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OBJECTIVES

- I. The objectives of the DCAYFL shall be:
 - A. To provide wholesome recreation for all eligible youth to participate.
 - B. To develop the physical and mental well being of the individual.
 - C. To increase self-confidence and self-respect and encourage leadership.
 - D. To teach a proper attitude toward competition and discourage the “win at all costs” attitude.
 - E. To teach sportsmanship and the fundamentals of competitive contact tackle football.
 - F. To operate a football league with consistent rules and requirements, providing organized and supervised tackle football.

MISSION STATEMENT

- I. To provide an enjoyable, safe, and positive football opportunity for youth where they can learn the game of football and fundamental life principles.
- II. The goal of DCAYFL is to develop and promote the ideals of responsibility, hard work, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fellowship in youth while teaching them the game of football is a positive, safe environment.
- III. The DCAYFL encourages each player maintains a good academic record. All those associated with DCAYFL shall do their best to help/encourage players to achieve academic success.

Active DCAYFL Programs

BELLEVILLE/ALBANY DEFOREST EASTSIDE MCFARLAND MIDDLETON MONROE MOUNT HOREB/BARNEVELD NEW GLARUS/ MONTICELLO PECATONICA/ARGYLE POYNETTE	REGENTS SACRED HEART SAINT FRANCIS SOUTHSIDE SPARTANS SUN PRAIRE VERONA WARNER PARK WAUNAKEE WISCONSIN HEIGHTS
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BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

The affairs and policies of the DCAYFL shall be conducted and determined by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners is authorized and empowered to perform all decisions, establish rules and regulations, and to enact necessary actions, which are consistent with the DCAYFL bylaws.

- I. The Board of Commissioners shall decide upon all general rules pertaining to DCAYFL Administration and game play. They shall organize and administrate all committees necessary to DCAYFL operations.
- II. Any program found to be in violation of any DCAYFL rules or bylaws may be subject to fine, probation, expulsion from the DCAYFL or other consequences as deemed appropriate by the Board of Commissioners. See GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES for additional information.

PROGRAMS

- I. No DCAYFL Member Program shall have rules or by-laws in conflict with or in violation of the DCAYFL rules or by-laws.
- II. Every DCAYFL Program Director will be responsible for signing the “DCAYFL Program Director Contract”. The contract and the required paper work will be required to be handed in no later than the official DCAYFL weigh-in. This contract will be required each year by the Program Director. Failure to submit this contract will result in the removal of that Program Director by the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners. Not complying with the “DCAYFL Program Director Contract” articles will result in the removal of the Program Director. In a case where the Program Director refuses to be removed then the Member Program will be removed from the DCAYFL. Note: The DCAYFL Board of Commissioners will make all final decisions.
- III. No DCAYFL Program Member will state in their rules/by-laws that a coach or coaches will not be allowed to hold a position on the Program Member Board or the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners and or any committees formed.
- IV. DCAYFL recommends that all Member Programs perform background checks to screen all coaches. No coach will be dismissed from coaching without informing the DCAYFL in writing. (See DCAYFL Coach/Official Grievance Form). Any coach that does not feel that the grievance was justified can appeal the process. It is up to the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners to determine if the removal is valid. The decision of the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners is the final decision. If the coach is found to be fit to coach then the coach may return to the Member Program or will be allowed to coach in another Member Program in the league. Note this will be handled on a case by case basis.

PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

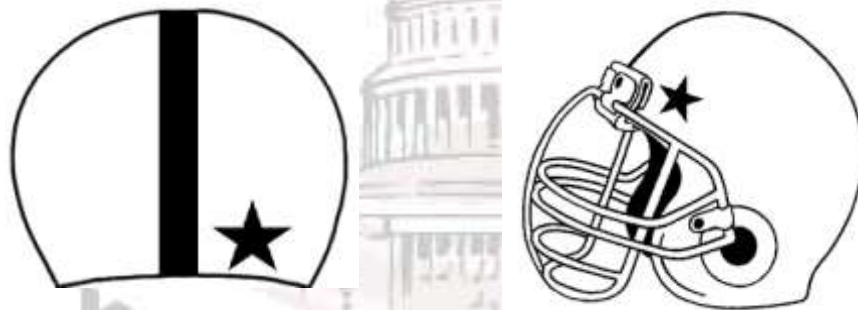
- V. Any person is eligible for participation in the DCAYFL whom, as of September 1, of the fiscal year, is attending any grade in school from 4th through 8th, and meets the age requirements set forth in COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE below.
 - A. Note: players that are home schooled are eligible if they meet the age requirements.
- VI. School records may be required to attest to a player's year in school. It is the requirement of a coach for each team to be present at the time of registration of all players.
- VII. It is the requirement of each program director to attest to the grade in school of the player participants.
- VIII. Registration will take place at a neutral site on a date(s) prior to the first scheduled DCAYFL game. The date(s) and site of the registration will be designated by the Board of Commissioners who will take the responsibility of providing each DCAYFL Program all necessary information. Registration will be overseen by the Board of Commissioners. The DCAYFL President will be the final judge on a player's eligibility relating to allowable weight restrictions. The weight registered on the date of registration will be final and under no circumstances will be questioned following the start of the season, except for certain cases (See REGISTRATION, VII). If a player is unable to attend registration, they must attend the makeup registration, which will be scheduled prior to DCAYFL competition, and will be held at least seven calendar days before the official main weigh-in. Each player will be assessed a fee of \$30 at the makeup registration that will be paid by the program that the player plays for. Additional registration may be allowed at the discretion of the DCAYFL President.
- IX. At registration, each team will bring 2 - 8X10 color photos with all members in their regular season jersey's displaying their assigned number. See the WEIGH-IN section for a detailed breakdown on the process.
 - A. One of these photographs is required to be present with the coach at each game.
- X. If a player's jersey becomes damaged or lost, the respective coach must contact the DCAYFL's President immediately, before the next DCAYFL contest, if at all possible.
- XI. Flagrant game violations will include the use of illegal player(s), whether they are over weight limits, over age limits, or ineligible for any other reason. Any Coach has the right to check the eligibility of an opposing player through the use of team photographs, rosters, and/or signatures. The final decision on the player's eligibility in question will be made by the game official(s). If the official(s) determine that an ineligible player has participated in said contest, the following penalties will occur:
 - A. The coach of the team will be asked to leave the field, and be under consideration by the DCAYFL for permanent expulsion from any and all DCAYFL activities.

