

Rock Valley [Junior] Tackle Football League

Bylaws

Rules and Regulations

Revised and Adopted on March 8, 2007
Amended and Adopted on February 9, 2012

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Bylaws

Article I (Name)

The name of the organization is **Rock Valley [Junior] Tackle Football League**; hereinafter known as RV[J]TF – a non-profit corporation organized under the statutes of the State of Illinois.

Article II (Purpose)

The purpose of RV[J]TF has not changed since inception in 1956. Youths are afforded the opportunity to engage in healthful activity and competition with proper training, equipment, and supervision. RV[J]TF dedicates itself to education and environment conducive to developing character and tackle football skills. RV[J]TF expects its league representatives and officers, member organizations, sponsors, coaches, players, and parents to exemplify the highest ideals of the league as coded in the bylaws, rules, and regulations.

Article III (Membership)

Section 1: A member of RV[J]TF is an organized team in good standing through payment of dues and subscription to the bylaws, rules, and regulations (board, sponsors, coaches, players, and parents).

Section 2: Admission to RV[J]TF is by written request presented by a duly designated representative at a stated league meeting after consultation with league officers. The stated meeting to vote on approving admission to RV[J]TF will be preceded by at least one stated meeting to hear and respond to the application. The application must be approved by 75% of the duly designated representatives for admission to RV[J]TF at a stated meeting. Acceptance into RV[J]TF includes a probation period of two years to certify subscription to the bylaws, rules, and regulations.

Section 3: Each team will identify its sponsor(s) and declare its name, colors, and playing site which must be approved by 75% of the duly designated representatives present at a stated meeting.

Section 4: Each team will provide a list of three duly designated representatives who are eligible to attend league meetings. Representatives or noted replacements are required at all home games.

Section 5: While up to three duly designated representatives may participate in a stated meeting's deliberations, each team is entitled to one vote on motions before RV[J]TF. Votes between stated meetings may be by e-mail with results sent to all representatives. Voting by e-mail will be done over two days.

Section 6: Pursuant to the rules and regulations, each team is required to pay an annual fee for participation in RV[J]TF. If a team is unable to pay all or part of the annual fee, it may petition RV[J]TF for an extension not to exceed 30 days. Extensions require approval by 75% of the duly designated representatives present at a stated meeting.

Section 7: Each team must comply with the bylaws, rules, and regulations.

Section 8: Each team must have a playing site which meets prescribed criteria: (A) regulation size playing field; (B) safe playing area; (C) a minimum of two sanitary bathroom facilities; and (D) field must be roped off on both sides from end zone to end zone. Any deviation from this section on "game day" will result in the forfeiture of all contests by the host. Any deviation from this section must be approved by 75% of the duly designated representatives at a stated meeting. Deviations cannot be granted by officers, league representatives, or team boards before, during, or after competition. It is the responsibility of the host to enforce this section without deviation before, during, and after competition. Deviation of this section by host representatives, boards, sponsors, coaches, players, or parents will result in the forfeiture of all contests by the host.

Article IV (Officers)

Section 1: The President will call meetings (stated and special), preside at meetings, prepare dockets for meetings, record and distribute minutes of meetings, appoint committees and task forces, prepare appropriate press releases, and share duties with Vice President as appropriate. This office is non-compensatory.

Section 2: The Vice President shall assume all duties of the President in President's absence or disability, obtain and distribute insurance information, maintain official documents (e.g., annual directory, team rosters), provide custodial care of all league bank accounts, write checks to pay league expenses, provide updates on league financial concerns, and share duties with President as appropriate. This office is compensatory.

Article V (Meetings)

RV[J]TF league representatives and officers will normally meet on the second Thursday of every month during the off-season, every Thursday during the season, or as called by the President. While meetings will normally commence at 7:00 p.m., the call to order may change according to calendar or circumstance as determined by the President.

Article VI (Particular Policies)

Section 1: Policy statements (public and media) of RV[J]TF will be approved at a stated meeting. If approached by anyone between stated meetings regarding issues before RV[J]TF, league representatives and officers will differentiate personal sentiments from sustained league decisions, actions, and continuing deliberations.

Section 2: League representatives and officers, member organizations, sponsors, coaches, players, and parents will subscribe to the bylaws, rules, and regulations (including the code of conduct) or forfeit participation in RV[J]TF.

Section 3: League representatives and officers hear and settle disputes as appropriate (e.g., protests of games, suspensions, exclusions, violations, accusations, interpretations). While each team "polices" its own constituents, RV[J]TF has prerogative to intervene as appropriate (e.g., contract disputes, inter-team conflicts, intra-team dysfunction affecting RV[J]TF). While decisions of RV[J]TF are final between stated meetings, they can be appealed or reconsidered at subsequent meetings by appropriately made and seconded motions (see Article VII).

