

# **TACONIC YOUTH FOOTBALL RULES**

Amended July 5, 2017

## **SECTION 1 - MEMBER COMMITMENT**

- 1.1 Taconic Youth Football & Cheer (TYFC) is completely dedicated to the boys and girls who participate in TYFC with safety and enjoyment paramount at all times. TYFC has provided a basic set of rules, which are not to be ignored or broken. In all instances the TYFC regulations will be followed.
- 1.2 Priority shall be given to the highest level of play for the purpose of maintaining competition at the highest level of play. It is the obligation of each member organization to first complete the most senior age division roster before attempting to complete any feeder team rosters, in this, we hope to prevent the stacking of feeder teams.
- 1.3 All member organizations are obligated to complete all regularly scheduled games, including crossover, playoff, bowl and championship games at each level of competition during the season. Failure to comply shall be investigated by the TYFC Executive Board and may be subject to any rules governing forfeiture.
- 1.4 Member organizations must fully register all players & teams in the TYFC. Under no circumstance can an organization field a team in a competing, outside organization.
- 1.5 Member organizations must fully comply with all required Book Validation documentation in the required format & at the required time as defined by the Book Validation Committee. A sample packet will be provided by the TYFC for reference. Any incomplete / inaccurate / unformatted forms will result in the rejection of the entire team book and could result in a player / team being ineligible for play.
- 1.6 Any town or organization may apply for TYFC membership by submitting a formal request to the Executive Committee as instructed on the "TYFC New Membership Application Form" posted on the league website. Submission of this form confirms applicant's acknowledgement that they have read, understand, & will comply with all TYFC Rules as noted.

## **SECTION 2 - PLAYER & COACH REQUIREMENTS**

- 2.1 Player registration is determined by the league designated school boundaries established:
  - School district as listed on the TYFC website "District Boundaries" & all member websites
  - Member organizations may accept out-of-district applicants in accordance with the School District Schematic listed on the TYFC website ("District Boundaries") & all member websites.
  - Any player (not previously grand-fathered as of 2013) from a school district that is not assigned to a member organization is not eligible to play in the TYFC without approval from the Executive Board.
  - A player that is approved to play from outside the school district boundaries is not grandfathered for the following season and all situations will be reviewed each year on a case by case basis
  - It is the responsibility of each member organization that they, upon acceptance of a registrant, perform the necessary due diligence to ensure the child has registered in the correct program. If it is found at a later date (prior to the start of the regular season) that the child has registered in the wrong program the organization in which the child has registered must assume full responsibility & the child will be placed in the correct organization as designated by the league approved boundaries

- 2.2 In such cases where no TYFC team exists in a player's town, the youth may play for the closest neighboring border organization only with the approval of the Executive Board. At the time of registration, the player must be Waitlisted & informed that they cannot play in the TYFC without Executive Board approval. If at a later date a TYFC team is formed in the players town, the player is expected to play for the team assigned in that School District; unless extenuating circumstances are presented to & approved by the Executive Board.
- 2.3 The level of play is based upon an Aged Based Unlimited Weight structure as listed on the league website under the "All-American Divisions" tab. It is expected that all registrants will play within their appropriate division (based on age). In accordance with National regulations, the Age-Based Division will always be the determining factor relative to roster placement. Any exception must be approved by the Executive Board.
- 2.4 Each member organization must submit a roster of at least 16 eligible football players for each team it intends to field (exceptions must be approved by the TYFC board), made up of players who reside within the designated boundaries of such organization. If a player starts in town A and moves to town B, the player may stay with town A or switch to town B (The grandfather clause that allows a player who has moved to remain with the original organization can also be applied to the player's siblings. However, the grandfather clause does not apply to other family members such as cousins, good friends etc.). If the player decides to switch to town B, they may not switch back to town A at a later date/year

There is no team maximum. TYFC will comply with National if there is a max number; therefore player 37 and up will be notified of such rule and could be ineligible for Regional & National Championship play.

