

2024 GOLDEN CRESCENT YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

COACHES AND GAME STAFF

1. No person may hold more than one head coaching position, coach more than one team in an age group, or coach for more than one town.
2. The Affiliate League President shall be the overall authority in all coaching matters and shall have full authority and responsibility to conduct the athletic program for all their affiliated Golden Crescent Youth Football League (GCYFL) teams.
3. The Affiliate League shall appoint a Head Coach and Assistant Head Coach for each team.
 - a. Each team will supply a minimum of two coaches at every game, practice, performance, or League approved outside activity.
 - b. Team levels are defined as:
 - i. Freshman – 5 & 6-year old's
 - ii. Sophomore – 7 & 8-year old's
 - iii. Junior – 9 & 10-year old's
 - iiii. Senior – 11 to 12-year old's
4. Each team Head Coach and Assistant Head Coach must attend the GGCYFL's annual coaching/certification clinic. The Head Coach and Assistant Head Coach will be accountable to return to their teams and inform the remaining team coaches of the rules and information discussed at the annual coaching/certification clinic. If any changes are made to the Head Coach or Assistant Head Coach during the season the GCYFL Board must be informed of the said changes.
5. Coaches will, at all times, promote the ideals and goals of GCYFL including:
 - a. Coaches must display good conduct at all times in front of the players. They must never argue between themselves or with other officials in front of any player.
 - b. No coach shall ever, unless teaching a fundamental stance or play; grab, punch or hit any player under his supervision. This includes grabbing the face mask.
 - c. No coach shall use any derogatory remarks toward any player under his supervision or to any player of the opposing team. The use of profanity is strictly forbidden at all times.
 - d. No coach, member of the coaching staff, or member of his team shall badger, ridicule, harass, or accost any official during or following a game. The head coach or acting head coach may, at any time during or after play, request information relative to an infraction.
 - e. No coach shall purposely teach any player under his care any unethical practice.
 - f. No coach may reward or offer incentives to players to encourage in any way injuring another player.
 - g. Voted on and **Removed 4/3/2022**
 - h. Every coach should instill the spirit to win, but above all, teach good sportsmanship whether they win or lose.
 - i. Head Coaches are responsible for the actions of the entire team, coaching staff, and parents and will be held accountable for such.
6. Any coach ejected from a game as a result of a confrontation with a game official is suspended from GCYFL immediately and shall not be allowed to participate in any GCYFL sanctioned coaching position or activity. He must immediately depart the game site or the League may assess additional penalties to the team up to and including forfeiture of the game.
 - a. The game site includes but is not limited to adjacent fields, bleachers, parking lots, buildings, or any area in which the individual is still in view of the game.
 - b. If a Coach is ejected from any game: **Amended on 4/3/2022**
 - i. 1st infraction: The Coach will be suspended from the next scheduled game and all league events from the time of infraction to the next scheduled game.

- ii. 2nd Infraction: The Coach will be suspended from all league events from the time of the infraction to the end of the season. The GCYFL Board shall notify the player's head coach who shall appear with the coach before the GCYFL Board to make a statement at the end of the season. The GCYFL Board shall have full power through a majority vote to discipline, suspend, revoke, or reinstate, the coach participation in the LEAGUE.
 - iii. 3rd Infraction: The Coach will be suspended from all league events from the time of the infraction for life.
- 7. Each team shall have maximum of eight (8) certified coaches, one (1) Photographer, and one (1) Team Mom on their team sideline during Freshman, Junior, and Senior Games.
 - a. All team staff members must wear identical shirts and League issued lanyard that identify them as part of their team.
 - b. Coaches must stay within their team's designated area (see Rule 45).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 8. Participants of the GCYFL may NOT play or be enrolled in any other football programs during the GCYFL season including but not limited to "select" or junior high school football. The GCYFL season is defined as being from the day of the draft through the final game of the season including any post-season/all-star games.
 - a. Any player found to be ineligible will result in forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player was found to participate and will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- 9. All players must be in regular full-time school attendance or provide verification of home schooling in accordance with local and state laws.
- 10. A player's age as of September 1st of the current year shall determine his/her eligibility to participate in GCYFL football and at what age level he/she will play (Freshman, Junior, or Senior).
 - a. Under **NO** circumstances will a player be allowed to "play down" to a lower team level, nor "play up" to a higher team level.
 - b. In order to be eligible to play GCYFL football:
 - i. A player cannot be thirteen (13) years of age as of September 1st of the current calendar year, regardless of grade level.
 - ii. The player shall be in the seventh (7th) grade or lower in school in the current season and their school must not offer football.
- 11. The Head Coach of any player found to knowingly be in violation of any part of this section shall be suspended immediately for the season.
 - a. Team roster information will be reviewed and approved by all Head Coaches (includes GCYFL and all affiliated organizations) during the first week of practice. If an ineligible player is later discovered to have played for that team during the season, the team will be required to forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated.
 - b. All Head Coaches must possess government issued birth records for each player on their roster along with a complete listing of player weights, as certified by the coaches and/or league officials during the first week in August of the current season. These records must be made available for review upon request, at any time, by a GCYFL Board member or opposing Head Coach/Assistant Head Coach.
- 12. **Voted on and Removed 4/3/2022**

