

# **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR THE SOUTHERN MAINE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Provide an instructional youth football league to encourage and nourish the physical and mental growth of young athletes by offering an organized tackle football program with the sole purpose of instruction and fun. This organization is a non-profit organization.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Southern Maine Youth Football League (herein after referred to as SMYFL).

## **ARTICLE II**

### **MEMBERSHIP IN THE SMYFL**

Membership in the SMYFL is granted in one of two forms:

- Full Membership – All privileges (see below). Automatically renewed Full Membership status for the following year for organizations with Full Membership status at the Annual Meeting.
- Probationary Membership – Restricted voting privileges. Probationary Membership is for one year only, at which time the organization may apply for Full Membership as described below, or may be granted another one year Probationary Membership.

### **APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP**

An organization may apply for membership to the SMYFL by submitting a written request to the Board of directors of the SMYFL for entrance into the league. The Board of Directors shall review the application based upon, yet not limited to: Geographic location, population of the region encompassed by the organization, projected number of players for the organization, and current league membership as pertaining to the number of teams and schedule length. Upon consideration and tentative acceptance of the application, a general meeting of the voting representatives of the current members of the SMYFL shall meet with a representative of the applying organization to further discuss league policy and any points of concern relating to the organization's application.

To be admitted with Full Membership to the SMYFL, a vote of the representatives of all Full Membership organizations shall be held. An affirmative vote of not less than eighty percent (80%) of all organizations with current Full Membership status must be obtained for admittance. Upon admittance, the applying organization shall immediately be granted the full voting rights and privileges of a member organization.

The SMYFL may grant a one year only Probationary Membership to any applying organization by an affirmative vote of not less than eighty percent (80%) of all organizations with current Full Membership status. An organization with Probationary Membership status may apply in writing to the President of the SMYFL for Full Membership at the conclusion of their probationary year, but before the Annual Meeting, for consideration by the SMYFL.

Organizations with Probationary Membership status are allowed to participate in discussions regarding applications for Full Membership from Probationary Membership organizations, but are not allowed to vote.

### **LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

An organization may lose their Full Membership status, or may even have their membership terminated, for failure to abide by the bylaws set forth here by the SMYFL. Membership in the SMYFL is a privilege granted by the member organizations of the SMYFL, and may be refused or rescinded by the general voting members of the SMYFL as provided here in the bylaws. All organizations and members of the organizations belonging to the SMYFL must abide by all rules and regulations set forth by these bylaws and the Board of Directors of the SMYFL. Organizations not abiding by the rules will be subject to any and all disciplinary measures deemed necessary by the Board of Directors of the SMYFL, up to and including removal from the SMYFL.

Loss of membership status, or reduction in status to Probationary status, may be considered by the SMYFL under any of the following conditions.

- Failure to abide by the SMYFL bylaws
- Failure to field both an 'A' (Varsity) and 'B' (Junior Varsity) squad during the previous season, except in cases where a one year exemption was voted on by a majority vote of all member organizations of the SMYFL
- Conduct unbecoming or detrimental to the SMYFL. Organizations, coaches, players, and spectators are required to exhibit behavior conducive with promoting youth football, without creating a hostile environment for others involved in the league

The SMYFL may also modify an organization's membership status under other circumstances not specified above as deemed necessary by the SMYFL.

An organization's membership status may be reduced to Probationary Membership by a majority vote of all member organizations of the SMYFL.

An organization may have their membership in the SMYFL terminated by an affirmative vote of not less than eighty percent (80%) of all member organizations of the SMYFL, excluding the organization upon which membership is being voted. Any organization whose membership is terminated by the SMYFL shall immediately lose all voting rights and privileges, and shall not be considered a member of the SMYFL during the next year. An organization whose membership was terminated during a previous year may re-apply for membership during the following calendar year.

## ARTICLE III

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the SMYFL shall consist of one representative from each registered organization belonging to the SMYFL. From these members, there shall be elected four officers consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The Board of Directors is charged with the following general duties:

- To conduct and oversee all functions of the SMYFL
- To establish any necessary committees and coordinate all league activities required to support and maintain the responsibilities of the SMYFL
- To formulate and present an Annual operating and expenditure budget
- To act as a grievance committee with the power to act

The officers of the Board of Directors are charged with the following specific duties:

- President: The President shall preside at all meetings and shall be an official member of all committees although he is not obligated to attend all committee functions.
- Vice President: The Vice President shall conduct the president's duties in the absence of the president. The Vice President will also act as the liaison with the scheduling of officials, assist in schedule development, and collecting the scores of games each week. The Vice President will act as the liaison with new organizations interested in joining SMYFL.
- Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive, hold and pay out all monies as directed by the Board of Directors and shall act as custodian of all financial records of the SMYFL organization. The Treasurer shall offer an informal report of the financial condition of the SMYFL organization at each general meeting and will present a formal financial report at the Annual meeting for the past year.
- Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all SMYFL General and Board of Director meetings, conduct all SMYFL organizational correspondence and will preserve all records and communications. At each General meeting, the Secretary will present a report of the minutes from the previous meeting at which time the voting members shall accept or reject the minutes as written and presented.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Any voting member of any SMYFL registered organization is eligible to become a representative for that registered organization, to speak and vote on their behalf. Selection of the representative is done solely by each registered organization.

Each registered organization will be represented by one (1) member on the Board of Directors. This representative must be a voting member of that registered organization at all times.

A member of the Board of Directors may hold only one office

## ELECTIONS

The Officers of the Board of Directors for the SMYFL shall be elected at the annual meeting and will remain in office until the next Annual meeting. All offices are mandatory one year terms. With the exception of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, no registered organization representative may hold the same office as the previous member of that same registered organization held during the previous term.

Election to an officer position in the SMYFL is for the actual person who is the official representative of a member organization. If the person who was elected to an office becomes no longer affiliated with the organization they were representing in the SMYFL, the officer position becomes vacant, and is filled as described below.

Nominations and election of new officers for the next organizational year will be held at the Annual meeting of the SMYFL each year. The President will begin his/her term of office during the Annual Meeting, after the Treasurer's Annual Report and other unfinished business have been presented. The new President will preside over election of new officers. Newly elected officers will begin their term of office immediately upon election to their position.