- 2.5 All TYFC member organizations are prohibited from waiving players from their respective organizations. Participants are required to register, play for, & remain with their town/member organization as noted in article 2.1 (above). No exceptions to this rule will be granted.
- 2.6 In order for a member association to field two (2) teams at any one level, you must fill the following criteria: no less than 40 players at the same level, the first roster must be a complete 36 player roster and a waiting list must be maintained by the head coach of the originating team (reviewable by the TYFC Board). The process to separate the teams evenly should be via a "Draft" process. Final approval by the Executive Board on the team separation process is required. The objective is to create evenly balanced teams. If the results represent the creation of an "A" and "B" team, changes need to be made the following year unless extenuating circumstances exist that have been presented to & approved by the Executive Board.
- 2.7 Each member organization is required to submit a League approved player contract for each player & cheerleader to the League for validation. The player contract must contain the following:
- (1) **PROOF OF BIRTH:** A Birth Certificate, Certificate of Baptism, Visa or Passport, or a letter from a School Administrator on school letterhead are acceptable. A copy of it must be permanently affixed to the back of the contract with the birth date highlighted.

(2) REPORT CARD - Provide last quarter Report Card with Final Grades. This is to validate participants' scholastic eligibility.

(3) PARENTAL CONSENT: A signed statement by the parent or legal guardian, permitting the child to participate in tackle football or cheerleading and extending permission to administer necessary first aid or medical attention, including the transport of the injured child to the nearest medical facility when required. In cases when no permission is received regarding medical matters, the parent/guardian responsible for that child must be in attendance at all practices and games in which the child participates. The information contained on the form provided by TYFC must be used, as a minimum, on all local association contracts.

(4) PHYSICAL EXAM: A signed & stamped statement by a physician declaring the youth physically sound and capable of playing tackle football or performing cheerleading exercises & drills. This statement must be signed by the physician after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. The physician's signature must be accompanied by a stamped name.

(5) PHOTO OF PLAYER: Full face; helmet off; from head to waist, in home game jersey with numbers clearly visible. In such cases where jerseys are not available at time photo was taken: a substitute label should be affixed to the photo with number clearly indicated. Cheerleader photo will be a full-face photo.

(6) SCHOLASTIC FITNESS: Each child must have proof of satisfactory progress in school. Any means of proof (report cards, written statements, etc.) is acceptable by the League.

(7) Individual player forms & organizational forms must be retrieved from the MyAYF website after April 1st of the current year. No other versions of these forms will be accepted.

(8) TYFC will provide each organization with the Tackle football roster, MPR, & Game Day check in form that must be used prior to April 1st of the current year. No other versions of these forms will be accepted. Handwritten forms will be rejected.

2.8 Each of the aforementioned requirements must be stamped with an official League stamp, that shows current year of eligibility, in order to certify the validation of the contract.

2.9 It is the responsibility of the TYFC Executive Board to determine the eligibility of each player or cheerleader, and thereof shall conduct any investigation of same. At no time shall a member organization or individuals undertake a private investigation of any member organization's player records.

2.10 Each organization must complete and submit two (2) copies of the National Roster and two (2) copies of the TYFC Team/Game-day Roster to the TYFC Executive Board, for each team it intends to field, completed thoroughly. All submitted copies must be typed & completed in full; hand-written copies and/or incomplete copies will be rejected

- NATIONAL ROSTER: List of players in order of birth date, oldest to youngest.
- TYFC TEAM/GAME-DAY ROSTER: List of players in jersey number order.

- 2.11 A copy of each roster shall remain on file with the League. The League Registrar shall keep current each roster, and shall record add-ons and drop-offs as required. Players can be added to a team up to and including completion of the Week 2 of the current season, provided the player has met all necessary requirements. This includes players moving up from lower levels of play. Under no circumstances shall a player be moved down to a level of play once validated to play at a higher level of play.
- 2.12 All coaching positions are subject to approval by the TYFC Executive Board. Head Coach positions, regardless of which level of play, may be subject to interview and approval by the Taconic Youth Football & Cheer Executive Board. A person holding any position in any other League or Conference may not hold any coaching position in the Taconic Youth Football & Cheer League.
- 2.13 The league will have a Mandatory meeting to validate all Head Coaches, to review any points of emphasis of TYFC Rules & Regulations, By-Laws, as well as, review the Officials' points of emphasis or changes. In the event a Head Coach cannot attend they must send a delegate in their absence. All teams must be represented; those who do not attend will not be "validated" and will not be allowed to coach. The respective organization will be subject to penalty if the Head Coach (or a delegate) is not present.
- 2.14 Every coach must successfully complete the required certifications as determined by the TYFC. This includes all AYF & USA Football certifications.
- 2.15 The Executive Board of TYFC will oversee and have final say on all team rosters.