- 13. **Voted on and Removed 4/3/2022**

REGISTRATION

- 14. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate League President to hold registration to enlist players for football teams.
- 15. All players registering for GCYFL football must play for a team in which the player resides. **Amended on 4/3/2022**

16. Certain children shall have the right to reserved positions on teams coached by family members or on teams with their family members on them. Reserve status shall be extended whenever possible to:
 - a. A child or grandchild of either the Head Coach or Assistant Head Coach.
 - b. A nephew or niece of either the Head Coach or Assistant Head Coach.
 - c. For the purposes of rule 16, “siblings” shall be defined as children residing together within the same household.
17. Under normal circumstances, each team shall have a maximum of two (2) protected coach’s children unless otherwise approved by the Board.
 - a. Example: If Team A protects its Assistant Head Coach’s son in Year 1 and the protected player is still on the team in Year 2, another player cannot be protected regardless of the coaching status of the team’s Assistant Head Coach.
 - b. Exceptions to this rule can only be made by the Board and all reserved/protected player positions are subject to review prior to each season.
 - c. The Board has the right to decline any such arrangements when it deems that an uncompetitive balance would be the likely result of any such arrangement.

TEAM STRUCTURE

18. All organizations will register and maintain a roster of teams.
19. The number of players per team will be:
 - a. Freshman/Junior/Senior – Minimum fifteen (15) and Maximum forty (40)
 - b. Once a team reaches 40 players, a board vote must be made to allow the team to stay together or make the decision to split.
20. A Player May be reassigned as follows:
 - a. Extreme Personal Conflict:
 - i. If an extreme personal conflict exists between a coach and the parent(s) of a player, or between parents with children assigned to the same team. The GCYFL Board can re-assign players as deemed necessary.
 - ii. Any reassignment during the season is made at the sole discretion of the GCYFL Board and is irrevocable.

EQUIPMENT

21. All equipment will at a minimum conform to UIL/NCAA equipment standards and shall include the following:
 - a. Headgear
 - i. Helmet shall be secured by a four-point chinstrap and shall include a facemask or double bar type guard.
 - ii. All chin strap snaps shall be fastened at all times
 - iii. Facemasks not supplied by the League, including but not limited to tubular face guards and transparent plastic eye/face shields may be installed only with approval of the League’s equipment coordinator or League President. Under no circumstance shall a tinted eye/face shield be put onto any helmet.
 - iv. Tinted eyeglasses are prohibited unless they are required for a medical condition and must have written documentation from a physician of medical necessity.
 - b. Jersey
 - i. NCAA Rule 1-4-3.a requiring visitors to wear white jerseys does not apply.
 - ii. Only a player’s number, team name, player’s last name and/or team sponsor shall be permitted on game uniforms.
 - iii. If two players with the same last name participate on the same team, their first initial may be added.
 - iv. No nicknames, abbreviations, middle names, or designs other than defined in rules. 21.b.ii and 21.b.iii. shall be permitted on any jersey. Anyone violating this rule shall pay for the cost to correct the jersey to the defined standards and the player with the violating jersey will not be allowed to participate in any games until it has been corrected.

