

TACONIC YOUTH FOOTBALL RULES

Adopted June 5, 2012

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 have 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 grade level roster before attempting to complete any feeder team rosters, in this, we hope to prevent the stacking of feeder teams.
- 1.3 Any member organization contacting National and/or Regional organization authorities without specific TYFC authorization will be subject to a fine, suspension or both. TYFC may at its discretion authorize a member organization to contact such authorities if such organization requests this, in writing, from TYFC Executive Board.
- 1.4 All member organizations are obligated to complete all regularly scheduled, 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.
- 1.5 Each member organization will appoint an individual from football and one from cheerleading who is responsible to the League for all matters regarding scholastic issues. This can be the same person for football and cheer. This individual should be someone other than the league representative or alternate. This person must also attend League scholastic meetings.

SECTION 2 - PLAYER & COACH REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 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. In such cases where a dispute in residency exists, the following in criteria in order will determine to which football organization the player belongs; 1) the school district in which the players home resides; 2) the town in which property taxes are paid, or the greater share thereof will constitute residency. 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. If the player decides to remain in town A, he/she may not switch to town B at a later date. In such cases - where no team exists, the youth may play for any neighboring border organization subject to the approval of the Executive Board. If at a later date a team is formed, the player will be expected to play in his town of residency, unless extenuating circumstances are presented to and approved by the TYFC Executive Board.

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 States, Regional's and National Championship play.

- 2.2 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). No "A" and "B" / All-Star teams will be formed by having more talented players on one team; every effort will be made to divide the two teams evenly in regards to talent and numbers. The head coach of each team will be solely responsible when dividing the two teams equally. If at the completion of the regular season the wins and losses of one team are lopsided to the other team, there will be an investigation by the TYFC board to determine if A & B/ All-Star team(s) was formed. Penalties for "A" and "B" /All-Star team(s) are described per Bylaw Article 4.10
- 2.2.1 Towns going from 1 team to 2 teams at a particular level from one season to the next. Team A from the previous season can stay together, but there can be no drops (other than voluntary decisions on the part of a player NOT to play football) or adds to or from Team B. There are no exceptions. Team B must be made up of all new players. Team A's roster will be compared to the previous season by the TYFC board, including coaches. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of all games for Teams A and B and suspension from TYFC championship games. The second consecutive season where there are two (2) teams at the same level, you must divide all new players evenly between both teams in talent and numbers via draft or coaches evaluation, insuring no "A" and "B" teams. Both coaches must be in agreement.
- 2.3 Each member organization is required to submit a League approved player contract for each player and 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 - PROOF OF GRADE: Provide last quarter Report Card with Final Grades. This is to validate participants' grade level and slotting of participant on correct Level of play.
 - (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 statement by a physician declaring the youth physically sound and capable of playing tackle football or performing cheerleading exercises and drills. This statement must indicate the child was examined after January 1, 2010. A

physician's signature dated January 1, or later of the specific year, is required to participate. The physician's signature may be accompanied by a stamped or printed 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.) acceptable by the League.

(7) TYFC will provide each organization with the exact player contract, roster and game day check in form that must be used. No other versions of these forms will be accepted

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

- NATIONAL ROSTER: List of players in order of birth date, oldest to youngest.
- TYFC TEAM/GAME-DAY ROSTER: (the old weigh-in roster) list of players in jersey number order.

2.7 A copy of each roster shall remain on file with the League. The League secretary 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 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. This is a mandatory meeting for all TYFC Head Coaches and will "Validate" them to coach in the upcoming season. Those who do not attend will not be

“validated” and will not be allowed to coach. The respective town will also be fined if the Head Coach is not present.

- 2.10 There will be no High School level participants in TYFC Football, unless there is no freshman program in an organization’s area and a 9th grade level has been established. High School players can only play on a 9th grade team.
- 2.11 The Executive Board of TYFC will oversee and have final say on all team rosters.

SECTION 3 - GAME DAY PROCEDURES

- 3.0 Each team must have 16 players present and able to play or, game will be considered a forfeit. (Exceptions to the minimum player rule can be considered by the TYFC Executive Board prior to the game only. The League Representative is responsible for notifying the Executive Board). If 16 players are NOT present or, NOT able to play, the game can still be played as a scrimmage. Roster Validation - Prior to each game, opposing Head Coaches (or a delegate) will validate players to official TYFC/Game-Day roster including checking photo to player participant. A coach may check report cards and/or birth certificates if deemed necessary.
- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 Canceled game will be under the direction of the TYFC Vice President of Football or the Executive Board. In the case of any rescheduled games, the host team is responsible for the officials, fees.
- 3.3 Coaches are responsible for each player being equipped properly.
- 3.4 Tentative Game Times are as follows:
Due to towns having multiple teams at one level, playing days and times may change. Also due to circumstances, game start times could be as early as 8:00AM or as late as lights are permitted on certain fields.
- 3.5 The schedule may not be revised once finalized, except to accommodate Canceled games and specifically approved by the Executive Board.