Elections will consist of electing a Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board member elected to the Vice President position agrees by accepting the nomination for Vice-President that he/she agrees to become the President of the SMYFL in the following term. The President position will be filled by the person who held the Vice President position during the just completed term.

In the event that the member holding the Vice President position does not or can not assume the office of President in the year following the Vice Presidency, a President will be selected by election from the board members of all organizations with Full Membership. The organization whose representative holds the position of president at the time of the election is not eligible to have their voting member elected as president for a consecutive term.

If an officer of the SMYFL resigns, becomes ineligible, or is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the vacancy will be announced at the next General meeting. Nominations will be accepted and voted on at the following general meeting.

In the event that the vacated office is that of President, if the date set as the first allowed team practice date has been reached, then the Vice President will perform all the functions of the President, but remain as Vice President for the year, and thereby become President in the following year as planned. If the date set as the first allowed team practice date has not yet been reached, the Vice President shall become the President for the current year, and a new Vice President shall be elected as described above. A person holding or performing the office of President for more than three hundred sixty-five days as described in this paragraph may not be elected to the position of Vice President in the year following the year that they serve the office of president.

## **YEARLY COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS**

Each year, an Elementary Grade Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee chairperson need not be on the SMYFL Board of Directors. This position is not an officer of the SMYFL Board of Directors.

The Elementary Grade Committee Chairperson will meet with head coaches and/or representatives of the SMYFL Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 teams to discuss the SMYFL bylaws as they pertain to the teams. The Elementary Grade Committee Chairperson will bring any recommendations that the committee feels are necessary to support the Grade 3/4 or Grade 5/6 teams of SMYFL to the next general SMYFL Board of Directors meeting. The full SMYFL Board of Directors shall review these recommendations and propose official amendments/additions to the bylaws based on these recommendations.

## **JAMBOREE WEIGH-IN ADMINISTRATOR**

Each year, a Jamboree Weigh-in Administrator shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for each jamboree hosted by SMYFL. A different administrator may be appointed for each jamboree. The administrator shall oversee weigh-ins at the Jamboree ensuring that rules for weigh-ins are followed. Any questions that arise during weigh-ins shall be heard and officially decided upon by the administrator. The administrator may seek council from any source deemed necessary to make an informed ruling. The administrator's decision is final.

## **ARTICLE IV GOVERNMENT**

The government and direction of this league and the control of its property and monies shall be vested in the Board of Directors. It is the intent of this league to allow all members of registered organizations to voice their opinions, as the SMYFL is established to provide the service of a league to participating organizations and to meet their needs. The foregoing will not apply to Board of Director meetings at which only Board members are to be in attendance, unless called upon by the President. All voting rights are restricted solely to the Board of Directors.

Bylaw amendments may be presented and voted upon at the Annual Meeting and the General Meeting in June.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **LEAGUE FUNDING, EXPENDITURES, EQUIPMENT**

Fees and funding of the SMYFL shall be collected as described below:

- SMYFL funding and team registration fees will be set each year by the Board of Directors no later than the date of the June General meeting of the current year
- All funds in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000) remaining from the previous year's fees will be used to offset the registration fees of all teams participating in the SMYFL during the current year
- Registration fees must be paid to the SMYFL Treasurer by all organizations participating in the current SMYFL season no later than June First (06/01) of the current year.
- In the event that additional funding is required, the Board of Directors may obtain the additional funding through any method agreed upon by the Board of Directors in a majority vote.

Expenditures and use of SMYFL monies shall be handled in this manner:

- SMYFL monies shall be used as recompense for the following SMYFL related goods and services, but not be limited to: postage, photocopying, phone calls, registration fee in the National Recreation and Parks Assoc., trophies, one (1) federation rule book per registered organization
- SMYFL monies shall be used to fund five(5) officials' salaries in the final championship game for each middle school division. These shall consist of four(4) field officials and one(1) clock operator.
- Assigner fees paid to Head Official for assigning referees for all Middle School, Pee Wee and Mite games
- Website registration fees

All funds received by the SMYFL organization must be turned over to the Treasurer as soon as is reasonably possible.

No officer or voting member of the SMYFL Board of Directors will be allowed to disburse or promise funds without prior approval of the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer is authorized to establish and maintain a checking account in the name of the Southern Maine Youth Football League with any public banking institution voted by majority of member organizations to be acceptable.

The President, Treasurer and Secretary are authorized to sign the checks for the SMYFL account. The signature of the President or the Treasurer must be on all checks exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500).

#### **EQUIPMENT**

SMYFL shall identify an official digital scale for use at weigh-ins for all program levels that require weigh-ins. In 2014, for each organization that has one or more SMYFL programs that require weigh-ins, SMYFL shall purchase and provide one(1) initial scale for their organization to use at all weigh-ins. Each organization's representative is responsible for maintaining and storing the scale for the organization, and having it available at all home events which require weigh-ins.

In the event that the league supplied scale is lost, or is damaged beyond normal use, the member organization is

responsible to purchase an exact replacement for the scale at the member organization's own cost.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEETINGS**

The Annual Meeting of the SMYFL will be held during the month of January at a place and time to be set a minimum of one(1) month prior to the date chosen.

General meetings of the SMYFL will be held at least quarterly at a place and time to be set a minimum of one(1) month prior to the dates chosen.

Special meetings may be called by the President of the Board of Directors as the need arises.

All meetings of the SMYFL organization shall be governed by Parliamentary Law as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

Participation\* in the SMYFL regular meetings will be open to the public unless an executive (closed) session is called by the President.

*\*Participation as used here does not extend to voting privileges. See Article IV for voting rights*

### **MEETING ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Any member organization that misses more than one general meeting during the course of an organizational year, without contact and approval from the President, shall result in a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine levied against their organization for each absence after the first.

### **YEARLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

A general meeting of the organizations that have a Grade 3/4 or Grade 5/6 program will be held to discuss bylaw changes that affect the Grade 3/4 or Grade 5/6 teams for the upcoming season. This meeting shall be chaired by the Elementary Grade Committee Chairperson as described in Article III. This meeting shall be set to occur after the Annual Meeting but before the June meeting so that changes to the bylaws may be voted on at the June meeting.