- c. Mouthpiece
 - i. A mouthpiece is required to be connected to the facemask with a visible attachment. This includes the quarterback.
 - d. The NCAA recommended player numbering system for offensive players and formations applies only as a reference but coaches are encouraged to follow it. NCAA mandatory numbering applies except:
 - i. Jersey numbers "0" through "00" are permitted.
 - ii. Two or more players on the same team may not wear the same number.
 - e. The use of any tacky substance on fingers, hands, or clothing to improve ball-handling capabilities is prohibited.
 - f. Casts
 - i. Padding of any type, material and thickness protecting, covering, or camouflaging any cast or splint is strictly prohibited.
 - ii. Hard, abrasive, or unyielding substances on the hand, wrist, forearm or elbow are likewise prohibited regardless of padding.
 - g. No modifications or additions shall be made to any team's headgear or uniform without express authorization from the Board, Exceptions include but are not limited to providing award decals for helmets and game jersey's being hemmed to waist length, provided they appear to be professionally altered.
22. It shall be the responsibility of the team's coach to ensure that their players are supplied an ample amount of water or similar beverages for hydration in the team area at all games and practices.

SUSPENSION OF PLAYER, COACHES, OR PARENTS

23. Players, coaches, or parents guilty of persistent incorrigible misconduct may be suspended or banned from further participation in the League and all of its associated activities.
- a. If a Coach is ejected from any game, a Player is ejected from a game, or if a Spectator causes a game to be stopped or is removed from a league event: **Amended on 4/3/2022**
 - i. 1st infraction: The Coach, Player, or Spectator will be suspended from the next scheduled game and all league events from the time of infraction to the next scheduled game.
 - ii. 2nd Infraction: The Coach, Player or Spectator will be suspended from all league events from the time of the infraction to the end of the season. The GCYFL BOARD shall notify the player's head coach who shall appear with the coach, player or spectator before the GCYFL BOARD to make a statement at the end of the season. The GCYFL BOARD shall have full power through a majority vote to discipline, suspend, revoke, or reinstate, the Coach, Player, or Spectators participation in the LEAGUE.
 - iii. 3rd Infraction: The Coach, Player or Spectator will be suspended from all league events from the time of the infraction for life.

PRACTICE AND SCRIMMAGE

- 24. A practice session is defined as any occasion when three (3) or more participants and one or more coaches assemble for scrimmage, practice, game/performance film or videotape review, instructions, and/or lectures.
- 25. It is also considered practice anytime the team assembles early or remains later at a practice site or any other team designated place to conduct any football related team activity including organized, systematic physical conditioning regardless or direct supervision, coaching, etc.
- 26. Pre-Season practice dates will be set by the Board prior to each season.
 - a. Conditioning Practices: Players will only be allowed to wear helmets during all practiced defined by the league as conditioning practices
 - i. Conditioning practices will be conducted the first week of practice
 - ii. A team may practice a maximum of five (5) days during the week.
 - b. Full contact practices

- i. No player shall be permitted to practice without all protective equipment being worn including but not limited to shoulder pads, helmet, padded pants, mouth piece, practice jersey, and chin strap. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - ii. Any coach knowingly allowing a player to participate without all protective equipment shall be immediately suspended from all team activities and may only be reinstated by presenting himself before the Board. Reinstatement is at the Board's discretion by a majority vote and shall be final.
 - iii. A team may practice a maximum of five (5) days during the week up to the first full week before the opening game.
- 27. No post/off season practices or organized activities are permitted during the off-season, but players may participate in camps or group workouts as long as they are not exclusive to any one team or program.
- 28. No practice session is to exceed two (2) hours on any given day for the Freshman, Junior, and Senior divisions and must include a mandatory water break at least every fifteen (15) minutes.
 - a. Practices must be over by 8 PM.
 - b. The decision to suspend or cancel any practice due to hazardous weather, field, or other conditions is a Coaching Staff/League responsibility. Lightning in the vicinity of any practice or team event must be considered hazardous. Any practice shortened through any such decision is an official and complete practice.
 - c. The Affiliate League Board has authority to postpone or cancel any practices at any time.
- 29. No team may engage in a scrimmage or game with any other team without prior approval of that Affiliate Board.
- 30. After the first scheduled game, practice session will be limited to three (3) per week (not Sunday), with the exception that a team may hold one (1) additional practice session during any week in which they have a "bye".
- 31. No player may participate while in a cast, known to have a concussion, or other serious injury and may not return to physical practices or a game without a doctor's written release.
- 32. A coach may not smoke or use any other tobacco products at any time while participating in a GCYFL event, including practice.