### **SECTION 3 - GAME DAY PROCEDURES**

- 3.0 TYFC follows all rules & regulations set forth by AYF regarding roster size on game day:  
*It is required that each team must have the minimum number of 13 players eligible and able to participate to start a regulation or local play-off game. For the Regional championship game/state championship (qualifying game for berth at the National Championships) and first games of National Championship play, each team must have a minimum of 16 players eligible and able to participate. If the number of players falls below 11 players, the game will be forfeited.*
- 3.1 Roster Validation - Prior to each game, opposing Head Coaches (or a delegate) will validate players to the official TYFC/Game-Day roster including checking photo to player participant. A coach may check report cards and/or birth certificates if deemed necessary.
- 3.1A Coach Validation - Prior to each game, all coaches must be validated against their photo in the team book. All certifications must also be present in the book. Coaches must wear league approved ID badge at all times when accessing the field of play/coaches box. ID badge must contain the name & photo of the coach along with the year & team name.
- 3.2 It is the obligation of every coach to complete the schedule of games. A game may be canceled under unusual adverse weather conditions. If a recognized town authority deems the home team's field unplayable, the visiting team has the opportunity to provide their own town field for the game with a reasonable accommodation of 2 hours within the originally scheduled game time. Once the game is in progress, only the referee may cancel a game, because of inclement weather, field conditions, darkness, or in questions of crowd behavior, where the safety of the players are in jeopardy.

- 3.2A Failure to play (forfeiture) in a league scheduled game, including preseason, regular season, or post-season, could result in a one (1) week suspension of the Head Coach. Multiple forfeits can result in cancellation of all remaining games; forfeiture of games previously won, and permanent suspension of the Head Coach. Decisions on penalty assigned are at the sole discretion of the TYFC Executive Board.
- 3.3 Game cancellation decision must be made at least 2 hours before game time. Failure to do so may result in liability for official's fees, and/or forfeiture of game. The makeup of a canceled game will be under the direction of the TYFC Scheduling Coordinator or the Executive Board. In the case of any rescheduled games, the host team is responsible for the official's fees.
- 3.4 Coaches are responsible for each player being equipped properly.
- 3.5 Tentative Game Times are as follows:  
Due to varying organizational circumstances, game start times could be as early as 8:00AM or as late as lights are permitted on certain fields. Host sites are expected to begin each game promptly at the scheduled time.
- 3.6 The schedule may not be revised once finalized, except to accommodate canceled games and must be approved by the Executive Board. Only the TYFC can schedule league games.
- 3.7 Every effort shall be made for all teams within the conference to play each other during the regular season.
- 3.8 A maximum of eight (8) shirted coaches, with approved lanyard, are allowed in the coaches box during a game. Coaches can only remain on the sideline for levels in which they are a rostered coach.
- 3.8A The coaches box is the area from the 25 yard line to the other 25 yard line.
- 3.8B One photographer per team is allowed on the field. They must remain on their sideline, outside the coaches box, and away from the back of the end zones.
- 3.8C TYFC Board Members shall be allowed on any field (outside the coaches box) with lanyard.
- 3.8D No other non-medical personnel (i.e. Team Mom, parent, siblings, HS players) shall be allowed on the field at any time.
- 3.9 Minimum Play Counters must wear a highly visible colored vest or T-shirt for clear identification. Organizations are required to supply approved vests / T-shirts.
- 3.9A Minimum Play Counters must stay outside the coaches box at all times & cannot communicate with the players at any time. Once the minimum plays are completed, all counters must return to the stands.
- 3.9B Coaches cannot be a Minimum Play Counter on the opposing sideline
- 3.10 It is required that host sites designate an appointed organization official to oversee the fields & ensure all game-day requirements are met. This person must identify themselves to a member of the opposing team prior to each game; the opposing team is also accountable to seek out & meet said host official.
- 3.11 All games must be stopped at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for the minimum play counters (with clipboards) & head coaches to meet at mid-field to ensure all players have achieved their minimum plays. Any player in need of plays will be immediately entered into the game regardless of situation. **Failure to do so will result in forfeit of the game.** If available, it is recommended for host official to also meet as well.

3.12 Only two validated coaches are permitted on the playing field during called time-outs. Coaches are not allowed on the field, or permitted to speak to a player or the team on the field when time-out is called because of injury or for official purposes.

3.13 Each team is permitted three (3) time-outs per half. There is a fifteen-minute time-out at halftime, of which five minutes should be reserved for warm up time prior to the start of the second half.

