

**ALLEGHENY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
BY-LAWS & GOVERNING POLICES**

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**(Amended February 19, 2014)**  
**(Amended February 19, 2015)**  
**(Amended February 29, 2016)**

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## **PREFACE – NAME & PURPOSE**

The ALLEGHENY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (The AYFL, or the League) is organized by representatives of the following youth football organizations: Armstrong Indians, Inc., Deer Lakes Youth Football, Freeport Youth Football Organization, Rams Youth Football Organization, Allegheny Valley Youth Football Association, Ford City Youth Football, Lower Burrell Youth Football, Shannock Valley Youth Football Association & Allegheny Valley Youth Football Association (See amendment Feb 19, 2015) (See amendment Feb 29, 2016). These individual organizations, known as (the Clubs), joined together to promote the development of young people through participation in organized football.

The goal of the AYFL is to promote good sportsmanship, scholarship, teamwork, self-discipline, personal growth, commitment, and physical fitness within a safe environment. The focus will be on team development and achievement rather than individual performance. The adult administrators and coaches will endeavor to assist each individual player in reaching their own potential, with emphasis on team participation. In accordance with this concept, all AYFL organizations agree that only team statistics will be maintained, recorded, and publicized.

Clubs will roster their players into TEAMS according to DIVISIONS based on League guidelines relative to the age and weight of the players. Divisions will be determined by the Membership and may be changed from time to time when such change is deemed to be beneficial to the Members.

## **Article I – MEMEBERSHIP / DUES / FEES**

The Members are a class consisting of the aforementioned Clubs along with any additional Clubs approved as Member Clubs at a future date. All additional Clubs must receive majority approval of Member Clubs to become Probationary Members of the AYFL. In order to be considered for membership, a club must be interviewed by at least two League Officers, be recommended and pay a non-refundable application fee. The amount of said application fee shall be (\$100.00) ONE HUNDRED dollars. After approval, the League shall permit a Club to participate in the AYFL as a Probationary Club for one (1) season, during which it will be the obligation of Member Clubs and League executives to evaluate whether they are worthy of membership. Special attention will be made to adherence to AYFL goals and methods, in addition to observation of league rules and polices.

After one (1) season, the Member Clubs will hold a private election to determine if the Probationary Club shall be granted Member Status. Said election must pass by unanimous vote. The Member Clubs may choose to have a Probationary Club serve one (1) additional season on probation in lieu of a final election. Said decision must pass by majority vote.

Probationary Clubs shall have NO powers of Membership.

Each Club will appoint or elect, in accordance with their rules, one person to be their official Representative to the League. Additional persons may be authorized by the Clubs to serve as Alternate Representatives. If said authorization is in question, the League will secure validation from Club's highest ranking executive. In all matters, each Club will have only one (1) vote. Proxy votes shall not be accepted. In order to maintain order at League Meetings, the Chairman may limit participation to Official Representatives only.

LEAGUE DUES will be set at (\$250.00) TWO HUNDRED-FIFTY (See amendment Feb 19, 2015) dollars per year and adjusted when necessary by a majority of Member Clubs. In addition, special assessments may be set when necessary. Dues shall be paid by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Teams shall not be scheduled to participate in the League games until dues and any special assessments have been paid.

In order to participate in the AYFL season, each Club must roster a Team in each of the (3) Divisions.

## **Article II – OFFICERS**

The League Officers shall be elected during the first meeting of each calendar year and serve a term of one (1) year. The Officers of the AYFL and their duties shall be as follows:

**PRESIDENT** – Shall be the chairman of all meetings of the membership. In addition, the president shall serve as the chief executive officer of the league. The President shall resolve all tie votes.

**VICE PRESIDENT** – Shall serve in the same capacity as the president when the president is unable or unavailable and shall assist the President with said duties.

**SECRETARY** – Shall keep all records of the League and shall be responsible to accurately document all actions of the organization.

**TREASURER** – Shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all League Funds and to report the status of the same on a regular basis.