- B. The game is a forfeit win for the opposing team, and a loss for the infraction team. This will count towards their respective league standings.
- C. The assistant coach will be asked to continue coaching the team for the benefit of player participation. At this point, the game may continue upon the agreement of coaches from both teams, with the understanding that the contest remains a forfeit.
- D. The player in violation will not be allowed to participate in other DCAYFL contests that year.
- E. Protests and Appeals shall follow the Grievance Process, under GRIEVANCE PROCESS.

“STAR” PLAYERS

All players designated as a “Star”, according to COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE below, must wear a Star

The “Star” decal will be furnished by the DCAYFL on the day of the weigh-in. The “star” MUST be placed in two spots on the helmet: One in the front of the helmet and one in the back of the helmet. See picture below for the placement of the “star” decal on the helmet.



The “star” on the helmet tells all where that player is allowed to play. The “star” player must follow the following position/alignment restrictions:

I. Offensive “Star” Players (4th – 5th):

- A. Must play Center, Guard, or Tackle.
- B. Up to five offensive “Star” players may be on the field at one time.
- C. Must be in a 3 or 4 point stance, no 2 point stance allowed.
- D. Normal line spacing shall be used. Normal line spacing is from foot to foot up to two feet or one arms length apart.
- E. Lineman may pull after the snap of the ball.
- F. No offensive “Star” player can advance the ball.
- G. “Star” rules violations will result in 1 warning per half then a 5 yard procedure penalty.

II. Defensive “Star” Players (4th – 5th):

- A. Must play Guard, Tackle.
- B. Up to four defensive “Star” Players may be on the field at one time.
- C. Must play head to head to the offensive linemen and must be in a three or four point stance. They may slant to the left or the right after initial contact is made with the offensive player in front of them.
- D. No defensive “Star” player can advance the ball.
- E. “Star” rules violations will result in 1 warning per half then a 5 yard procedure penalty.

III. Offensive “Star” Players (6th – 8th):

- A. Must play Center, Guard, or Tackle.
- B. Up to five offensive “Star” Players may be on the field at one time.
- C. Must be in a 3 or 4 point stance, no 2 point stance allowed.
- D. Lineman may pull after the snap of the ball.
- E. No offensive “Star” player can advance the ball.
- F. “Star” rules violations will result in 1 warning per half then a 5 yard procedure penalty

IV. Defensive “Star” Players (6th – 8th):

- A. Must line up no wider than the outside shoulder of the Offensive Tackles.
- B. They must play defensive nose guard, defensive guard or tackle.
- C. Must be in a 3 or 4 point stance, no 2 point stance allowed.
- D. Must line up on the Line of Scrimmage.
- E. Up to five defensive “Star” players may be on the field at one time.
- F. No defensive “Star” player can advance the ball.
- G. “Star” rules violations will result in 1 warning per half then a 5 yard procedure penalty.

REGISTRATION

- I. All persons wishing to play in the DCAYFL must complete the official Registration Form, Medical Emergency Information Form and have, on file with the coach(s), a photo in team jersey.
- II. All contracts must be completed and turned in at Registration, which includes a mandatory weigh-in. See WEIGH-IN section for more information on the weigh-in process.
- III. A player becomes officially registered with the DCAYFL when he is weighed to determine any weight limit restriction, has a photograph taken in a team jersey, shows proof of a birth certificate, completes the DCAYFL Registration Form and Medical Emergency Information Form and submits these at Registration, and has their signature on their Official Team Roster.
- IV. Under no circumstances will a person that fails to meet any of the player registration requirements at Registration be admitted for competition in the league.

- V. If a player has registered in the DCAYFL current season, he will not be allowed to transfer to another team during the season without the mutual consent of the DCAYFL President and the Program Representative of the two programs concerned. If mutual consent cannot be reached by the two programs, they will follow the Grievance Process.
- VI. The following is required of each player of each team applying for Registration:
 - A. Registration Form and Medical Emergency Information Form that is completely filled out with appropriate signatures.
 - B. Photograph taken with team jersey to be worn during competitive season.
 - C. Photocopy of Birth Certificate or another accepted form of identification (new players only).
- VII. Registration: The DCAYFL does not condone, nor will it tolerate the deliberate and willful encouragement of prospective players to lose unreasonable amount of body weight in order to circumvent the good intentions of the safe tolerance limit imposed by the DCAYFL in each weight division(s). Programs/Players of the DCAYFL determined to be in violation of the DCAYFL weight limits shall be subject to temporary, if not total, removal from the DCAYFL. The DCAYFL has the right to re-weigh any player that does not seem to be within the allowed limits. The weight of any player can be challenged throughout the season if someone wants to go through the “Grievance Process”.
- VIII. Program Directors are required to have rosters completed on the web site by midnight the night before the primary weigh in. Any teams with no roster completed will be fined \$100 and they will have to wait until after all other teams are weighed in.

WEIGH-IN

- I. Weigh-in will be run at the MATC-Truax Campus (3550 Anderson Street) in the main gymnasium with four weigh-in tables with two people at each table. The team coach should convey to their team what time that day that their team is to be at the weigh-in. Each team should arrive at MATC early enough so that they are ready to go at the time that the DCAYFL sets for your team. Once your whole team is there, you have all the required paper work (as specified below) in the correct order and your team is arranged in numerical order, by their jersey numbers, notify the head person outside that your team is ready to go. The head person outside will then allow you and your team to go into the MATC gymnasium. At the door of the gymnasium a person will tell you and your team which weighing table to go to. The first person at the table will take the team Packet. The team packet should be set up in the following way:
 - A. Team photos or individuals (Note please try to minimize the amount of individual photos) 2 sets one for DCAYFL to keep and 1 set goes back to the coach.
 - B. The DCAYFL Team Roster. 1 DCAYFL keeps, 1 is for the coach if they want to write down weights (Note the coach’s roster is not the official roster and will not be accepted)
 - 1. Note: the team roster is to be set up with the players in numerical jersey order from the smallest number on the team to the biggest number on the team.
 - 2. Note the DCAYFL Team Roster can be found on the league web site.

