

## OLD COLONY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

### CONSTITUTION

#### **ARTICLE I: Name and Objective**

**Section 1:** This organization shall be known as the Old Colony Youth Football League, hereinafter referred to as the League.

The League is comprised of independent, youth football organizations that represent communities or grouping of communities that hereinafter are referred to as Town(s). When Towns enter into the League their community affiliation is established and remains in effect as long as they are active members. [97]

**Section 2:** The objective of the League shall be to implant firmly in the participants the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence, so that they will grow to be well adjusted, strong and happy youngsters; thereby aiding them to be good, clean, healthy and trustworthy adults.

**Section 3:** The objective will be accomplished by providing supervised competitive football games. The supervisors shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional individual athletic skills and the winning of games will be secondary to the psychological well being of all players, on both sidelines.

**Section 4:** The League neither supports nor endorses any individuals or company's products or services, nor obligates any member town to purchase equipment or services from specific individuals or companies. It is strictly a non-profit organization. Member towns make their individual purchasing and fund raising decisions on their own. League purchases will be reviewed with the membership and reflected in the Treasurer's records. All member communities should be aware of people wishing to use logos, selling video tapes, endorsing products, etc. and not enter into any agreement that suggests such activities are League supported. A town may wish to engage in fund raising that involves businesses but it should never be associated with the League's objectives. [96]

## ARTICLE II: Membership

- Section 1a:** Any town may become a new League member by agreeing to uphold the constitution, the By-laws, and standing rules of the League, and by having its membership approved by two-thirds of the member towns at a regular or special League meeting. However, towns applying for membership, after schedule approval, must wait until the following season or until a vacancy occurs.
- 1b:** Any new member town shall be required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and be on probation for one year with no voting rights. The probation period may be extended or the town may be expelled, as recommended by the Executive Board. A 2/3rd vote of all member towns will be necessary to accept, extend or expel.
- 1c:** All member towns will field 3 teams, one in each age group, Mite - PeeWee - Midget.
- Section 2:** Each town in the League shall have one representative; this representative (or alternate) shall be the only one to speak or vote at League Meetings.
- Section 3:** If the representative is unable to attend a League meeting, he/she may designate an alternate from the same town who will identify him/herself as the alternate during the roll call.

## ARTICLE III: Officers; Their Elections and Duties

- Section 1a:** The officers of the League shall consist of a President, Five Vice Presidents, Secretary and a Treasurer. [09] [13]
- ~~1b:~~ The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Board. [09] [13]
- 1c:** The Commissioners, three Vice Presidents and the President shall constitute a Disciplinary Committee. The President will appoint the 3 Vice Presidents on a round robin basis excluding at least 1 Vice President who division is in question or both Vice Presidents if the action is from an interdivisional game. Disciplinary action can only be taken if such action is recommended to the Commissioners with a majority vote of the Disciplinary Committee. [09] [13]

- Section 2a:** Nominations and elections for officers and commissioners shall be held at a meeting chosen by the League at which time nominations shall be taken from the floor. Qualifications for officers and commissioners are set forth in the By-laws. Normally nominations will take place in November and elections in February.
- 2b:** Each of the officers and commissioners shall serve until the next annual election. [09]
- 2c:** The results of all elections held by secret ballot are to be viewed by three e-board members chosen by the current president. [09]
- 2d:** If an officer or Commissioner does not complete the term to which they are elected, nominations shall be accepted from the floor at the next regular or special League meeting. Said officials, so elected, shall serve only until the next annual election.
- 2e:** The President or Vice President may not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- 2f:** Any elected official, for due cause, can be removed from office with a 3/4 vote of member towns. Notification of intent must be submitted, in writing, 7 days prior to either a regular or special League meeting.

#### *Officer's Responsibilities*

- Section 3a:** The President will preside at all League meetings and be responsible for the proper conduct, according to Robert's Rules of Order. It shall be his/her responsibility to inform the League members on all aspects of League rules, regulations and policies.
- 3b:** One of the Vice Presidents shall preside in the absence of the President. He/she shall also perform duties assigned by the President. The President shall designate which of the Vice Presidents shall preside in his/her absence. [09]

In addition to any other duties assigned to them by the President of the League, the Vice Presidents shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Serve as a liaison between their respective divisions and the Executive Board.
  - b. Serve as members of the Disciplinary Committee. Any Vice President whose division is involved in a Disciplinary hearing shall be excused from such hearing and will be replaced by another “uninvolved” Vice President for purposes of said hearing. [09]
- 3c:** The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of all meetings and notify each town representative, officer and commissioner of meetings as specified in the By-laws. Meeting minutes will be sent to League Representatives within 1 week of said meeting, for them to review with their respective, local organizations, prior to the next league meeting. The secretary will receive, route and maintain all League correspondence and files.
- 3d:** The Treasurer shall receive assessments from the member towns and be responsible for maintaining an accurate account of the League's receipts and disbursements.

**Commissioner's Responsibilities**

**Section 4a:** There shall be three commissioners.

**4b:** The Commissioner who has served the longest, current, continuous term shall be termed the "Senior Commissioner". If there are two or more commissioners who have the same length of continuous terms, The Senior Commissioner for the current season will be appointed by the President. [09]

**4c:** The function of the Commissioners shall be to serve on the Disciplinary Committee, and to recommend disciplinary actions to the executive board. [13]

**4d:** League Commissioners shall not hold any Town, coaching or authoritative position, during the term that they are serving as an OCYFL Commissioner. [97]

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## ARTICLE IV: Meetings

- Section 1a:** Meetings of the League will be held on the second Monday of February, March, April, May, June, August, October and November. If a holiday falls on the second Monday of the month, the League has the option to schedule the meeting to the first Monday of the month. This option must be voted at the previous meeting, passed by the majority. The September meeting will be held on the Wednesday prior to the first scheduled game. There are no regularly scheduled meetings in the months of January, July, or December. All meetings will begin at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise notified. [96] [98]
- 1b:** Any town may request a special meeting by calling a member of the executive board.
- 1c:** The League has the right to cancel meetings based upon a recommendation from the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of member towns.
- 1d:** The Executive Board will conduct a mandatory meeting for town weigh-in officials each year, before the season begins. Missing this meeting will result in a \$100 fine.
- 1e:** An annual meeting of coaches and the Executive Board shall be held during the month of August for the purpose of reviewing League rules and regulations. There should be one (1) coach per level (maximum of three (3) per town). The League Representative is also encouraged to attend. If warranted, a referee may also be invited. [99]

## **ARTICLE V: Constitutional Amendments**

**Section 1:** The constitution may be amended by a vote of 3/4 of those towns present at a meeting of the League. All towns must receive the amendment changes in writing at least 30 days before the meeting. Voting on amendments to the constitution shall be conducted by polling each member town at the meeting.

