

TAMPA BAY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES

MISSION STATEMENT: The objectives of the League shall be to give interested boys and girls a fully organized and controlled football and cheerleading program in order to teach the fundamentals of citizenship and to aid them in the development of character and good health. The atmosphere should remain entirely free from adult ambition and personal glory. Good educational study habits and the importance of staying in school shall be stressed at all times.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-Changes to the Rules	2
2-Coaches.....	2
3-Ages and Weights.....	2-3
4-Insurance	4
5-Rosters	4
6-Ineligible Players, Cheerleaders and Coaches.....	4-5
7-TBYFL Verification Pictures	5
8-Conducting Pre-Game Weigh-In	6
9-Playing Rules	6-7
10-Pee Wee Exceptions.....	7
11-Sick, Injured or Disciplined Players.....	8
12-Officials.....	8
13-Games	8-9
14-Regular Season Practice	9
15-Off-Season Practice	9
16-Protests of Rules of the Game	9
17-Uniforms and Equipment.....	10
18-Individual Honors	10
19-Misconduct and/or Unsportsmanlike Conduct.....	10
20-Organizational Responsibilities	10-11
21-Field and Game Day Rules	11-12
22-Facility Restrictions	12
23-Miscommunications, Misapplication or Misinterpretation of a League Rule/Bylaw by a League Official.....	12
24-Conferences.....	13
25-League Champions	13
26-Play Off Seeding	13-14
27-Cheerleading Rules.....	14-17
Penalties and Fines Chart.....	17
Articles	18-23

RULE 1

MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES

1.1 Changes to the Rules

The rules of the league may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or part at any time through the following procedure:

- a) Rule change must be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee.
- b) The rule change will be addressed at the next Rules Committee meeting.
- c) The Rules Committee will make any necessary modifications and present at the next Board of Directors meeting.
- d) The proposed rule change will be presented and read at the board of directors meeting. Discussion will be limited to 10 minutes at the first reading.
- e) The proposed change will be placed on the agenda of the next Board of Directors meeting which must be at least 48 hours from the meeting where the first reading was held.
- f) No discussion will be held concerning the proposed rule change at the meeting which the rule change vote is to take place.
- g) A quorum (50% of all Board of Directors members) must be present at the meeting and the proposed rule change must be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.
- h) Any changes to Rule 27 (Cheerleading Rules) must first be approved at a Cheer Coordinator meeting by a simple majority vote of those present before being submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval.

All rule changes enacted under this provision shall have no retroactive application. The President of the league, with a 2/3 majority vote of the League Executive Board of Directors, can declare a Rule Emergency and request a meeting to present, read and vote on a rule change at the same meeting date. The meeting must be declared as a Rule Emergency meeting. A quorum (50% of all Board of Directors members) must be present at the Rule Emergency meeting and it will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present to accept the change.

1.2 Knowledge of the Rules

It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to inform all coaching participants from his/her organization of the League rules and bylaws before they participate in any activity.

RULE 2

VOLUNTEERS AND COACHES

2.1 Volunteer and Coaches

All League and organization volunteers must meet and fulfill all Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department requirements for being a youth volunteer/coach.

2.2 League Notification

Each Organization shall submit a head coach and board member roster with full names, addresses and phone numbers on or before the August TBYFL meeting.

RULE 3

Ages and Weights

3.1 Age Certification

Each team shall have a birth certificate for each player and cheerleader, which shall be presented to the League at registration. If the player or cheerleader participated in the previous season, this requirement shall be waived. The League shall retain the previous season's weigh-in rosters and picture identification cards for a minimum of one year. Each Organization shall retain a copy of the certification for new players and cheerleaders for a minimum of one year.

3.2 Age Determination

Football player's age will be determined by their age as of July 31 of each season. Cheerleader's age will be determined by their age as of September 1 of each season. As in the case of last year Varsity cheerleaders, league age will be determined by their age as of January 1 of each season.

3.3 Weights

The following ages and weights shall be strictly enforced:

Cheerleaders: Age

Flag: 4, 5 and 6

Pee Wee: 7, 8
Super Midget: 9, 10
Midget: 11, 12
Varsity: 13, 14*

Players: Age/Maximum Weight Limit
Flag: 4, 5 and 6/Not Applicable
Pee Wee: 7, 8/95 pounds
Super Midget: 9, 10/120 pounds
Midget: 11, 12/150 pounds
Varsity: 12, 13 and 14/200 pounds

Lightweights:
Flag: Not Applicable
(NEW FOR 2013) Numbers show in red are changed for 2013
Pee Wee*: up to 62 pounds
Super Midget **: up to 80 pounds
Midget ***: up to 105 pounds
Varsity: Not Applicable

Teams participating in post season play are allowed 1 (one) additional pound for each week (including any bye weeks) of the postseason including lightweight players.

* Pee Wee Lightweights: A team may have up to ten (10) lightweights in the Pee Wee division. Each player cannot weigh more than 62 (sixty-two) pounds and cannot be older than league age 9 (nine).

** Super Midget Lightweights: A team may have up to ten (10) lightweights in the Super Midget division. Each player cannot weigh more than 80 (eighty) pounds and cannot be older than league age 11 (eleven).

*** Midget Lightweights: A team may have up to ten (10) lightweights in the Midget division. Each player cannot weigh more than 105. (one hundred and five) pounds and cannot be older than league age 13 (thirteen).

Lightweight note: There cannot be more than five (5) new lightweight players on each squad. A new lightweight is defined as a player who did not play during the previous season with a TBYFL organization.

If a lightweight player DOES NOT make weight the first game in which they are declared eligible under the registration procedures, they must move up to the next division

3.4 Artificial Weight Loss

Weight loss shall only be obtained by normal physical conditioning. Use of artificial means to obtain weight loss by any player shall be prohibited unless specifically prescribed in writing by a licensed physician for health reasons. Any coach or any other supervisor advising or condoning the use of artificial means to obtain weight loss shall be suspended from participation in any League activity for one (1) year. The player shall also be declared ineligible for one (1) year. When a coach knows that a player has or is, on his own or at the direction of any other person including their parents, using artificial means to obtain or maintain weight loss, it shall be the responsibility of that coach to take immediate action to have the player discontinue such action and report such activity to the League.

Methods which are considered to be “artificial means” of weight loss include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Sweat boxes
- b) Steam or sauna baths
- c) Use of heated vehicles
- d) Water pills
- e) Excessive dieting (players are expected to be able to eat two or three balanced meals a day)
- f) Running in rubber, plastic, or similar clothing
- g) Diet or appetite depressant pills

RULE 4

Insurance

4.1 Insurance Requirement

It shall be mandatory that the League have supplemental insurance to cover accidents and injuries to players, cheerleaders, and other official team members while playing, traveling or practicing. A copy of this policy shall be on file with the League and given to each Athletic Director no later than the August meeting each year.

RULE 5

Rosters

5.1.1 Transfers

No organization may take more than a total of 10 transfers in any given season. This includes players and cheerleaders.

No organization may take more than 5 transfers from any one TBYFL organization.

No organization may take more than 3 transfers on any single squad/team in a given division.

Any exceptions to this rule must receive the consent of the League Executive Committee, which can be granted by a 2/3 vote. This vote can only be called by the League President for a highly unusual circumstance.

5.2 Freezing of Rosters

No player or cheerleader can be added to the organizations roster after midnight of the League's second (2nd) scheduled game of the regular season, with the exception of Varsity cheerleaders and Varsity Football Players which may be added to the roster up to midnight of the League's third (3rd) scheduled game of the regular season. Any exception to these dates must receive the consent of the League Executive Committee which can be granted by a 2/3 vote for a highly unusual circumstance. After a player weighs in for their first game they shall NOT be permitted to move to a lower age division (e.g., Varsity to Midget, Midget to Super Midget, Super Midget to Pee-Wee). A player shall be permitted to move up to any age division for which he/she is eligible if done by the kickoff of the squad's 5th regular season game.

A player must make weight in one regular season game in a division to be eligible to play in any post season games in that same division.

5.3 Releases

No rostered player or cheerleader or coach may transfer to another organization after the opening date of the TBYFL schedule.