- C. For the first player you should have in this order:
 - 1. Birth Certificate or equivalent (new players)
 - 2. DCAYFL Medical Emergency Information Form
 - 3. DCAYFL Registration Form
 - D. All the remaining players on your team should be set up the same way.
- II. When a player is called up to be weighed they should already be ready to be weighed (i.e. a player can remove all clothing, except underwear, to help reduce their weight) before they arrive at the scale.
- A. Note: Due to the amount of players that need to be weighed in, no player will be allowed to reweigh for any reason. Each player gets only one time on the scale and will not be reweighed.**
- III. One person at the table will state the weight and the other will record it.
- IV. There is a make-up weigh-in for those that cannot make it to the official weigh-in.
- A. There are a few differences at the make-up weigh-in:
- 1. After getting weighed, the player will move to a line where the sheet that has their weight documented on will get photocopied. The original will be returned to the player.
 - 2. All paperwork (medical and release forms, birth certificates, and individual photo) will be given to the Head Coach or Team Rep so that on the day of the weigh-in all the players' information on each team will be in one place.
 - 3. The cost for players using the make-up weigh-in is \$30. The money will NOT be paid on the night of the weigh-in. Each program will pay the money to the DCAYFL. Each program will be responsible for collecting the money from the parent/guardian/player.

COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE

- I. There shall be a division for each grade from 4th through 8th.
 - A. Fourth Grade Division
 - 1. Must be in 4th grade (no 3rd grade players will be allowed) and cannot turn 11 before September 1st of the season to be played.
 - 2. Any player weighing more than 95lbs is designated as a "Star" player and must comply with the restrictions listed in rule "STAR" PLAYERS.
 - 3. Allow an offensive and defensive coach on the field.
 - 4. Offense and defense as indicated in "4th AND 5th GRADE DIVISIONS SPECIAL LIMITATIONS".

B. Fifth Grade Division

1. Must be 4th or 5th grade and cannot turn 12 before September 1st of the season to be played.
2. Any player weighing more than 105lbs is designated as a “Star” player and must comply with the restrictions listed in “STAR” PLAYERS.
3. Allow an offensive and defensive coach on the field.
4. Offense and defense same as the 4th grade division.

C. Sixth Grade Division

1. Must be in 5th or 6th grade and cannot turn 13 before September 1st of the season to be played.
2. Any player weighing more than 115lbs is designated as a “Star” player and must comply with the restrictions listed in “STAR” PLAYERS.
3. Allow an offensive and defensive coach on the field.
4. Any offense and defense may be used.

D. Seventh Grade Division

1. Must be in 7th grade or under and cannot turn 14 before September 1 of the season to be played.
2. Any player weighing more than 130lbs is designated as a “Star” player and must comply with the restrictions listed in “STAR” PLAYERS.
3. Offensive coach may be on the field.
4. Any offense or defense may be used.

E. Eighth Grade Division

1. Must be in 8th grade or under and cannot turn 15 before September 1 of the season to be played.
2. Any player weighing more than 150lbs is designated as a “Star” player and must comply with the restrictions listed in “STAR” PLAYERS.
3. Any offense or defense may be used.

- II. Any player younger than the maximum limitations for any division in 5th through 8th grade shall not be restricted from competition at an older division, as long as competition is restricted to one DCAYFL team. A player cannot play more than one grade ahead of where that player currently is enrolled. The DCAYFL President will be the final judge on a player’s eligibility.

TEAM ROSTERS

- I. A team roster shall contain a reasonable number of participants for an eleven-man competitive football team. A minimum suggested roster would include four or more extra players. Teams with over 30 players should attempt to create two separate teams; However, teams with over 35 players **will be required** to create two separate teams. Within each grade level, ALL players will be distributed equally so that the number, talent, and size of the players on each team are even. If one team in a specific grade level shows to be not equal or is more dominate then the other team in that grade level, then those teams may be redrafted at some point in the current football season to help in keeping equalized teams. If noticeably unequal teams have been created and the program does not redraft to correct the issue than the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners have the right to impose a mandatory redraft. This redraft of teams will be done under the direct supervision to the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners. If this issue becomes a constant problem with any specific program than the Board of Commissioners will take action as per the bylaws.

LEAGUE SCHEDULE & TOURNEY COMPETITION

- I. Schedules will be made up by an individual or committee with final approval by the Board of Commissioners. Games not scheduled by the league are not sanctioned by DCAYFL.
- II. Regular season games will usually be scheduled on Saturday mornings, unless requested prior to the scheduling meeting, mutually agreed upon for an alternative date and/or site by both program representatives involved and proper notification to the Board of Commissioners.
 - A. Each program will be responsible for recording its home games on the league website. Any home score not recorded by noon on the fourth day after a league scheduled game will result in a \$25.00 fine per score to the program that has failed to do so. (Example: Saturday game – Wednesday by noon). This fine will be assessed every week until the score is recorded.
 - B. Any program having problems recording their home scores must contact the web-site contact who is the designated individual before the 4th day in order to avoid the fine.
- III. As many games as practical and allowable within limitations of schedule will be placed on a single field/complex for maximum utilization of field/site and game officials.
- IV. The DCAYFL regular season schedule shall be the scheduled games as programmed yearly. Such play will normally start not earlier than the first Tuesday following Labor Day weekend, and should be complete before November. The LEAGUE will attempt to schedule seven games for each team. Each team will be allowed to participate in a maximum of eight “officialated” games. The additional game must be held on Tuesday or Wednesday during the season and will be considered one of three weekly practices for the week. Games not scheduled by the DCAYFL and played against other DCAYFL teams must be played under DCAYFL rules. No DCAYFL teams should be playing against non-DCAYFL teams.

- V. Postseason games are not allowed for the 4th through 7th grade programs. Games not scheduled by the DCAYFL and played against non-DCAYFL are not allowed. Games played against other DCAYFL teams will use the same rules as the regular season games. The DCAYFL does not sanction these games. The 8th grade is allowed to play in an end of the year tournament (which is not a DCAYFL sanctioned event). However, this cannot be done until after the DCAYFL season is over. Any games played after the DCAYFL season will not be the responsibility of the league. Those games will be played under the participating programs liability.