The Officers shall serve as the Executive Committee of the League. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the organization, whenever matters must be acted upon, before a regular membership meeting can be held. All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be decided by a majority.

If an officer is unable to complete their term, the Executive Committee shall elect a replacement from the League Representatives to serve the remainder of that term.

### **Article III – RULES**

Rules of the League will be established by the Members. All rules must be approved by a Majority of the Membership.

All rules and by-law changes or additions must be presented at the first monthly membership meeting held each calendar year. These presentations will be voted upon at the next monthly meeting.

In the absence of a specific AYFL rule, the rules of the WPIAL shall govern.

### **Article IV – ORDER / MEETINGS**

Regular Meetings:

The Executive Committee will hold regular meetings at times and dates that shall be stated in the League By-Laws. Meetings may be only changed or cancelled under extreme emergency\_or when it is not possible to have a quorum.

Special Meetings:

Special meetings may be called by the President, or at the request of the majority of the Executive Committee, to conduct League business or to address an issues\_of special concern.

Meeting Place:

Regular and Special meetings shall be held at a place agreed upon by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Regular League Meetings are held during the following months at 7:00PM, the third Wednesday of that month. Listed also is the meetings main purpose:

January	Election of officers / Rule change motions and discussions
February	Rule change vote
March	Schedules handed out
April	Collection of dues
August	Roster_submission
October	Play Off / Super Bowl Planning

### **Article V – RECRUITING AREA**

Each Club will limit the recruitment of players to their school district or specific boundaries approved by the AYFL.

## **Article VI – AUXILIARY GROUPS**

Cheerleading, pom pom, color guard, bands and other groups may be created by the individual football Clubs. Their participation in league activities, including practice, is only permitted as a result of their auxiliary status. These groups shall be governed by the Club. The League will recognize these groups as an auxiliary of the Club.

## **Article VII – AMENDMENTS**

These By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of a class consisting of all Clubs holding full voting privileges.

## **Article VIII – DISSOLUTION**

The Executive Committee may dissolve the League by unanimous vote at a Special meeting for this purpose.

In the event of Dissolution, any remaining assets shall be divided equally among the League Clubs after all statutory requirements, legal obligations, and outstanding debts have been paid.

## **AYFL RULES**

### **SECTION 1 – Coaches**

1. The AYFL takes the well-being of all players very seriously. Therefore, it is the obligation of each Club to establish proper procedures assuring that all coaches are worthy of their position. Coaches should set an example of good sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
2. Coaches are considered to be any person involved in the instruction of any player.
3. All coaches must appear on the team roster.
4. Head Coaches must be at least 18 years of age.
5. The Certification (Act 33 and 34) or National Background Check of all coaches is required.
6. All coaches are responsible to carry out League and Club rules and policies. Proper conduct shall be the responsibility of each Club.
7. The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of his staff.

### **SECTION 2 – Registration**

1. The parent or legal guardian shall provide written consent for each child to play.
2. Proof of age is required – a certified copy of a Birth Certificate is the preferred document. Other documents, such as a passport or baptismal certificate, may be accepted, subject to the approval of the League

### **SECTION 3 – Divisions**

1. Weight / Age Divisions shall be as follows:
  - Small – **105** pounds maximum, **(See amendment Feb 29, 2016)**  
fully equipped without shoulder pads and helmet, 8 years old maximum.
  - Middle – **125** pounds maximum, **(See amendment Feb 29, 2016)**  
(may strip down to underwear /must have game jersey), 10 years old maximum.
  - Big – **145** pounds maximum, **(See amendment Feb 29, 2016)**  
(may strip down to underwear /must have game jersey), 12 years old maximum.
2. Weights shall be determined using the AYFL Weigh-in Procedure.
3. Age shall be player’s age as of July 31 of the year of participation

### **SECTION 4 – Rosters**

1. Official Rosters must contain at least the following information:

Name of Club

Division

Team Name

Player’s proper name, listed last name first, numerical # order –by game jersey

Player’s home legal address

Player’s birth date

Player’s school district

Assistant Coaches’ Names

Head Coach’s name, phone numbers, address & Email address

Club President’s name and phone number

Any special medical condition for a specific player shall be noted on the roster.