5.2.1) No releases shall be granted under the following circumstances:

- a) Money due to the organization which they are leaving. This must be uncollected funds as a result of fraud, fund raising activity or any deceptive behaviors.
- b) Equipment and/or uniforms or other properties of the organization not returned to the organization which they are leaving.

Registration payment plans are not included in this rule. The player/cheerleader will be released if the money owed is a result of missing or not finishing a registration payment plan. Each Organization is required to provide the League by the March meeting, in writing, with a list of ALL players, cheerleaders, board members, or coaches that have not turned in equipment, uniforms, other properties of the organization or any fundraising money due. If this list is not turned in, then an individual from that organization cannot be refused a release.

5.3.2) The parents, or legal guardian, of any player/cheerleader transferring from one organization to another will be required to sign a release stating the player, parent, or any member of the player's family was not offered or given any type of incentive to transfer from his/her existing organization to the new organization. The parent, or legal guardian, is to get the release from their existing organization's AD. Failure to complete this release will make the player/cheerleader ineligible until release is completed.

RULE 6

Ineligible Players, Cheerleaders and Coaches

6.1 Ineligible Players, Cheerleaders and Coaches

6.1.1) Any player or cheerleader who is a member of any school football team or cheerleading squad or any other organized football team or cheerleading squad during the League's season (beginning at the first game date through the Super Bowl) shall be ineligible to play or cheer on any League team or squad for that season.

6.1.3) There shall be no coaches or instructors under eighteen (18) years of age allowed to participate with any squad unless a TBYFL adult volunteer/coach is present.

6.1.4) If you are of league age to cheer or play football in the Tampa Bay Youth Football League then you are ineligible to be a coach or instructor.

6.1.5) All players and cheerleaders must be enrolled in an elementary, middle, Jr. High or high public or private school or approved home schooling system. Any player not enrolled in one the systems listed is ineligible to participate in any TBYFL activity. This rule does not apply to Flag Football or Mighty Mite Cheerleading.

6.1.6) All grievances concerning an ineligible player must be filed in accordance to Article VIII. If it is found that a person had knowledge of an ineligible player, cheerleader or coach and did not provide the knowledge to TBYFL, that person is subject to Penalty 2 (one year suspension) and Fine B (\$100).

6.1.7) Any team that is found guilty of having an ineligible player, cheerleader or coach must forfeit all games in which the ineligible person participated in.

RULE 7

TBYFL Verification Pictures

7.1 TBYFL Verification Pictures

7.1.1) Preceding the first week of the regular schedule, the League teams shall meet at a time and place to be designated by the League. The League shall have overall responsibility for conducting the Preseason Official Picture Process, but shall be permitted to appoint one or more representatives to handle or assist in conducting the Preseason Official Picture Process. All required paperwork (including age certification) shall be turned in prior to taking the player's Preseason Official Picture or the player shall not be permitted to participate in the Preseason Official Picture Process.

7.1.2) The League shall prepare the Official Picture rosters based on current registrations. Coaches shall have the players lined up for Preseason Official Pictures in alphabetic order at the time and place designated by the League.

7.1.3) Any player on a roster not in attendance at Preseason Official Picture Process shall have his/her picture taken at a subsequent Official Picture date scheduled by the League. Any rostered player who does not have an Official Picture on file shall have his/her Official Picture taken at the Weigh-In by a League Official.

7.1.4) Each Organization must pay a minimum of \$2,500.00 in League registration fees by the regularly scheduled TBYFL April Board of Directors meeting. Any organization experiencing financial difficulty may petition the executive board for an extension.

7.1.5) All League registration fees must be paid in full by the Organization's scheduled TBYFL picture day or else the team will not be allowed to have their pictures taken and will be subject to the fines in Rule 7.2.

7.1.6) Dates for taking pictures of rostered players after the Preseason Official Picture Process shall be scheduled by the League. No picture dates shall be scheduled after the Organization's second game of the regular season unless scheduled in accordance with Rule # 3.

7.1.7) New Players The following items shall be presented to the League for all new players or cheerleaders:

- a) League registration form.
- b) League registration fee, paid by check drawn on the organization's checking account.
- c) Copy of Age Certification, if not in last year's file.

If the required forms, fees, and age certification are provided as described, the player shall be considered a rostered player and shall be allowed to Weigh-In and play in the game as prescribed in: "Pictures registration" In procedure manual.

7.2 Game Day Process

Each player shall have a picture identification card on file with the League. An organization shall be fined \$100.00 for each age division that requires six (6) or more Official Pictures to be taken at a Pregame Weigh-In. Ex: 5 free pictures per squad. 6 or more a one-time fee for that squad only. Fine is per squad not players. Players weighing-in under Rule #3 are not counted in determining the application of the penalty. After the player successfully completes Pregame Weigh-in, his/her card shall be used for Pregame Check-in. Pregame Check-In shall take place as the teams enter the field. The players shall be checked by the Athletic Director, Alternate Athletic Director, coach or League Official and the opposing teams Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, or coach. After the Pregame Check-in is completed, the identification cards shall be returned to the League Official.

RULE 8

Conducting Pregame Weigh-In

- 8.1)** Bathroom or spring type scales are not permitted. Scales must be certified by a qualified service technician each year before the first official weigh-in.
- 8.2)** The Pre-game Weigh-In shall be conducted by a League Official, as assigned to each complex.
- 8.3)** The Pre-game Weigh-In shall be conducted no earlier than one (1) hour prior to scheduled game time. No player shall be allowed to weigh-in after Kick-Off.
- 8.4)** The League shall maintain an official weigh-in roster in alphabetical order for each division. This weigh-in roster shall be initialed by the League Official officiating at the Pregame Weigh-In.
- 8.5)** Scales shall be set at the prescribed weight limit and each player shall be weighed subject to that limit. No allowance shall be made for equipment or clothing. After failure to make weight the first time, the player shall be detained, in the Weigh-In room for the one (1) subsequent attempt at which time the player has the option to remove their clothing up to their undergarments (underpants). No player will be allowed to weigh-in completely undressed. No other attempts shall be permitted and his/her Weigh-In record shall reflect a "W", and the player shall not be permitted to participate in that game.
- 8.6)** The Pre-game Weigh-In shall not be open to anyone except League Officials, League Executive Committee members, Athletic Directors and one (1) Coach from the participating Organizations. Parents and other onlookers are not permitted in the immediate area of the League Weigh-in. If more than one coach from a participating Organization is in the weigh in room and will not leave at the request of the League Official then that coach will be declared ineligible for that game.
- 8.7)** Any player caught on the official scales prior to the Pre-game Weigh-In shall be reported to the League Official and shall be declared ineligible for that game.
- 8.8)** Any player, who is determined to be ineligible through the weigh-in procedure and notated in the weigh-in book, will be ineligible for the make-up game. This includes any notations in the weigh-in book that makes a player ineligible for that game.
- 8.9)** The outlying complexes are responsible for obtaining the books for weigh-ins on game days at their facility.

RULE 9

Playing Rules

All games shall be played under the National Federation of State High School rules with the following exceptions:

- 9.1)** Regulation Game shall consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
- 9.2)** Extra points shall score for all divisions: Two (2) points for kicking and one (1) point for passing or running. The ball shall be put in play from the three (3) yard line for all divisions.
- 9.3)** There shall be no set jersey numbering system.
- 9.4)** As many team captains as designated from both teams shall attend the game ceremonies and instruction at midfield.
- 9.5)** If you wish to provide your own football for your game, it shall be certified by a League Official and the Game Official (as to proper inflation and size) and presented to the Game Official prior to Kick-Off.
- The following list represents the current footballs allowed in League games:
- Pee-Wee: Wilson K2 or its equivalent
Super Midget: Wilson TDJ or its equivalent
Midget: Wilson TDJ or its equivalent
Varsity: Wilson TDY or its equivalent

9.6) Each player shall play a minimum of five (5) plays in a regulation game. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in: See Misconduct rules. A play is defined by a snap of the ball or a kick. A non-scoring opportunity snap (this includes spiking the ball or kneeling the ball) of the ball does not count as a play. A dead ball foul (penalty) is not considered a play. Any team found in violation of the minimum play rule will forfeit the game in question including post season games. If a minimum play rule is determined to have occurred in a playoff game, the losing team will be declared the winner and will advance to the next round or will be declared the Super Bowl winner if the violation is in the Super Bowl game. For the first violation, the Head Coach will be suspended for 21 days starting the day after the ruling. The organization will receive a \$100 fine. For the second violation, the Head Coach will be suspended for 1 year starting the

day after the ruling. The organization will receive a \$250 fine and be placed on probation for 1 year. Each team is required to have one (1) player counter coach as one (1) of the ten allowable field personnel. After the game, each team is required to turn in an official TBYFL League Play Count Sheet to any league official on duty. It must be signed by the head coach, the play-counting coach and must be signed by the league official.