PRACTICES

- I. The rules set forth by the W.I.A.A. will apply. Prior to the starting of school, there shall be no more than five practices a week. After the start of school, there shall be no more than three practices a week. The week runs from Sunday through Saturday. The first allowable practice will occur on or after the first Tuesday of August with a maximum of 18 total practices prior to the first game.
- II. No practice for 4th, 5th, and 6th will last longer than 2 hours and must be completed by sunset. No practice for 7th and 8th will last longer than 2.5 hours and must be completed by sunset.
- III. Players participating in the DCAYFL football program will not play in any other organized football program, nor will they be permitted to practice with any other DCAYFL, or non-DCAYFL football team.
- IV. Scrimmage games may be scheduled with other DCAYFL teams after the third week in August. Under no circumstances may a team that is not in the same grade division play against each other. If there is a discrepancy as to the division a specific team is in, the President should be contacted for clarification. Each team will be allowed one scrimmage date in the preseason and one other game during or after the season, with a maximum of eight games. All games must be held on Tuesday or Wednesday with at least two days between games and will constitute one of three weekly practices.

COACHES

- I. Coaches are responsible for insuring a safe environment for all team members.
- II. All coaches must carry a current coaching certification under a DCAYFL approved Certification program. These programs include, but are not limited to, NYSCA and ASEP. All new coaches will be granted a one year grace period to comply with this rule.

- III. It is the responsibility of the coach to have in their possession at all team activities the following:
- A. DCAYFL Official Team Roster form with information about each player on their team.
 - B. DCAYFL Medical Emergency Information forms/folder for each player on their team.
 - C. DCAYFL Release form from each player on their team.
 - D. Team or individual pictures. (This will apply after the official weigh-in)
 - E. Copies of the NYSCA cards or coach's certification card
 - F. Copy of the DCAYFL Rules
 - G. Failure to have these forms will result in a \$50 fine to be imposed by the Board of Commissioners.
- IV. The DCAYFL requires that each player in good standing participate in a minimum of 25% of the total plays per half excluding special teams.
- V. On field coaches:
- A. Offense: One coach is allowed on the field with the team on offense to assist in player organization and play calling within the huddle. Once the quarterback starts his cadence the coach may not control his team by shouting directions, blocking angles, etc. or in anyway provide verbal encouragement once the play begins.
 - B. Defense: Same conduct as offense coach and 15 yards or deeper from line of scrimmage and not in the end zone.
 - C. Infractions will result in 1 warning per game, per team then followed by a 5yd procedure penalty.
- VI. The failure of any coach to comply with the rules regarding the Weigh-In/Registration, or LEAGUE games, will result in disciplinary action, and/or forfeiture of contest, and possible removal from the league as imposed by the Board of Commissioners.
- VII. It is the responsibility of the coach to attest to the grade of the participant, whereas if facts arise to the ineligibility of the participant, such team shall forfeit ALL previously played contests. Disciplinary action could be possible to the coach of that team with possible removal from the league as imposed by the Board of Commissioners.
- VIII. It shall be the responsibility of the coach to maintain discipline and other behavioral control, not only within the ranks of his own team, but with parents and spectators as well. This is in regards to their conduct toward game officials, coaches, and players. Permitting undue verbal or other abuse of said personnel will result in the suspension of the coach, and possibly the team, from DCAYFL for the remainder of the season and forfeiture of all games played as well as possible the next year's season as imposed by the Board of Commissioners.

- IX. Any coach that refuses to play a game for any reason shall be subject to forfeiture of that game and dismissal from the DCAYFL if no valid reason can be made for the refusal to play. This will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners as to the disciplinary action that will be taken. The coach may play under protest and follow the procedure for lodging such protest. An exception to this rule shall be made in the case of games, which must be rescheduled in accordance with OFFICIALS, I.
- X. Spectators are prohibited from standing, loitering, traversing, or observing the game from within a rectangular 5 yard zone around the field. Each team coach shall be responsible for the enforcement of this prohibition.
- XI. Any coach conducting him/herself in an inappropriate manner or having disrespect for any Director, program representative, coach or game official shall be subject to disciplinary action to be determined by the Board of Commissioners.
- XII. Coaches ejected from a league game will be suspended for the next league game. Repeated offenses could result in a coach no longer being allowed to coach in any DCAYFL program. This decision will be imposed by the Board of Commissioners.
- XIII. Any coach responsible for DCAYFL infractions/violations shall be brought before the Board of Commissioners. Documented evidence should be made available supporting both parties' positions. See GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.

PLAYING FIELD

- I. All fields shall be standard sized football fields, with no exceptions. The W.I.A.A. rules apply. No game will be scheduled on any field that does not comply with the rules. Field dimensions can be found at WIAAWI.com.

GAME RULES (ALL GRADES)

- I. The game rules are set forth by the W.I.A.A. Rule Manual and NFHS rule book.
- II. The game is considered a tie if the score is even at the end of the fourth quarter. Each team is assessed a ½ win and a ½ loss.
- III. All players must wear appropriate mouth protection. The mouth guard must be a color and not clear plastic and will be attached to the helmet. One warning per team per half will be given, and then a five yard equipment penalty will be enforced.
- IV. All offensive and defensive tackles, guards, and centers must be in a 3 or 4 point stance no matter if they are a blue star or not.

