

2024 Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League Rules

A light blue silhouette of the Cincinnati skyline, featuring various skyscrapers and domes, positioned horizontally across the middle of the page.

Cincinnati United Youth
Football & Cheer League


Welcome to the Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League. In this league we focus on teaching, skill development and sportsmanship. Our rules are designed to act as a guide for operating a fair league for all members. Therefore, each Head Coach and staff is responsible for knowing and adhering to all the rules listed below. **IGONORANCE OF THE RULES IS NO EXCUSE.**

Organization Criteria: The Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League has a preliminary list of criteria that new teams entering must meet:

- ☐ Each Organization representative must attend all scheduled CUYFCL meetings.
- ☐ Must provide a police report (through **NAYS FOOTBALL**) for **every coach/team mom or team dad** in your organization by the first weigh-in. These documents will be held and reviewed by the league secretary and returned by the end of the season.
- ☐ Each coach must be certified with **NAYS Football** and provide current certification.
- ☐ Each team must have two members of your organization that are CPR Certified and have credentials.
- ☐ Each coach must sign the CUYFCL's Coaches Code of Ethics
- ☐ Each organization must have at least 14 players on the roster per age group (5-6 team must have 14 players, etc.) Each organization must have a designated home field for games, provide bathroom facilities at that field and the equipment needed to host those games.
- ☐ Each organization will be responsible for paying the CUYFCL Referees for each home game your organization hosts.

New Organizations:

- ☐ Each organization will pay a deposit for entering the CUYFCL and at the end of the second year of participation, 50% of that deposit will be returned. **Should your organization leave by any means, the deposit will be forfeited.**



Conduct of Coaches: It is the responsibility of the **Head Coach** to control the conduct of his assistant coaches. The following are violations that will result in suspension of Head and assistant coaches from coaching in the Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League.

Head or Assistant Coaches that violate the conduct rule two (2) times will be suspended from the League for the season, (and/or the next year's season if late in the current season).

- A. ANY THREATS TO A REFEREE IN ANY SITUATION.**
- B. ABUSIVE LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF YOUTH.**
- C. GAMBLING ON GAMES**
- D. COACHING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**
- E. MAKING ABUSIVE OR OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS—including PROFANE, RACIST, AND SEXUALLY UNACCEPTABLE REMARKS**
- F. DISPLAY, USE OR THREATS OF FIREARMS AT ANY CUYFCL EVENT OR ANY EVENT WHERE YOUR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS THE CUYFCL AT THAT EVENT**

If the organization does not take the above action on the coach in question, the organization is liable for suspension from the Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League.

Conduct of Host and Visiting Fans: It is the responsibility of the Host and Visiting Head Coaches to

Always keep fans back from the field of play. Fans **must** stay at least five feet from the field at those fields that don't have bleachers.

- ☐ There will be two warnings by the refs.
- ☐ The third warning will result in an un-sportsmanlike conduct penalty (15 yards).
- ☐ The next will be a forfeiture of game. The opposing team will win the game regardless of score.

Admission, Books and Weigh-in, Eligibility Rules

Admissions: All Coaches and League Officials must pay admission at each Organizational Home Game and League Event; the **Fine will be \$100.00.**

Team Structure: All Organizations participating in the CUYFCL must **have teams in all four age group divisions with a minimum of 14 players per team**, or the Organization is ineligible to participate in the League.

Weigh-Ins: All Players must appear at weigh-in to be certified eligible to play for the upcoming season.

Any player not appearing at the weigh-in, is ineligible to play in **the first game of the season**,

Any player that missed the first weigh-in **MUST** appear and makes weight, at the **second and final opportunity to weigh-in** (place and time to be announced) prior to the second game.

Process for Weigh-in: All Coaches must present the following books for each age level at Weigh-in:

Two (2) three ring binders -

- Roster of players IN JERSEY NUMBER ORDER WITHIN THE BOOK
- One book will be returned to the Coach to have available during the season, and the
- Second Book-league President shall keep the other "Official Book" for comparison.
- Players line up in that same order to approach the scale.

Inside of each team book you must have the following:

- The Team Roster,
- The players CUYFCL Contract, signed by the Coach, Player, and the Player's parent (**on both lines**),
- A picture of the Player in the numbered jersey he/she will wear this season (stapled to the front upper left corner of the contract).

(The picture must be (approximately 2 in x 3 in), of a single Player and allow the viewer to **identify the Player's face and jersey number.**)

- Each player must have a State Issued ID card and a copy of the card must be back-to-back with the contract and must be clear enough to view the Player's name, date of birth and other information printed on it. (**A State ID card is required**)

All the above also apply at the second weigh-in and teams must weigh-in during their time slots.

Eligibility Rules: Each Player must make weight for his/her age group.