9.7) In the event a team reaches a thirty (30) or more point lead over its opponent the Team behind shall put the ball in play at the opponents forty (40) yard line after the opponents extra point attempt instead of receiving a Kick-off. The clock shall become continuous as long as the leading team is up by 30 points or more. The leading team shall not be allowed to use time outs as long as there is still at least a 30-point lead. Once a 30-point lead is no longer in place, time-outs will be restored. The continuous clock rule WILL NOT affect any team's halftime possession I choice (e.g. if the team leading by 30 points is to receive the 2nd half kickoff, then they have the right to take the ball). If the team leading by 30 points or more receives any penalty, then the clock will STOP until the start of the next play (e.g. a leading team may not run out the clock by committing penalties).

RULE 10

Pee Wee Exceptions

10.1) Participation: Eight (8) play minimum for all players.

10.2) There shall be no more than one (1) coach from each team on the playing field while the ball is in play. One (1) coach is allowed on the field for the entire season including playoff games.

10.3) The Coach on the field shall not be permitted to approach any Game Official at any time unless a player has called a time out. A player must call time-out and the coach on the field or the head coach is then allowed to address the Game Official.

10.4) If, in the judgment of the Game Official, the Coach on the field is abusive to the players or to the Game Officials, the coach shall be removed and will not be permitted on the playing field for the rest of the season.

10.5) Once any player is within 3 yards of the line of scrimmage, the coach cannot say anything, touch any player and must be at least five (5) yards from the nearest player and must be on their team's side of the ball. Any coach violating any of these rules will be given one warning from the Game Official and will then be assessed a Delay of Game five yard penalty for any subsequent violations.

10.6) Clock: The teams shall run with a twenty-five (25) second clock

10.7) Penalties shall be based on the National Federation of State High School rules with the following exceptions:

Five (5) yard penalties:

- a) Delay of game (includes coach on the field touching a player)
- b) Offside, when contact is made
- c) Offside, when the ball is snapped
- d) Delay of game, twenty-five (25) second clock
- e) Equipment foul (mouthpiece, chin strap)

Ten (10) yard penalties:

- f) Clipping
- g) Facemask
- h) Illegal block
- i) Unsportsmanlike conduct
- j) Spearing or face tackling
- k) Holding

10.8) Offensive team shall be permitted to elect to kick on any down; this shall be a free PUNT. The defensive team shall have at least six (6) players on the line of scrimmage during the kick. Neither team shall cross the neutral zone until the ball is kicked. The offensive team shall kick after it notifies the Game Officials of its intention to do so. NOTE: If the clock is stopped on a free kick, it will not start until the ball is kicked. If the clock is not stopped, they have 10 seconds to kick the ball from the free snap. A violation will incur a 5 yard delay of game penalty and a re-kick will occur with the clock NOT running until the ball is kicked.

10.9) If the offensive team elects to try for a field goal or kick a point-after attempt, the National Federation of State High School rules shall apply and the defensive team IS allowed to rush the field goal or extra point attempt.

10.10) ALL players within two players directly to the left and two players directly to the right of the center and within one (1) yard of the line of scrimmage must be in a three (3) or four (4) point stance.

RULE 11

Sick, Injured or Disciplined Players

11.1) Any player shall be removed from the game if in the judgment of a Game Official, a TBYFL League Official, or Players' Team Coach that the players' health or safety is in jeopardy.

11.2) Any player listed as sick, injured, absent, or disciplined at Pre-game Weigh-In shall not play. Any player not playing shall remove helmet and shoulder pads in order to remain on the sidelines.

11.3) Any player who is injured, resulting in an injury time-out called by a Game Official, shall sit out five (5) plays (ball is snapped or kicked) before returning to play in that half. If the Head Coach allows the player to return to the game prior to the fifth play after the injury, the Head Coach shall be suspended for the next game. A second violation of this rule shall result in the suspension of the Head Coach for the remainder of the season, and, if five (5) or less games are remaining, the following season as well. If the opposing team observes any violation of this rule, they shall call a time-out to inform the Game Official and a League Official. The player shall be removed for an additional five (5) plays from that point in the game. The opposing team shall not be charged for the time-out.

11.4) Halftime or the end of a game requiring overtime satisfies the five (5) play sit-out rule for an injured player, and the player may return to the game to start the second half or the overtime.

11.5) A player or cheerleader injured in any manner so as to require medical attention by a physician shall present written permission from his/her physician to a League Official before participating in any League activity.

RULE 12

Officials

12.1) All League games shall be played using qualified, League-approved Game Officials. The Game Officials shall be required to make a written report to the League of any instances where the conduct of any member of a team, the team's staff, or other person has, in their opinion, been unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the game or the League. The League shall furnish Game Official Clock Operators.

RULE 13

Games

13.1) Each team shall play according to the official TBYFL schedule.

13.2) All games shall be played to completion except under such circumstances where the welfare of the players shall be adversely affected. The Head Game Official shall determine the shortening of any game due to bad weather.

13.3) In order to assure adequate time for proper player conditioning, warm-ups, Game Officials' instruction, and introductions of team captains, etc., a minimum of ten (10) minutes shall elapse between the end of one game and the beginning Kick-Off of the following game during which time team introductions shall be made. When the regular scheduled starting time allows ten (10) minutes or more between games, the game shall proceed as scheduled. However, ten (10) minutes between games shall be allowed regardless of the scheduled starting times of any games. Picture identification cards shall be checked as the teams enter or reenter the field.

13.4) No game shall start early unless agreed upon by the two (2) participating Head Coaches and League Officials.

13.5) No other teams shall be allowed inside the restraining fences while a game is in progress without the permission of the League officer on duty.

13.6) The interval between the first half and last half of a scheduled game shall be ten (10) minutes. Any Homecoming-type event shall be scheduled with the League and the other organization at least two (2) weeks in advance and shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. During halftime, no one is allowed on the field except for the performing cheerleading squads or halftime activities. Ball playing is not allowed on the field or in the end zones during any halftime activities.

13.7) In the event that a severe weather condition, field condition, or other unusual circumstances exist which shall present health or safety hazards to the players, a game shall be postponed. The head Game Official or a League Official will make the decision. Under these circumstances, the judgment of the Game Official or the League Official shall not be subject to question. The League shall reschedule any postponed game(s). Reference rule #6 for player eligibility.

13.8) During the regular scheduled playing season, no team shall play more than one game per week, unless deemed necessary by the League. Controlled scrimmages shall be permitted with any team with TBYFL approval. Each scrimmage shall be considered as a practice session. Scrimmages must be between teams within the same age and weight brackets. EX: Super midgets vs. Super midgets and NOT Super midgets vs. Midget. All scrimmages must be approved by the Conference Vice President or President. League and County approved functions are excluded from this rule.

RULE 14

Regular Season Practice

14.1) Practice will start with the League's prescribed start date. A maximum of twelve (12) hours per week are allowed prior to the League's first game. Exception: The first full week AFTER school starts, all organizations shall not hold more than three (3) practice days during a calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) and shall be limited to six (6) hours of practice per week. No practice shall exceed 9:00 PM at any time without prior League Conference Vice President's approval.

14.2) On "bye" weeks, teams/squads shall be permitted to practice an additional two (2) hours on Saturday.

RULE 15

Off-Season Practice

15.1) No Organization is allowed to dress any member of its football team in football equipment for the purpose of practicing from January 1 of each year until the official TBYFL first day of practice. Non-allowable football equipment is defined as ANY of the following:

- Helmet
- Shoulder Pads
- Football Pants with any padding (Hip, butt, knee and thigh pads)

15.2) Organizations are allowed to hold practices from January 1 until the official TBYFL first day of practice as long as no football equipment is used.