V. Modified Field Goals and Extra Point Rules

- A. Field Goals and extra points may be attempted where goal posts are available. There is no rush on the field goals or extra point attempts. The offensive team must be set and long-snap the ball to the quarterback or holder. The holder or QB should be at the kicking point and set the ball. If the field goal is blocked, the ball is put into play at the Line of Scrimmage unless the Line of Scrimmage is between the goal line and the 20yard line, then the ball is put into play on the 20yard line. If there is only one goal post, the ball may be moved to the opposite end (with the post). All extra points, rushes or passes, are counted as one point, when attempted from the 2yard line. A two point conversion may be attempted from the 5yard line, rushed or passed only. Kicking an extra point will be worth 2 points and the line of scrimmage will be the 2 yard line and it will be a dead ball play.
- B. "Sleeper Play", "Lonesome End", or any other intentional trick/deception play shall be deemed illegal and penalized with Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

VI. Point Differential Policy/Guidelines

- A. After one team goes ahead by at least 14 points:
1. An official timeout is called to notify each coach of the point spread.
 2. A good faith effort should be made and the team in the lead should begin substituting players.
- B. After one team goes ahead by at least 21 points:
1. The team ahead must substitute freely and keep the ball on the ground. If the team in the lead has a low number of players, they must switch player's position to comply with this rule.
 2. All further touchdowns are followed by only one point conversions (no two point conversions will be allowed).
- C. A continuous clock will be used any time a team accumulates a 28point lead. (Note: this differs from the W.I.A.A rule, which only used a continuous clock in the second half.)
- D. If a coach feels these guidelines are not being followed by an opposing team, he must follow the grievance procedure set forth under GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.
1. Results from grievances can range from suspension of a coach for a game, forfeiture or a fine levied against a program.
 2. If a second violation occurs:
 - a. The head coach of the team in violation could be permanently barred from coaching in the DCAYFL.
 - b. The coach's team will forfeit the game.

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th GRADE MODIFIED PUNTING RULES

- I. In accordance with research and the DCAYFL's interest in player safety, the following Punting Rules have been adopted for DCAYFL play.
 - A. If on the 4th down, or any other down where a team may elect to punt, the referee must be notified before the play may occur. Normal clock operating procedures will be observed with the exception of the referee stopping the clock until the offense has declared its intentions. The punting team has 25 seconds to punt the ball after notification. The defensive team must have a minimum of six players on the Line of Scrimmage (LOS), and may not rush the punting team, or punter. No players on the punting team will be allowed to go down field. The ball will be placed and designated downed, where the ball is controlled. If the ball bounces backwards, it will be placed where its forward progress stopped. If the receiver fumbles the ball forward, the ball will be returned to where the catch was attempted. If the receiver fumbles the ball and it goes behind him, the ball will be placed and considered downed at the point where it is controlled. If the ball goes into the end zone after it was touched by the receiving team, the ball will become downed at the point of deflection. If the receiving team catches the ball on the fly, five yards will be rewarded to the receiving team from point of the catch. There shall be no contact made during the punt for any reason. If contact is made and the referee feels it is aggressive and premeditated, a 15yard penalty shall be assessed. There shall be no quick punts (quick kicks) or punts without declaration. This results in an illegal procedure penalty (5 yards).
- II. All teams required to long snap the ball to the punter. If the snap is muffed or dropped, the ball may be picked up and punted from the punter's original position. There will be no rush.

8th GRADE MODIFIED PUNTING RULES

- I. All WIAA punting rules apply except for the following change:
 - A. The center is protected, and "Stars" cannot punt or otherwise advance the ball.
 - B. If the receiving team is up by more than 21 points, they cannot rush.
 - C. Punting is live play and no declaration is needed on any down

4th, 5th, 6th GRADE MODIFIED KICKOFF RULES

- I. Modified Kickoff Rules
 - A. Five (5) "Stars" will be allowed for both the kicking and receiving teams.
 - B. Stars cannot advance the ball.
 - C. The kicking team kicks off from its 40yard line, and may use from 1 to 11 players on the kickoff. The receiving team must have 11 players on the field. There is no contact on the kickoff.

- D. If the kick receiver touches the ball and the ball goes forward, the ball is put into play at that point, unless it is in front of the receiving team 40yard line, or behind its own 20yard line, then the ball goes into play on the 40or 20yard lines respectively. If the kick goes out of bounds, or is controlled before it reached the receiving teams 40yard line, the ball is put into play at the receiving team’s 40yard line. If the kick is controlled, goes out of bounds or into the end zone beyond the receiving team’s 20yard line, the ball is put into play at the receiving team’s 20yard line. If the receiving team catches the ball on the fly, the receiving team will be awarded 10 yards from the point where the ball was caught, unless it is in front of the receiving team’s 40yard line. The ball will be placed on the 50yard line.

7th and 8th GRADE MODIFIED KICKOFF RULES

I. Modified Kickoff Rules

- A. All WIAA kickoff rules apply except for the following change:
1. There will be no onside kicks allowed. It is the official’s interpretation of the rule as to whether a kick is an onside kick or not.

GAME DAY PROCEDURES

- I. The following procedure will be followed before the start of every DCAYFL sanctioned game.
- A. A coach from each team with the “star” players will meet in the center of the field. Each coach is required to have the team’s 3-ring binder which must include the following items.
1. DCAYFL Medical Emergency Form for every player on the team.
 2. DCAYFL Release Form for every player on the team.
 3. DCAYFL Official Team Roster for your team and the team you are playing.
 4. A photograph(s) of every player on your team in their game jersey.
 5. The current DCAYFL rules.
 6. A copy of the NYSCA cards (or equivalent as stated in COACHES, II) for each coach on your team. If a coach is a first year coach have his name/signature on a piece a paper and a statement saying they are a first year coach.
- B. Each coach will check the opposing coach’s 3-ring binder for this information.
- C. Each coach will verify that the opposing coach’s “star” players are identified per their team rosters by the following criteria.
1. Number of “star” players on the team.
 2. Game jersey number is correct for each player.
 3. Helmet for each player is marked by 2 stars. One on the front and one on the back. As per DCAYFL rules.
- D. Each coach will declare any other roster changes from the DCAYFL weigh-in roster sheet.

- E. Officials should ask the following questions (coin toss follows questions):
 - 1. Are all players properly equipped?
 - 2. Are all players properly numbered?
 - 3. Are all star players properly designated as such?
 - 4. Does each coach have their team's 3 ring binder?
- F. Game cancellation will occur immediately if...
 - 1. A team does not have DCAYFL Medical Emergency Forms for every player.
 - a. Failure to have the forms will result in a \$50.00 fine to be imposed by the Board of Commissioners to the program for each infraction according to COACHES, III
 - b. The program not in violation will be in charge of rescheduling the game canceled due to this violation. Game site and time will be determined by that program.
 - c. The program in violation will be required to pay for all the officials for the canceled game and for the rescheduled game.
- G. A team found to be violating "star" player identification rules will be penalized according to PLAYER REQUIREMENTS, VII.