3.14 Required Officials:  
All levels require 3 Officials for each game

3.15 A) For the **2017** season there are 17 Organizations in TYFC:

Beacon – Orange & Black  
Brewster – Green, Gray, & White  
Carmel - Red & Royal Blue  
Hyde Park – Green, Gold, & Black  
Hudson Valley - Maroon & Gold  
John Jay Cross River – Purple & White  
Mahopac – Royal Blue & Yellow  
Mount Vernon – Maroon & Gold  
New Rochelle – Purple, White, & Gold  
North Yonkers – Black & Gold  
Peekskill – Red & White  
Poughkeepsie – Navy Blue & White  
Somers - Red & Black  
Southern Dutchess – Navy Blue & White  
Wappingers Falls - Red & Navy Blue  
White Plains – Orange & Black  
Yorktown - Green & White

B) A scheduling committee will determine the schedule.

C) Each team will have one preseason game and generally 8 regular season games (where needed games will attempted to be filled from another Conference). The top four (4) teams will make the playoffs. The remaining teams are required to participate in League Bowl Games.

D) The highest seed will host the Playoff Games. Championship games location will be determined by the TYFC Board. The League will set the starting times. If teams have identical records, home site will be determined by a coin flip...unless the league wants to have it at a central location.

E) All five championship games can be played at a neutral site on the same day, if determined by the League. If a neutral site is not available, the highest seed will host the Championship Game.

- F) Tie Breakers in regard to standings will be decided in the following priority:
- I Head to Head results
  - II Record vs. common opponents
  - III Common Opponent & Strength of Schedule
  - IV Coin Flip - this can determine seeds 1 thru 3
  - V The last playoff seed (ONLY): decided by one quarter of play (played as a 4<sup>th</sup> qtr; 2 time-outs per team, minimum plays do not apply).  
If tied after a quarter of play then a Kansas City Shoot-out is played.  
Bowl Games will be decided by a coin flip.

3.16 Each team is expected to do their best to provide home and away jerseys of contrasting colors. White or light color should be worn at away games. If a team has only one jersey, they must notify the TYFC Executive Board prior to the start of the season and must also notify their opponents 3 days prior to game day to ensure that there are no game day uniform color issues. The League shall enter agreement with any Member organization, which so wishes to wear white (or light colored jerseys) at home. Opposing coaches must be made aware of "right to wear rule", not less than five (5) days prior to the scheduled game. Any deviations from this rule must have the approval of the Executive Board or could result in a forfeit.

3.17 One number shall be assigned to each player, home and away jerseys alike.

### 3.18 MANDATORY PLAY RULES

The minimum number of plays required for each player on a team will be consistent with the national organization and is currently based on team size as follows:

16-25 players 8 plays per player per game

26-30 players 6 plays per player per game

31 plus players 4 plays per player per game

See Section 10 for minimum number of plays re: 8U Instructional Level

The team size is defined as the number of players dressed to play at the time of the pre-game validation.

Absent or injured players do not count against team totals.

A play is defined as a play from the line of scrimmage; kickoffs, kickoff receiving and plays negated by penalty do not count as a play against the total required to satisfy the minimum play rule.

Failure to adhere to the minimum play rule may result in forfeiture, suspension of coaches or other actions as determined by the Executive Board.

As per TYFC rule, any player or coach ejected from a game by an official will not play in the next scheduled game and cannot participate in any practice held prior to the next scheduled game. The Organizations League Rep of the team of which the player/coach is a member must notify TYFC Executive Board or designated committee of the officials' action. If the Organization allows this particular player/coach to play or coach in the next scheduled game, the coach is subject to a one (1) year suspension.

- 3.19 **PLAY MONITORING:** In order to insure that all players get the minimum number of plays required as outlined in Section 3.18; each team will provide an official MONITOR to track plays for their organizations team (the PRIMARY monitor located on said teams sideline) and a SECONDARY monitor to observe/assist the opposing teams PRIMARY monitor in tracking the teams plays. MONITORS will be located together on the sideline and will log all plays, by player number, until each player has achieved the required minimum. Play Monitors should be away from the teams (outside the team box) **NO** game can start until ALL play monitors are ready and in place. No later than the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, both coaching staffs will be advised regarding which players have not had all their required plays.

At the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, any and all player(s) lacking plays must be put into the game until their minimum requirements are met.

There shall be a minimum of two (2) monitors per team, one on each sideline. If needed, the Head Coach of each team is responsible for submitting the completed minimum play log to TYFC Executive Board or designated committee. MONITORS should not interfere with coaches, players or game officials at any time.