RULE 16

Protests of Rules of the Game

16.1) Protests on matters of judgment as rendered by a Game Official shall not be considered. Protests on rule violations shall be heard.

16.2) The protest must be made known to the opposing team and game official that the game is being played under protest. It will be up to the filing party to furnish proof of guilt.

16.3) The protest shall be presented to the League Official on duty. It must be neatly written or typed and presented to a League Official no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the termination of the game being protested. A \$100.00 protest fee must accompany the protest, regardless of who files the protest (League Official, Athletic Director, coach/instructor, player/cheerleader, parent, etc.). If the protest is upheld, this fee shall be returned to the filing party within 10 (ten) days. If the Rules Appeal Committee determines that a Game Official or a League Official neither misapplied the rule being protested or ignored the rule being protested, the protest shall be declared void, the alleged violator shall be found not guilty, and the \$100.00 protest fee shall not be returned to the filing party.

16.4) The Rules Appeal Committee shall be appointed by the League President within twenty-four (24) hours upon receipt of the protest. It shall contain no less than 3 (three) and no more than 7 (seven) members.

16.5) The Rules Appeal Committee, upon notice to the organizations involved, shall conduct an investigative hearing within forty-eight (48) hours. All facts involved shall be investigated by the Rules Appeal Committee. The Athletic Director from each organization and the filing party shall be notified of this hearing.

16.6) If the Rules Appeal Committee, by a simple majority vote of the members present, agrees that the protest is valid, a recommendation for action shall be made at a Special Meeting of the League Board of Directors within twenty-four (24) hours.

16.7) Once a protest has been presented and the \$100 (one hundred dollar) protest fee received, no protest may be withdrawn without 2/3rd (two-thirds) of TBYFL Executive Board approval.

RULE 17

Uniforms and Equipment

17.1) Each player shall have a complete uniform, with NOCSAE approved equipment which includes a helmet with face guard and chin strap, shoulder pads, tail pad (1), hip pads (1 left and 1 right), thigh pads (1 left and 1 right), knee pads (1 left and 1 right), plastic or rubber molded cleats (plastic detachable cleats are permitted, but no metal may be exposed on any part of the cleats), mouth piece and an athletic supporter. No jewelry of any type may be worn during the game. Any player found to not be in compliant of rule 17.1 must immediately be removed from the game and cannot return until they are properly equipped.

17.2) No TBYFL insured equipment and/or uniforms, for both football and cheerleading, may be used in any non-sanctioned event without prior approval from the TBYFL Executive Board.

RULE 18

Individual Honors

18.1) There shall be no individual honors for players or cheerleaders in the League, before, during, or after any League activity at any League complex, that shall indicate in any way that his/her participation was more appreciated than any other member's participation on the team or squad (i.e., Best Defensive player, Most Outstanding Running Back, Homecoming Queen/Princess/ King/Prince, etc.).

18.2) Helmet stickers are not allowed without the approval of the Executive Board of Directors.

RULE 19

Misconduct and/or Unsportsmanlike Conduct

19.1) Any player, cheerleader, coach, instructor, or other adult supervisor who is found guilty by the League Board of Directors of cheating or misrepresenting any record shall be subject to disciplinary action by the League Board of Directors.

19.2) Any player, cheerleader, coach, instructor parent, guardian or board member of said organization who shall be found guilty of conduct detrimental to the League, violating League rules, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, unbecoming conduct, or unsportsmanlike conduct, at any scheduled League event, including practice, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the League Board of Directors.

19.3) These actions shall include taunting with racial, religious, and ethnic remarks. A report of such conduct shall be made to the League. Any player, cheerleader, coach, instructor, or TBYFL board member reported to an Official and found guilty of taunting another member of the League with racial, religious, or ethnic remarks/insults shall be expelled from further League activities for the season. Any fighting which may result from these actions shall be reviewed for further disciplinary actions with the Organizations.

19.4) Any player, cheerleader, coach, or instructor ejected from a game by a Game Official shall be suspended for the next scheduled game. This suspension may be appealed to the League Executive Board within twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game. The suspension can be lifted by a simple majority vote of the League Executive Board. If a player, cheerleader, coach, or instructor is ejected two (2) times in one season, he/she shall be subject to suspension for the remainder of the season, following a hearing as outlined above. If five (5) or less games are remaining at the time of the second ejection, he/she shall also be suspended from participating in any League activity for the entire following season.

19.5) No coach, player, or identified team official or League Official may touch, grab, bump, or have physical contact with any game official against his/her will. If this occurs, the individual shall be subject to immediate expulsion from the TBYFL.

RULE 20

Organizational Responsibilities

20.1 Game day duties

20.1.1) The Home Team shall place all field markers and other necessary officiating game equipment prior to the first game of the day. The Home team shall remove all markers and equipment after the last game of the day.

20.2.2) Chain crews shall be provided by the Home Team and shall be properly trained. The chain crew shall consist of adults (no one under the age of eighteen). Whenever possible, the same crew should be maintained throughout the

season so as to assure more efficient performance. The chain crew shall take their posts at least five (5) minutes prior to Kick-Off. No member of the chain crew shall be allowed to talk to or coach any player on the field. Anyone found guilty of this shall be expelled from the field by the Game Official or a League Official.

20.2 Organizational misconduct and eligibility fines

20.2.1) In the event that a team or squad is found guilty of violating the practice rule by the League Board of Directors, a penalty shall be imposed for the Athletic Director and the teams' Head Coach. This fine shall be paid before the organization is permitted to participate in any League activity. See Penalties and Fines chart: P-7 & M-B

20.2.2) When it is found that an organization has a team or squad that has permitted any player, cheerleader, coach, or instructor who is ineligible under Misconduct, or any other rule or Bylaw of the League, to participate in any practice, regular season game, or post-season game, all persons with direct knowledge of the ineligibility shall be suspended from participating for the remainder of the season. If five (5) or less games are remaining at the time a guilty decision by the League Board of Directors is agreed upon, all persons with direct knowledge of the ineligibility shall also be refrained from participating for any League team or squad for the entire following season. In the event that the Athletic Director participated in the violation, the organization shall be fined: See Penalties and Fines chart M-A per incident. Ineligible players, cheerleaders, coaches, and instructors shall not be permitted on the sidelines or to participate, in any way, in any League activity. Petition for reinstatement, if granted, shall carry a: See Penalties and Fines chart M-B reinstatement fee for each adult suspended under this rule, this fee shall be paid before the adult is permitted to participate in any League activity.

20.2.4) Any team found guilty of violating any League rule pertaining to eligibility shall forfeit all games in which the player(s) participated, and the Won-Loss records shall be changed accordingly for all teams involved.

RULE 21

Field and Game Day Rules

21.1 Team Seating

21.1.1) All fields shall provide restraining fences between spectator and playing area.

21.1.2) The Home Team shall always sit as designated by the scoreboard.

21.1.3) Players, cheerleaders, coaches, instructors, and other team officials shall be restricted to an area along the sidelines from their forty-five (45) yard line to their twenty (20) yard line.

21.1.4) All sudden death downs will be played in the end zone nearer to the pavilion. The cheerleaders shall remain between their respective forty-five (45) yard line and twenty (20) yard line.

21.2 Sideline Restrictions

21.2.1) All sideline personnel for football shall be limited to no more than (10) people. There shall be no one under League age allowed inside the restraining fences. Sideline personnel for cheerleaders shall be limited to no more than five (5) people. All non-credentialed (non-rostered personnel) personnel must receive prior league approval and are included in the maximum of ten sideline personnel.

21.2.2) During any game, no one is allowed on the sidelines except the following: chain crew; newspaper, magazine, website photographers, and/or television staffs which have been authorized by the League in advance to take pictures or film a game, ball person or other personnel to assist the Game Officials when specifically requested by the officiating crew; League Executive Committee Members, or League Officials at the League Executive Committee's request.

21.2.3) Spectator viewing of the games from an area behind the players' benches between the twenty (20) yard lines and within five (5) yards of the fence is prohibited at Skyway Park.