MINIMUM PLAY RULE (Removed 3/3/2019)

GAME PLAY

- 35. The scheduling of regular season play shall be the responsibility of the GCYFL Board.
 - a. All regular season playing schedules are adopted annually.
 - b. The first game of the season shall be determined annually (subject to change).
 - c. No team may play games on Sunday without prior League approval.
- 36. The decision to suspend or cancel any scheduled games due to hazardous weather, field, or other conditions is made by the GCYFL Board member from each affiliate league playing in the game.
 - a. The GCYFL Board member's decision concerning postponement shall be final.
 - b. Game officials should be consulted in considering all options available to them.
 - c. Whenever possible, game play should resume as soon as possible following a weather delay.
 - d. Incomplete, cancelled, or games cancelled due to hazardous weather conditions or other causes, shall be rescheduled by the Affiliate Leagues and approved by the GCYFL Executive Board. If the game is halted due to hazardous weather conditions and cannot be completed on the same day, the score at the time the game was suspended shall be the final score, if at least one full half has been played. If less than one full half has been played the game will be re-scheduled in its entirety whenever possible.
- 37. Preceding the first game of the day all team drills should be complete and field clear, ready for the first kickoff.
- 38. All games shall be played under the supervision of TASO certified officials whenever possible.
 - a. If TASO officials are unavailable, officials agreed upon by both Head Coaches and at least one other Board member may officiate the game.
 - b. The Board member who approves the arrangement cannot be one of the coaches involved in the game.
 - c. If mutual consent cannot be obtained, the game will be re-scheduled.

39. The playing rules for the GCYFL will be those promulgated by the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) as issued by that body annually and modified as deemed necessary by the Board. All Participants and teams in the League will be governed by the rules adopted and approved by the League board. Unless otherwise specified, all rules shall apply to all team levels.

NEW RULE #7 (as of 2018) Blocking below the Waist:

- a. Linemen with initial position completely inside the tackle box may legally block below the waist inside the tackle box until the ball leave the tackle box. All other players are allowed to block below the waist only if the force of the initial contact is directed from the front. "Directed from the front" is defined as within the clock-face region between "10 o'clock and 2 o'clock" forward of the area of concentration of the player being blocked.
- b. Players may not block below the waist when the block occurs 5 yards or more beyond the neutral zone.
- c. Players in motion at the snap or lined up outside the tackle box may not block below the waist toward the original position of the ball at the snap.

40. Game Clock

- a. The game clock shall be continuous running time. The game clock will only stop for the following conditions:
 - i. Timeouts - The clock will then restart on the next snap of the football.
 - ii. Injuries - The clock will then restart after the injured player leaves the field.
 - iii. Freshman/Junior/Senior - The clock will stop after all scores and will be restarted when the ensuing kickoff is touched by the receiving team.
 - iv. Two Minute Warning – At the end of each half there will be a "Two Minute Warning". At this point the clock will stop until the next snap and the game will be played under normal NCAA clock regulations until the end of each half.
- b. The game clock will be kept by an on-field official, as well as, a designated scoreboard operator (when available) for each game.
- c. The intermission between halves should be 10 minutes.

41. Coaches from both "Home" and "Visiting" teams shall report game scores to their designated League representative.

42. Scouting

- a. Scouting of any practice is prohibited.
- b. Scouting of any game is allowed and the use of notepads and video recorders is permitted.
- c. Scouting of pre-season scrimmages is permitted, however, the use of video recording devices are prohibited, except for the teams participating in the scrimmage.

43. Radios, walkie-talkies, binoculars, or equivalent may not be used to communicate information to coaches during game.

44. Once the team trainer examines a player and removes him from the game or determines he is unable to play because of an injury or illness, no one with the team staff may override his decision.

45. Players must stay in the designated team area along the side line.

- a. Teams will occupy opposite sides of the field:
 - i. There must be a physical barrier between the spectators and the players/coaches.
 - ii. The NCAA requirement for staying between the twenty-five (25) yard lines will be followed.