- 3.6 Every effort shall be made for all teams within the conference to play each other during the regular season.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Required Officials:

8 th , 7 th , & 6 th Grade	3 Officials
5 th , 4 th , & 79ers (2 nd & 3 rd)	2 Officials

3.10 A) For the **2012** season there are 10 Organizations in TYFC:

- Brewster - Green & White
- Carmel - Royal Blue & ~~White~~ Red
- Hudson Valley - Maroon & Gold
- John Jay Cross River -- Purple & White
- Mahopac -- Royal Blue & White
- North Yonkers -- Black & Gold
- Somers - Red & White
- Southern Dutchess -- Blue & White
- Wappingers Falls - Red & Navy
- Yorktown - Green & White

- B) A scheduling committee will determine the schedule.
- C) Each team will have one preseason game and 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) can be decided by a Kansas City Shoot-out for TYFC Championships only. Bowl Games will be decided by a coin flip.

4.11 Each team are 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, the must notify the TYFC Executive Board prior to the start of the season (August 6, 2012), 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.

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

4.13 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

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 may not play in 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.

- 4.14 **PLAY MONITORING:** In order to insure that all players get the minimum number of plays required as outlined in Section 4.13; 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 4th quarter, both coaching staffs will be advised regarding which players have not had all their required plays.

At the beginning of the 4th 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.

- 4.15 **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. Local high school fields or their equivalent are preferred. Acceptable standards which are disputed will be resolved by the Executive Board.

- 4.16 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 after the completion of the game). The TYFC Executive Board will determine the method by which these scores are reported prior to the season.

- 4.17 **TYFC Sanctioned Football Requirement:**

All teams must use the Wilson or Baiden footballs:

- 8th - 7th Grade: Wilson TDY or Baiden equivalent, leather, rubber or composite
- 6th - 5th Grade: Wilson TDJ or Baiden equivalent, leather, rubber or composite
- 4th & 79ers: 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.

SECTION 5 - MEDICAL SUPPORT

- 5.1 The home team is responsible
- 5.1 The home team is responsible for providing medical personnel. A Red Cross Multi-Media card carrier is a minimum requirement. Whenever possible, an EMT, Physician, or Registered Nurse is preferred. In all cases, immediate access to EMT/Ambulance facilities is required. (e.g. phone, 2 way radio, etc.)

SECTION 6 - SCORING AND CONTROL OF GAME

- 6.1 TYFC will follow National guidelines for all levels except 79ers.
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.

For grade levels: 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th & 4th Grades.

The lopsided score rule is **35 points**. Once the score differential reaches **35 points**, 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 or "trick plays" of any kind. Both offensive and defensive skill position starters must be replaced whenever possible. The winning team does NOT have to 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.

For the 79ers: It is 24 points

- 6.2 Any score differential of 36 points or more will result in an automatic one (1) week suspension of the Head Coach. A second incident of the same will result in an automatic two (2) week suspension of the Head Coach. A third incident of the same will result in an automatic one (1) calendar year suspension of the Head Coach, with review by the TYFC Board. No hearing notices will be sent out nor will any hearing be held.
- 6.3 **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 7 - PRACTICE SESSIONS

- 7.1 Actual practice may not commence prior to the 1st Monday of August of the current year. The first week shall be used exclusively for conditioning.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Games, captain's practices and chalkboard sessions are considered to be a form of practice and are strictly forbidden prior to the 1st Monday of August of the current year. Prior to the 1st Monday of August of the current year, "Parent Meetings" are allowed provided no players are in attendance. If found that members of a team were involved in any form of practice or game prior to the 1st Monday of August of the current year, the Head Coach and any other coaches present will be suspended for the month of August and the organization will be fined and declared ineligible for post-season play. The Head Coach does not have to be present to be held accountable.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 All practice must be attended by at least one person holding Red Cross Multi-Media Card or its equivalent as a minimum requirement.

SECTION 8 - PRE & POST SEASON GAMES

- 8.1 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.

SECTION 9 - OFF-SEASON FOOTBALL –

- 9.1 TYFC football players and coaches can participate and coach in **any indoor passing league, or tackle football league** only with prior approval from the TYFB Board

SECTION 10 - OFF-SEASON CAMPS OR CLINICS RUN BY TYFC ORGANIZATIONS

- 10.1 TYFC organizations can run a camp or, clinic for their own players and/or, for players from other towns.
 - 10.2 To prevent teams that would be playing together in the fall season from gaining an unfair advantage, the format of the camp/clinic must be that of stations, circuits, skills & drills, individual pass routes ie Post, Flag, Hitch etc.. It must be individual fundamental, technique work and drills for both, offense & defense.
- 10.3 There shall be No "Team" work ie; having an offense running plays together, or, having a QB practicing combination passing routes (skel).
There shall be No Defensive Team work ie; reviewing coverage's in a skel, blitzes or, schemes.
- 10.4 Coaches can work at the camp/clinic run by their organization or, by their local high school but, cannot coach their own team in separate groups.