2. Proof of age should be available within 48 hours if requested.
3. Roster size:

Maximum – there is no League maximum; Clubs may establish guidelines of their own.

4. Three (3) rosters, one per division, must be turned into the League at least 72 hours prior to a player's participation in a League game.
5. Additions to a roster must be turned into the League at least 72 hours prior to a player's participation in a league game. Roster additions will not be accepted after kick off of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last regular season game. **(See amendment Feb 19, 2014) (See amendment Feb 19, 2015)**
6. Ineligible players – for roster purposes –players shall be considered ineligible if:
  - a. unable to provide proof of age
  - b. unable to obtain parental consent
  - c. physically unable to participate in a safe manner.

### **SECTION 5 – Practice**

1. Practice in pads shall not begin before the Monday of the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>, with the exact date being approved and announced by the League. Practice in pads is defined as wearing any of the following equipment: shoulder pads, pants with thigh and hip pads. Violations of this rule will result in the offending organization being ineligible for post-season competition.
2. Weight training and non-contact practices are permitted at any time.

### **SECTION 6 – Game Field**

1. The home Team is responsible for the preparation of the playing field in accordance with WPIAL standards. In addition, they must provide the necessary equipment and personnel to conduct the game. The League shall arrange for 4 game officials. (2 officials for the 8 & under games) The home Team is responsible for paying the officials before halftime of the final game.
2. Games will be conducted in accord with the WPIAL rules unless specified otherwise in the AYFL Rules.
3. Game Ball – Teams shall provide a game ball for each game.

Game balls shall be: (or equivalent)

8 & under – Nike Composite 1000K or Wilson Leather K2

10 & under – Nike Composite 1000J or Wilson Leather TDJ

12 & under - Nike Composite 1000Y or Wilson Leather TDY

4. Emergency care: Home Team is required to provide, for the benefit of both teams, a paramedic, EMT, or physician, with proper training and equipment, at the game field.
5. First down chains shall be placed on the sideline opposite of the press box. Field must have at least one set of goal posts. If only one set is available, teams may change ends of field for PATS and field goals.

6. Charging admission to AYFL games is up to individual Club discretion. Teams may only charge adults.

### **SECTION 7 – Games**

1. Teams must be able to field at least 11 eligible players in order to start a game. Game quarters shall be ten (10) minutes. 8 & under Division will utilize eight (8) minute quarters. **(See amendment Feb 19, 2014)**. If the teams are tied at the conclusion of regulation time; WPIAL rules will apply for overtime.
2. Once a game is finished, the game clock will be set at ten (10) minutes, the next game will begin at the end of that period. Halftimes will be ten (10) minutes.
3. Mercy Rule – The AYFL will utilize WPIAL rules.
4. Protests – Any protest must be submitted to the League President within 48 hours after a game is played. The President will arrange for a Special meeting (limited to Officers and League Representatives) within the next 48 hours, where each side can present their version of the situation. The remaining members would perform a simple majority vote on a resolution. The President would vote to break a tie unless from one of the Organizations involved in the protest. If necessary, the tie breaking vote would then fall to the next uninvolved, non-representative officer; Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary in that order.
5. No games shall be played on Sunday.
6. Report of game scores –Home Team is responsible to report all scores by noon of the Monday following each game.

### **SECTION 8 – Weigh-in**

1. Weigh-In will be conducted in accordance with the AYFL weigh-in procedure (Appendix I)

### **SECTION 9 – Playoffs / Super Bowl Game**

1. The Allegheny Youth Football League Super Bowl shall be held after the conclusion of the regular season schedule.
2. The League Officials will award trophies to the AYFL Super Bowl Champions and the AYFL Runner-Ups at a presentation ceremony held at the conclusion of each division's game.
3. Clubs will have the opportunity to host the Super Bowl Games on a rotation basis.
  