46. Parents shall not enter the team sideline area during a game unless attending to an injured child.

47. Upon reaching a lead of 4 or more touchdowns at any time during the course of a game, the team leading the game shall remove its starting offensive backfield until their lead becomes less than 4 touchdowns.

- a. The starting backfield is defined as the Quarterback, Running Backs, and Slot Back that played the first four downs in the first quarter of the game.
- b. These players may play other offensive positions, but may not line up at any position in the backfield.
- c. If injuries to reserve players make this unfeasible in the opinion of the team's Head Coach - the League President or an on-site Board member must approve any substitutions allowed to the exception and spirit of this rule.

- d. Freshman/Junior/Senior divisions will refrain from blitzing have a maximum of 5 down linemen within the Tight Ends.
 - e. The first rule infraction will result in a warning from the game official.
 - f. Subsequent infractions will result in a fifteen (15) yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty being assessed to the offending team.
48. There shall be no tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drug use anywhere within the vicinity of the game site or practice field. The game site and practice field includes but is not limited to adjacent fields, bleachers, parking lots, buildings, or any area in which an individual is still in view of the game or practice. Tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug use policies and local laws of the, county, city, State of Texas, and Local School Districts shall be strictly enforced.
49. Chain Crew
- a. The home team will provide the chain crew and scoreboard operator (where applicable).
 - b. The chain crew shall be operated on the home team sideline.
 - d. The chain crew is part of the officiating crew and will be treated as such. No parent, player, coach, or other person shall accost, ridicule, or otherwise demean them. As part of the officiating crew no one from the chain crew should coach, speak to, or otherwise engage with any players, coaches, or parents during the game. The chain crew shall remain unbiased at all times while performing their duty.
50. Facemask Penalty
- a. GCYFL will retain the 5-yard facemask penalty for an incidental facemask.
 - b. The 15-yard facemask penalty will be called for a flagrant face mask.
 - c. The game officials will determine the severity of the foul. (In 2008, the NCAA and UIL eliminated the 5-yard facemask penalty.)
51. Overtime - A modified NCAA format tiebreaker will be utilized as follows:
- a. At the end of regulation play, a coin toss will determine which end of the field will be used and which team will receive possession first.
 - b. Each team will receive equal possessions beginning at the fifteen (15) yard line.
 - c. Extra point values remain the same as in regulation play.
 - d. If after two series of alternating possessions a winner has not been achieved the ball will be placed at the five (5) yard line.
 - e. All divisions - during all games and the playoffs, each team will receive equal possessions in overtime until there is a winner.
52. Team Level Specific Rules:
- a. Freshman:
 - i. 11-man football
 - ii. 50x100 yard field
 - iii. Football size: freshman teams will use the Wilson GTS pee wee size football. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - iv. Coaches: Two (2) offensive and two (2) defensive coaches will be allowed on the field.
 - 1. Coaches must withdraw at least ten (10) yards from the line of scrimmage prior to the snap of the ball and must not provide direction of any kind once the ball has been snapped.
 - v. A maximum of ten (10) adults will be allowed on the sideline during games per team head coach approval. (See rule #7). All Coaches must have on like attire. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - vi. 10 minute per quarter game clock. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - vii. Weight limits: **Voted on and Removed 4/3/2022**
 - viii. Kickoff - Game play will begin with a coin toss to determine the “kicking” and “receiving” teams. The receiving team will put the ball in play from their 30-yard line.
 - ix. Punts – On fourth down the “punting” team must announce its’ intention to punt after which the ball will be placed either 25 yards up field or half the distance to the goal line (whichever is less).
 - x. Extra Points (PAT) – The point-after-touchdown awards shall be:
 - a. One (1) point for a running the ball into the end zone.
 - b. Two (2) points for a forward pass caught in the end zone
 - c. Three (3) points for a regulation extra point (kicking a field goal).

