

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
(Proposed Changes 2010)**

Below are the FCFL Policies and Procedures which have been modified for Fall 2010. These modifications will be incorporated during June into the FCFL Policies and Procedures document.

VII. TEAM

A. Team Splitting

1. For the Bantam (3rd and 4th grade) and Junior (5th and 6th grade) divisions, teams must be split when registration reaches 32. Therefore, the maximum team size is 31.
2. For the Senior (7th and 8th grade) division, teams must be split when registration reaches 34. Therefore, the maximum team size is 33. *However, under special situations and circumstances, each respective town has the option to appeal to the FCFL to increase the mandatory split prior to the first game of the season. All other rules and policies will apply including the minimum play rule.*

Vote: Passed FCFL approval

PARTICIPANTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Fairfield County Football League requires that all participants (football players and cheerleaders) commit and adhere to the following Code of Conduct. FCFL believes in the three “S’s” – Safety, Sportsmanship, and Scholarship and expects student participants to exhibit them both on and off the field. **Any** violation of the following Codes could result in disciplinary action by the Member Organization and/or the FCFL that may result in warnings or suspension. Always remember that the game of football will be an enjoyable, fun team sport only when you conduct yourself as follows:

1. I will attend all practices/games except for illness, bereavement, religious obligations or schoolwork and I will notify my coach immediately if I am unable to attend a scheduled practice/game. **Unexcused absences from practices or games (non-participation in a significant portion of one or practice(s) may be grounds for penalty or suspension). Penalties may include game suspension(s) and possible dismissal from the team.**
2. I will arrive to practices/games **on time**, prepared and ready to go. **I will participate in each practice to the fullest extent of my ability.**
3. I agree to conduct myself with dignity as a participant of FCFL football and as a citizen of the community.
4. I will be fully accountable for my behavior and its outcome. Individual discipline is the only way to maintain team safety. I understand that discipline problems will not be tolerated and could result in my being suspended or removed from the team.
5. I will play by the rules and resolve conflicts without cheating or violence.
6. I will treat all participants including coaches and officials with respect and know that I too will be treated in the same manner.

7. I will not dispute or argue the decision of a coach or official.
8. I will not yell, taunt, or tease a teammate or opponent for any reason.
9. I will not use profane language or gestures.
10. I will avoid use of abusive drugs, steroids, alcohol and/or any other illegal substances, as they will impact my health and my performance on the field in a negative way.
11. I agree to put forth my best effort regardless of the outcome, always knowing that I gave 100%. **This includes practice and applies to consistently finishing drills and exercises in preparation for other aspects of practice and / or games and in order to mitigate and prevent, to greatest extent possible, injury to myself and my teammates.**
12. I will agree to maintain my studies and respect my teachers and counselors.

Vote: Passed FCFL Approval

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

The success of our youth football program requires a shared commitment among its coaches, players, cheerleaders, **and parents as well as an acknowledgement and appreciation for the amount of time the coaches volunteer in order that so many children are able to participate in the program.** Our program is intended to be a positive educational experience. Therefore, we ask you to pledge to be a positive role model for your child and others **and to keep in mind that the coaches and board members are volunteers.** The FCFL has always encouraged sportsmanship, responsibility, and good citizenship both on and off the field.

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials.
2. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect.
3. I will teach my child to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without violence.
4. I will never scorn or yell at any children for making a mistake or losing a game.
5. I will expect that my child's practices and games be held in a safe and healthy environment.
6. I will praise my child for giving his/her best effort regardless of the game outcome.
7. I will respect the coaches' time and ability and will not interfere with practices or games.
8. I will make every effort to ensure my child arrives to practices/games at the required time and I will notify the coaches immediately if my child is unable to attend a scheduled practice/game. **In the event of unexcused absences from practices or games, I will accept the respective Coaches' decision regarding any discipline and / or suspension(s). I will arrange for prompt drop-offs and pick-ups. I understand and agree that if my child does not fully participate in practices and / or games to the extent my child is able to do so, then at the coaches' discretion my child may not be allowed to participate in the next practice and / or game as determined by the coaches.**

9. I have the obligation to address any concerns that I may have at the time they occur with the Head Coach, member organization's President or FCFL President.