- 3.20 **PLAYING FIELDS:** All playing fields must meet minimum acceptable standards to ensure the safety of all participants and spectators as well as ensuring that the field provides neither team with an unfair advantage. The host team must provide a grass or turf area or field, sufficient and safe for 2 teams to conduct warm up drills 60 minutes prior to the start of their game. If a field or area is not available at the host site, Games must be scheduled 2.5 hours apart, to allow for adequate warm up time before a game. Any incremental fees associated with the delayed start (such as referee fees, are the sole responsibility of the host team). Local high school fields or their equivalent are preferred. Acceptable standards which are disputed will be resolved by the Executive Board.
- 3.20A Filming of games is allowed, from the sideline stands only (not from the endzone). Visiting teams are to be given the same opportunity to film from the same vantage point as the home team. Cannot scout or attend another team's practice.
- 3.21 The League Reps of all associations are responsible to report the scores of all their games by 8:00pm Sunday night (An exception to the 8:00pm deadline will be granted for night games, in which case the scores must be reported no later than two hours after the completion of the game). The TYFC Executive Board will determine the method by which these scores are reported prior to the season.
- 3.22 **TYFC Sanctioned Football Requirement:**  
All teams must use the Wilson or Baiden footballs:
- 13U – 12U: Wilson TDY or Baiden equivalent, leather, rubber or composite
  - 11U – 10U: Wilson TDJ or Baiden equivalent, leather, rubber or composite
  - 9U & 8U: Wilson K2 or TDJ
- TYFC will make further clarification to the football requirement at the Coaches Certification, as well as, if a new composite ball is manufactured
- 3.23 A cut block or blocking below the waist or side by the Offense or Defense (except to tackle a runner or player pretending to be a runner) shall be an illegal block, even in the free-blocking zone.
- 3.24 Protest gestures / political statements must be approved in advance by the league, and unlike the NFL, AYF will allow a helmet decal or arm band if approved in advance by the local league. Violations, be it by player or coach, will result in disqualification for the following week's game.



### 3.25 **Violations of Game Day Procedures could result in the following:**

- A loss of home games and/or
- Postseason Participation

## **SECTION 4 - MEDICAL SUPPORT**

- 4.1 The home team is responsible for providing medical personnel. An EMT is a minimum requirement. Whenever possible, a Physician or Registered Nurse is preferred. In all cases, immediate on location access to EMT/Ambulance facilities is required. (e.g. phone, 2 way radio, etc.).
- 4.2 **No game or jamboree can begin without on location medical personnel.** Failure to have on site medical personnel throughout all home games will result in a forfeit for the host site for all games played & to be played. Additionally host organization will not be allowed to host games for the remainder of the season. (Home team shall assume responsibility of having the phone number to the nearest first responder facility (Police/Fire/Ambulance) within their community to respond to said location.
- 4.3 The home team shall furnish on location an A.E.D. (Automated External Defibrillator) at any & all fields where games will be played. In the event an A.E.D. is not available every attempt must be made to secure one (i.e. request opposing team to bring one).
- 4.4 Organizations are required to submit a TYFC Injury Report form for all **MEDICALLY CONFIRMED** player injuries that result in missed game/practice time. When applicable a TYFC Resume Participation Medical Clearance form is required prior to a child being allowed to participate in any football activity.

## **SECTION 5 - SCORING AND CONTROL OF GAME**

- 5.1 TYFC will follow National guidelines for all levels except 8U.  
An **intentionally** run-up score is when a team continues to pour it on even after the game is in their favor and far out of reach for their opponents. Coaches who practice this are to be disciplined by TYFC.

### Lopsided Score Rule:

For age levels 9U-13U the lopsided score rule is **35 points**; for 8U it is **24 points**. Once the score differential reaches the maximum, the game clock will become a running clock. Once the clock becomes a running clock it can only be stopped for injuries and official or team time outs. It will be the losing team's preference as to whether they will receive a normal kickoff or they may choose to take the ball on their own 40 yard line. The winning team is prohibited from running any mis-direction, counter, reverses, down filed passes or "trick plays" of any kind. Both offensive and defensive skill position starters must be replaced. The winning team can only run between the tackles. Mandatory plays must be completed regardless of the score or game clock. If the winning team does not complete their required mandatory plays, the full force of the mandatory play rules will be in effect.

- 5.2 Any infraction to Section 5.1 will result in an automatic one (1) week suspension of the Head Coach. A second incident of the same will result in a suspension of the Head Coach for the remainder of the season, including all playoffs, Regionals, & Nationals. No hearing notices will be sent out nor will any hearing be held.