4. In the event that the regular season record does not clearly establish which teams qualify for the playoffs, or in what seeding position, the following tie breaker system shall be used:
  - a. Head to head results of the teams shall be used



- b. If still tied, point tabulation will be conducted following WPIAL rules.  
(Gardner Rules)
- c. Post season games ending in a tie after regulation time shall utilize the WPIAL procedure for tie-breaking.

### **SECTION 10 – Discipline / Enforcement**

1. Ineligible players – If an ineligible player is permitted to participate in a game, the Team shall forfeit the game and the Club shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. If another eligibility violation occurs while the Club is on probation, the Club will forfeit the season for all Teams. The following shall be considered as ineligible players:

- a. Any player living outside of a Club’s League-approved recruiting area that has not been granted exception
- b. Any player not properly registered and rostered.

2. Coaching violations – If a coaching violation occurs, said coach shall be put on probation for the remainder of the season. If another violation is committed by the same coach, his Team shall forfeit their next game and the Club will be placed on probation. If any coaching violation occurs while the Club is on probation, the Club shall forfeit the season for all three Teams and will be placed on probation for the following season.

3. Ejection from a game:

a. Player Ejection – When a player is ejected from a game by the game officials, the Team’s League Representative must report the ejection to the league by noon of the Monday following the game. The League will provide notice to all Clubs prior to the next scheduled League game. The player shall also be suspended for the next game. Notice is required as above. If the same player is ejected a second time, the player shall be suspended for the remainder of the regular and post season. Notice is required as above.

b. Coach Ejection – When a coach is ejected from a game by a game official, notice is required. The coach shall also be suspended for the next game. If a coach is ejected a second time during the same season, they shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

### **SECTION 11 – Non-WPIAL Rules**

1. Point after Touchdown: 2 points for a successful kick, 1 point for a successful run or pass play from scrimmage. **(See amendment Feb 19, 2014)**

2. Free Punt: (For all Divisions age 8 & under) Team must declare punt to umpire, no rush, no release downfield until ball is kicked. Punting team must align in a punting formation, with the punter at a depth of at least five yards. Receiving team must have 7 players positioned on the line

of scrimmage before the ball is kicked. A kneel down with the ball by the punter will result in dead ball at spot. A snap out of end zone shall result in a safety. Otherwise, the punter will be allowed to retrieve a bad snap and punt the ball freely. Once ball is kicked, normal rules apply. As an option, punting team may elect to have an official spot the ball 25 yards downfield from the line of scrimmage.

\*\*NOTE: Free punt rule is intended to increase the numbers of punts attempted and promote the development of these particular skills for our younger players.

2. 8 & Under Coaches on Field: 8 & under teams will be allowed to have one (1) coach on the field instructing the players. However, when the offense breaks their huddle, all coaches will be positioned away from the line of scrimmage behind their deepest player, or 10 yards, whichever is greater.

3. See Appendix II for additional 8 & Under Division rules.

## **SECTION 12 – Equipment**

1. Football shoes shall have rubber or plastic cleats/spikes. No metal cleats/spikes can be used.

## **APPENDIX I – AYFL WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE**

There shall be an official weigh-in before each game. Each Club will appoint one person to be their weigh master. The weigh master shall supervise and conduct the weigh-in for each team. Spectators are to be away from the scale. Either Club's weigh master shall have the right to remove any persons from the weigh-in area. The home team shall provide a bar-type or electronic scale.

Before weigh-in, both Team's weigh masters will check and set the scale. The scale shall be placed on a hard, level surface. Once the scale is set and checked, there will be no further pre-weigh-in checks. No one other than the weigh masters and the player being weighed shall be at the scale during weigh-in.

A player shall be considered over-weight if the balance beam touches the top stop on a bar-type scale. A player may officially weigh in a maximum of (2) two times.

All players must report to the scale in numerical order with their game jersey on. Once properly identified, players will be allowed to remove any articles of clothing or equipment before stepping on the scale. (8 & under will weigh in fully equipped without helmet and shoulder pads.)