OFFICIALS

- I. Four W.I.A.A. or other governing body officials are recommended for each DCAYFL contest. However, should there be only two present; the game will still be played. If there are any less than two W.I.A.A. and DCAYFL registered officials present, the contest will be rescheduled. The visiting team shall have the option of rescheduling the contest at their site.
- II. Coaches may enter the field to attend to any injured player. Coaches and Medical Personnel need no permission from the officials to enter the field when an apparent injury has occurred.
- III. Officials will be paid for league scheduled games by the home program. The league mandates a minimum fee of \$36 per official per game.
- IV. Officials are required to give each coach a game attendance card prior to the game's start. These cards are to include game officials' names, W.I.A.A. number and level. These cards are to be signed by the coaches.

EQUIPMENT

- I. The DCAYFL requires that each player shall be equipped with a NOCSAE approved helmet, including faceguard and chinstrap. Other required equipment includes properly fitted shoulder pads, football pants with the necessary hip tail inserts, thigh pads, and kneepads. Cleated football shoes are optional. However, DCAYFL recommends cleats that are made of molded 16 rubber/plastic cleats (metal cleats are not allowed). Football shoes with removable cleats are allowed under the following conditions: shoes get inspected prior to each game to ensure all cleats are tightened and none are missing. If a cleat is broken off or missing they must be replaced or the player will not be allowed to use them for the game. If a player is found to be using illegal/unsafe cleats that player will not be allowed to play the remainder of the game. A player that is found to be using improper/unsafe cleats must be reported to the DCAYFL Board of Commissioners. The DCAYFL Board of Commissions has the right to ban any type of cleat that is deemed as unsafe. Colored mouth guards are **REQUIRED** for all players. Athletic supporters are optional, as are elbow pads, wristbands, gloves, etc. Jewelry, i.e., rings, earrings, bracelets, neck chains, and any other potentially dangerous adornments, are banned for safety reasons. No equipment modifications will be allowed unless allowable by NFHS rules. i.e. Tinted visors, chinstrap sleeves, skullcaps are not allowed. Clear visors are allowed.
- II. Each team must equip each player with a number jersey consistent with team uniform color(s). All new teams entering the DCAYFL should attempt to not duplicate other divisional team colors. Color coded socks are optional equipment
- III. The home field will be required to furnish a yard/down marker and official game ball. The home field should also be very clearly marked with straight line striping, yard markers at 10yard intervals, flags and/or cones, indicating end zones. Failure to comply with minimum acceptable field responsibilities may result in game cancellations, forfeiture, DCAYFL reprimand, or all three.
- IV. The home program will be required to provide a playing field void of any dangerous litter, i.e., broken glass, shredded plastic, nails, etc. that may cause a player injury. Removal of this dangerous foreign material is required prior to any DCAYFL contest. The coaches are encouraged to walk around prior to kickoff identifying such.
- V. The home field is not required to have a visible game clock, however, if it's working, make sure the operator(s) are familiar with the official's signals for controlling it! The game official's time is the official time.
- VI. At the conclusion of the contest(s), **BOTH COACHES** in the finale are responsible for the safe and proper return of all playing field equipment to storage.
- VII. The intermediate-sized football will be used by the 7th and 8th grade divisions. The junior-sized football will be used by 4th, 5th, and 6th grade divisions. This football may be made of rubber or leather, provided it meets the size requirements above. Any team has the option of using their own football, if that ball is consistent with the required shape, size, and construction of DCAYFL designated footballs.
- VIII. The home team is responsible for providing three experienced, adult "chain-gang" workers. Chains are to be operated on home team side.
- IX. The home team will be required to provide and wear scrimmage vests, i.e., pinnies, in situations where the team they are playing has the same colored jerseys.

POSTPONEMENTS

- II. There shall be no postponements of any DCAYFL contest unless an “on-time” start is deemed hazardous to the health and well being of the participants. This decision will be made by the game’s official(s), with the mutual consent of both team’s coaches. Examples could include lightning, torrential rain, and other weather related threats. Rescheduling the game will be the home team’s responsibility. The home team will provide the visiting team dates and times for the games to be played; the final date and time must be mutually agreed upon.

TIME

- I. Each quarter shall consist of nine minutes; Four quarters played per DCAYFL contest.
- II. Officials will provide the game stopwatch and run game time on the field; a scoreboard clock may also be used. However, the official’s time is the official time and they have the ability to change the scoreboard clock.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