The head coaches of each participating Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 team will meet for an annual preseason meeting during the month of August prior to the jamboree.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **FOOTBALL PROGRAMS**

SMYFL shall designate grade appropriate programs that member organizations may participate in. The following programs shall be administered and monitored by SMYFL:

**Grades 7/8\*** - To be known as Middle School Division

**Grades 5/6\*** - To be known as Pee Wee Division

**Grades 3/4\*** - To be known as Mite Division

*\*Note that the grades are the primary divider of the programs. Other eligibility rules are enforced for each division within SMYFL.*

Each year, each organization will notify SMYFL of which programs they intend to participate in. Member organizations are not required to participate in all program levels.

Each organization will notify SMYFL as to how many teams their organization intends to field for each SMYFL program each year prior to the final scheduling meeting which is typically held in June.

Each team in each division is comprised of an 'A' squad and a 'B' squad. 'A' squad players are typically the more experienced players, or older players, on the team. 'B' squad players are typically players that need more instructional time, and that may not yet be ready to play in an 'A' squad game.

### **GENERAL RULES FOR ALL FOOTBALL PROGRAMS**

#### Summer Camps

Organizations may host a preseason conditioning and training camp during the month of June. The camp may include up to 7 days of sessions, consecutive or non-consecutive days, with each date/session not to exceed 2 hours in total. No pads or helmets may be worn during any sessions. Sessions will have no contact. Footballs may be used at these sessions.

SMYFL coaches may not coach their teams in an organized setting (such as a summer camp) prior to the first official day of the season, other than the June camp. SMYFL coaches may participate as instructors at an organized football camp that is open to the public for participation, but they may not separate players according to school's attended, geographic location, or other method which would create a situation where the SMYFL coach would be coaching players that will play for him/her as a team. Acceptable instruction would be conditioning drills, position/skill drills, etc. Coaches may not coach a group of players that will participate together for a single organization during the current SMYFL season.

#### Schedules

Any date(s) on which a team is not scheduled to play in the SMYFL may be filled by that team at their discretion, as long as it does not interfere with the SMYFL schedule. Results of any non-SMYFL scheduled games will not be accounted for in the final standings of the SMYFL.

Any changes to the established schedule in regards to date, time, or location of any game must be agreed upon by both teams involved no later than ninety-six (96) hours prior to the desired rescheduled date or time (or ninety-six (96) hours prior to the original time, whichever would occur first). It is the home team's head coach who is responsible for notifying the SMYFL President, the head coach of the opposing team, and the Head Official within the same time frame listed above.

If a change in the time or date of game is desired after the schedule has been established, it shall be the obligation of the home team to notify the head coach of the visiting team, the Head Official, and the President of the SMYFL Board of Directors at least ninety-six(96) hours before the desired meeting change or the originally scheduled meeting (whichever would occur first).

Changes in game time or date due to weather conditions or school officials should be announced as soon as possible to the above mentioned parties.

Rescheduling due to events of nature or man-made disasters shall be done as is possible with regards to the safety and well being of all participants.

There must be a minimum of four(4) days between games.

### Game Equipment

The home team must supply a regulation sized playing field, with all appropriate lining and markers as specified in the rulebook adopted by the SMYFL.

A minimum of one (1) set of legal chains and down marker must be provided by the home team.

Kicking tees are the responsibility of each separate team.

The home team is responsible for creating a separation between all spectators and the each team's player box. The area from the 20 yard line to the 20 yard line and extending at least 20 feet back from the sidelines must be sectioned off to restrict spectators from entering the team area. This may be accomplished by roping off the area or somehow clearly marking off the area. Fields with a permanent fence may use that fence as the separation, requiring spectators to remain behind the fence. If bleachers fall within the cordoned off area, spectators are allowed to utilize the bleachers.

The home team must ensure that there is a means of keeping time at the field prior to game time. If there is not a field game clock present at the field where the game is being played, the home team must notify the Head Official for the game that there is no field game clock available before the date of the scheduled game.

All playoff and championship games must have a functioning field clock plainly visible to both teams on/at the field at the start of the game. If a functional field clock is not available, the visiting team has the option of refusing to play until such time as the field clock is made functional, a working field clock is made available, or an alternate playing field with a functional clock is used. Any officials' fees due to field clock issues are the responsibility of the home team.

### Game Jerseys

While it is preferred that each team have both a light and dark colored jersey, a team that is unable to provide both must wear a colored jersey that is not white. If both competing teams each only have a single jersey, and both team's jerseys have the same base color making up the majority of the shirt, the visiting team must wear pinnies which will cover the majority of their jerseys' primary color, and differentiate the two teams' players.

## Game Officials and Personnel

The following shall govern the management of the game officials:

- Two (2) game referees at each game will be State Board Members or apprentices.
- A minimum of three (3) field referees will be used at each regular season game. In the event that fewer than three (3) field referees appear at a properly scheduled regular season game, at least one (1) of the attending officials must be a State Board Member or apprentice. Then if the head coaches of the opposing teams agree on the other official(s), the game is played without protest. If an agreement cannot be reached, then the game is rescheduled to a date mutually agreed upon by the head coaches of the opposing teams. The Coordinator of Officials shall be notified of the official's non-attendance, as well as the rescheduling of the game, by the home team.
- Game officials will be assigned to all games by the Coordinator of Officials, if requested and available.
- Officials fees, as set by the SMYFL Board of Directors at least one (1) month prior to the first regular season game, will be paid by the home team at each game.
- All post-season games shall have four (4) officials with all being State Board Members or Apprentices.

The following shall govern game personnel other than game officials:

- The home team shall provide three(3) persons to handle each set of chains and down markers. The chain crew must consist of persons 15 years of age or older.
- The home team shall provide adult personnel to run and maintain the scoreboard and game clock.
- Each person assigned to handle the chains, down marker(s), scoreboard, and game clock may not be a coach of either team and may not in any way assist in the coaching of the players during the course of the game. No game information may be relayed or communicated directly by the chain crew to any coach, except in regards to the current down, distance to go, or current field position of the ball.
- The home team shall provide either a licensed EMT or certified athletic trainer that will be onsite for both the 'A' and 'B' games.

