at meetings are binding on all Chapters, teams, and individuals residing in that area.
  - D. If a decision requiring the vote of the general assembly at a meeting in which the affected chapter is not present the executive board will try to contact a representative of said chapter during the meeting.
  - E. These meetings will be used to conduct the normal routine business for that region. Such meetings will be used to promote communications between Chapters, resolve differences, address apparent Rule infractions, arbitrate disputes, etc.
  - F. Special meetings may be called by the President of the General Assembly.
  - G. In the case of special meetings, those concerned shall be notified no less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance by telephone or in writing as to the date, time, place, and purpose.

NOTE: 48-hour rule is waived if a simple majority of the General Assembly requests a special meeting during a regular meeting.

- A. No business other than that for which a special meeting is called may be discussed.
- B. A majority of the General Assembly will constitute a quorum for any business meeting.
- C. No proxies will be accepted.
- D. Chapter attendance at properly called meetings is mandatory. Failure to send at least one official PYFL representative to a meeting will result in the Chapter being assessed the following fines: meeting \$50.00. Failure to pay the fine in a timely manner or two consecutive failures to attend will result in automatic Assembly consideration for dismissal

#### Conflict of Interest Policy

- A. To preserve the integrity, fairness, and impartial governance of the league, the following Conflict of Interest policy shall apply to all Executive Board members, committee members, and individuals serving in any official league capacity.
- B. A conflict of interest exists when an Executive Board member, committee member, or league official has a personal, financial, or Chapter-related interest that could reasonably be perceived to influence their judgment, decision-making, or actions in matters before the league. Conflicts may include, but are not limited to: Matters involving the individual's own Chapter or team, Decisions directly impacting family members or relatives, Financial or business relationships connected to the matter, and Situations where impartial decision-making could reasonably be questioned
- C. Any individual with a potential conflict of interest must promptly disclose it to the Executive Board before discussing or considering the matter.
- D. Upon disclosure of a conflict of interest, the affected individual shall: Recuse themselves from all discussion, deliberation, and voting related to the matter. Leave the meeting during deliberation when directed by the presiding officer and do not attempt to influence the outcome of the decision in any manner.
- E. Failure to disclose a known conflict of interest or attempting to influence a matter after recusal may be considered conduct detrimental to the league and may result in disciplinary action by the Executive Board, including removal from position if warranted.

## ARTICLE V

### ELECTIONS IN CHAPTERS

Member Chapters will elect or appoint their Officers and Directors no later than January 31 and will notify the PYFL in writing of their Officers and Directors by the first meeting in February.

## ARTICLE VI

### PLAYING RULES

- A. The official playing Rules for PYFL will consist of the PYFL Rules, the CIF, and amendments thereto. Rules will take precedence in the order listed.
- B. Interpretations of any Article of the By-laws or Section thereof, or any Rule of this program or organization, shall rest with the Executive Board.
- C. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to amend or add rules is required to change any rules after the annual rules meeting

## ARTICLE VII

### PROTEST

- A. A protest on any item other than official's judgment must be filed, in writing and in the Athletic Director's possession not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the alleged infraction has taken place, accompanied by a check, cash, money order, or certified check in the amount of One Hundred dollars (\$100.00). No protest will be heard considering an officials judgment call.
- B. A hearing will be held, if necessary, as soon as possible following receipt of the protest.
- C. The team being protested will be notified immediately of the protest and will be permitted to have a representative, along with the protesting Chapter, at the hearing.
- D. The Athletic Director will inform the General Assembly, in writing, of his decision and recommendations within seventy-two (72) hours after the hearing.
- E. The General Assembly will review the Athletics Directors decisions and recommendations and either upholds the findings or issue further disciplinary actions.
- F. All decisions of the General Assembly are final, and binding and its decisions will be verbally communicated to the Presidents of the Chapters involved within 24 hours of the hearing.
- G. The \$100.00 protest fee will be refunded if the protest is allowed, and deposited in the PYFL treasury if the protest is disallowed.