## **OLD COLONY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

### **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I: Membership and Meetings**

**Section 1a:** All towns must be represented at all regular and special meetings. All absences from regular and special League meetings shall result in a \$50.00 fine. However, absence from the February or September meetings shall each result in a \$100 fine.

All fines must be paid before entry into the League for the next year.

Missing three (3) consecutive meetings or the total of four (4) in any given year may prompt the Executive Board to assess additional discipline as expressed in heavier fines, probation or other appropriate actions that will not impact players. [99]

**1b:** It is the fundamental responsibility of the Town Representative to be present at all League meetings or ensure that an alternate is present. Annually or when a change is made the current representative and one alternate must submit his/her name(s) to the League Secretary, to be included in the official directory.

**1c:** Any single expense in excess of \$300.00 must be approved by the OCYFL prior to payment of that expenditure.[01]

*The Town Representative is expected, but not limited to:*

- a) Attend all League meetings
- b) Convey League information back to their town organization
- c) Vote on all League issues including By-laws
- d) Ensure that their town's organization follow OCYFL By-laws and procedures
- e) Bring to the attention of the Executive Board any variations of League policy
- f) Act as the League's agent while enforcing League rules at the local level
- g) Ensure that all local officials and coaches follow the League's Code of Ethics
- h) Ensure that their town's Weigh-in Supervisors are reported on the official roster. [96] [99]

**Section 2:** Notice of all special meetings shall be given at least four days in advance, to all town representatives or alternates.

**Section 3:** Annual dues will be \$300.00. Dues will be paid by the June meeting. Those towns in arrears will be notified by the treasurer or via meeting minutes. If all dues and/or any outstanding fines are not paid by the June meeting, the town will be suspended from all League activities until said dues and/or fines are paid. In the event there is no June meeting, payments may be mailed to the Treasurer, no later than the second Monday in June. Fines are normally due within 30 days after assessment. [96]

Before the collection of the annual dues, if the League's balance is in excess of two (2) year's normal operating expenses, or will exceed that amount upon collecting the current dues, the annual assessment will be reduced or suspended for that calendar year. As always, should the League experience any unexpected expenses or the body votes for some special funding, the towns will be apportioned their equal share as outlined in writing by the Executive Board. **This applies only to annual dues. Fines will be paid regardless. [99]**

**Section 4:** A quorum shall consist of representatives of 2/3 of the towns in the League.

**Section 5:** The Executive Board will determine the host town of all regular and special meetings. The host town will be determined on a rotating basis. The Treasurer shall monitor the schedule. Towns must select locations that are suitable for conducting League meetings.

Space provided should be separated from public noise, comfortable enough to accommodate 45 to 50 people and free from spectator interference. [99]

## **ARTICLE II: League Officers**

**Section 1a:** In order to be nominated or elected as a League officer, a person must have been a town representative or alternate for at least two, consecutive years.

**1b:** Towns must notify the Secretary immediately upon the change of a Representative. The Secretary will maintain an accurate seniority list. Eligibility must be validated at the date of nomination.

**Section 2:** In order to be nominated or elected as a League Commissioner, a person must have been an OCYFL town representative, alternate or Executive Board member for at least two consecutive years. (08)

**Section 3:** During the season, the Commissioners may hold meetings, as appropriate, to carry out their responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE III: League Schedule**

**Section 1a:** League alignment shall be reviewed Bi-annually, as part of the schedule committee's duties, unless overruled by 3/4 vote of the membership. The scheduling committee will appoint 2 members to validate player enrollment for each respective town/organization.

**1b:** League alignment will be based on the average yearly enrollment of the previous 2 years. This number will be derived from the official league weigh in rosters of the previous 2 years, and will not take into account player losses through injury or attrition. Only a 2/3 vote of the body may alter this method of alignment. [13]

**1c:** For the purpose of tabulating enrollment numbers players with a league age of 7 will not be considered. (Players who do not reach 8 years of age until on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.) [13]

**1d:** Towns may petition the body for relief from article III, section one, letters a through c, inclusive, based on special circumstances including, but not limited to, decreasing or increasing enrollment, ability to compete, or the stability of a towns organization. Towns may seek to move up or down divisions. [13]

**1e:** League alignment will be presented at the first meeting of the calendar year for approval of the body. [05]

**Section 2:** The first scheduled game will be played the weekend after Labor Day. The remaining games will be played on the following consecutive weekends.

**Section 3:** The starting date for practice will be no earlier than 30 days before the first scheduled game. Sign-ups and equipment issues are the only authorized assemblies prior to the first practice. **The first 3 days of practice will be dedicated to conditioning and drills only, NO CONTACT.** Beginning on the Monday after the first league game, **practices on Mondays are prohibited** for the season's duration. [96]

**Section 4a:** For games played on Sunday; Mite games will start by 11:30 AM, Midget games will not begin prior to 1 PM and PeeWee games will not begin prior to 2:30PM unless otherwise agreed upon by both home and visiting Head Coaches.[03] [17]

**4b:** For night games; Mite games will start at 5:00 PM, PeeWee games will not start prior to 6:30PM and Midget games will not start prior to 8PM unless agreed upon by both home and visiting Head Coaches.[03] [06] [17]

**Section 5:** The League schedule shall, whenever possible, have a two year cycle, permitting "home & away" games to be played within division teams (unless League realignment occurs).