Section 4: Protests of games must be communicated to a league officer of RV[J]TF on "game day" and in writing to a league officer within 48 hours of the disputed game's conclusion; and it will be the responsibility of the receiving officer to present the protest to RV[J]TF at the first stated meeting following the disputed game. Protests will require a filing fee (\$50) which will be refunded if the protest is sustained. The protest will not be heard unless the filing fee is attached to the written protest. If the protest is not sustained, the filing fee will be transferred into the general account of RV[J]TF for operating expenses.

Article VII (Rules of Order for Meetings)

Except when inconsistent with the bylaws, *Robert's Rules of Order* will provide governing principles for meetings with the President acting as parliamentarian.

Article VIII (Amendments to Bylaws)

Amendments to the bylaws will be sustained by 75% of the duly designated representatives at a stated meeting.

Article IX (Dissolution)

Section 1: Teams, boards, sponsors, coaches, players, and parents who withdraw from or are dismissed by RV[J]TF forfeit any and all presumed rights and claims to any and all assets, funds, or property of RV[J]TF.

Section 2: Dissolution of RV[J]TF will result in an equal distribution of assets, funds, and property as determined by remaining league representatives at a stated meeting.

Section 3: Dissolution of RV[J]TF will be sustained by 75% of the duly designated representatives at a stated meeting called to dissolve the RV[J]TF. The call to a stated meeting for dissolution will be by registered mail.

Rules and Regulations

Article I (Code of Conduct)

Section 1: Teams, boards, sponsors, coaches, players, and parents must subscribe to the bylaws, rules, and regulations. Amendments are the prerogative of RV[J]TF by 75% of the duly designated representatives at a stated meeting.

Section 2: Teams, boards, sponsors, coaches, players, parents, and spectators will abide by the Code of Conduct of RV[J]TF:

- A. Any team, board, sponsor, coach, player, or parent who alters an official document of RV[J]TF will be permanently suspended.
- B. Any team, board, sponsor, coach, player, parent, or spectator who abuses referees, coaches, players, spectators, or anyone related to RV[J]TF during a game will be immediately removed from site. Immediate discernment and decisions will be made by officers in consultation with referees and duly designated representatives and subject to review at the first stated meeting following an incident. Any officer must be consulted before removal from site. If an officer cannot be contacted, duly designated representatives from both teams and referees in concert can remove a miscreant from site. Previous (immediate) and proposed (future) discipline will be deliberated at the first stated meeting following an incident. If the miscreant refuses to leave the site as prescribed, the referees will declare the game has been called and the miscreant's team will forfeit to the opponent. If the miscreant refuses to leave the site for subsequent games on that day, the referees will declare the games have been called and the miscreant's team will forfeit to the opponent.
- C. If a team is ahead by 24 points at the beginning of the 4th quarter *or anytime during the 4th quarter*, an "official" time out will be declared to substitute for players in "skill" positions (viz., quarterback, running backs, and tight end). If the trailing team advances within 24 points, starting "skill" players may return to their positions. All substitutions must be made during an "official" time out and monitored by the referees and head coaches who will reach agreement before the game is resumed.

A running clock may be used when the "Slaughter Rule" is in effect. Officials must take an "official" time out and bring the head coaches of both teams together.

Both coaches must agree to the request for a running clock. If either coach disagrees, there will be no running clock.

*Slaughter Rule
40 PTS*

- D. Any team, board, sponsor, coach, player, parent, or anyone related to RV [J]TF who promotes violation of the bylaws, rules, and regulations of RV[J]TF will be permanently suspended.
- E. Attending/observing practices of other teams without invitation by the team's board, league representatives, and coaches are prohibited. Accusations will be reviewed at a stated meeting of RV[J]TF and miscreants will be subject to discretionary discipline determined by 75% of the duly designated representatives

at a stated meeting.

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F. Coaches, parents, and players ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in or attend the next scheduled game. A second ejection within the same season by the same coach or player will incur an automatic suspension for the next two scheduled games; including the same proscriptions of participation and attendance. Penalties during the last game of the season will be exacted during the first game(s) of the subsequent season. Penalties during the playoffs will be exacted in subsequent playoff games; or if the violating participant's team does not advance, the penalty will be exacted during the first game(s) of the subsequent season. Ineligibilities can be appealed to RV [J]TF and countermanded by 75% of the duly designated representatives at a stated meeting.