- d. The defense can score two (2) points on a PAT try if they return the ball by interception, fumble recovery, or blocked kick to the opposite end zone.
- xi. Defensive Linemen must be in a three (3) or four (4) point stance inside the tackle box.
- xii. Offensive Linemen must be in either a two (2) or three (3) point stance.
- xiii. Linebackers may be in a standing position to blitz but must be outside the “box”
- 1. The “box” is defined as offensive tackle to offensive tackle and behind the back foot of the largest lineman. Can’t be on the line of scrimmage or lined up in the gaps. **Amended on 4/3/2022**

a. Sophomore

- i. 11-man football
- ii. 50x100 yard field
- iii. Football size: Sophomore teams will use the Wilson GTS pee wee size football. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
- iv. Coaches: One (1) Offensive and one (1) defensive coach will be allowed on the field for the season. This season only. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
- a. Coaches must withdraw at least ten (10) yards from the line of scrimmage prior to the snap of the ball and must not provide direction of any kind once the ball has been snapped.
- v. A maximum of ten (10) adults will be allowed on the sideline during games per team head coach approval. (See rule #7). All Coaches must have on like attire. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
- vi. 10 minute per quarter game clock. **Amended on 4/3/2022**
- vii. Weight limits: **Voted on and Removed 4/3/2022**
- viii. Kickoff – The kicking team shall kickoff from the 40-yard line.
- ix. Punts – All punts are not live. Punts can either be kicked or thrown. No lining up over center nor rolling out to punt ball. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
- x. Extra Points (PAT) – The point-after-touchdown awards shall be:
 - a. One (1) point for a running the ball into the end zone.
 - b. Two (2) points for a forward pass caught in the end zone
 - c. Three (3) points for a regulation extra point (kicking a field goal). Not live. No lining up over center. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
- d. The defense can score two (2) points on a PAT try if they return the ball by interception, fumble recovery, or blocked kick to the opposite end zone.
- xi. A Nose Guard or other defensive player may NOT line up over the Center for punts and extra point attempts and Linebackers may not blitz from less than three (3) yards. infractions of this rule will result in:
 - a. First Offense – Fifteen (15) yard penalty.
 - b. Second Offense – Fifteen (15) yard penalty and Head Coach ejected from the season.
 - c. Third Offense – Forfeit of the game.
- xii. Defensive Linemen must be in a three (3) or four (4) point stance inside the tackle box.
- xiii. Offensive Linemen must be in either a two (2) or three (3) point stance.
- xiv. Linebackers may be in a standing position to blitz but must be outside the “box”
- 1. The “box” is defined as offensive tackle to offensive tackle and behind the back foot of the largest lineman. Can’t be on the line of scrimmage or lined up in the gaps. **Amended on 4/3/2022**

b. Junior:

- i. 11-man football
- ii. 50x100 yard field
- iii. Football size: Junior teams will use the Wilson GTS junior size football. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
- iv. Coaches: One (1) Offensive and one (1) defensive coach will be allowed on the field for the first four (4) weeks of the season. Beginning week (5) NO coaches allowed on field.
 - a. Coaches must withdraw at least ten (10) yards from the line of scrimmage prior to the snap of the ball and must not provide direction of any kind once the ball has been snapped.