## Insufficient Players for two squads

In the event that a team has only enough players to legally field one squad, the head coach of the team with insufficient players must notify the head coach of the opposing team, and the president of SMYFL, a minimum of two(2) weeks in advance to allow the opposing team as much time as possible to try to make other arrangements for playing time for their players.

Any team that has insufficient players to play both an 'A' and 'B' game may have non-impact 'A' team players participate in the 'B' game in order to have enough players to play the game.

## Game Rules

'B' squads are to be made up of players that had/will have little playing time in the 'A' game and that did not/will not start in any position during the 'A' game between the two teams.

'B' squads are to consist of all players that do not start or play more than a total of twenty offensive or defensive plays of the 'A' game or, if there are not enough players to field a 'B' squad, then the use of 'A' players in different positions than they started during the 'A' game is allowed. If an eighth grade player starts or plays a significant amount of time in the 'A' game on offense or defense, he/she may not play in the 'B' game.

The above rules are incorporated to have as many players play as possible, and to train players for future 'A' squad positions; not for Win/Loss records.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION RULES

### Eligibility

A player must live in or attend the school district/town/city served by the registered organization for which he participates as defined in the Sphere of Influence section of these bylaws.

Players shall be less than a freshman (grade 9) in school and not have reached his/her 15th birthday before the first practice (conditioning or equipment) allowed by SMYFL.

Valid proof of birth date must be submitted by each player before that player is allowed to play. A copy of a notarized Birth Certificate or other legally accepted proof of the player's date of birth is acceptable.

A player may not participate on a SMYFL team if that player is also participating in any other contact football program.

A player who is otherwise eligible for Pee Wee football, but is unable to make the top weight limit for Pee Wee, and their organization's Middle School program rules do not allow the player to move up to play on the Middle School team (e.g. school affiliated Middle School program that only allows 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade players), that player will be allowed to participate on the Middle School team of another nearby SMYFL team of their choosing, if that other SMYFL team agrees.

### Weight Limits

There is no weight limit defined or enforced at this program level. Players may play any position.

### Weigh-ins

There is no weigh-in required at this program level.

### Preseason Practices

Preseason football practice may begin no earlier than the Sunday before the first day of August, unless otherwise changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Preseason football practice is allowed for purposes of conditioning. No pads other than helmets may be worn during preseason sessions. Preseason practices will have no contact. Footballs may be used at these practices.

### Practices

Football practice means the organized instruction of youths eligible to play football in the SMYFL during the upcoming season by the coaches of, or any person affiliated with, an organization which is a member of the SMYFL. This does not preclude football clinics being offered publicly for football instruction.

Football practice using footballs and football equipment may begin one week after the first allowed day of preseason practice.

## Schedule

Game schedules for Middle School football will be established by the SMYFL Board of Directors

Game time for all regular season games played on Sunday shall be 1p.m. 'A' games to be played first and 'B' games played after the completion of 'A' game for Sunday dates. All Saturday evening games shall start at 6:00 PM. Evening games will have the 'B' game played first, unless agreed upon by both team's head coaches at least ninety-six(96) hours prior to the game start time, with the 'A' game played immediately following the completion of the 'B' game.

If a team only has enough players to field one team, the 'A' game must be played first.

## Rosters

An organization's player roster shall consist of the following information about every player:

- Full name
- Age
- Date of birth
- Jersey number
- School system the player attends

If the school system attended is the same for all players on the roster, then an indication of that fact may be made on the roster rather than specifying the same school for each player.

Organizations must submit a complete roster to the SMYFL before the first regular season game. The SMYFL must be informed of all addition(s) or correction(s) to the submitted roster (which occur any time after submission of the complete roster) within one (1) week of the addition(s) or correction(s). Failure to comply with the submission deadline shall result in a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine levied against the non-compliant organization.

Submission of rosters shall be made either in paper form submitted to the President of the SMYFL, or in a league approved electronic format, such as email, made available to all teams. In either form, it is the responsibility of the representative of each organization to verify that their organization's submitted roster was successfully received by the SMYFL.

Any player meeting the eligibility requirements for playing Pee Wee football that participates with a Middle School team and is listed on that Middle School team's first official game roster will not be allowed to return/participate at the Pee Wee level during that year. Any player otherwise eligible to play Pee Wee football may return to their organization's Pee Wee team prior to the first game.

Players may be added to a team's roster according to local rules and the rules of eligibility as specified in these bylaws. The head coach of a team is responsible for submitting roster updates to the SMYFL president at the earliest possible time.

## Game Equipment

A minimum of two (2) footballs of game quality will be available at each game, provided by the home team. Any team desiring to use a ball other than that supplied by the home team must supply their own as described previously. The official agreed upon ball size for Middle School shall be the Wilson "TDY" football, the Nike Vapor Strike Youth, or the Riddell RDY. Footballs do not need to be branded with the "NFHS" label for any level.

## Game Rules

Games will be played under Federation Rules. The home team will provide a current rule book at each game.

‘A’ games shall consist of four(4) ten(10) minute regulation quarters for all games. ‘B’ games shall consist of four(4) eight(8) minute regulation quarters.

During ‘B’ games, one(1) coach from each team will be allowed on the field. If a team elects to have a coach on the field as described above, that coach is considered part of the field, and should remain in the same position he/she was in at the snap of the ball for the remainder of the play. Note: Coaches should try to select a spot that is not likely to interfere with normal play. If one team elects to not have a coach on the field, the other team may still choose to have their coach on the field if they desire.

## Gentlemen’s Rule

Common courtesy dictates that when one team attains a commanding lead of **thirty-six(36)** or more points, the leading team will take measures to even the level of play of the two teams, with substitution of different players freely exhibited. Disciplinary action may be taken by the Board of Directors against any team not following this ideal.

These measures do not mean a team must allow the other team to score, rather players who normally get less playing time, or even ‘B’ players playing in ‘A’ games, should be used. The goal of this rule is to avoid humiliating or demoralizing participants into disliking football.

The **36**-point rule does not apply during playoffs.

## Overtime

‘A’ games that at the end of regulation play have a tie score shall be resolved in accordance with Federation Rules. ‘B’ games shall end in a tie at the end of regulation play, with no overtime, as their record is not used in determining playoff seating.