- **5/6**=95lbs (in underwear), and players cannot be seven (7) years of age Before **July 31st**. *See below
- **7/8**=115lbs (in underwear), and players cannot be nine (9) years of age before **July 31st**. *See below
- **9/10**=135lbs (in underwear), players cannot be eleven (11) years of age before **July 31st**. . *See below
- **11/12**=155lbs (in underwear), and players cannot be thirteen (13) years of age before **July 31st** *See below

CUYFCL ELIGIBILITY

Any player under registration for the Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League cannot play for any other CUYFCL TEAM for the current season or any other football team in another league.

Should a player participate on another CUYFCL during the current season, the original team will forfeit ALL CUYFCL sanctioned games.

EXCEPTION: An exception to this may be if the player's parent/guardian has requested a transfer to another CUYFCL team and both organization Presidents have signed a new CUYFCL contract for that current season. **(SEE SWITCHING TEAM RULE)**

Should a certified CUYFCL player participate on **another football team -in another league (one that is NOT the CUYFCL) during the current season,** the CUYFCL team that

has the player listed on the roster as a certified CUYFCL player will forfeit the **ENTIRE** season for the current season.

Switching Teams: *Any Player who requests so, shall be released from his/her contract, and shall be allowed to play for another CUYFCL Team prior to being certified at Weigh-in. Situations arising after Certification (Weigh-in) shall be ruled upon **“for the good of the League”** by the League BOARD

Player fails to make weight: If a Player fails to make weight, that Player has one final opportunity to make weight (when it is announced) prior to the second game as stated above.

Player has not made weight by the second weigh-in: Player is ineligible for the season with the following exception: Any Player failing to make weight in their age group may "MOVE UP" to the next age group with the consent of his/her parents, and Coaches, (but remains ineligible to play with his/her age group even if he/she loses weight during the season).

Scales and Weigh-In: Only the Head Coach or his/her designee will work with the league secretary to handle all weigh-ins (all others remain outside the weigh-in area).

Each Player making weight: He/she will have his/her contract and picture stamped with a "certified seal". Each Player failing to make weight by the second weigh-in will be ineligible for the season.

THERE WILL BE NO SIDE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN COACHES IN REFERENCE TO ALLOWING PLAYERS WHO HAVE NOT MADE WEIGHT TO PLAY.

Challenges: Opposing Coaches **have the right** to see the opposing team's Contracts/Book and players **before, at halftime, or after any game.**

If an opposing Coach CHALLENGES a Player, that Player's contract page must be turned over to the League Board designee for investigation. Failure to do so immediately, results in immediate suspension of the coach and player.

NOTE: If any Coach makes what appears to be ridiculous challenges, i.e. excessive number of Players, or too many challenges, etc. that Coach will face sanctions from the League President. Jersey Number that is turned in with the contract must be worn throughout the season. Any deviation or changes **must** have prior approval by the league Board.

Exception – Any Player having blood on his/her jersey may change jerseys for the remainder of that game after informing the opposing coach of the change.

Violation of Eligibility Rules: Any team that violates any one of the eligibility rules will automatically forfeit all games and be suspended from the League by the President.

FINES-Please review attached Fine sheet for information



Game Rules

Referees: CUYFCL's referees are sanctioned by OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. We have a standing agreement with a ref crew. The fee for each game will be negotiated before the first game and communicated with every organization in good standing. Each organization will be responsible for paying the CUYFCL Referees for each home game your organization hosts.

- ❑ **All teams must be at the field ONE hour before their scheduled game time.**
- ❑ **All games must start on time – no grace period.**
- ❑ All quarters will be eight (8) minutes in duration.
- ❑ Federated High School rules shall prevail except for additional rules stated herein.
- ❑ Kickoff will be from the forty (40) yard line (except when penalized).
 - 5 & 6 and – 7 & 8-year-olds, will start the game by placing the ball on the forty (40) yard line.
 - ~~9 & 10 and 11 & 12-year-olds will kick off from the 40-yard line (except when penalized).~~ **(2024)**

Forfeited games:

- ❑ The first time a team forfeits, **the fine will be the cost of Referees plus \$100.00 (due by the next game).**
- ❑ The second time, the Coach must inform the opposing team's Coach and the League President by the Wednesday before the game (to reschedule Referees). The fine will be \$100.00.
- ❑ The third time, The Organization must meet to decide if They can continue to field a team and then notify the League President. Fines shall continue to be \$100.00 each occurrence until so notified.

Punting

- ❑ **5&6 and 7&8-year old's** will walk off the punt if they desire. On forth down, or any preceding down, if the offensive team chooses to punt, the coach must notify the referee.
Punts will be walked off 25 yards. If the offensive team is on the defensive team's 25 yard line, the punt can only be walked off to the defensive team's 10 yard line.

- **9&10 and 11 & 12-year-olds-** on fourth down, must punt, run or pass the ball.