- v. A maximum of ten (10) adults will be allowed on the sideline during games per team head coach approval. (See rule #7). All Coaches must have on like attire. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - vi. 10 minute per quarter game clock. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - vii. Weight limits: **Voted on and Removed 4/3/2022**
 - viii. Kickoff – The kicking team shall kickoff from the 40-yard line.
 - ix. Punts – All punts are live.
 - x. Extra Points (PAT) – The point-after-touchdown awards shall be:
 - a. One (1) point for a running the ball into the end zone.
 - b. Two (2) points for a forward pass caught in the end zone
 - c. Three (3) points for a regulation extra point (kicking a field goal).
 - d. The defense can score two (2) points on a PAT try if they return the ball by interception, fumble recovery, or blocked kick to the opposite end zone.
 - xi. A Nose Guard or other defensive player may NOT line up over the Center for punts and extra point attempts and Linebackers may not blitz from less than three (3) yards.
 - 1. Infractions of this rule will result in:
 - a. First Offense – Fifteen (15) yard penalty.
 - b. Second Offense – Fifteen (15) yard penalty and Head Coach ejected from the season.
 - c. Third Offense – Forfeit of the game.
 - xii. Defensive Linemen must be in a three (3) or four (4) point stance inside the tackle box.
 - xiii. Offensive Linemen must be in either a two (2) or three (3) point stance.
 - xiv. Linebackers may be in a standing position to blitz but must be outside the “box”
 - 1. The “box” is defined as offensive tackle to offensive tackle and behind the back foot of the largest lineman. Can’t be on the line of scrimmage or lined up in the gaps. **Amended on 4/3/2022**
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- d. Senior
 - i. 11-man football
 - ii. 50x100 yard field
 - iii. Football size: Senior teams will use the Wilson GTS youth size football. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - iv. Coaches: NO coaches allowed on the field.
 - v. A maximum of ten (10) adults will be allowed on the sideline during games per team head coach approval. (See rule #7). All Coaches must have on like attire. **Amended on 8/19/2023**
 - vi. **12** minute per quarter game clock. **Amended on 2023**
 - vii. Weight limits: **Voted on and Removed 4/3/2022**
 - viii. Kickoff – The kicking team shall kickoff from the 40-yard line.
 - ix. Punts – All punts are live.
 - x. Extra Points (PAT) – The point-after-touchdown awards shall be:
 - a. One (1) point for a running the ball into the end zone.
 - b. Two (2) points for a forward pass caught in the end zone
 - c. Three (3) points for a regulation extra point (kicking a field goal).
 - d. The defense can score two (2) points on a PAT try if they return the ball by interception, fumble recovery, or blocked kick to the opposite end zone.
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 - 1. Infractions of this rule will result in:
 - a. First Offense – Fifteen (15) yard penalty.
 - b. Second Offense – Fifteen (15) yard penalty and Head Coach ejected for the season.
 - xii. Defensive Linemen must be in a three (3) or four (4) point stance inside the tackle box.
 - xiii. Offensive Linemen must be in either a two (2) or three (3) point stance.
 - xiv. Linebackers may be in a standing position to blitz but must be outside the “box”
 - 1. The “box” is defined as offensive tackle to offensive tackle and behind the back foot of the largest lineman. Can’t be on the line of scrimmage or lined up in the gaps. **Amended on 4/3/2022**

TEAM SELECTIONS

53. All divisions will conduct a draft for team selections.
54. Players selected by a team will remain with that team as long as they remain in that division.
 - a. No returning player may re-enter the draft without approval from the GCYFL Executive Board.
 - b. Players advancing to a higher level must enter the draft.
 - c. Returning players will be inserted into the draft beginning in the 11th round.
55. Reserved players draft positions:
 - a. The Assistant Head Coach's child will automatically be chosen by that team in the first round of that players first season playing in that division.
 - b. All other reserved players as defined in rule 16 in the "Registration" section, will automatically be taken by that team beginning in the eleventh rounds and continuing through subsequent rounds until all reserved players are chosen.
56. If siblings, or other relatives as defined in rule 16 in the "Registration" section, enter the draft simultaneously, the Head Coach choosing one of them must take the remaining ones with his/her subsequent picks.
 - a. Example – There are two brothers all entering the draft and a Head Coach picks one in the third round, the Head Coach must take the remaining in the fourth round.
57. Draft Order:
 - a. Each Head Coach will draw a number to determine the order of draft picks.
 - b. The lowest number will choose first in the first round, followed by the second lowest, etc.
 - c. The picks for the remaining rounds will be staggered.
 - i. Example – If there are five teams the first-round pick will be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The second round will be 5, 1, 2, 3, 4. The third round will be 4, 5, 1, 2, 3 etc.
 - ii. This format will be followed until all players are chosen.
58. Players who do not participate in a required GCYFL evaluation combine will not be eligible for selection during the player draft. These players will be chosen at random at the end of the player draft.
 - a. Any player who purposely misses the combine to avoid the draft will be chosen at random from a hat.
 - b. If an Affiliate League has greater than one team in a division then they are required to have a combine.
59. A maximum of two coaches or team representatives per team shall attend and participate in a player draft. Any GCYFL Board member is authorized to attend and monitor any GCYFL or affiliated organization's draft.
60. Head Coaches may trade players on draft day after all player selections are made.
 - a. No trades may take place after draft day.
 - b. All trades must be approved by the Affiliate League Board.
61. Players re-entering the draft at the same age level are not eligible to become a protected draft pick as the child of an Assistant Head Coach.