**Section 6:** Postponement of any league scheduled game is at the discretion of the League President and an appointed Vice President. If any League Representative or authorized town officer from the home team judges a field to be un-playable, he/she must notify the League President or appointed Vice President before 9:00 AM on the day of the game. After considering the circumstances the President and appointed Vice President will make a determination, recommend a course of action and convey their decision by 9:30 AM. If the president or appointed Vice President determine that the game cannot be played, the hometown must notify the visiting organization immediately. Subsequent to this, if two teams disagree about playing conditions, the referee will make the final decision. Night games may be postponed to Sunday assuming both towns agree and referee changes can be made. This is a responsibility of the home town. [09]

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The entire schedule will be played except in unusual circumstances. [96]

**Section 7:** The home team League representative shall be responsible for posting to the league website, the results of games played at his/her field by 8:00 PM on the Sunday after said games. This is mandatory. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a \$50.00 fine. (16) The League website is responsible for maintaining these results and compiling standings. Additionally the scores of all Saturday JV games will be posted to the League website. These scores will be visible to League officials only and not used to maintain any standings or posted for public viewing. Failure to do so will result in the same fines as above. (16)]

**Section 8:** No pre or post season games may be played without the approval of the Executive Board. (Controlled scrimmages are not considered games.) A \$100 fine may be levied if any town fails to notify the Executive Board of a pre or post-season game.

**Section 9:** To assist in the simplicity and expediting the Official League Game Schedule, all towns shall **ATTEMPT** to conduct player registrations and reservation dates of their Home Playing Field, before **May 15th of the current year**. This date will be known as the “**JV Registration Deadline**” and the “**D6 Registration Deadline**” [09] [11]

**Section 10:** Towns requesting to participate in JV Game scheduling, must have a minimum 25 of players registered within their division at ANY level in which they choose to participate (Mites, Peewees, Midget). [09] [15]

**Section 11:** Towns requesting to participate in JV games shall expect to be scheduled for a full season schedule and may choose the levels (mites, peewees, midgets) participating. The term “Full Season”, shall be defined as one game less than the regular season scheduled games for any current year. Towns may choose to opt out any of their team from participation in the JV schedule **prior** to Registration Deadline.  
At the discretion of the Executive Board JV games may be scheduled between all divisions. (15)

No JV games shall be scheduled during the week of the Official Weigh-In. Towns that **do not** meet the minimum 25 player requirement at all three levels (mites, peewees, midgets) **MAY** participate in JV Schedule as defined in previous paragraph or may schedule controlled scrimmages with other towns. These controlled scrimmages shall be scheduled among town reps

within the OCYFL. (Controlled scrimmages are not considered league games.) **Referees will not be scheduled by the OCYFL.** [15]

**Section 12:** Towns requesting to participate in JV Game scheduling must submit a list at the “**JV Registration Deadline**” which documents a minimum 25 players registered at each division and at any level they choose to participate. (Mites, Peewees, Midgets). The list shall include player name, address, age as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, and home phone number of 25 players at each level. This list shall be reviewed and verified by the E-Board for acceptance to JV game scheduling.

The E-Board has a right of refusal to JV game scheduling upon the discovery of fraudulent documentation from any town. (**Any town who fails to comply with the submission of these documents shall be excluded from participating in J.V games during the current year. There shall be no extended time allotted and the ruling is final at the conclusion of the May Monthly Meeting**) [09]

**Section 13:** Towns requesting to participate in Division Six must have a minimum of 20 players committed to their upper level teams to participate in a JV and Varsity Schedule. Towns with teams that do not meet the minimum 20 player requirement may choose to participate in a Varsity schedule only. (15)

**Section 14:** Towns requesting to participate in Division Six JV and Varsity Schedule must submit a list at the “D6 Registration Deadline” which documents all players registered to each of their upper level teams. The list shall include player name, address, age as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, and phone number of all players at each level. Towns with any team that do not meet the 20 player minimum may choose to participate in a Varsity only schedule. At the discretion of the board JV games may be scheduled between all divisions. (15)

The E-Board has a right of refusal to D-6 scheduling upon the discovery of fraudulent documentation. (**Any town who fails to comply with the submission of these documents shall be excluded from participating in D-6 during the current year. There shall be no extended time allotted and the ruling is final at the conclusion of the April Monthly Meeting**). [09]

**Section 15:** **The President will appoint 3 Vice Presidents to assist with the development and monitoring of league scheduling.** Towns that have field restrictions and/or special request for scheduling must submit in writing to

the **appointed** Vice President who is scheduling their division, prior to or at the **April Monthly Meeting**. These written requests shall explain the need for special game scheduling. Any request submitted shall be **considered** by the 3-Vice Presidents, during the development of the league schedule **but not final**.

The appointed Vice Presidents, shall make every effort to develop and produce a fair and equal playing schedule. The appointed Vice Presidents shall attempt to develop a schedule that reflects equal away and home regular season games for every town. However, circumstances that occur may prevent this option and the appointed Vice Presidents will have the final decision to produce what they believe to be a fair and equitable schedule.

The appointed Vice Presidents, shall attempt to develop a schedule for all Towns who request to participate and qualify in D-6 **with** JV game scheduling, among all towns that also request to participate and qualify for JV game scheduling. The JV schedule may include games vs different divisions. [15]

**Section 16:** The appointed Vice Presidents will **develop and issue** to the body, a **preliminary schedule** for all Divisions including Division 5 and JV games. The **preliminary schedule** shall be issued to Town Reps via email before **the February Meeting**. [09]

**Section 17:** At the conclusion of the **May Monthly Meeting**, the D1-D4 league schedule **shall be recognized as being final**. The finalized D5 and JV schedule will be submitted at the June meeting.