An overtime period is untimed play after a regulation game has ended with the score tied. During an overtime period each team has an opportunity for an offensive series of downs. However, an overtime period may include only one offensive series of downs if the defensive team scores a safety or touchdown.

After a 3-minute intermission following the end of regular timed play, a coin toss will be held at the middle of the field. The visiting team shall pick “heads” or “tails”. The winner of the toss shall have shall be given their choice of defense or offense first, or of designating which end of the field to play at. The loser will have their choice of the remaining options.

Each Team will be permitted one time out during each overtime period. Timeouts remaining from regulation play do not carry over into overtime play.

The team scoring the greater number of points in the overtime shall be declared the winner. The final score shall be determined by totaling all points scored by each team during both regulation time and all overtime periods.

To start each overtime, the offensive team shall put the ball in play, first and goal, on the defensive team's 10-yard line or succeeding spot if a carry-over penalty has been administered. The ball may be placed anywhere between the inbounds lines. The first offensive shall have a series of four downs. That series shall be terminated by any score by the offensive team, or if the defensive team has possession of the ball.

If the team on offense scores a touchdown, that team is entitled to the opportunity for a try unless the points would not affect the outcome of the game or playoff qualifying.

A field-goal attempt is permitted during any down.

If the defensive team gains possession, the ball becomes dead immediately and the offensive team's series of downs is ended.

After the first team on offense has completed the series of downs, the first team on defense will become the offensive team with the ball in its possession at the same 10-yard line anywhere between the inbounds lines. The same end of the field will be used for possessions by both teams during the two sets of downs to ensure equal game conditions and conserve time.

If the score remains tied after each team has been given one series of downs in an overtime period, then the procedure shall be repeated with other overtime periods until a game winner is determined. In this case, there shall be an intermission of two minutes. At the subsequent meeting of team captains, the loser of the overtime coin toss will be given first choice of the options. If additional overtime periods are required, then the first choice of options will be alternated with no coin toss.

If a safety is scored by the offensive team, the succeeding spot will be the 10-yard line in possession of the team that was on defense, provided the defensive team has not had its series of downs (the temporary overtime score is: Team A-2, Team B-0).

When the defensive team gains possession of the ball, the down and series immediately end for the offensive team.

The offensive team shall be awarded a new series of downs when any one of the following occurs:

1. Penalty for defensive pass interference is accepted.
2. Offensive team recovers a scrimmage kick (field-goal attempt) between the goal lines after it has been touched first by the defensive team beyond the neutral zone.
3. Defensive Team is guilty of roughing the kicker, place-kicker holder, snapper, or passer.

The line to gain is always the goal line.

If the defensive team scores a safety or touchdown, the game is ended.

No point-after-touchdown try will be attempted if the winner of the game has been determined.

If a penalty is called against the defense which would result in an automatic first down for the offense, the ball is spotted where the penalty would advance the ball, and the offense is awarded a new set of downs.

## Playoffs

Teams will be seated at the end of the regular season based on the HEAL point system. Each team yearly will be assigned a base ranking of A, B, C, or D for use with the HEAL point system based on a determination of the voting membership of the SMYFL. These base rankings shall be based upon, but not limited to, the number of potential players available within each teams' sphere of influence. A general guideline to be used shall be the High School "class" rankings for the school(s) from which the member organization draws.

In the event of a tie in the seating process, the following tie breakers apply in order

1. Head-to-Head - Win/Loss record among the tied teams
2. Total number of wins by opponents
3. Flip a coin **if two teams are tied, or draw straws if more than two teams are tied**

### **SINGLE CONFERENCE**

In years where SMYFL has all teams participating in a single conference, the following rules shall govern playoffs.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET**

The top eight(8) seated teams based on the HEAL point system at the end of regular season play are eligible for championship bracket competition. In the event that a team cannot compete in post-season play, all teams below that team's seating are advanced one(1) seat until eight(8) teams fill the championship bracket.

The #1 seated team will play the #8 seated team at the # 1 seated team's field of choice. The #2 seated team will play the #7 seated team at the #2 seated team's field of choice, and so on. Field of choice means any regulation field selected for use by the higher seated team and authorized by the organization in control of that field.

Unless mutually agreed upon by both opposing teams, post-season games shall be started no earlier than 12 noon on the first Sunday following the end of the regular season.

The teams hosting the games at their fields shall keep the gate and concession money, and will pay for the four(4) officials at their respective playoff game.

#### **NON CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS**

Three(3) additional post-season brackets shall be established in which the remaining twelve(12) teams not in the championship bracket will participate – Silver, Bronze, and Iron brackets. Each bracket will have four(4) teams assigned based on the HEAL point seating:

- **Silver**: Seats 9 through 12
- **Bronze**: Seats #13 through #16
- **Iron**: Seats #17 through #20

In the first week of post-season play for each bracket, the highest seated team will host the fourth seated team in the bracket, and the second next highest seated team in the bracket would host the third seated team in the bracket.

In the second week of post-season play for each bracket, the two winning teams from the first week of post-season games play each other at the higher seated team's field, and the two losing teams from the first week of post-season games play each other at the higher seated team's field.

The teams hosting the games at their fields shall keep the gate and concession money, and will pay for the game officials at their game.

### **TWO CONFERENCES**

In years where SMYFL has divided the league into two conferences, the following rules shall govern playoffs.

Each conference shall have their own separate playoff brackets.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET**

The top eight(8) seated teams in each division, based on the HEAL point system at the end of regular season play, are eligible for championship bracket competition.

In the event that a team cannot compete in post-season play, all teams below that team's seating are advanced one(1) seat until eight(8) teams fill the championship bracket.

The #1 seated team will play the #8 seated team at the # 1 seated team's field of choice. The #2 seated team will play the #7 seated team at the #2 seated team's field of choice, and so on. Field of choice means any regulation field selected for use by the higher seated team and authorized by the organization in control of that field.

Unless mutually agreed upon by both opposing teams, post-season games shall be started no earlier than 12 noon on the first Sunday following the end of the regular season.

The teams hosting the games at their fields shall keep the gate and concession money, and will pay for the game officials at their respective playoff game.