PLAYOFF TIE BREAKERS

62. Two teams ties for a playoff spot:
 - a. Head to head during the season.
 - b. Records against common opponents.
 - c. Overall record.
 - d. Strength of schedule (combined records of opponents, team with toughest schedule gets in).
 - e. Wild-card playoff during the week before the first Saturday playoff game.
63. Two teams tied for playoff position (both teams have already qualified for the playoffs):
 - a. Head to head during regular season.
 - b. Records against common opponents.
 - c. Overall record.
 - d. Strength of schedule.
 - e. Coin flip.
64. Three teams tied for a playoff spot:

- a. Head to head during the regular season, if one team lost to both that team is eliminated.
 - b. Records against common opponents.
 - c. Overall record.
 - d. Strength of schedule.
 - e. If none of these breaks the tie, a coin flip will be conducted.
 - i. All 3 coaches flip a coin and the odd man out gets a bye.
 - ii. The other two teams play one half of a wild card game during the week with the winner playing the team with the bye one half immediately following the first game.
 - f. Once a three-way tie has been eliminated by any of the above guidelines the two teams left will break the remaining tie by applying the guidelines listed in Rule 70 regarding "Two teams tie for a playoff spot".
65. More than three teams tied for a playoff spot.
- a. Head to head during the regular season.
 - b. Records against common opponents.
 - c. Overall record.
 - d. Strength of schedule.
 - e. Wild card tournament playing half games during the week with seeding determined by coin flip.
 - i. All must be completed on the same day.
 - ii. When a wild card playoff is required, the Head Coaches of the teams that are tied must confer on the final day of the regular season and reach an agreement on the time/location of the wild card game.
 - iii. A Board Member not associated with either team must also be involved to determine availability of fields/officials.
 - iv. If the coaches can't agree on a time/location, a coin flip will be conducted with the winning coach choosing the time/location of the wild card game.

CODE OF CONDUCT

66. No parent/spectator may physically or verbally abuse any players, coaches, other parents/spectators, League Officials, or Game Officials.
- a. Anyone who physically abuses any of those listed above will be immediately removed from the premises and will be subject to prosecution.
 - b. Anyone who verbally abuses any of those listed above, depending on the severity of the incident, will either be warned the first time or immediately removed from the premises.
 - c. Under no circumstances will this individual be allowed to remain the premises if this rule is violated a second time.
67. Anyone removed from a game due to a violation of this rule will have to appear before the Executive Board before they may attend another GCYFL event.
- a. The Executive Board reserves the right to ban anyone from all GCYFL events for the remainder of the season.
 - b. The Executive Board's decision will be final.
 - c. If the banned person appears at a GCYFL game, the game will not be played and possibly forfeited.

CONFERENCE/DISTRICT ALIGNMENT AND PLAYOFF STRUCTURE

68. Final district alignment will be determined after registration each year. If cities with multiple teams are placed in multiple districts, the Head Coaches from these teams will draw for district placement. The GCYFL will make every effort to group teams together to minimize travel.
69. Each team will play district opponents once and will play enough non-district games to ensure at least an 8-game season. District record will determine playoff eligibility except in certain tiebreaker scenarios.
70. Playoff Seeding will be determined as follows:
- a. Round 1

- i. The top three (3) teams from each age division and district will qualify for post-season play with the teams being seeded based on their district record.
- ii. "Wildcard" qualifiers will be the two teams with the best overall records that were not a first or second or third place finisher in their district during regular season play.
- iii. The two district winners (#1 Seeds per district) with the best district records will host one of the division's two "wildcard" qualifiers (#4 Seed per district) in cross district play. The #2 Seed will play the #3 Seed in cross district play.
- iv. Ties for these qualifying spots will be broken in the same manner listed previously for determining playoff eligible teams.
- b. Round 2 (Semi-Final)
 - i. #1 will host the lowest remaining seed. #2 will host the other remaining seed without regard to divisions.
- c. Round 3 (GCYFL Superbowl)
 - i. The site of the annual GCYFL Championship games will be determined before the season begins and will rotate among all GCYFL towns based on stadium availability.
 - ii. The highest remaining seed in post-season play will be the "home" team at the Superbowl.
 - iii. The Board maintains the right to change playoff game locations due to official availability.