Upon the schedule becoming finalized, if a scheduled hosting town has a conflict with use of their home field, the scheduled hosting town may elect to seek the availability of another field outside their town. If the scheduled hosting town exhausts every option to host a scheduled game, the hosting town rep shall immediately notify one of the appointed Vice Presidents. After considering the circumstances the appointed Vice Presidents will make a determination, and recommend a course of action which **may** include asking the opponent to resume the right to be the home team and host the league scheduled game.

If this recommendation is determined by the appointed Vice Presidents, the scheduled opponent town, may also seek the availability of another field outside their town. If the scheduled opponent exhausts every option to host

the scheduled game, the town rep shall notify one of the appointed Vice Presidents immediately. If the appointed Vice Presidents determine every option to hold the scheduled game is exhausted, the appointed Vice Presidents shall issue the **Home Team** a forfeit/loss in the league standings after the conflicted scheduled game date. [09]

**Section 18:** Town Reps are mandated to immediately notify the League appointed Vice Presidents upon identifying any potential scheduling conflicts that arise. [09]

#### **ARTICLE IV: League Discipline**

**Section 1a:** Upon completion of a formal hearing, the Disciplinary Committee may fine or otherwise discipline any town for any by-law infraction or any other action which discredits the OCYFL, consistent with these by-laws.[97]

**1b:** Should expulsion be recommended, it must be supported by a 2/3 vote of towns not associated with the infraction(s).

#### **ARTICLE V: Committees**

**Section 1:** The President shall appoint committees as deemed necessary for running of the said League. Committees will be randomly selected from the floor and shall be in affect for the entire year.

**Section 2:** A By-law Committee shall be formed each February to review any changes or additions in said By-laws and to submit changes by the April meeting, to be voted upon at the May meeting.

**Section 3:** A Scheduling Committee, **if necessary**, shall be appointed in November. The committee will review any formula changes that impact League alignment and/or parity. The committee will have a tentative schedule to present at the February meeting. The schedule will be approved at the March meeting.

## ARTICLE VI: Playing Rules

**Section 1:** Playing rules should be those described by the NCAA with the exception of or special attention to: [96]

- a: Game balls must meet the specifications, with regard to size, of the Wilson, TDY at the Midget level, the Wilson TDJ at the Pee Wee level, and the Wilson K2 at the Mite level. Composite footballs are acceptable. [97] [98] [05] [06] [07] [11]
- b: Only shoes with molded soles (**non-detachable cleats**) are permitted. A \$25.00 fine will be levied for each infraction.
- c: Free substitution is permitted.
- d: All players will wear approved mouth pieces that are attached to the face mask. Loose mouthpieces are not allowed.
- e: Standard size football fields will be utilized.
- f: 3 time outs per team, per half.
- g: Home town teams must provide an EMT., MD., or Registered Nurse at each home game. Visiting team may request verification. Prior to the start of a game, EMTs must present themselves to the referees. Coaches that are EMTs cannot work the game in which their team is playing. Neutrality of EMTs must be vigorously maintained especially when affecting referee decisions or appeals. [98]  
There must also be present a medical kit and a communication device to reach emergency services.
- h: Use of sideline walkie-talkies, telephone or spotters with or without runners will not be permitted.
- i: Periods shall be 8 minutes, stop time at the Mite level, 10 minutes, stop time at the Pee Wee level and 10 minutes, stop time at the Midget level. At the discretion of the home team, an official, visible game clock is permitted. Any fees associated are the responsibility of the home team, as well as scheduling the timekeeper. [03] [2010] [2015]
- j: All helmets must be certified according to manufacturers and equipment, conditioning companies' recommendations. [96]
- k: Yardage and Down Markers will be located on the home team sidelines,

**NOT** the visitor's. [97]

All markers should conform to current MIAA, safety standards. Pole shafts must not have pointed ends that stick in the ground. [98]

- I:** Players are allowed to play any position regardless of their jersey number. Although, to avoid confusion, it is recommended that numbers be reasonably aligned with their offensive position. [97]

**Section 2:** Officials shall be assigned by the Eastern Massachusetts Association of Interscholastic Football Officials or equivalent.

**Section 3: Mites Blitz Rule:**

**Outside the defensive team's ten (10) yard line, linebackers must be at least two (2) yards off the line of scrimmage and may not move forward until the ball is snapped. Defensive players on the line of scrimmage must align themselves to an offensive blocker. The defensive ends may position themselves on the outside shoulder of the offensive ends.**

**Inside the defensive team's ten (10) yard line, the defensive team may align themselves anyway they wish on the line of scrimmage but the linebackers may still not blitz.**

**The first failure to comply with this rule will result in 5 yard penalty on the first offense and 15 yard penalties thereafter. [02]**

**Section 4:** The statement below or one that is equivalent, is to be read by the public address announcer before the start of each game.

**"The (Town/Team Name) along with the Old Colony Youth Football League would like to remind all spectators that we are training and working with young athletes, not professionals, who are trying to do their best for each respective team.**

**We request that all cheering be supportive and spectators are reminded that there will be no jeering, criticizing or downgrading of opposing players, coaches or officials.**

**Let us make this contest a positive experience for all participants, spectators**

and youth football supporters". [99]

#### ARTICLE VII: Game Donations

- Section 1:** Adult donations shall not exceed \$3.00 for day games or \$4.00 for night games. [07]
- Section 2:** All towns should encourage their parents to make every effort to pay the donation to attend these games. However, hometowns must remember that these are donations not admission fees. Towns must **NOT** post "Admission" on any signage.
- Section 3:** Home towns must provide equal and adequate facilities for away teams, cheerleaders, and fans. *A spirit of positive hospitality should prevail.* This is especially important when considering host towns for post-season play.