10. I will never enter any part of the playing field to film or take pictures at any time during a game. I will sit in the designated seating area during a game. If a designated area is not available, I will maintain a distance of at least 10 yards from the players.

11. I will volunteer (if at all possible) my time to assist my child's team when asked by either a coach or a team mom. This may include assisting with game day preparations; concession stands, writing newspaper articles, etc.

12. I agree to abide by the aforementioned Fairfield County Football League Parent Code of Conduct and acknowledge that any violation of the above guidelines may subject me to disciplinary actions by the FCFL or my participating member organization, which may include an oral or written warning or suspension from attendance at games and / or practices.

Vote: Passed FCFL Approval

Weight Limits

1. Raise the weight limits by 5 lbs in each grade for both limited and unlimited players. We are proposing 3 different votes:
 - Increase of 5 lbs for Limited players ONLY at every grade.

Vote: Passed FCFL Approval

Age Limits

Vote: Passed FCFL Approval

Grade	Unlimited	Limited	Maximum Age by August 1
Bantam 3	90	120	9
Bantam 4	100	130	10
Junior 5	110	140	11
Junior 6	125	155	12
Junior 7	135	170	13
Junior 8	150	205	15, MAXIMUM AGE BY DEC 1

Objectives

- 1) Add to II Objectives – section B. to promote passion for the game of football and encourage mutual respect between players, coaches and parents of all towns and to implant...
- 2) Add to IX Game Day – section 6C - C. Head Coach/Referee Meeting - Prior to the start of each game, both Head Coaches and Referees must review any unique rules affecting the grade level for that game. In addition all coaches must shake hands before the game and discuss any particular concerns and foster open communication between coaches in advance of any issues or conflicts that may arise during the game.

Vote: Passed FCFL approval

Removal of Parent/Spectator

Section 12 by adding an additional sentence to the section. "Further, the FCFL reserves the right to "remove" a parent from the field of play, stadium and spectator viewing area -- practice or game -- in the event that it is determined by the coaches and/or officials that the parent has materially violated the above guidelines".

Vote: Passed FCFL approval

Field Access

All coaches, chain workers, play counters, and team photographer must have a field pass in order to be on the sidelines, track or any area inside the fence of the playing area. All others must be in the stands. The Home team will be responsible for issuing the field passes to both Home and Away teams.

Vote: Passed FCFL approval

Team Split Enforcement

6. Towns with multiple teams in a division will split teams so no one team will have any advantage in talent or experience. Each team must have the same number of new players within one. In addition, towns are required to reshuffle their rosters on an annual basis such on **any one team** a minimum of 25.0% (please note this is a required minimum, 24.9% is not sufficient) must be assigned to a different team than they were on the previous year. Each member of the team must have at least 25% different teammates not including new players than the previous year.) By the Tuesday prior to the start of the regular season, the FCFL representatives sitting on the Policy committee will gather all their respective town's rosters to ensure that each team at each grade levels meets the new player distribution and minimum 25% shuffling requirement. The policy committee will then certify each team as complied. Any coaches who fail to comply will be first requested to comply by the Policy committee and given 48 hours to meet this requirement. If the requirements are not satisfied within 48 hours, the coach will be suspended for 5 games. A second request to satisfy the requirement will be given and if not complied within an additional 48 hours, a season long suspension of the coach or coaches involved will be instituted.

Vote: Policy will audit and govern each team's split. A 48 hour cure period will be granted to remedy the imbalance. Failure to cure within the 48 hour period, penalties and sanctions will be at the FCFL Board's discretion.

XIII. Scheduling and Policy Guidelines: No intra-town games for any teams when there are less than 4 teams from a respective town in a specific grade. Additional guidelines TBD following discussion with NC and approved by FCFL.

Ridgefield Youth Football

Ridgefield Youth Football admittance to the FCFL was a unanimous “YES” vote.