### **NON CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS**

One or more additional post-season brackets shall be established in each division for the teams that are not participating in the championship bracket. Preferably, each non-championship bracket will have four(4) teams assigned based on the HEAL point seating.

In the first week of post-season play for each non-championship bracket, the highest seated team will host the lowest seated team in the bracket, and the second next highest seated team in the bracket would host the next to the lowest seated team in the bracket (e.g. Seat 4 plays at Seat 1, Seat 3 plays at Seat 2).

In the second week of post-season play for each non-championship bracket, the two winning teams from the first week of post-season games play each other at the higher seated team's field, and the two losing teams from the first week of post-season games play each other at the higher seated team's field.

The teams hosting the games at their fields shall keep the entire gate and concession money, and will pay for the game officials at their game.

### Championship Game

Each Middle School conference will have a Championship Game. The remaining two winners in each conference's Gold Ball bracket will meet to play in the championship game for their conference.

The team in each matchup with the highest playoff seeding going into the playoffs will be the home team.

The home team will have its choice of field at which the championship game will be played. Home team is responsible for providing the necessary facilities for the playing of the championship game as detailed in these bylaws.

An ambulance and attendants must be present at the championship game. In the event that ambulance service cannot be obtained for free, the SMYFL shall pay for one ambulance/crew to attend the championship game.

Gate receipts from the championship game will be split 50/50 by the two participating teams. Concession monies and other fund raisers performed by the borne team shall be kept solely by the team at whose field the game is hosted.

First and second place trophies will be awarded to the winning and losing teams at the conclusion of the championship game.

There shall be four (4) officials presiding at the championship game. All officials selected for the championship game must have officiated in the SMYFL no less than half the number of regular season game weeks and must meet the requirements specified in Article XI.

Officials for the championship game shall be selected by the Head Official. The names of the selected officials shall be given to the head coaches of each championship team, each who will at that time voice any concerns he/she may have regarding a selected official. The Head Official will then judge the concerns and make a final decision as to which referees shall officiate in the championship game.

Selection of an official is subject to the availability of that official. Officials in the championship game shall be paid for by the SMYFL from funds maintained by the SMYFL.

## PEE WEE DIVISION RULES

### Eligibility

A player must live in or attend the school district/town/city served by the registered organization for which he participates as defined in the Sphere of Influence section of these bylaws.

Children living in nearby towns that do not have a football program available to them may participate on the nearest SMYFL Pee Wee team to them as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Players shall be in a grade below 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and be at least to ten(10) years of age before November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and cannot be thirteen(13) before the first practice (conditioning or equipment) allowed by SMYFL.

Valid proof of birth date must be submitted by each player before that player is allowed to play. A copy of a notarized Birth Certificate or other legally accepted proof of the player's date of birth is acceptable.

A player may not participate on a SMYFL team if that player is also participating in any other contact football program.

### Sphere of Influence

If a player is unable to make the top weight limit for Pee Wee, and their organization's Middle School program rules do not allow the player to move up to play on the Middle School team (e.g. school affiliated Middle School program that only allows 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade players), that player will be allowed to participate on the Middle School team of another nearby SMYFL team of their choosing, if that other SMYFL team agrees.

A player from outside the Sphere of Influence of any team in SMYFL may participate with the nearest organization if there is no other football program available to that youth, and the youth meets all other eligibility requirements for the league. Once reaching Middle School, that player would become ineligible to participate in SMYFL if the player is not within a team's sphere of influence.

### Weight Limits

The following weight limits shall be enforced:

<b>A and B Teams</b>	
0 – 115 No stripe	May handle the ball in the offensive backfield and end positions. They may also return kick-offs, punts and pass interceptions. Offensive Ends may weigh over this limit, but will be limited to blocking duties only.
115.1 – 130 One Stripe	May play in the Defensive line and Defensive backfield including linebacker, cornerback and safeties. They may also play any offensive position except for offensive backfield. Offensive Ends in this weight category may be tight or split, but are limited to blocking duties
130.1 – 160 Two Stripes	May play only in offensive or defensive interior down lineman positions. (Center, Guard, Tackle). May play in the 'A' or 'B' game.

Stripes must be placed on player helmets to indicate the weight group that the player's weight falls within.

### Weigh-ins

**Weigh-ins will only be performed on the official make/model scale as defined by SMYFL.**

Players may weigh-in from the beginning of the league approved practice date, up through the day of the Jamboree. Any player weighing in prior to the Jamboree must have their weight witnessed by one opposing coach. All pre-jamboree weights are measured without equipment or shoes. Once a player weighs in and the weight is witnessed and recorded by an opposing team's coach, this will be the player's official weight for the season. SMYFL encourages weigh-ins to be held on the day of the Jamboree.

Any player unable to make the top-most weight limit by the jamboree may weigh-in at each successive game to attempt to make the top weight bracket. Players already in a weight bracket may not weigh-in again at a later time to make a lower weight class.

Before each Pee Wee game, weigh-ins will be conducted to determine each player's current weight. Each player will initially be assigned to their Jamboree weigh-in weight. One coach or representative from each competing team will conduct weigh-ins of the opposing team's players. The coach/representative doing the weigh-ins may "waive" the weigh-in for any players for the opposing team that they wish. Those "waived" players shall be considered to be at the same weight as their official Jamboree weigh-in.

Players will be weighed in their own full game gear, and are granted an eight(8) pound allowance to account for the weight of their game gear. If the weight of a player exceeds their Jamboree weight, the new weight will be considered that player's official weight for the remainder of the day. Players with a heavier weight than their Jamboree weight shall be considered to be in the weight bracket that their new weight falls within. The player's helmet must then be striped according to their new weight bracket. Players exceeding the maximum weight limit of the league shall be ineligible to play that day.

Players arriving late to a game that miss weigh-ins prior to a game beginning must be either weighed or waived through before they may enter any game that day. Game play will not be delayed or stopped for weighing in players.

Players weighing less than their Jamboree weight will retain their Jamboree weight as their official weight. No player may ever drop to a lower weight bracket from their official Jamboree weight bracket.

Players that weigh above the maximum weight limit for the Pee Wee division may play up on the Middle School division if their organization's rules allow these players to play at the higher grade level.