#### ARTICLE VIII: Team Membership & Weigh-Ins

- Section 1a:** Any youth meeting the requirements as to age, weight and residence as set forth in the By-laws of the League shall be eligible to compete for participation in the League. Members of the Midgets, Pee Wee, and Mite teams must reside within the accepted boundaries of the town from which the member team comes or as approved by a 2/3 vote of the League.
- 1b:** Where a town feels the numbers of players must be limited, it is up to that town to set and enforce eligibility standards. **However, in no case, will a player be excluded because of Race, Creed or Gender.** If a town supports high membership enrollment that town may form a second set of formal teams. These second set of teams will be referred to as either JV "so called B teams", or what is known as Division Six. These teams will operate in all aspects as the "so called" upper division teams with the following exceptions. Division Six see item 1c & 1d. JV teams see items 1e, 1f & 1g. [05]
- Towns will have discretion in moving a player up one division level to help balance rosters. No player can move down a level under any circumstance. [09]
- 1c:** Towns participating in Division Six must have a minimum 20 of players committed to their upper level teams. [09] [15]

**1d:** All costs associated with post-season trophies for Division Six will be borne by participating Division Six teams.

**1e:** Towns participating in a JV schedule must have 25 verifiable players committed to ANY team entered into the League sanctioned JV schedule. If you choose not to participate in the League JV Schedule, you will still have the opportunity to play “scrimmage” games that will be scheduled on your own. Towns may choose to opt out of JV games at any level prior to the start of the season. [16]

**1f:** JV games will be 25 minute running time halves with the clock being stopped after each change of possession and touchdown, and with the last two minutes of each half being stop time. [09] [11]

**1g:** Each JV team will have two time outs per half.

**1h:** JV games will not have Playoffs or a Superbowl.

**The Official Weigh-in (Also see Article X)**

**Section 2:**

**Midget:**

**Age -** No Midget player shall attain the age of *fifteen (15) prior to November 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year.* [99] However, no player, regardless of the aforementioned requirements, shall participate in the league if he or she is in the ninth grade of school. Any town found in violation of the rule shall forfeit each game determined to be in violation and be fined \$100.00 for each occurrence. [02] [08]

**Weight -** At the official, scheduled weigh-in, the *maximum weight will not exceed 165 pounds.* Each player must make official weight. If the player misses the weight but weighs under the season ending weight of 175 pounds they will be allowed to stay on the roster and work their way into eligibility as the season progresses. If a player weighs over 175 pounds their name will be dropped from the roster. [97] [03] [06] [08] [13] [16]

**Pee Wee:**

**Age -** No Pee Wee player shall attain the age of *twelve (12) prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.* [08]

**Exception for lower grade level – Note 1**

**Weight** - At the official, scheduled weigh-in, the *maximum weight will not exceed 130 pounds*. If the player misses the weight but weighs under the season ending weight of 140 pounds they will be allowed to stay on the roster and work their way into eligibility as the season progresses. If a player weighs over 140 pounds he/she will have an option to play as a Midget. Rosters will be adjusted accordingly. [97] [04] [08] [13] [16]

**Mite:**

**Age** - No Mite player shall attain the age of *ten (10) prior to July 1st, but must attain the age of seven (7) by September 1<sup>st</sup>*. [03][08]

**Exception for lower grade level – Note 1**

**Weight** - At the official, scheduled weigh-in, the *maximum weight will not exceed 105 pounds*. If the player misses the weight but weighs under the season ending weight of 115 pounds they will be allowed to stay on the roster and work their way into eligibility as the season progresses. If a player weighs over 115 pounds he/she will have an option to play as a Pee Wee. Rosters will be adjusted accordingly. [97] [08] [13] [16]

**Section 2a:**

**Division 6 Midget:**

**Age** - No Division 6 Midget player shall attain the age of *thirteen (13) prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>*. However, no player, regardless of the aforementioned requirements, shall participate in the league if he or she is in the ninth grade of school. Any town found in violation of the rule shall forfeit each game determined to be in violation and be fined \$100.00 for each occurrence. [02] [08]

**Exception for lower grade level – Note 1 [16]**

**Weight** - At the official, scheduled weigh-in, the *maximum weight will not exceed 165 pounds*. Each player must make official weight. If the player misses the weight but weighs under the season ending weight of 175 pounds they will be allowed to stay on the roster and work their way into eligibility as the season progresses. If a player weighs over 175 pounds their name will be dropped from the roster. [08] [13] [16]

**Division 6 Pee Wee:**

**Age -** No Division 6 Pee Wee player shall attain the age of *eleven (11) prior to July 1st.* [08]

**Exception for lower grade level – Note 1 [16]**

**Weight -** At the official, scheduled weigh-in, the *maximum weight will not exceed 130 pounds.* If the player misses the weight but weighs under the season ending weight of 140 pounds they will be allowed to stay on the roster and work their way into eligibility as the season progresses. If a player weighs over 140 pounds he/she will have an option to play as a Midget. Rosters will be adjusted accordingly. [08] [13] [16]

#### **Division 6 Mite:**

**Age -** No Division 6 Mite player shall attain the age of *nine (9) prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> but must attain the age of seven (7) by September 1st.* [08]

**Exception for lower grade level – Note 1 [16]**

**Weight -** At the official, scheduled weigh-in, the *maximum weight will not exceed 105 pounds.* If the player misses the weight but weighs under the season ending weight of 115 pounds they will be allowed to stay on the roster and work their way into eligibility as the season progresses. If a player weighs over 115 pounds he/she will have an option to play as a Pee Wee. Rosters will be adjusted accordingly. [08] [13] [16]

Note 1- If a player has a June birthday, and if they are in the same grade as the other younger players, that player is allowed to play at the player's grade level if the player so chooses.