21.3 Filming of Games

21.3.1) Filming of games shall be done outside of the playing field unless adequate facilities have been provided and permission has been obtained from the League Official.

21.4 Press Box

21.4.1) Only four (4) members from each participating organization shall be allowed in the Press Box at any given time.

21.4.2) No sound equipment shall be allowed in the Press Box without prior approval from the League.

21.4.3) No loud, vulgar or profane music shall be allowed in the facility. Any music which may be considered offensive by any spectator or board member must be turned off or removed from the facility.

21.4.4) Announcers shall not be allowed to coach, officiate, cheer, or criticize from the Press Box (No Play-by-Play). Announcers shall receive 1 (one) warning. They will be removed with the second warning and suspended for the next

game. If 5 (five) or less games are remaining after the second dismissal, the announcer shall be suspended for the following season.

21.4.5) No one under the age of fifteen (15) shall be allowed in the Press Box under any circumstances.

RULE 22

Facility Restrictions

22.1) Effigies, dolls of opposing teams, hanging figures, derogatory signs, music or sound systems, horns, air horns, bullhorns, whistles, drums or any paraphernalia found to be inflammatory by a League Official towards the opposing team shall not be allowed on or within viewing or hearing distance of the playing field. The league will approve music for pre-game and or halftime entertainment only. No music will be played while the games are in progress. This includes timeouts, water breaks or injuries. No Insulting, vulgar or inflammatory music or lyrics will be allowed. The Director of cheerleaders or a League official on duty shall have the final decision in accepting or rejecting all pre-game and halftime music.

22.2) TBYFL shall be designated as a smoke free environment.

22.3) No pets or bicycles shall be allowed in the facility.

22.4) No weapons or firearms shall be allowed in the facility unless accompanied by a law enforcement officer.

22.5) No glass or breakable plastic containers (bottles or cups) shall be allowed in the facility.

22.6) No object shall be allowed on the field which is deemed dangerous by a League Official.

22.7) It is the responsibility of each team and squad to quickly clean its seating area, both on the field (players and cheerleaders) and in the Press Box, after each game and to give the previous team or squad enough time to clear the area before moving in.

22.8) Each team or squad shall enter and exit the field from the side gates by the concession stand. Outlying complexes shall follow the League approved enter / exit procedure for their facility.

22.9) Any person caught intentionally destroying Tampa Bay Youth Football League property shall be charged with civil vandalism and trespassed for the remainder of the season.

22.10) No food or drink shall be sold inside or outside of any TBYFL complex or parking lot unless the organization submits a proposal, two(2) weeks in advance for additional food sales. Additional food sales may only be approved for the day of the organizations concession duty and may not conflict with any offerings from the TBYFL complex. Additional food sales will only be permitted outside the gate. After a notification from a league official to stop sales, a second violation will result in a fine. See Penalties and Fines chart M-A

22.11) Team coolers are allowed under the following conditions. No personal coolers are permitted.

- a) They must be placed away from the seating / bleacher area. Not underneath.
- b) They may be placed by the end zone gate entrance to the field by the concession stand.
- c) They may be placed by the players or cheerleaders bench.

22.12) Sale(s) of programs, t-shirts etc. must be approved and/or go through a bidding process before they are sold at any TBYFL function. The league has sole rights of all products sold at these functions.

RULE 23

Miscommunication, Misapplication, or Misinterpretation of a League Rule/Bylaw by a League Official

23.1) Any organization or member of an organization (player, cheerleader, coach, instructor, Board Member, or parent), who is disqualified, suspended, or prevented from participation in any League activity, due to the Miscommunication, Misapplication, or Misinterpretation of a League Rule/Bylaw, by a League Official, shall be permitted to appeal to the League Executive Board to determine if a Miscommunication, Misapplication, or Misinterpretation of a League Rule/Bylaw has occurred.

23.2) The appealing party may request, within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident for an appeal hearing by the League Executive Board.

23.3) If the League Executive Board, by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present, agrees that a Miscommunication, Misapplication, or Misinterpretation of a League Rule/Bylaw did occur, the appealing party shall be granted reinstatement.

RULE 24

Conferences

24.1) The League shall be divided into two (2) Conferences: American and National. The Conferences shall be realigned each year. Whenever a new organization is accepted into the League, it shall be placed using a 0-0-0 regular season record. Whenever more than one organization is accepted into the League for the same season, they shall be placed using a 0- 0- 0 regular season record and a coin toss shall be used to determine order of placement. The overall 4 team tackle regular season record will be used to determine the Conferences every year. In the event that there is a tie in regular season records, the following criteria will be used to determine placement:

First Tie Breaker - Best Conference Record

Second Tie Breaker - Head to Head Results

Third Tie Breaker - Coin toss

The organizations shall be placed into the Conferences as follows:

- 1 2
- 4 3
- 5 6
- 8 7
- 9 10
- 12 11
- 13 14
- 16 15

RULE 25

League Champions

25.1) There shall be one (1) champion in each Conference in each age division.

25.2) The Conference Champion shall be determined by the team with the highest Won/Loss record percentage of games played. This percentage is determined by dividing the total number of games won by the total number of games played. A tie game counts as half (1/2) a game won and half (1/2) a game lost.

25.3) In the event that two (2) or more teams have the same Won-Loss record percentage, the following criteria shall be applied in the order listed:

First Tie Breaker - Best Conference Record

Second Tie Breaker - Head-to-Head Results

Third Tie Breaker - Kansas Tie Breaker or Coin Toss. A coin toss is optional if both Head Coaches agree.

25.4) The teams with the four (4) highest regular season total Won-Loss percentages in each conference shall participate in the playoffs to determine the League Champions.

RULE 26

Play Off Seeding

26.1) The teams shall be seeded 1 thru 8 based on their regular season Won-Loss percentage.

26.2) In the event that two (2) or more teams have the same Won-Loss percentage, the following criteria shall be applied in the order listed below to break the tie:

First Tie Breaker - Head-to-Head Results

Second Tie Breaker - Best Conference Record

Third Tie Breaker – Coin Toss

26.3) The Playoff format shall be as follows:

Round One: Game #1 - Seed #1 plays Seed #8.

Game #2 - Seed #2 plays Seed #7.

Game #3 - Seed #3 plays Seed #6.

Game #4 - Seed #4 plays Seed #5.

Round Two: Game #1 - Winners of Game #1 and Game #4.

Game #2 - Winners of Game #2 and Game #3.

Super Bowl: Winners of the Round Two Playoff games play in the Super Bowl for the overall champion.

26.4) Kansas tie breaker shall be used in all post-season games to determine the winning team. (Kansas tie breaker is defined as: Each team has four (4) downs from the opponent's ten (10) yard line to score.)

RULE 27

Cheerleading Rules

27.1 COORDINATORS

Each organization's coordinator shall be entitled to one vote during a League Coordinator's Meeting. The TBYFL Cheerleading Director shall not be entitled to a vote during the League Coordinator's Meeting, except in the event of a tie. The TBYFL Cheerleading Director shall cast one vote to break a tie. The TBYFL Alternate Cheerleader Director will only represent TBYFL in the absence of the TBYFL cheerleading Director. In the event the TBYFL Cheerleading Director is also an organization's coordinator, the organization's Assistant Cheerleader Coordinator shall vote during the League Coordinator's Meeting.

27.2 UNIFORMS

Each organization shall be responsible for decisions on apparel in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) Spirit Rules.

27.3 SQUAD SIZE

The maximum number of cheerleaders on any squad shall be limited to 36 participants.

27.4 CONDUCT

- a) Courtesy and sportsmanship shall be the primary duty of the coaches, cheer staff and instructors at all times.
- b) Any additional guidelines that shall benefit an organization shall be added as they see fit, as long as they do not conflict with League Rules (such as attendance requirements, conduct guidelines etc.).

27.5 RESTRICTED CHEERS/CHANTS

No squad shall perform the "Gigolo/Introduce Yourself" cheer or any like cheer.