## ARTICLE VIII CHAPTERS

### SECTION A – FEES.

- A. Fees, as established by the approved PYFL budget, will be payable as follows: Chapter Membership Fees to be paid at the May 1<sup>st</sup>, \$55.00 per player.
  - a. PYFL Per Player fee \$20.00
  - b. Insurance Fee \$15.00
  - c. King / AYF Per Player Fee: 20.00
- B. Fines and Penalties to be paid by next PYFL General
- C. Assembly meeting after assessed

All Chapters and teams participating in PYFL are required to maintain league insurance coverage. Upon formal commitment to the PYFL season — including but not limited to submission of registration, acceptance of scheduling, roster certification, or initiation of any required league payments — the applicable insurance fee shall be deemed fully earned and **non-refundable**. No refunds or credits shall be issued for any reason, including team withdrawal, suspension, roster changes, disciplinary removal, voluntary non-participation, or schedule or season modifications. Failure to satisfy the required insurance obligation may result in suspension of team eligibility, forfeiture of contests, and additional league sanctions as determined by PYFL.

## SECTION B – PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY.

- A. Failure to comply with Article VIII, Section A shall result in a ten percent (10%) late penalty charge of the fees if not postmarked on or before date due. All returned checks will be considered a delinquent payment and a 10% penalty charge applied.
- B. Because of financial difficulties, a Chapter may request the 10% late penalty charge be waived by requesting in writing and submitting the Chapter's financial books to the PYFL Commissioner who will evaluate the Chapter's status and present the recommendations to the General Assembly for vote.
- C. Failure to comply with Article VIII, Section A shall result in the offending Chapter's right to vote at any PYFL General Assembly meeting until such past due payments have been paid in full. Failure to pay the Game Officials assigner fees for regular season home games by the first divisional playoff seeding meeting will result in the loss of that Chapter's opportunity to host any home games during the playoffs
- D. -All fines and fees must be paid prior to the playoff meeting or the chapter teams become ineligible for playoffs. (amendment on 10/2/2025).

## SECTION C – CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST POLICY

This policy applies to all individuals involved in the organization, including but not limited to: Board Members, League Officials, Coaches and Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, Volunteers, Committee Members, or any individual involved in decision-making on behalf of the organization

- A. A **conflict of interest** occurs when an individual's personal, financial, or family interests could compromise, or appear to compromise, their ability to make objective decisions for the benefit of the organization.

Conflicts may include, but are not limited to:

- Financial interests in vendors, sponsors, or service providers used by the organization
- Decisions that directly benefit a family member (including team placement, playing time policies, or disciplinary matters)
- Hiring or contracting decisions involving relatives or close personal relationships
- Use of organizational resources for personal gain
- Participation in decisions that could benefit a team or player with whom the individual has a personal relationship

Family members include spouses, children, parents, siblings, or any individual living in the same household.

- B. All covered individuals must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest to the organization's Board of Directors or designated leadership. If a conflict of interest exists, the individual must fully disclose it to the appropriate governing body. Refrain from participating in discussions related to the matter. Abstain from voting or decision-making on the issue. The remaining members of the board or committee will determine the appropriate course of action.

- C. Any board member, coach, or volunteer who has a financial interest in a vendor or service provider must disclose that interest before the organization enters into any agreement. The organization will seek competitive bids or alternative options when possible to ensure fairness and transparency. Individuals with financial interests may not participate in vendor selection decisions.

## ARTICLE IX FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENTS

All payments of debts of the PYFL so authorized by the Executive Board shall be made on PYFL checks requiring two (2) Board Members

## X CHAPTER BOUNDARIES

- A. PYFL has no territorial boundaries for players.
- B. PYFL chapter expectations on boundaries
- C. No PYFL chapter shall set up registration or registration material in other chapters' areas.
- D. No PYFL chapter shall post social media posts referring to other chapter areas or recruiting in said areas.