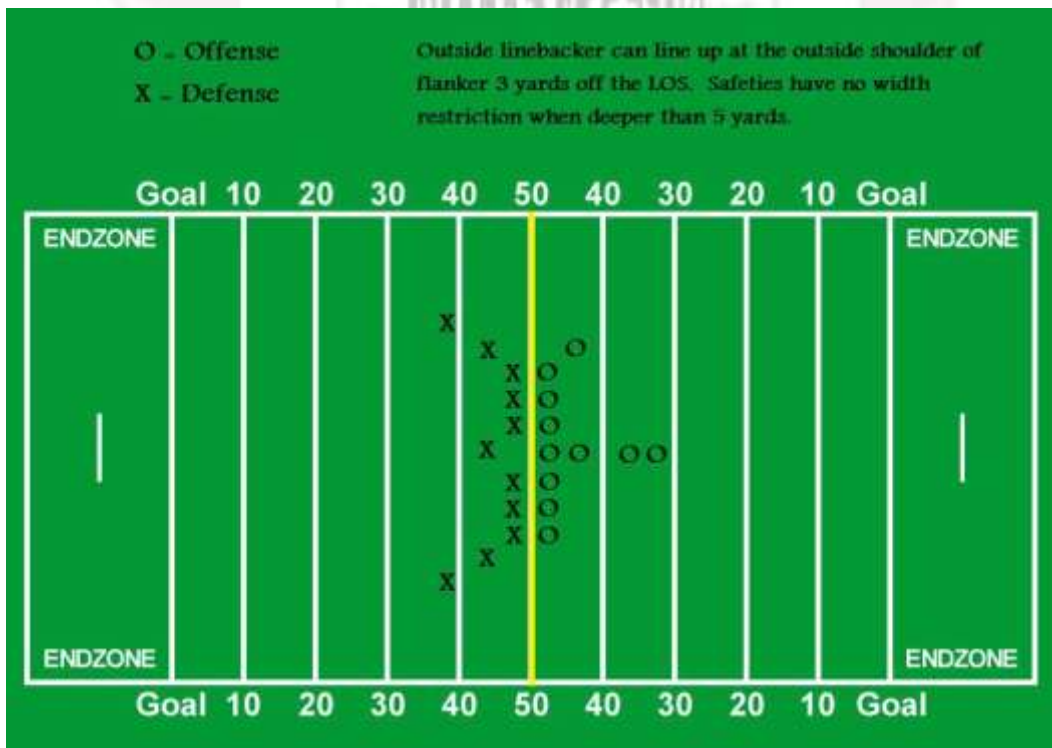
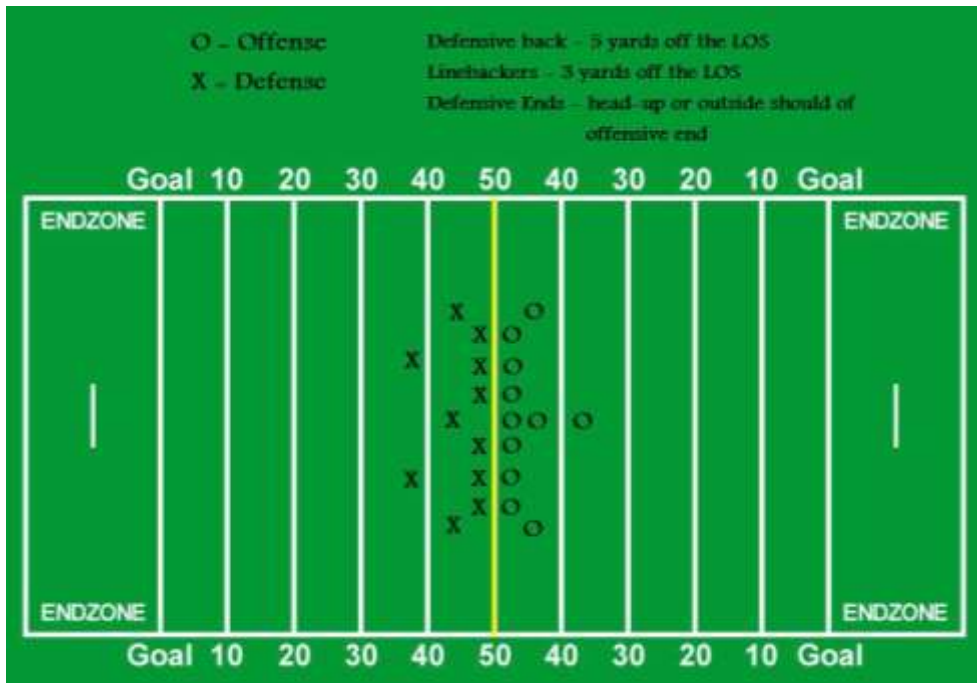
- I. All grievances, including complaints, disputes, issues and/or formal protests occurring between DCAYFL members (coaches, directors, representatives), shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners, in written format (DCAYFL coach/official grievance form) or (via regular mail or email), completed with supportive documentation, witnesses, etc., all directed through the DCAYFL President. A copy of any grievance(s) must also be sent to each Program Director that the grievance applies to.
- II. The Board of Commissioners must receive protests/grievances concerning a game played no later than two days past the date of the protested incident. There may be some leeway for the two days depending on what the grievance is. This is up to the DCAYFL President to decide.
- III. The Board of DCAYFL, upon receipt of the grievance shall meet with all concerned parties in attendance within five (5) days of member’s appointment at a reasonable time/location. Upon agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the grieving parties, the grievance may be withdrawn prior this meeting. There may be some leeway for the five days depending on what the grievance is.
- IV. The Board of Commissioners shall be responsible for maintaining minutes and custody of all documents.
- V. The Board of Commissioners shall meet with all concerned parties in attendance with a neutral platform for the airing of grievance(s).
- VI. The Board of Commissioners shall function to mediate between the parties concerned. This mediation process will be an official rules interpretation and render correct implementation of the DCAYFL’s objectives, membership, and bylaws.

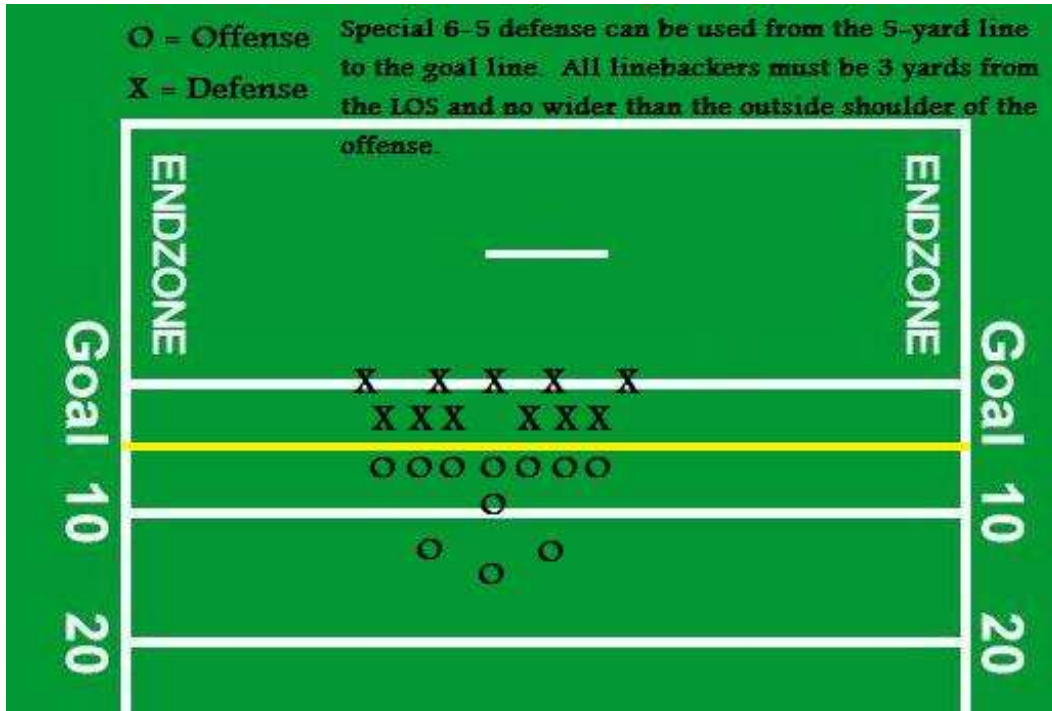
- VII. For the Grievance form see www.DCAYFL.us. Note: There is a \$50 charge for each grievance. See forms as to who will pay the \$50 fee.