**If a coach refuses to have a player on their team weighed for any reason, that player is ineligible to play in any SMYFL jamboree or game.**

### Preseason Practices

Pee Wee preseason football practices may begin no earlier than the Monday that is two weeks prior to the date of the Pee Wee Jamboree.

Preseason football practice is allowed for purposes of conditioning. No pads other than helmets may be worn during preseason sessions. Preseason practices will have no contact. Footballs may be used at these

practices.

## Practices

Football practice means the organized instruction of youths eligible to play football in the SMYFL during the upcoming season by the coaches of, or any person affiliated with, an organization which is a member of the SMYFL. This does not preclude football clinics being offered publicly for football instruction.

Football practice using footballs and football equipment may begin one week after the first allowed day of preseason practice.

Pee Wee teams may have a maximum of five(5) days of practice a week prior to the first SMYFL scheduled game of the season. After the first game, a maximum of three(3) practices a week may be held at the head coach's discretion. No double session practices are allowed. Practices are limited to a two hour maximum length. Scrimmages are counted as a practice in regards to the maximum number of practices allowed during the week.

## Schedule

Game schedules for will be established by the SMYFL Board of Directors

Game time for all regular season games played on Sunday shall be 1p.m. All Saturday evening games shall start at 6:00p.m. For all day games, the 'A' game shall always be played first, immediately followed by the 'B' game unless agreed upon by both team's head coaches at least ninety-six(96) hours prior to the game start time. For all night games, the 'B' game shall always be played first, immediately followed by the 'A' game unless agreed upon by both team's head coaches at least ninety-six(96) hours prior to the game start time.

If a team only has enough players to field one team, the 'A' game must be played first.

## Rosters

An organization's player roster shall consist of the following information about every player:

- Full name
- Age
- Date of birth
- Jersey number
- Weight
- School system the player attends

If the school system attended is the same for all players on the roster, then an indication of that fact may be made on the roster rather than specifying the same school for each player.

Each roster may consist of up to a maximum of fifty-six(56) players. Once a team or organization reaches more than fifty-six(56) players, they must divide the players into two(2) balanced teams.

There will be no cutting of players, except for not meeting eligibility requirements. Disciplinary reasons are allowable grounds for cutting players, and are enforced at the head coach's discretion.

Rosters are due before the start of the annual Jamboree.

Rosters must be signed on the line immediately below the last listed player by both coaches performing weigh-ins. No blank line(s) may be left on the player roster form above the coaches' signatures.

The SMYFL must be informed of all addition(s) or correction(s) to the submitted roster (which occur any time after submission of the complete roster) within one (1) week of the addition(s) or correction(s). Failure to comply with the submission deadline shall result in a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine levied against the non-compliant organization.

Submission of rosters shall be made either in paper form submitted to the President of the SMYFL, or in a league approved electronic format, such as email, made available to all teams. In either form, it is the responsibility of the representative of each organization to verify that their organization's submitted roster was successfully received by the SMYFL.

Players may be added to a team's roster according to local rules and the rules of eligibility as specified in these bylaws. The head coach of a team is responsible for submitting roster updates to the SMYFL president at the earliest possible time.

For player additions, the next week's opposing coach must be notified before the game, and the player must be weighed to determine the weight category for that player. The weight category must be agreed upon by both teams' coaches prior to participating in the SMYFL game. The official weight shall be recorded on the team's official roster, and the player's parents and the team's head coach must both sign and date the roster below the player's information to attest that all information provided is true.

Any player meeting the eligibility requirements for playing Pee Wee football that participates with a Middle School team and is listed on that Middle School team's first official game roster will not be allowed to return/participate at the Pee Wee level during that year. Any player otherwise eligible to play Pee Wee football may return to their organization's Pee Wee team prior to the first game.

### Squads

Each team shall consist of an 'A' squad and a 'B' squad. Squads are not required to be grade specific. A Grade 5 player may play on either the 'A' or 'B' squad, and a Grade 6 player may play on either the 'A' or 'B' squad.

'A' squads are to be made up of the more talented/experienced players on the team. 'B' squads are players that need additional time and instruction.

### Game Equipment

A minimum of two (2) footballs of game quality will be available at each game, provided by the home team. Any team desiring to use a ball other than that supplied by the home team must supply their own as described previously. The official agreed upon ball size for Pee Wee shall be the Wilson "TDJ" football, the Nike Vapor Strike Junior, or the Riddell RDJ. Footballs do not need to be branded with the "NFHS" label for any level.

The home team is responsible for having at least one calibrated scale to conduct official player weigh-ins. This scale must be the same model scale established by SMYFL as the official digital scale for player weigh-ins.

## Game Rules

Games will be played under Federation Rules. The home team will provide a current rule book at each game.

Games shall consist of four(4) eight(8) minute regulation quarters for both the 'A' and 'B' games, with regulation stop clock.

During 'B' games, a maximum of two(2) coaches from each team are allowed on the field to aid in coaching. If a team elects to have a coach on the field as described above, that coach is considered part of the field, and should remain in the same position he/she was in at the snap of the ball for the remainder of the play. Note: Coaches should try to select a spot that is not likely to interfere with normal play. If one team elects to not have a coach on the field, the other team may still choose to have their coach on the field if they desire.

At the Pee Wee level, all players will play.

All players on kick-off or kick receiving teams will be a maximum of 130 lbs. A one(1) stripe player may kick-off.

Defensive blitzing is only allowed in 'A' games.

A maximum five(5) man defensive line is permitted outside the 20-yard line. The only allowed defensive formations are 3-5, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, and an 8-man line. The 5-2, 5-3 or 5-4 (5 man line, 1 nose guard, 2 tackles, 2 ends) and 3-5 (1 nose guard, 2 tackles, all head-up) formation may be used at anytime. Inside the 20-yard line, a maximum of an 8-man line is permitted.

Linebackers, cornerbacks, and safeties may line-up anywhere as long as they are ~~three(3)~~ five(5) yards off the line of scrimmage, or when inside the 20 yard line three(3) yards off the line of scrimmage. They will not move toward the line of scrimmage until the snap of the ball. Player will be warned the first time – second offense will result in a five(5) yard penalty.