## ARTICLE XI RULES OF PYFL

- A. No rule changes every year. A Rules Committee will be appointed bi-annually by the Vice President of the
- B. General Assembly for the purpose of studying any new rules submitted by the Chapters for that coming year. \*MOVE TO AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS
- C. All proposed rule changes must be submitted to the Rules Committee no later than the first meeting in February on an every-other-year basis.
- D. All rule changes submitted will be presented to the General Assembly for a first reading at the first meeting in February, voted on in March with a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass: quorum present.
- E. Rules changes submitted by the first meeting in February may be amended to correct wording by author with approval of a simple majority vote of the General Assembly at first reading.
- F. Yearly rules changes submitted by the first meeting in February may be amended to correct working by author with approval of a simple majority vote of the General Assembly at the first reading. ARTICLE XII

## AWARDS

- A. The PYFL will provide a plaque or trophy and champion or finalist patches to the Super Bowl Champion team and finalist team each year, along with the winner and runner up of the Division 2 Invitational Tournament.
- B. The costs associated with all awards above will be borne equally by all chapters.
- C. The individual chapters may provide plaques or trophies to their League Champion teams and participation patches for all their players.

## ARTICLE XIII

### AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

- A. The power and authority to adopt, amend, or repeal any of these By-laws rests solely with the General Assembly of PYFL.
- B. The General Assembly Vice President will appoint a By-laws Committee at the regular meeting in January and it shall function throughout the year to receive, recommend, and formulate formal proposals for General Assembly vote.\
- C. Procedure to amend. A recommended change to these By-laws shall be presented in writing to the By-laws Committee for first reading at a regular or special meeting of the General Assembly, but action on the proposed change may take place only after its second reading at the following regular or special meeting. An affirmative vote of 2/3 of the General Assembly present at said meeting shall be necessary for adoption of the amendment.
- D. Record of Amendment. Whenever an amendment or new By-law is adopted, it shall be duly recorded and dated.
- E. When exceptional circumstances deviating from these by-laws exist, a member/chapter may submit a written request for a waiver or change of the specific by-law. The request will be reviewed by the PYFL Executive Board. If the PYFL Executive Board approves the request, it will then be voted upon by the PYFL General Assembly at the next meeting, a Special Meeting or by email vote.

## ARTICLE XLIII Annual Governance Calendar Policy

The purpose of the Annual Governance Calendar is to establish a structured timeline for the League's governance activities to ensure consistent oversight, transparency, and effective administration. The calendar provides clear expectations for when key operational, compliance, and strategic activities must occur each year.

The Governance Calendar shall guide the actions of the Executive Board, League Officials, and Member Chapters in planning and executing league operations.

### A. Adoption and Maintenance

- i. The Executive Board shall adopt and maintain an Annual Governance Calendar.
- ii. The calendar shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect operational needs, rule changes, or regulatory requirements.
- iii. The calendar shall be distributed to all Chapter Presidents and League Officials prior to the start of each new league year.

### B. Unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board, the League governance year shall run from January 1 through December 31.

### C. Annual Governance Calendar

#### January

- i. Executive Board Strategic Planning Meeting
- ii. Review prior season performance and operational issues
- iii. Establish league goals for the upcoming season
- iv. Review and update league bylaws and policies
- v. Establish committee assignments

#### February

- i. Proposed rule changes submitted by Chapters
- ii. Rules Committee review and recommendations
- iii. Safety protocol review
- iv. Compliance review with youth sports governing standards

#### March

- i. Board votes on rule changes
- ii. Verification of Chapter leadership
- iii. Publication of updated Rulebook and League Policies
- iv. Distribution of compliance documentation to Chapters

#### April

- i. Chapter membership renewals are due
- i. Final schedules published
- ii. Submission of insurance documentation
- iii. Submission of field and facility information

#### July

- i. Team rosters submitted
- ii. Preliminary schedules developed
- iii. Officials and referees assigned
- iv. Field inspections conducted

August

- i. Credential and sideline badge distribution

October

- i. Playoff structure confirmation

November

- i. League Championships conducted
- ii. Final standings certified
- iii. Post-season review meeting
- iv. Preliminary planning for next season

December

- i. Financial report and budget review
- ii. Governance audit and policy compliance review
- iii. Executive Board evaluation and election of the next year's board.
- iv. Preparation of next year's Governance Calendar

- D. The Executive Board may call special governance meetings outside the Annual Governance Calendar when urgent matters arise that require immediate action.
- E. All Chapters, Teams, Coaches, and League Officials shall comply with deadlines and governance requirements established in the Annual Governance Calendar. Failure to comply may result in administrative penalties as determined by the Executive Board.