27.6 GAME DAY

- a) Home team shall perform "Hello" cheer first. The "Hello" cheer, without introductions, is mandatory.
- b) Make sure all cheerleaders are safely out of the way when play is in the area. One coach should always be behind the cheerleaders when they are cheering to the stands.
- c) Squads shall not cheer when the opposing squad is cheering.
- d) No squad shall cross the field to cheer at any time.
- e) Allow enough time between cheers to give the opposing squad cheering time (two cheers and/or two chants only). A signal (i.e. pivot or sitting) is necessary to let the opposing squad know cheer segment is complete.
- f) During halftime, each squad shall be allowed four (4) minutes. The visiting team shall take the field immediately at the beginning of halftime. Halftime participation is mandatory.
Any squad exceeding the four minute limit shall be subject to the following: 1st offense=Verbal Warning, 2nd offense=(Head Coach only) See Chart P-6 & M-D.
- g) Cheerleaders shall shake hands with the opposing squad before forming a line on the field for their players and coaches to pass through. Each cheerleader shall do the "We are Proud of You" cheer for their football team as they exit the field. Any squad that doesn't comply will receive a verbal warning. Thereafter, a misconduct penalty shall apply.
- h) No building or stunts shall be allowed in the rain or slippery/wet ground conditions.

27.7 PRACTICE/CAMPS/GYM INSTRUCTIONS

- a) All practice must be done within the guidelines of our TBYFL bylaws (see Rule 14).
- b) Effective the official date of the beginning of each season to the final day of each season (in-season)

- c) There is no group instruction allowed at any cheer/tumbling gyms, or outside of your documented practice location (as stated on the TBYFL website). All changes to your practice location must be reported to, and approved by, the TBYFL Cheer Director - in advance.
- d) In-season private lessons at a cheer/tumbling gym are allowed within the following guidelines:
 - 1. No more than two (2) persons sharing one private lesson. The only exception is a family with cheerleaders on different squads.
 - 2. A facility staff member, who is not part of TBYFL must give privates.
 - 3. TBYFL coaches are not allowed to be involved in the private lesson. If the parent of the participant is also a TBYFL coach, they must be removed from the area where the private is being given. They must remain in the viewing area.
 - 4. OPEN GYM is allowed during the TBYFL season. If it is reported that a cheer/tumbling/dance routine is being practiced in a group (2 or more) and the accusation is proven, the organization will be written up and penalties will be assessed as per TBYFL rule 19.2.

27.8 SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES

Each organization will follow the current year publication of the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) Spirit safety and legality rules and guidelines shall be followed at all times. This guide is updated annually by NFHS and released in the June/July time frame. TBYFL shall purchase two (2) copies of the NFHS Spirit rule book annually for each organization and provide them to each organization's cheer coordinator.

27.9 PARTNER STUNTS AND PYRAMIDS

Each organization will follow the current year publication of the NFHS Spirit Rules for all stunts and pyramids. These rules shall be followed at all times with the exception of Mighty Mites/Flag cheer who are prohibited to perform basket tosses or any similar tosses.

27.10 TUMBLING/GYMNASTICS

Each organization will follow the current year publication of the NFHS Spirit Rules for all tumbling and gymnastics. These rules shall be followed at all times.

27.11 CHEER OFF FORMAT

All eligible squads must participate in Cheer Off. Exceptions will be reviewed by the TBYFL Executive Board on an individual basis. Penalty for non-participation could be \$100 fine per squad. Each squad will perform a routine that must include the following:

- a) A minimum of 1 group jump in unison (same jump performed by the entire squad)
- b) Dance (may include building)
- c) A minimum of 1 Cheer or Chant without music.
- d) A minimum of 1 Stunt (exception would be a squad of one) and pyramid.

27.12 MUSIC

No music shall contain any explicit or offensive language. A 5-point deduction per judge will be assessed for violating this rule.

27.13 COMPETITION ORDER

All divisions shall compete as follows:

- a) All Mascots Squads
- b) All Pee Wee, then Super Midget Squads
- c) All Midget, then Varsity Squads

Sequence of appearance, seating locations, on the field and bleacher seating will be determined by a random drawing conducted at a coordinators meeting.

27.14 JUDGES

Judges shall be agreed upon by vote of the coordinators. Approval/Rejections shall be by simple majority vote of members present. A minimum of seven (7) judges are required to accommodate the dual judging panels.

27.15 ACCOUNTANTS

Accountants will be assigned by the TBYFL Treasurer, who is responsible for the tallying of the score sheets. A minimum of two (2) accountants should tally score-sheets.

- a) All score sheets shall be collected from the judges immediately following the completion of each squad's routine. One proofer, assigned by TBYFL, will be required to review the score sheets before they are given to the accountants for tallying to assure all categories receive a score. In the event that a score category is left blank, that squad will receive a score of one (1) point by default. This will be initialed by the accountant at the time of the change.
- b) All squads must make an attempt to perform / score in each category listed.

27.16 SCORING SYSTEM (see actual score-sheets for descriptions)

Judge #1: DANCE & JUMPS

50 Points Max

Judge #2: STUNTS & PYRAMIDS

50 Points Max

Judge #3: CHEER TECHNIQUE & APPEARANCE

50 Points Max

In the event of a tie, the following categories shall be used as tie-breakers in the sequence listed below:

- 1) CHEER POINTS
- 2) JUMP POINTS

27.17 COMPETITION AREA

The routine shall remain inside the Cheer Off box. The Cheer Off box shall be 54' wide and 42' deep. There will be a 5-point deduction from the total score of any squad who steps out of the Cheer Off box. Once competition begins, all squads must discontinue practice, except during Cheer Off breaks and in designated areas during scheduled warm-ups. Two squads that will perform next shall be on deck. Only on deck squads may warm up. This must be done quietly. Any squad that practices out of their designated time will have 10 points deducted from their total score.

27.18 PENALTIES

- a) There shall be a three (3) minute time limit for each routine. There shall be a 5-point deduction from the total score for exceeding the time limit. Time begins when the squad captain starts the routine or when the music begins, including building stunts, whichever comes first. The routine shall be permitted to start over only for the reason of technical difficulties (i.e., sound system malfunction) with the approval of the TBYFL Executive Board majority vote.
- b) All squads shall remain quiet during all performances. The League's representative shall give the organization a warning to remain quiet. Any subsequent notice to remain quiet shall result in the organization losing 10 points per squad to be deducted off each squad's total score.
- c) There shall be no obvious, intentional coaching of any squad (exception is Flag/Mighty Mites) by anyone from anywhere during the time a squad is in the official competition area. If any obvious, intentional coaching of a squad does occur, that squad will receive a 10-point deduction from each judges score sheet.
- d) NFSHSA safety guidelines shall be enforced during Cheer Off. An official safety judge shall be provided by the League to watch for illegal maneuvers. If at any time during a routine a squad performs an illegal maneuver, the safety judge shall provide written documentation of the violation, and the squad shall be penalized 5 points.

27.19 DISQUALIFICATIONS

- a) No one except for a TBYFL Executive Board member shall approach any judge at any time.
- b) If a squad uses profanity and/or displays poor sportsmanship at Cheer Off, the squad shall be disqualified and suspended from participation in further League activity for the remainder of the season.
- c) If a squad uses profanity or displays extremely poor sportsmanship at Cheer Off, all offending members of the squad shall be suspended from participation in any League activity for the following season.

27.20 FIELD AND PRESS BOX SET-UP

- a) Pre-assigned spectator viewing areas shall be available for each organization, depending on size. Spectator viewing areas shall be assigned each year and shall be determined by a random drawing at the League Cheer Coordinators meeting.
- b) The music and/or sound system shall be on the field. Each organization must pay the required fees for the sound technician at the coordinator's meeting prior to Cheer-off.
- c) The League may provide a video person who shall set up at the middle of the Cheer Off box, behind the judges, and shall remain stationary throughout the event.
- d) The following persons are allowed in the Press Box during Cheer Off. One (1) announcer, One (1) clock operator, one (1) League runner, and a minimum of two (2)/maximum of four (4) accountants.

27.21 AWARDS

1 - American Conference for Pee Wee, Super Midget, Midget, and Varsity divisions.

2 - National Conference for Pee Wee, Super Midget, Midget, and Varsity divisions.

(a) Only teams that place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in each category will be announced.

