

FCFL Meeting Weds 3/1 RULES/ POLICY ONLY

March Rules/Policy meeting, and the recommendations for reps to bring back to their respective towns for voting on potential changes. All votes will be cast in April's full FCFL Board Meeting.

FCFL Policy recommendations:

(1) Expansion of the 24 point mercy rule to 32 points. Dialog was also around suspension for breaking the 32 points instead of letter and warning, but our rules allow for that suspension today already.

(2) Requested removal of the (2) year rules request...meaning if the motion is brought forward and does not pass, it can be brought forward again the next season.

(3) Changing the current 75% requirement for passing of rules "exceptions", to majority rule.

- I'd appreciate feedback on this one from other rules reps...I know this was problematic in the past with 7 town programs, but should not be with 8 voting programs.

(4) Allowance of an additional hour for film for 6-8 grades (on top of the 6 hours per week)

(5a, 5b) Expand size of team split. Currently teams split at 32 in bantams and Juniors, and 34 in Seniors: We are asking to raise that to 34 in Juniors and 36 in Senior league. Two separate votes please, one for Juniors(5a), one for Seniors(5b)...remember all, special teams don't count as live plays in Junior league.

(6) Open Registration close date to be moved to July 31, so on August 1 we can declare # of teams per grade and have a smoother transition in scheduling. Important to note, you can keep your registrations open but this should remove any late participants creating a team split in a grade where you are near the cutoff.

(7) Removal of language guaranteeing teams with two team per grade, not to play inter town games. Separate divisions would still be in place for playoffs, but the statement was the regular season matchup created a lot of additional exceptions in scheduling.

- It should also be discussed here, RYF brought forward a motion to do away with the Saturday only teams. This was brought forward last year, passed, then noted the vote was incorrect because we don't have Saturday only teams, we have Saturday preferred teams. Here is the language currently in Policy document...this must be modified to reflect Saturday preferred, not Saturday only - as voted and passed in 2016.

3 Religious requests – A town has the option of requesting either Saturday or Sunday preference for a single team per grade for the season or (not both) for all teams for up to 2 weekends a year. The day preference will be honored for at least 7 regular season games on the preferred day. Any town that makes such a request will no longer be guaranteed 3 home games for any team in that grade, since often it is the non-preference team's schedule, which has less home games.

Additionally, we had 2 grades that were horribly imbalanced last year (and it happens every year since we moved to a Conference playoff schedule). We agreed (I believe without requiring any voting) scheduling will look at past years performance to attempt to balance conferences before the season...this has no impact on regular season scheduling, but we don't want 4 of the best 5 teams in one conference...we should be encouraging the best 4 teams are all still competing in semi-final week.

(8) Inclusion of a thumbnail picture on FCFL roster sheets. From a procedure standpoint, this is very easy to accomplish and some teams already have there thumbnails up on their team pages.

FCFL Rules recommendations:

(1) Today 3-5 plays Peewee ball, 6-7 plays junior, and 8th platys youth ball. This item was tabled and not voted on last year. The player ages for states use on the footballs supports change to Bantams (3-4) use PeeWee, Juniors (5-6) use Junior, and Senior (7-8) use Youth ball.

(2) Bantams to be allowed 2 point stance on the line to avoid injury to centers, diving or stand straight up. Safety issue pertaining to neck strength, seeing opponent.

For the April meeting, we will need a whiteboard discussion for interpretation of existing rules pertaining to following motion. Thought we cleared this one up years ago.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01