Down Marker, Line Marker, Goal Posts

Down Markers, Chains and Goal post pads are to be provided by the host team for all games. (Fine \$100.00).

Working the Chains: “**Home teams” provide two people, and “Visiting team” provides one person to work the chains.**

People who are on the markers and chains are to refrain from coaching from the sidelines. If this happens, they will be asked to leave.

Yard Markers must be collapsible, **not wood. Visiting team can protest if yard markers are made of wood.**



Protest

There will be no fees for the team's first protest. Any team that protests more than once must pay \$5 for each additional protest. The protesting team must deposit \$5 to the President.

If the protesting team wins the protest, they will receive a \$5 refund.

ALL PROTESTS MUST BE EMAILED (cintiunitedyouthfootball@gmail.com) TO THE PRESIDENT WITHIN 72 HOURS OF THE GAME IN QUESTION.

Host Team

Scores: The Head Referee will contact the president with scores. The host team may also contact the league president with the scores from each game. Once the scores are tabulated and confirmed, standings can be posted on the website <https://cuyfcl.org>.

GameDay: We ask that all games will be played on Saturday. Due to the use of public schools, CRC fields, or other fields, some games may be scheduled on Sundays.

Please be flexible! There are times games are changed due to the changes in schedules from public school athletic directors or CRC commitments – We will do our due diligence to inform everyone of the changes!

It is the host team's responsibility to call games off because of bad weather, can't get field, etc. **IF a host team cannot secure a field by the Tuesday before the schedule game, another CUYFCL organization will be asked to host the scheduled league game.**

Game Day Facilities The host team must provide restrooms or port-o-let facilities for each home game or be fined a minimum **of \$150.00** (due before the next game).

Concessions Concession stands are not required by our league but appreciated. We encourage all teams that can provide a concession stand, do so. We also encourage each visiting team to visit the host team concessions.

Equipment, Foot Wear and Pad Wear

Player Equipment: Ohio High School Rules apply: All players must have properly fitting helmet, shoulder pads, integrated pants with side pads, butt pad, thigh pads, and knee pads and mouth pieces (colored), socks and regulation football shoes or gym shoes.

Footballs: Each age division will use the proper size football, Rubber balls are not permitted

- ☐ 5&6 and 7&8 – **K2**
- ☐ 9&10 – **TDJ**
- ☐ 11&12 – **TD**

Games/Play-offs

The top four (4) teams of each age division (5&6, 7&8, 9&10, 11&12) will participate in the conference play-offs (1 vs. 4 – 2 vs. 3).

The winners will of the Conference Champions will play for the CUYFCL Super Bowl Championship of their age division.

Tie Breakers: In the event there are two or more teams tied for first thru forth place:

1. The first tie breaker is head-to-head.
2. The second tie breaker is common opponents.
3. The third tie breaker is coin flip.

Ejected Players or Coaches Referees shall report ejected Players numbers and team age and name, and ejected Coaches to the League President who shall ensure enforcement of CUYFCL rules.

CUYFCL Trophies

The first-place team of each (age) division of each Conference will receive a division first place trophy. Winners of the Conference game will receive a Conference Championship Trophy.

Winners of the Super Bowl will receive a Super Bowl Championship Trophies
Runner ups will receive runners-up trophies or medallions.



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League

League rule changes:

Rule changes will be adopted by a majority vote of 2/3 of the Organization Presidents, or their representatives present at such meeting called to discuss League Rules or a regular League meeting.

League Meetings and League Functions:

- ☐ League Meetings shall be _____ (exception: No January Meeting)
- ☐ Meeting time: TBA
- ☐ Meeting location:
St. Andrews Church 1809 Rutland Avenue Cincinnati Ohio 45207 OR another site as needed.

Any Organization failing to have a representative present at League Meetings will be fined \$100.00 and **IGNORANCE OF RULES OR RULE CHANGES IS NO EXCUSE.**

- ☐ Two Representatives from each Organization are required to attend, work, and support any League Function (e.g., Super Bowl, Cheerleading Championship) or the **Fine will be \$250.00.**
- ☐ Disruption of a League Meeting, the Fine will be \$100.00.

New Organizations: Any new Organization that wishes to join the Cincinnati United Youth Football & Cheer League, and has not played in the League during the prior season, must pay a \$1000.00 Initiation Fee plus regular League Fees as follows:

- ☐ 1). \$1000.00 plus half the League fees by the second Wednesday in April.
- ☐ 2). The balance of the League Fee must be paid by first game.

New Organizations must sign an agreement pledging to participate in the CUYFCL for **2-Years** and serve a two year "No Fault" Probation. All Organizations must have teams in all four age divisions with a minimum of **14** Players per team.

Fees: For organizations in good standing to participate in League play, 1/2 the League Fee must be paid by the April meeting.

All past fines and the balance of the League fee MUST BE PAID BY THE FIRST GAME, or the team does not play.



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