Article II (Team Registration)

Section 1: Registration for the forthcoming season will be in January in the manner established by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2: Teams must provide a final information sheet to the Secretary/Treasurer by April's stated meeting which will include mailing addresses and telephone numbers for team board's President, coaches, league representatives, and sponsors along with team color (home and away if different), practice site address, and playing site address. Non-compliance with Article II, Section 2 carries a \$200 fine. Extensions can be granted at the March stated meeting by 75% of the duly designated representatives. There are no appeals to denied extensions.

Section 3: Teams are charged an annual fee of \$1200.00 and allowed a maximum of four teams for this fee. Teams are charged \$400 for each additional team. \$400 is due at the April stated meeting with the balance due at the June stated meeting.

Section 4: Teams will field at least 2 of 4 competitive divisions. Teams may appeal to field one team; which can be sustained by 75% of the duly designated representatives.

Section 5: Host teams compensate referees after the final game of the day.

Section 6: Teams not represented at a stated or special meeting of RV[J]TF will be fined \$100. An excused absence can be granted by the President before the roll call of a stated meeting. Teams listed as "excused" in the minutes are not subject to the fine. Teams listed as "absent" are subject to the fine.

Article III (Team Eligibility)

Section 1: Teams must roster a minimum of 19 players per division.

Section 2: The score for a forfeit or bye week game is 0-14.

Article IV (League Eligibility)

Section 1: Divisions are determined by age and weight: Flyweights (6-8), Lightweights (9-10), Heavyweights (11-13).

Section 2: Players can "play up" a division. "Playing down" is prohibited.

Section 3: Flyweights must be 6 by August 1 of the competitive year and not reach the age of 9 before August 1.

Section 4: Lightweights cannot reach the age of 11 by August 1.

Section 5: Heavyweights cannot reach the age of 14 before October 29, 2012.

could be a free loan on equivalent

Section 6: A "certified scale" (certification sticker must be affixed to the scale) for weekly weigh-ins will be provided by the home team with a red stripe allowance; proscribing overweight "striped" players to down positions.

Article V (Sign-Up and Practice)

Section 1: Practice can commence on or after the last Monday in July. Violation of Article V, Section 1 carries a \$200 fine.

Section 2: Teams are responsible for each player having the proper equipment: youth football helmet (SAE approved), approved shoulder pads, cup supporter (females exempt), pants with all necessary pads, jerseys with numbers in front (6") and back (8"), shoes (rubber or plastic cleats of ½" or less), and an approved mouthpiece attached to the helmet (exception noted for orthodontic mouthpieces). Clear visors are permitted if properly attached to helmet.

colored mouthpieces

Article VI (Contracts, Rosters, and Insurance)

Section 1: RV[J]TF "participation contract" is standard for the league (see Appendix A). It is a "lifetime contract" which can be appealed to RV[J]TF through its officers who will adjudicate on behalf of the league and report final decisions to all appropriate parties. Adjudications of appeals cannot be appealed.

Section 2: See Appendix B for the process and calendar for team rosters.

Section 3: Falsification of any documents related to Article VI, Section 1 and Section 2 will result in permanent suspension from RV[J]TF.

Section 4: The Secretary/Treasurer is the custodian of the insurance policy for RV[J]TF. ST will provide a Certificate of Insurance to each team for necessary submissions.

Article VII (General Rules)

Section 1: RV[J]TF will establish season schedules by the July stated meeting.

Connecticut scale for certified scales

Section 2: RV[J]TF is the custodian of the bylaws, rules, and regulations. Copies are provided for league representatives who are responsible for dissemination to their boards, coaches, and appropriate parties.

Section 3: It is the responsibility of the home game league representative to have a copy of the bylaws, rules, and regulations for reference as needed during games for coaches and officials. If a coach protests the validity of a non-judgment call, the official must take an officials time out, review the matter by referring to an IHSA rule book as juxtaposed to these bylaws, rules, and regulations. If the protesting team is wrong, they lose one time-out.

Section 4: Home teams are responsible for providing a Pee Wee or Junior Ball for Flyweights, Junior or Intermediate Ball for Lightweights, only an Intermediate Ball for Heavyweights, chains, down marker, yard markers, and chain crews. The playing site must conform to Article III, Section 8 (bylaws, page 2).

Section 5: Visiting teams have the right to furnish one member of the chain crew. The chain crew must be positioned on the home team side of the field.

Section 6: If coaches and referees agree, each team may use its own ball on offense; providing a responsible ball boy. Referees may revert to one ball only for both teams if problems persist during exchanges.

Section 7: Exposed hip pads are allowed.

Section 8: All competitive divisions have 10 minute quarters with no running clock to enhance full participation.

Section 9: Neither coaches nor referees can declare a tie. The first overtime period will be run from the 10 yard line, the second overtime period will be run from the 5 yard line, and the third as well as subsequent overtimes will be run from the 3 yard line. Beginning with the 4th overtime, the team scoring with the fewest offensive plays from scrimmage will be declared the winner.