*Maintenance of weight during the season will be monitored as follows:*

	<u>Midget</u>	<u>Pee Wee</u>	<u>Mite</u>
Week 1	166 lb.	131 lb..	106 lb..
Week 2	167 lb.	132 lb..	107 lb..
Week 3	168 lb.	133 lb..	108 lb..
Week 4	169 lb.	134 lb..	109 lb..
Week 5	170 lb.	135 lb..	110 lb..
Week 6	171 lb.	136 lb..	111 lb..
Week 7	172 lb.	137 lb..	112 lb..
Week 8	173 lb..	138 lb..	113 lb..
Week 9 *	174 lb..	139 lb..	114 lb..
Week 10 **	175 lb [06] [08] [16]	140 lb [04] [08]	115 lb [97] [08]

\* Playoffs

\*\* Super Bowls

**At Game Weigh-in:**

- Section 3a:** Representatives from each team will be responsible for weighing in teams before start of games.  
Representatives shall not be coaches.  
Representatives shall be named prior to the season, and their names listed on the team's official, weigh-in rosters.  
It is suggested that more than one representative's name be submitted in case the original rep cannot make said game.
- 3b:** At any game weigh-in, no more than 2 representatives per town are allowed in the weigh-in area. **No other personnel will be permitted within a 50 foot radius of the weigh in area.** Only one can be the official spokesperson for their town. If a commissioner is present and under special circumstances all weigh-in officials may be requested to leave the area and the commissioner will conduct the weigh-in. [96]
- 3c:** **For Midgets Only,**  
Ten (10) pounds will be added to the weight limit in order to compensate for equipment. [99]

**For Pee Wees and Mites,**

Eight (8) pounds will be added to the weight limit in order to compensate for equipment.

The League before the official weigh-in will set that weight. (see above)

- 3d:** All players will weigh-in "game ready", less their helmet. Players will be given **one (1) attempt** to weigh-in. If judged to be over, he/she cannot remove equipment and be re-weighed.
- 3e:** Both representatives must agree that each player is within the weight limit.
- 3f:** Any suspected violation of the weigh-in procedure must be brought to the attention of the League Commissioners in writing within a seventy two hour period. Said violation can result in a fine, forfeit or both.
- 3g:** All home teams will be required to have a certified scale. The scale will be situated in a place inaccessible to the general public. The scale will be checked with a 10 lb. Class F (400 mg) as in stainless steel weight # 12673 as offered by Rice Lake Weighing Systems, 230 West Coleman, Rice Lake WI 54868. Tel; 800-472-6703 or comparable. Having been issued one weight by the league each Town shall be responsible for the immediate replacement of weight if lost.[01]
- 3h:** Any player who fails to make required weight will not be allowed to participate in that game and will be required to remove their shoulder pads and helmet at the scale site. Said player will be allowed to sit on the bench with his/her team and is eligible to be weighed again at the following week's game.
- 3i:** When a "game weigh-in" is complete, all team members, supervised by their coaches, should proceed to a designated practice area that is in public view. Individuals should not be allowed to go to cars, snack stands, etc., after they have been weighed-in. It is the responsibility of the home town to provide warm up/practice areas where visitors will not be harassed by other teams and/or fans. [96]
- 3j:** Mites shall weigh in at 11:00 A.M.. Players arriving after 11:00 A.M. may weigh in until 11:30 A.M.(Mites only). The home team shall weigh in before the away team.[01]  
The Peewee and Midget games weigh-in will proceed immediately upon conclusion of the previous games second quarter. [05]
- 3k:** Weigh-in reps must sign off on the official roster and make a list by name and number of those players who did not weigh in. A copy of which will be provided to the head coaches.[01]

**ARTICLE IX: League Standings, Tie Breakers, Playoffs & Super Bowls**

**Section 1:** Division Champions and playoff positions will be determined by the team's won/lost record in their respected division, as determined by total, won/tie points earned in their respected division.

Won / Tie points shall be awarded as follows:

- Divisional Game Win = 3 points
- Divisional Game Tie = 1.5 points
- Non-Divisional Game Win = 2 points
- Non-Divisional Game Tie = 1 point [07]

**Tie Breaker**

**Section 2:** If three or more teams are tied, go to 2a. If two teams are tied, and they have played each other during the regular season, go to 2b.

- 2a:** The team with the fewest losses in their division. [06]
- 2b:** If a tie exists, the winner of the regular season game between the two teams.
- 2c:** If a tie still exists, the team with the most league overall won/tie points shall go. [07]
- 2d:** If a tie still exists, the team that has been away from playoffs the longest shall go. [07]

**Playoffs & Super Bowls:**

**Section 3a:** There will be a Super Bowl for each division. As reflected in the final division standings, the top four (4) teams in each division will play off to determine Super Bowl contenders. For the Playoffs, teams in position one (1) play position four (4). Position two (2) teams play position three (3). [96] [99] [03]

- 3b:** Any town is eligible to submit its field for a playoff game, under the following conditions:
1. The field is available both Saturday and Sunday.
  2. The playing area can be secured by fence, wire, or rope.
  3. Rest rooms are available.
  4. Neutrality is enforced by host town.
  5. Adequate seating capacity.
  6. The town must have not hosted a playoff or Super Bowl in the previous year. This section may be waived if there are no eligible towns requesting to host a playoff or Super Bowl game.
  7. There must be an electronic/electric scoreboard and clock. [97]

*If those conditions cannot be met, the commissioners will designate an alternate field.*

**3c:** When no town can meet the Saturday and Sunday restriction, and a game cannot be scheduled, an exception may be appealed. It would need to include a contingency plan if the one day available is rained out. [98]

- 3d:** Playoff site determination - The following will apply to determining site location of Playoff games. Each level is treated separately - Mite, Peewee and Midget:
1. If one team is participant and host town then game will be played at host town field. Home field side applies to higher seeded team unless lower seed team is hosting the game. [2010].
  2. If both participants are host towns:
    - a. Town with higher seed will play on home field (field side logic from above applies).
    - b. If tie exists use Tie Breaker determination from Section 2.

**Section 4:** The Super Bowl games will be played on either the Saturday or Sunday following the last game of the regular season or playoff game.