(b) Conferences will be determined each year, as stated in rule 24.1

(c) There will be one award given to the team in each Age/Division category (Pee Wee, Super Midget, Midget, and Varsity) with the highest total score in the Cheer Off competition. There will also be one overall Grand Champion trophy awarded to the one squad with the highest total score of the competition.

3-Mighty Mites/Flag (No conference format will be recognized)

The Mighty Mite division will not be placed based on their scores.

REVISED March 2015

PENALTIES AND FINES CHART

Penalty = "P"

1st Offense

1 Indefinite suspension

2 One (1) year suspension

3 Six (6) months suspension

4 Remainder of current season

5 Three (3) games suspension

6 Two (2) games suspension

7 One (1) game suspension

8 Probation

Fines = "M"

A = \$500.00 C = \$75.00 E = \$25.00

B = \$100.00 D = \$50.00 F = \$0.00

2nd Offense

In the event of a 2nd offense, a grievance committee can or may impose a more severe punishment after a complete hearing under League rules and bylaws. These penalties do not have to coincide with the guidelines of this chart.

TAMPA BAY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - DEFINITION OF THE LEAGUE

Section I

The name of this chartered non-profit organization shall be "The Tampa Bay Youth Football League, Inc." and hereafter, in these Bylaws, shall be referred to as "League."

Section II

The objectives of the League shall be to give interested boys and girls a fully organized and controlled football and cheerleading program in order to teach the fundamentals of citizenship, and to aid them in the development of character and good health, in an atmosphere entirely free from adult ambition and personal glory. A boy or girl shall be considered a member of the league and/or organization when a parent or guardian signs any league or organizational registration form and it is witnessed by a member of the organization which is registering the child.

Section III

The meetings of the League shall be held at a time and place determined by the League Board of Directors and shall be conducted according to the parliamentary procedures as directed in Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE II - STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

Section I

The League Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following:

- A. President
- B. Conference Vice Presidents
- C. Treasurer
- D. Secretary
- E. Athletic Directors
- F. At-Large Directors
- G. Cheerleader Director

A quorum shall be a simple majority of the total members of the League Board of Directors.

Section II

The Officers of the League and the Executive Committee of the League Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following:

- A. President
- B. Conference Vice Presidents
- C. Treasurer
- D. Secretary
- E. Cheerleader Director

Section III

The organizational units of the League, at a minimum, must be comprised of the following:

- A. Athletic Director
- B. Assistant Athletic Director
- C. Cheerleader Coordinator
- D. Board of Directors
- E. Four (4) football teams (one Peewee, one Super Midget, one Midget, and one Varsity).
- F. Four (4) cheerleader squads (one Peewee, one Super Midget, one Midget, and one Varsity).
- G. If an organization is unable to field a particular team/squad, the League Board of Directors, with a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present, may waive this requirement without penalty.

ARTICLE III - PRIVILEGES, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section I - Voting Privileges

The League Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the League, having complete control of management and facilities operated by the League.

- 1) Each organizational unit shall be entitled to one (1) seat on the League Board of Directors. This shall entitle it to one (1) vote through its Athletic Director. It shall have an assistant Athletic Director of record who shall be entitled to one (1) vote should the Athletic Director not be present.
- 2) At-Large Directors are persons serving on the League Board of Directors, elected by the League Board of Directors to assist in the operations of the League. These members may serve in any capacity, other than as Athletic Director. They shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- 3) The Cheerleader Director shall be entitled to one (1) vote. There shall be an assistant Cheerleader Director of record who shall be entitled to one (1) vote should the Cheerleader Director not be present.
- 4) A member of the League Board of Directors may cast a vote in absentia by submitting a written, signed, document in advance to any member of the League Board of Directors stating the issue or issues being voted upon and indicating for or against on each issue. The member accepting the document shall present it to the officer presiding over the meeting where the votes will be cast. The presiding officer shall then include the votes indicated in the document. This document shall be retained by the League Secretary for one (1) year and is open to inspection by any member of the League Board of Directors.
- 5) Vice presidents who also hold the position of athletic director of an organization shall be entitled to a vote as the Vice president only. The assistant athletic director of the organization in which the Vice president is the athletic director shall be able to cast one (1) vote.

Section II - Officers' Duties and Responsibilities

- 1) The League President shall preside at all meetings, appoint committee chairpersons, call special meetings, establish an annual operating budget, appoint persons to fill positions on the League Board of Directors, subject to acceptance by a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present, and generally govern the affairs of the League. The League President shall be responsible for notifying the League Executive Committee members of any special meetings.
- 2) The League Conference Vice-Presidents shall, in general, assist the League President in all capacities in handling of League affairs. The League Vice Presidents shall be responsible for notifying the Athletic Directors in their Conferences of any special meetings. Should the League President leave office or be unavailable for decision-making, the League Vice Presidents shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the League President in descending order of their seniority.
- 3) The League Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all expenses, expenditures and receipts, reporting the financial standing of the League at each regular meeting. He/she shall be authorized to pay all normal operating expenditures on due dates so as not to damage the League's credit rating. He/she shall submit invoices and Authorization slips to the League Board of Directors for its review. Any expenditures not considered as normal operating expenses must have prior League Board of Directors' approval. The League Treasurer shall present the books to the Audit Committee, appointed by the League President, on an annual basis. The League Treasurer shall also present all accounts and records for an annual Audit to any person or persons the League may employ. In the absence of the League President and League Vice Presidents, the League Treasurer shall assume the duties of the League President.
- 4) The League Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all League Board of Directors meetings. He/She shall keep records of all League business and all League records, other than financial, and see that the League President is informed of all correspondence related to the operation of the League. Original copies of all League records shall be on file in the League office at the Skyway Complex. The League Secretary shall be responsible for notifying the At-Large Directors and the Cheerleader Director of any special meetings.
- 5) The League Cheerleader Director shall be the liaison between the League Cheerleader Coordinators and the League Board of Directors. He/she shall hold and preside over regular meetings of the League Cheerleader Coordinators, and report to the League Board of Directors all information pertaining to cheerleading.

Section III - Organizational Unit Duties and Responsibilities

- 1) The primary task of an organizational unit is to assist its Athletic Director in providing the required number of players and cheerleaders for teams and to see that these boys and girls are equipped with the proper equipment and supervision. This may be done through the forming of a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be self-governing internally, but must support and abide by all League rules and directives. The Athletic Director shall be held directly responsible for organizational actions. The organizational unit shall secure a charter and be self-recognized by the State of Florida. It shall submit, to the League, a copy of its charter and Bylaws by the June meeting of each year. All organizations must submit to the League each year a complete list of all officers with addresses and phone numbers by the June meeting of each year. The organization shall have no vote in League affairs except through its Athletic Director. The organization is responsible for furnishing the necessary people, when requested by the League, to perform its duties to work on League Facilities, supply people for running the Concession Stand, and other duties deemed necessary by the League Board of Directors. Athletic directors, cheerleader coordinators and/or their assistants or designates must be present at all their organization's games.
- 2) Failure to comply with the League rules shall be subject to disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the League Board of Directors.
- 3) The Athletic Director may serve as both Athletic Director and Head Coach of a squad.

Section IV - New Organizations

A new organization requesting entry into the League must contact the League President and present its intentions, The League President shall convene the League Executive Committee to meet with the new organization's representatives. The League Executive Committee shall review and verify that the requirements as set forth in this paragraph have been satisfied prior to presenting the new organization to the League Board of Directors. The new organization's application shall be presented to the League Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting. The acceptance of the new organization shall be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled meeting. The new organization shall be accepted into the League by a 2/3 vote of the League Board of Directors members present. The requirements are:

- 1) The new organization must use an NFL team name and colors.
- 2) The new organization must have finances available for equipment, uniforms, etc.
- 3) The new organization must be incorporated by the State of Florida.
- 4) The new organization must be a non-profit entity.
- 5) The new organization must have a Board of Directors.
- 6) The new organization must have Bylaws.
- 7) The new organization must be in an area that will support the organization for registrations. The new organization cannot start up in an area that has existing League organizations, if, in the opinion of the League, it will adversely affect the existing League organizations.
- 8) The new organization cannot recruit players, cheerleaders, coaches, instructors, or any member of any League organization. Once the League President has been contacted for possible entry into the League, the new organization shall be subject to all recruiting rules set forth in the League Rules.
- 9) A release for any player, cheerleader, coach, instructor, or member from his/her current organization which is denied cannot be appealed.
- 10) A new organization shall have the right to select its own Athletic Director, subject to acceptance by a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present.
- 11) New organizations which have been accepted into the League shall be on probation-for one (1) year. At the completion of the first year of participation, the new organization shall be reviewed by an appointed committee to determine if the new organization has complied with the League Rules and Bylaws and is eligible to remain a participant in the League.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICES

Section I - Eligibility

A person who desires a position on the League Board of Directors may request such by submitting a written request to the League Executive Committee, on or before October 15 of each year, stating his/her qualifications, and the position desired. These requests shall be reviewed by the Nominating Committee. Any person selected by the Nominating Committee may be asked to appear before the Nominating Committee for an interview. If accepted by a simple majority vote of Nominating Committee members, his/her name shall then be placed in nomination for election to the position-requested. To be elected, a nominee must receive a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present.