Section 10: On 4th down for Flyweights and Lightweights only, a team has the option to punt the ball or move the ball forward by 25 yards and turn it over to the opposing team. The team must inform the referees of its intention. If 4th down is within the opposing team's 35 yard line, the ball will be placed on the 10 yard line.

Section 11: RV[J]TF competitive division game start times: Flyweight (11:30a.m.), Lightweight (1:30a.m.), Heavyweight (3:30 p.m.), and Varsity (5:30 p.m.).

Section 12: Rosters (including weights) are checked 30 minutes before kick-off. A minimum of 10 minutes is reserved for warming up before kick-off and 3 minutes before the start of the second half. Half-time will be 13 minutes (10 minutes for instruction and 3 minutes for warming up).

Section 13: RV[J]TF will establish the dates, times, and locations for the playoffs and championships. Appropriate awards will be provided for all teams in the playoffs. Requirements for hosting playoff and championship games: (A) ~~the fee to host is \$125;~~ (B) teams in a probationary period are not entitled to host a playoff or championship game; and (C) eligible teams must declare their intention to host by September 1.

Section 14: Admission is free to all games of RV[J]TF.

Section 15: Teams must remain in sight of each other from check-in to the end of the game; including halftime. Equitable conditions must be available for both teams.

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Section 16: Tie breakers for post-season play: (A) if teams tie for a position, the winner of head-to-head competition will be the higher seed; (B) teams are awarded one point for each win and one point for each win their defeated opponent has at season's end to determine the higher seed when opponents have not played each other during the season; (C) if points are equal and the teams have not played each other during the season, the team with the fewest points allowed for the season will be declared the higher seed; (D) if two teams are still tied - teams tied for 1st and 2nd seed, 2nd and 3rd seed, or 3rd and 4th seed – the seed will be determined by a coin flip while teams tied for 4th and 5th seed shall play each other to determine the seed.

Appendix B
(Dates will change every year!)

The Process and Calendar for Team Rosters

1. The roster must be typed.
2. Before approval by an officer of RV[J]TF, the following must be completed on the roster (see example): team name, full name of head coach, home phone, work phone, division identification, player number, player's full name (last name first), age, contract, and birth certificate.
3. The roster must be numbered per example.
4. Initial rosters must be in the custodial care of the Secretary/Treasurer by August 9.
5. Rosters will be refined on August 16; whereupon shortly thereafter the Secretary/Treasurer will present the final roster to the President for certification (signature).
6. The Secretary/Treasurer will send final rosters to all league representatives before the season begins on August 25.
7. Rosters are locked the ~~Thursday~~ prior to week 5 games. *Before 1st Game*
8. No one can play who is not on a certified team roster.
9. If a player misses check-in because of parental irresponsibility, his team may use one of its time outs to alert the referees and opposing team's coaches. If the opposing team's coaches concur and the referees certify the identity of the player on the roster, the player may enter the game *at any time* thereafter.

Appendix C
(Stripers)

Stripers can't advance the ball at any point in the game. If they recover a fumble, intercept a pass, or receive a kick off, the ball is ruled dead at the spot of the ball.

Stripers are defined as down linemen – positioned tackle to tackle. Must be heads up on the offensive lineman

Stripers as offensive lineman; you can't have more the 5 stripers on the offensive line. No more than 2 stripers on each side of the center.

They must start in a three or four point stance.

Stripers are not allowed on the kickoff team.

Stripers are allowed at all positions on the kickoff return team on the front line only; however, as soon as a striper gains control of the football, the ball is ruled dead and may not be advanced. You can have up to 5 red stripers on the front line for kickoff return.

No red stripers on the kickoff team. If a team only has 11 players, the coaches will need to address this prior to the game.

Each team is responsible for striping its own players; and striping must be in a complete circle around the helmet.

Section 4: The Secretary/Treasurer is the custodian of the insurance policy for RV[J]TF. ST will provide a Certificate of Insurance to each team for necessary submissions.

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Section 10: On 4th down for Flyweights only, a team has the option to punt the ball or move the ball forward by 25 yards and turn it over to the opposing team. The team must inform the referees of its intention. If 4th down is within the opposing team's 35 yard line, the ball will be placed on the 10 yard line. For Lightweights only, the defense can not rush. If the defense rushes, the play is whistled dead and redone. Only 2 gunners on offense are allowed to advance at the snap of the ball. No other offensive player than the 2 gunners can advance until the ball is punted. No fake punts

Section 11: RV[J]TF competitive division game start times: Flyweight (9:30 a.m.), Lightweight (11:30 a.m.), Heavyweight (1:30 p.m.).