- 5.3 PLAYING TIE BREAKERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED DURING REGULAR SEASON PLAY, but allowed in post season play-off games, when it becomes necessary to determine a conference champion or League champion. In both instances, only the Kansas City tiebreaker can be used.

**KANSAS CITY RULE:**

At the end of regular play, the teams flip a coin to determine which team gets the ball first. Each team will take possession of the ball from the 10-yard line, and given 4 downs to try to score. When the first team scores, the ball is given to the other team. Should the second team fail to score in 4 tries, the first team is declared the winner.

**SECTION 6 - PRACTICE SESSIONS**

- 6.1 Authorized team practice for the **fall** season may not commence prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of August of the current year. The first week shall be used exclusively for conditioning.
- 6.2 Physical contact is prohibited prior to the completion of 10 hours of conditioning for all players. No participation in intra-squad scrimmages until after the 10 hours of conditioning and 10 hours of physical contact is completed.
- 6.3 Practice is limited to 10 hours per week prior to Labor Day weekend, and 8 hours per week thereafter, not to exceed 2 hours per day (Mandatory 10-minute breaks each hour not to be counted against allowed practice time). Exceptions to the 2 hour per day rule may be granted based on an organization's field availability for practice sessions.
- 6.4 All practice sessions must be attended by at least one person holding Red Cross Multi-Media Card or its equivalent as a minimum requirement.

**SECTION 7 - PRE & POST SEASON GAMES**

- 7.1 All pre-season and post-season games played outside of the TYFC League must meet the approval of the TYFC Executive Board.  
Under no conditions will any member team arrange a game, or accept an invitation to play a game without the consent of the Executive Board. Violation of this rule will result in automatic suspension.
- 7.2 The TYFC participates in the AYF Championship structure and participates in Big East Regional play. In order to be eligible for the TYFC playoffs a team must commit to participation in the Big East Regional Playoffs.

**SECTION 8 - OFF-SEASON FOOTBALL**

- 8.1 TYFC football players & coaches can participate in any off season indoor passing league, or tackle football league. Players & coaches are required to notify their local organization who must then notify the TYFC Board upon registration. Failure by the local organization to notify the TYFC Executive Board will result in penalties determined at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- 8.2 The TYFC follows all rules & regulations set forth by AYF regarding Spring Football / Summer Passing Leagues. Individual organizations may decide, at their discretion, the appropriate level of participation for their respective members, within the framework set by AYF. Actions determined to be contradictory to these rules will be punished in accordance with AYF policy.

## **SECTION 9 - OFF-SEASON CAMPS OR CLINICS RUN BY TYFC ORGANIZATIONS**

- 9.1 TYFC organizations can run a camp or, clinic for their own players and/or, for players from other towns. As noted in Rule 8.2, organizations must follow all rules & regulations set forth by AYF regarding off-season activities.
- 9.2 Coaches can work at the camp/clinic run by their organization or by their local high school.

## **SECTION 10 – Instructional Level Modifications (8U)**

10.1 The 8U will follow all TYFC and Federation High School Rules **except** the following:

- Must be 7 years old as of August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to be eligible to play
- The 8U are considered Instructional and Coaches are allowed on the field - only two (2) coaches from each team at a time
- All quarters are 10 minutes (not a running clock).
- Coaches need to be organized, hustle between plays, and hustle with your play-calling so you can get more plays in. **Blitzing is prohibited...** That doesn't mean you can line everyone up on the LOS
- Base 4,5,& 6 man fronts are allowed and an 8-man front can only be used inside the 5yd line.
- Defensive linemen CAN line-up in gaps and can line up over the center.
- Coaches cannot reset / adjust defensive alignments after the offense comes to the LOS
- Kicking is encouraged, but optional.
- There is no rushing of kicker on punts, field goals or extra points.
- No fake punts, no fake field goals and no fake extra points.
- In case of a bad or, fumbled snap, the kicking team will not be allowed to advance the ball.
  - They are allowed to re-snap or just pick up the ball and kick it
- If a team elects NOT to Kick Off & Receive, the receiving team will start on their own 40yd line.
- If a team elects NOT to Punt, the receiving team will take the ball 15yds down field
- Mandatory plays for each player:
  - 16-29 Players – 12 Plays
  - 30 or more Players – 10 Plays
- Lopsided Score Rule takes effect at 24 points
- Final scores & wins/losses do not need to be reported to the league (unless violation of lopsided rule)
- 8U season ends upon completion of last regular season game