Section II - Terms of Office

- 1) Athletic Directors shall serve an indefinite period, as long as they are active in League operation and hold forth their responsibilities to the League and their organization.
- 2) At-Large Directors shall serve a one (1) year term only, starting January 1 and ending December 31. If they are desirous of serving additional terms on the League Board of Directors, they may request such by submitting a written request to the League Executive Committee, on or before October 15 of each year.
- 3) Executive Committee officers shall serve two (2) year terms, starting January 1 and ending December 31.

All Executive board members who have been appointed by the president shall have a term that expires in the slot in which they were appointed. If the VP moves up or down a slot, they shall still be required to run in their original year.

Section III - Elections

- 1) The successful candidates shall be determined in an election by the League Board of Directors, with a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present. In the event a candidate runs for an office unopposed, that candidate shall be appointed to the office by the League President after a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present-accept the candidate.
- 2) Nominations shall be announced no later than November 15.
- 3) Elections shall be held no later than December 15.

Eligibility for elected board positions

- 1) Any interested party wishing to run for an executive board position must hold a board position and be in good standing for at least 1 full season.
- 2) Any interested party wishing to run for the position of President must hold an executive board position and be in good standing for at least 1 season.

ARTICLE V - SUSPENSIONS, FINES, OR DISMISSALS

Section I

Suspensions, fines, or dismissals may be imposed against any member of the League, including organizations, League Board of Directors members, coaches, parents, or any other affiliate of the League, arising out of violations of League Rules as set forth in the League Rules adopted by the League Board of Directors. The League Rules shall not be applied retroactively.

Section II -Other

- 1) Any League Board of Directors member can request action against another as stated in Article V, Section I, above. Grounds for dismissal shall be misconduct or failure to comply with Rules/Bylaws and/or absenteeism.
- 2) If an organization of record misses a total of three (3) meetings in a calendar year, the organization shall have its voting privileges suspended and the organization will be fined up to \$250.00. Any Executive Committee member or other At-Large Directors of the League Board of Directors who misses two (2) consecutive regular meetings or special meetings, or a total of four (4) per year, and is unexcused, shall be dismissed from the League Board of

Directors and a replacement will be nominated by the League President which is then subject to a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors present.

- 3) Should an Athletic Director fail to exercise his/her responsibilities to the League, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action by the League Board of Directors and a replacement secured, if necessary.
- 4) 4) To replace an outgoing Athletic Director, the candidate shall be the Assistant Athletic Director of record who shall assume the office after receiving a vote of confidence from his/her organization as per the organization's Bylaws, to be witnessed by a duly Authorized and designated League Board of Directors member. If the Assistant Athletic Director of record refuses the office, the outgoing Athletic Director can select a candidate to replace him/her. If, however, the outgoing Athletic Director was dismissed by the League Board of Directors or failed to receive a vote of confidence from his/her organization as per the organization's Bylaws, he/she shall not have the privilege of endorsing a candidate, and the recommendation shall come from the organization. If the organization cannot provide a candidate, the League Board of Directors shall secure and elect a candidate of its choice. Incoming Athletic Directors and Assistant Athletic Directors of record shall be subject to acceptance by a simple majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present.

Ability to remove at large or executive board member.

- 5) The President, or any executive board member filing thru the president, may request a vote to remove and member at large of executive board member for not fulfilling their assigned duties. This removal requires a full executive vote of 2/3's and if met results in immediate removal of such member.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS AND RULE CHANGES

Section I

The Bylaws of the League shall be amended only by the League-Board of Directors and changes to the amendments requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present.

Section II

No proposed amendment shall be voted upon at the meeting at which it is proposed.

Section III

Method and sequence for changing or adding new amendments are:

- 1) Proposed changes shall be presented at the first meeting.
- 2) Amendments shall be read, discussed, and voted on at the second meeting.
- 3) All amendment changes require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the League Board of Directors members present.
- 4) All amendments enacted under this provision shall be applied prospectively, and such changes shall have no retroactive application.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section I - Standing Committees

The following six (6) standing committees, which shall be comprised of no more than eight (8) members, shall be deemed necessary to the operation of the League. The Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the League President at the first meeting of the new calendar year and shall serve for the entire calendar year. The Committee Chairperson will then select the committee members which must be approved by the League President. Only League Board of Directors members shall be permitted to serve on any committee. All committee meetings shall be closed to everyone not on that committee, with the exception of the League President.

Activities and Scheduling Concession Stand

Audit Nominating

Buildings and Maintenance Rules and Bylaws

Section II - Grievance Committees

Grievance Committees shall be formed on an "as needed" basis to handle actions brought against League members as stipulated in Article V, Section I. These Committees shall be comprised of not more than seven (7) members, and shall not include the accuser or the accused. The League President shall appoint the chairperson of these Committees. Only League Board of Directors members shall be permitted to serve on these committees. All grievance committee meetings shall be closed to everyone not on that committee, with the exception of the League President.

ARTICLE VIII RULES VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT

- 1) Any violation of the rules must be presented in writing (grievance) to the TBYFL President or President's designee within 72 (seventy two) hours of obtaining knowledge of the violation and must include a \$100 (one hundred) deposit. Members of the TBYFL Executive Board are not required to include the \$100 (one hundred) deposit if the majority of the Executive Board is in agreement with the filing.
- 2) Once a grievance has been presented and the \$100 (one hundred) deposit received, no grievance may be withdrawn without 2/3rd (two thirds) of TBYFL Executive Board approval.
- 3) The President or President's designee will appoint a Grievance Committee and chairman within 24 (twenty four) hours. The Grievance Committee must contain no less than 3 (three) members and no more than 7 (seven) members.
- 4) Both parties (accused and complainant) will be given 3 (three) day notice of the grievance hearing. If both parties and the Grievance Chairman agree, the grievance hearing can be held before the 3rd (third) day.
- 5) At the grievance hearing, the only witnesses allowed are those who have firsthand knowledge of the grievance matter. Only one witness is allowed in the hearing at a time. The only exception to this rule is any witness who is under the age of 18 (eighteen) must have a parent or legal guardian present during the hearing.
- 6) The (accused) party and athletic director of the accused organization shall be notified within 3 (three) days of the Grievance Committees decision. If the accused party is found to be guilty of any rules violation, the guilty party's penalty shall be enforced immediately. If the guilty party wishes to appeal the decision they have 24 (twenty four) hours to notify the President or President's designee in writing and it must include a \$100 (one hundred dollars) deposit. The President will call an Executive Board meeting within 72 (seventy two) hours to hear the appeal. A minimum of 50% of the Executive Board members must be present for the appeals meeting. To overturn and/or modify the decision of the Grievance Committee the Executive Board must agree with a 2/3 (two thirds) vote of the members present. If any members of the Grievance Committee are a member of the Executive Board, then they do not count towards the 50% of the member that must be present and they are not allowed to vote.
- 7) If the accused party is found guilty of the charges, the deposit of \$100 (one hundred dollars) shall be returned to the filing party within 10 (ten) days of the decision. If an appeal is overturned by the Executive Board, then the deposit of \$100 (one hundred dollars) will be returned to the party who paid the appeal deposit.