**Section 5:** In any playoff game or Superbowl, there **must** be a tiebreaker. Unless changed by the MIAA, the league uses its 10 yard, 4 down per team method. [96] [2010] Regular season games that end in a tie after the game clock has expired will have 2 tiebreaker opportunities for Peewees and Midgets and 1 tiebreaker opportunity for Mites using the same format as illustrated above.[2017]

**Section 6:** All Super Bowl games will be named The John Mahoney Memorial Game and the award/trophy will also bear his name in honor of his dedicated years of service to the League. [96]

**Section 7:** Towns must submit their names for Playoff and/or Super Bowl site selection at the **September** meeting. Prior to this they must have satisfied all the requirements outlined in Section 3b. Final selections will be made by a vote of only those towns within the division. This does not restrict selecting a site from another division. [96][01]

**ARTICLE X: Official Weigh-in Procedures**

**Section 1:** Each team must appear for the official weigh-in, wearing game jersey, at the time and on the date decided by the League to be eligible to compete during the season. [04]

**DATE:** Saturday before the first scheduled League game.

**PLACE:** Designated by League vote.

**TIME:** Each club assigned by lottery at the August meeting..

**Section 2a:** Each team will be responsible to supply The Weigh-in Committee with **twenty (20), typed, official rosters**, completed as per the official instructions. The officially adopted roster format (see attachment) will be used. [04]

It is also requested that a roster be provided to the opponent playing that night or following day.

Use of the official, roster format, neatness and attention to detail by each town enhances the weigh-in timing. Fines will be levied when a town's records delay this function. [96]

**2b:** No player will be permitted to leave the weigh-in area once he/she has entered, until his team is dismissed.  
If his/her weight exceeds the specified maximum, he/she will be permitted a repeat weighing, in shorts or bathing suit, before his/her team leaves the weigh-in area.  
If his/her weight still exceeds the maximum, the players name will be struck from the roster, but he/she will be entitled to move up to the next level.

- 2c:** New players and players not listed on the prior year's roster **must provide birth certificates.** Under special conditions a player may not have a certificate at the weigh-in. However, until a certificate is presented to a member of the Weigh-in Committee and approved by the Executive Board, that player cannot play in any game. These situations should be made known prior to the weigh-in.
- 2d:** The Weigh-in Committee consists of the League President, Secretary and one Vice President. If a replacement is needed, the President will appoint another member from the Executive Board. [13]
- 2e:** Coaches and parents are not permitted in the designated weigh-in area. Coaches/Town Reps must, however, be available to maintain decorum and answer questions the weigh-in committee may have.
- 2f:** Birth certificates can be audited at any time by the Official Weigh-in Committee. Any violations are subject to league discipline ranging from fines, forfeitures and/or player or town expulsion, as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 2g:** Towns **must bring a copy of each players registration form regardless of how many years they have played in the League.** They should be sorted by mites, peewees and midgets and given to the weigh-in supervisor before teams begin their weigh-in. [96]
- 3: (Early Weigh-in Procedures)** Each player must bring a copy of teams official roster, completed as per the official instructions, a copy of their birth certificate (if new player or not listed on prior years roster) and wearing game jersey. Date, location and time of weigh-in to be set by a vote of Town Representatives.

#### **ARTICLE XI: Ethics, Qualifications, Conduct and Behavior**

**Code of Ethics:** The American Football Coaches Association Code of Ethics and OCYFL adaptations, as outlined below, will be complied with in both spirit and intent by all members of the League. The term "coach" defines all Town and League officials and volunteers. The code applies to all League sanctioned events.

## *INTRODUCTION*

**Section 1:** Those who become football coaches must understand that the justifications for football is that it provides spiritual and physical values for those who play it and the game belongs to the players. The welfare of the game depends on how the coaches remain mindful of the trust and confidence placed in them by their players and parents of the players. *Coaches unwilling or unable to comply with the principals of the code of ethics have no place working with youths.*

## *PURPOSE*

**Section 2:** The code of ethics has been developed to protect and promote the best interest of the game and the youths that participate. Its primary purpose is to clarify and distinguish ethical and approved practices from those, which are detrimental. Its secondary purpose is to emphasize the purpose and value of football and to stress proper function of coaches. The ultimate success of principles and standards of this code depend on those for whom it has been established--the football coaches.

## *ENFORCEMENT*

**Section 3:** The Executive Board is empowered to investigate any and all alleged violations of the code. When an alleged violation is brought to the attention of the Executive Board from any source, the method of proceeding with the action shall be as follows:

**3a:** The coach involved, either directly or through his/her League Representative, shall be notified of the charges prior to the meeting of the Disciplinary Committee [09]. Notification consists of, but not limited to, a description of the incident in question and the source of the accusation. [99]

**3b:** If the Disciplinary Committee find the coach in violation of the code of ethics, they may elect one or more of the following courses of action be recommended to the Executive Board for execution: [09]

1. Letter of reprimand.
2. Letter of reprimand with copies of the letter sent to the sponsoring association's president and board of directors.
3. Place the coach on one or more year's probation. Any violation of the code of ethics during the probation period

will result in immediate and indefinite suspension.

4. Suspension of a coach for one or more years.
5. A fine determined by the Executive Board.

**3c:** After proper notification, should the coach refuse to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, without cause, he/she shall be subject to immediate probation. Such a failure of the coach or a representative of the sponsoring organization could result in an indefinite suspension of membership. [09]

**3d: The action of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final.**

### ***RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PLAYERS***

**Section 4a:** In his/her relationship with players under his/her care, the coach should always be aware of the tremendous influence he/she holds, good or bad.

Parents entrust their dearest possessions to the coach's charge, and the coach, through his/her own example, must always be sure that the boys and girls who have played under him/her are better people for having done so.

The coach should never place the value of a win above that of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in his/her players.

The safety and welfare of players must always be uppermost in his/her mind and they must never be sacrificed for any personal prestige or glory.

**In no way should any player be taught or encouraged to use his/her helmet for tackling or any other technique that could cause neck or spinal damage to them or another player. [96]**

In teaching the game of football, the coach must realize that there are certain rules designed to protect the player and to provide common standards for determining a winner/loser.

Any attempt to beat these rules and to take unfair advantage of an opponent or to teach deliberate un-sportsmanlike conduct have no place in the game of

football, nor has any coach guilty of such teaching any right to call him/herself a coach.

The coach should set an example for winning without boasting and losing without bitterness.