Roster – Each Team’s weigh master will have a copy of the team’s roster. The team roster shall be in jersey number order. The Head Coach shall advise weigh masters concerning absent, injured or otherwise missing or ineligible players before weigh-in. An injured player is permitted to weigh-in as part of the team, but shall not play. These notations of player status shall be made on the roster prior to the weigh-in.

Weigh masters shall exchange current rosters for the weigh-in. Weigh masters shall not weigh-in their own teams.

Coaches shall line their team up in jersey number order as they appear on the roster. The coach shall instruct the team to announce their number and name to the weigh master before stepping onto the scale.

Any player who weighs-in overweight may request a re-weigh for verification. Re-weighs will be conducted after the rest of the team has been weighed. The weigh masters will notify the Head Coach of each team when a player is overweight and ineligible to play. Overweight players must remove all equipment from the waist up, except their game jersey, until the completion of their game.

Weigh-in should be conducted 30 minutes prior to game time for the first game’s teams and during half-time of the prior game for subsequent teams. Late arrivals shall be weighed by the same weigh masters as soon as possible. No player shall be weighed-in after half-time of their game or after the weigh-in of the teams for the next game has begun.

Early weigh-ins are allowed for players who are close to the limit for their Division. A chart is to be displayed in weigh-in area to record early weigh-ins. The chart will be signed by authorized personnel from both teams for each early weigh-in.

Any questions, complaints or procedural problems must be brought to the attention of both Clubs’ League Representatives for prompt resolution. Such resolution shall be reached prior to game play. Any weigh-in problems must be reported to the League President or Secretary by noon of the Monday following the occurrence.

## **APPENDIX II– 8 & UNDER DIVISION GAME PLAY**

To streamline and simplify game play for the 8 & under Division, games will follow all 10 & under Division rules with the following exceptions:

- Games will consist of eight (8) minute quarters and a ten (10) minute half time period. (See **amendment Feb 19, 2014**). Each team will be allowed the normal allotment of three regulation time outs per half.

- There will be extra point tries after touchdowns.
- Scores will be posted on the scoreboard
- Penalties: All infractions observed that affect the start or result of a play will be called, plus personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct. The 25-second play clock will be utilized. However, officials will be enabled to use their judgment and only penalize extreme and/or intentional delay. Teams will be encouraged to utilize timeouts when needed to prevent delay penalties.
- No kickoffs. Teams will start at their own 35 yard line (50 yard line after safety) **(See amendment Feb 19, 2014)**
- One (1) coach per team is permitted on the field, however, once the offense breaks their huddle, all coaches must be positioned behind their deepest player. No “Chess” moves at the line will be permitted.
- “No Blitz” rule specifies a maximum of 6 men on the defensive line, and these are the only defenders who can charge across the line of scrimmage. Once the quarterback handoffs or attempts to run, all defenders may cross the line of scrimmage.

### **APPENDIX III– AMMENDMENT HISTORY**

#### **February 19, 2014**

Section 4.5--- Cut off to add players to roster is week 7 (has to be on roster 72 hours prior to game & playing in week 7 game).

Section 7.1 & Appendix II--- 100# Division will utilize 10 minute quarters.

Appendix II--- 100# Division will utilize kick-offs the second half of the season (Week 6-10).

Section 11.1--- All Divisions- Point-After-Touchdown, a successful kick attempt = 1 point, a successful run or pass attempt = 2 points

#### **February 19, 2015**

Preface----- Added Ford City Youth Football, Lower Burrell Youth Football and Shannock Valley Youth Football

Article I-----League dues increased to \$250.00/year

Section 4.5--- Cut off to add players to roster is week 6 (has to be on roster 72 hours prior to game & playing in week 6 game). This rule has not changed but we are playing an (8) eight game regular season.

**February 29, 2016**

Preface----- Added Allegheny Valley Youth Football Association to the “Preface”. They were inadvertently omitted in the 2015 amendments. (typographical error)

Section 3.1----Added 5 lb across the board to weight limits (Was 100, 120 & 140)