4th AND 5th GRADE DIVISIONS SPECIAL LIMITATIONS

- I. Fourth and fifth grade divisions are considered instructional divisions. The following limitations have been drafted to help coaches and referees simplify the game for the younger entry level players.
- A. All 15 yard penalties shall become 10 yard penalties.
 - B. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall remain a 15 yard penalty.
- II. Offensive rules
- A. Teams must use a balanced seven-man line with no splits other than normal line spacing. Normal line spacing shall be from foot to foot up to two feet or one arms length apart.
 - B. Linemen may pull after the snap of the ball
 - C. Flankerback or backs must line up one yard behind offensive end with inside shoulder in line with offensive end outside shoulder (see drawing).
 - D. No motion before the snap.
 - E. One offensive coach shall be allowed on the field.
 - F. Offensive sets are not to be any wider than shown in the below diagrams. Any backfield formation may be used; however, only one player on each side may be wider than the outside of the end regardless of the formation. The other remaining players must line up no wider than the offensive guards.
 - 1. Note: This is to help alleviate multiple running backs from lining up on one side or the other.
- III. Defensive rules
- A. Only defense allowed is 6-3-2. Balanced line (see drawing).
 - 1. Only exception is a 6-5 used from the five yard line to the goal line.
 - B. Defensive linemen (guards and tackles) must line up head to head to the offensive linemen and must be in a three or four point stance. They may slant to the left or right after initial contact is made with the offensive player.
 - C. Linebackers shall be at least three yards from the line of scrimmage at the snap of the ball but do not have to line up deeper than the goal line.
 - D. Safeties may play on outside shoulder of the flanker, and the safeties must be a minimum of five yards off the line of scrimmage but there is no limit to their width of alignment.
 - E. There is no blitzing or stunting at any given time, however, after a handoff the linebackers may cross the line of scrimmage to make a tackle. A blitz is defined as a linebacker or safety crossing the line of scrimmage before a handoff is made or the quarterback indicates an intention to run the ball by crossing the line of scrimmage. A stunt is defined as the crossing of two or more defensive players' paths with the intent to confuse the offense.

4th AND 5th GRADE PLAYER ALIGNMENTS





GAME OFFICIAL HAND SIGNALS



OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE



OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE



1 Ball ready for play *Untimed down	2 Start clock	3 Time-out Discretionary or injury time-out (follow by tapping hands on chest)	4 TV/Radio time-out	23 Failure to wear required equipment	24 Illegal helmet contact	27 Unsportsmanlike conduct Necessary foul	28 Illegal participation		
5 Touchdown Point(s) after touchdown	6 Safety	7 Ball dead Touchback (move side to side)	8 First down	29 Sideline interference	30 Running into (NCAA) or roughing kicker or holder	31 Illegal kicking/kicking (Followed by pointing toward box for kicking)	32 Invalid fair catch signal (NFHS) Illegal fair catch signal	33 Forward pass interference Kick catching interference	
9 Loss of down	10 Incomplete forward pass Penalty declined, No play, No score, Toss option delayed	11 Legal touching of forward pass or scrimmage kick	12 Inadvertent whistle (Face Press Box)	13 Disregard flag	34 Roughing passer	35 Illegal pass/forward handling	36 Intentional grounding	37 Ineligible downfield on pass	38 Personal foul
14 End of period	15 Sideline warning	16 First touching (NFHS) Illegal touching	17 Uncatchable forward pass (NCAA)	39 Clipping	40 Blocking below waist Illegal block	41 Chop block	42 Holding/obstructing (Illegal use of hands/arms (NFHS)) (NCAA)	43 Interlocked blocking Illegal use of hands or arms (NFHS) (Illegal block in the back (NCAA))	
18 Encroachment (NFHS) Offside defense (NCAA)	19 Illegal procedure (NFHS) False start Illegal formation Encroachment offense (NCAA)	20 Illegal shift - 2 hands Illegal motion - 1 hand	21 Delay of game	22 Substitution infraction	44 Helping runner	45 Grasping face mask or helmet opening	46 Tripping	47 Player disqualification	

NOTE: Signals number 25 and 26 are for future expansion.

CHILD ABUSE PROTECTION STATEMENT

As a football coach you may become aware of situations regarding a player on your team. Please be aware that child abuse is the physical, sexual, or emotional maltreatment of a child (ages 0 to 18) by a parent, family member, caregiver or non-caregiver. Physical abuse will involve cuts, broken or fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, or “severe and frequent bruising” inflicted on a child by other than accidental means. Sexual abuse will involve sexual intercourse, other sexual contact, or exploitation. Emotional abuse will involve verbal mistreatment, withholding of love or companionship and the like. If you believe a child (0 to 18) has been abused, neglected or is at risk of abuse or neglect, please report this to your county’s child protection agency. If you are not sure whether or not to make a report, **please report**.

Child protection staff will make follow up decisions. Although not every call results in an open case, child protection staff cannot protect children who are not brought to their attention. If you make a report, state law protects reporter confidentiality. The assigned social worker will not disclose your name to the family. When you call to make a report, please call during regular business hours, if possible (normally between 7:45am and 4:30pm). Have as much information about the child and family as you can available, including the child’s date of birth, address, parents’ names, telephone number, siblings’ names and ages, school district, place of employment for parents and a description of the concerning maltreatment. It’s likely that you may not have all of this information, but as much as you can provide will be appreciated. All child welfare reports are confidential and the family will not be informed of who the reporting party is. While, we as a league hope you will never need to utilize this information, we believe that you as a coach are concerned about your players well being. If you have any concerns please notify your local county Human Services Dept.

Columbia County (608) 7429227

Green County (608) 3289393

Sauk County (608) 3554200

Iowa County (608) 9359311

Dane County (608) 2615437