The coach who conducts him/herself according to these principles need have no fear of failure, for in the final analysis the success of the coach can be measured in terms of respect earned from his/her own players and from opponents.

- 4b:** The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem and not to be considered the province of the coach.

The coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt medical attention and that the physician's orders are carried out.

**Under no circumstances may a coach authorize the use of drugs, stimulants, or other medication.** These should be used only when authorized and supervised via a physician's directions.

- 4c:** A player's future should not be jeopardized in any circumstances by circumvention of eligibility rules.

A coach should not make demands on his players that will interfere with the player's potential for achieving academic success.

### ***RULES OF THE GAME***

**Section 5a:** The football code, which appears in the NCAA rulebook, shall be considered an integral part of the code of ethics and should be carefully read and observed. Each coach should be acquainted thoroughly with the rules of the game. He/she is responsible for having the rules taught and interpreted by players.

- 5b:** Good sportsmanship is developed on the practice field. Any coach who fails to stress this point; or permits; or who encourages; or defends the use of un-sportsmanlike tactics; shall be guilty of the most serious breach of football coaching ethics.

**5c:** Taunting opponents, officials, other coaches or fans by coaches, players or fans is strictly forbidden and subject to disciplinary action. Each town is responsible for their own personnel's actions. [96]

### ***OFFICIALS***

**Section 6a:** No competitive contest can be played satisfactorily without impartial, competent officials.

**6b:** Officials must have the respect and support of coaches and players.

**6c:** Officials should be treated in a courteous manner.

**6d:** Any criticism, which the coach may have to make concerning the officials, should be in writing and submitted to the Commissioners.

**6e:** For a coach to address or permit anyone on his bench to address uncomplimentary remarks to an official during the progress of the game or to indulge in conduct which might incite players or spectators against officials is in violation of the rules of the game and must likewise be considered conduct unworthy of a coach.

### ***AWARDS***

**Section 7:** No individual player award shall be given.

### ***QUALIFICATIONS OF COACHES***

**Section 8a:** All volunteers connected with the football program shall be of sound moral character. Towns must implement the **Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI)** procedure in their local area as an additional protection to screen volunteer backgrounds. This must be performed for all members (i.e., coaches, weigh-in reps, etc.) listed on the roster.

**8b:** The position of coach shall be open to any responsible adult with sufficient interest in the game to study and develop teaching ability.

**8c:** Each coach must show satisfactory character and sincerity of purpose to be a proper influence on young boys and girls.

**8d:** Men and women who coach must be sports people who embody the best qualities of leadership and, by their own example, plant these ideals of leadership, positive attitude, principles of sportsmanship and fair play.

### ***COACHING BEHAVIOR***

#### **Section 9: *Adult team personnel will:***

- a.** Refrain from smoking on the field.
- b.** Reserve player criticism for a private moment or in the presence of the team if they will benefit.
- c.** Refrain from running up a score against an opponent.
- d.** Refrain from profanities.
- e.** Abide by a physician's decision in all matters of a player's health and injuries and physical ability to play.
- f.** Strive to make every football activity serve as a training ground for life.
- g.** Together with the game officials, be responsible for the conduct and control of team, fans, and spectators. Any fan who becomes a nuisance and out of control must be asked to leave.
- h.** Uphold the rules, regulations and the philosophy of the OCYFL program.
- i.** Accept decisions of officials on the field as being fair and called to the best of the ability of officials.  
The coach must stay off the field and remain under control in order to set a good example for players and fans.  
A decision based on judgment should never be challenged. In cases of apparent misinterpretation, the officials should be addressed as gentlemen.
- j.** Not criticize the opposing team players or coaches, or fans by word of mouth or gestures. The head coach shall be directly responsible for actions involving him/herself, assistants, and players.
- k.** Try to play each player at least four (4) downs per game.
- l.** Coaches or their representatives are not allowed to video tape a future opponents game. This form of scouting is not acceptable to the League. [96]

*ARTICLE XII: By-law Amendments*

**Section 1:** By-laws may be amended by a 3/4 vote of those towns present at a meeting of The League. All towns must receive the amendment changes, in writing, at least 30 days before the voting meeting.

Voting on amendments to the By-laws shall be conducted by polling each member town present at that meeting. The choice of "show of hands" or "role call" will be made by the League President.

**Section 2:** As an appendix to the minutes of each meeting, there shall be, separately attached, any changes in the Constitution, By-laws, or Standing Rules.

*Once approved, any changes made shall be binding for a period of one (1), calendar year.*

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING;**  
**OLD COLONY YOUTH FOOTBALL, OFFICIAL ROSTER**

**“ENTER” the following information in the appropriate blocks on form:**

- TOWN:** name of town (e.g., Rockland )
- DIVISION:** appropriate division (e.g., 1,2,3,4,5)
- LEVEL:** (e.g., Mites, Peewees, Midgets)
- COACH:** Name of head coach
- TELEPHONE #:** telephone # of head coach
- ASSISTANT COACHES:** names of assistant coaches
- WEIGH-IN SUPERVISORS:** name and alternates

----- continued next page

**OFFICIAL ROSTER ... continued**

**“ENTER” the following information in appropriate columns on form:**

- NAME:** name of player, using last name, first name
- LEAGUE AGE:** (Players age on July 1<sup>st</sup>, for Mite, Pee wee, and Midget)
- MIDGET AGE:** Midget Player age on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. (Midget Roster Only)
- WEIGHT:** Approximate actual weight, NOT maximum weight for division
- HOME JERSEY NUMBER:** Home jersey number. Players must be listed in home jersey numerical order, starting with the lowest number first.
- AWAY JERSEY NUMBER:** Away jersey number, even if same.
- ABSENT/ NOT ELIGIBLE** Leave blank as this is where the Weigh-In Reps will mark all absent and non eligible players for each game.

**TOWNS NOT COMPLYING WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL DELAY THE WEIGH-IN AND THEREFORE BE SUBJECT TO FINES AND WILL FORFEIT THEIR PLACE IN LINE AT THE OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN!!!!!!!!!!**

*Rev (05/18/2010)*