Defensive tackles must line head-up on the second man out from the offensive center on each side. If an offense runs a formation that would force the defense to line up illegally by these rules (i.e. unbalanced, over-shift, two tight ends), the defense may adjust to run any defense they desire, including lining up in the gaps or having an all eleven(11) players on the line.

**Offensive line is required to have gaps of 6 to 18 inches at all times, except during punts.**

Offense is allowed to have a man in motion. Offense is not limited to one handoff during the course of a down.

The defense may rush the punter with only the five (5) down linemen. Defensive ends must be in down position to rush the punter. Down lineman may be two (2) stripes on punt and punt receiving teams, except for offensive ends. In 'B' games only, defensive players *may not* rush the punter. Kicking team may not fake the punt. The ball will not be advanced in place of a punt.

## Gentlemen's Rule

Common courtesy dictates that when one team attains a commanding lead of eighteen(18) points or more, the leading team will take measures to even the level of play of the two teams, with substitution of different

players freely exhibited. Disciplinary action may be taken by the Board of Directors against any team not following this ideal.

These measures do not mean a team must allow the other team to score, rather players who normally get less playing time, or even 'B' players playing in 'A' games, should be used. The goal of this rule is to avoid humiliating or demoralizing participants into disliking football.

### Overtime

If the score is tied at the end of regulation, there will be no overtime played, 'A' or 'B' games.

### Playoffs

There will be no playoffs for Pee Wee level football.

### Jamboree

The Pee Wee teams will host a yearly jamboree to start their season. The jamboree will be held on the first weekend after Labor Day.

The jamboree host team shall be responsible for all expenses of hosting the jamboree, including paying for all game officials for the event. If town ordinances require police or medical services to be in attendance, the host team is solely responsible for those fees.

The host team will keep all profits, or be responsible for all losses.

The host team shall be responsible for paying the assigner fee for the year in which they host the jamboree. That fee will be set by agreement of the SMYFL board with appointed league Assigner.

Each organization participating at the Pee Wee level will have an opportunity to host the annual jamboree. The jamboree rotation will be as follows:

- Gorham
- Westbrook
- York
- Noble
- Wells
- Kittery
- Sanford
- Marshwood
- Kennebunk
- Massabesic

An organization may elect to pass on hosting the jamboree if they so wish.

If additional SMYFL organizations add Pee Wee programs, that organization will be added to the rotation list, and be slotted to have their spot in the rotation be at the end of the rotation, before the current year's host has their next chance to host. For example, if Wells is the jamboree host in a year that a new team is added, the new team will be slotted between Noble and Wells.

The host organization is responsible for providing the official weigh-in scale used on the day of the jamboree. All players shall be weighed in on the same scale.

All teams that attend the jamboree must bring with them a minimum of two(2) official rosters that will be used for weigh-ins.

## MITE DIVISION RULES

### Eligibility

A player must live in or attend the school district/town/city served by the registered organization for which he participates as defined in the Sphere of Influence section of these bylaws.

Children living in nearby towns that do not have a football program available to them may participate on the nearest SMYFL Mite team to them as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Players shall be in a grade below 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and be at least to eight(8) years of age before November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and cannot be eleven(11) before the first practice (conditioning or equipment) allowed by SMYFL.

Valid proof of birth date must be submitted by each player before that player is allowed to play. A copy of a notarized Birth Certificate or other legally accepted proof of the player's date of birth is acceptable.

A player may not participate on a SMYFL team if that player is also participating in any other contact football program.

### Sphere of Influence

If a player is unable to make the top weight limit for Mite, and their organization's Pee Wee program rules do not allow the player to move up to play on the Pee Wee team (e.g. school affiliated Middle School program that only allows 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade players), that player will be allowed to participate on the Pee Wee team of another nearby SMYFL team of their choosing, if that other SMYFL team agrees.

A player from outside the Sphere of Influence of any team in SMYFL may participate with the nearest organization if there is no other football program available to that youth, and the youth meets all other eligibility requirements for the league. Once reaching Middle School, that player would become ineligible to participate in SMYFL if the player is not within a team's sphere of influence.

### Weight Limits

The following weight limits shall be enforced:

<b>A and B Teams</b>	
0 – 105 No stripe	May handle the ball in the offensive backfield and end positions. They may also return <del>kick-offs, punts and</del> pass interceptions. Offensive Ends may weigh over this limit, but will be limited to blocking duties only.
105.1 – 120 One Stripe	May play in the Defensive line and Defensive backfield including linebacker, cornerback and safeties. They may also play any offensive position except for offensive backfield. Offensive Ends in this weight category may be tight or split, but are limited to blocking duties
120.1 – 140 Two Stripes	May play only in offensive or defensive interior down lineman positions. (Center, Guard, Tackle). May play in the 'A' or 'B' game.

Stripes must be placed on player helmets to indicate the weight group that the player's weight falls within.

## Weigh-ins

**Weigh-ins will only be performed on the official make/model scale as defined by SMYFL.**

Players may weigh-in from the beginning of the league approved practice date, up through the day of the Jamboree. Any player weighing in prior to the Jamboree must have their weight witnessed by one opposing coach. All pre-jamboree weights are measured without equipment or shoes. Once a player weighs in and the weight is witnessed and recorded by an opposing team's coach, this will be the player's official weight for the season. SMYFL encourages weigh-ins to be held on the day of the Jamboree.

Any player unable to make the top-most weight limit by the jamboree may weigh-in at each successive game to attempt to make the top weight bracket. Players already in a weight bracket may not weigh-in again at a later time to make a lower weight class.

Before each Mite game, weigh-ins will be conducted to determine each player's current weight. Each player will initially be assigned to their Jamboree weigh-in weight. One coach or representative from each competing team will conduct weigh-ins of the opposing team's players. The coach/representative doing the weigh-ins may "waive" the weigh-in for any players for the opposing team that they wish. Those "waived" players shall be considered to be at the same weight as their official Jamboree weigh-in.

Players will be weighed in their own full game gear, and are granted an eight(8) pound allowance to account for the weight of their game gear. If the weight of a player exceeds their Jamboree weight, the new weight will be considered that player's official weight for the remainder of the day. Players with a heavier weight than their Jamboree weight shall be considered to be in the weight bracket that their new weight falls within. The player's helmet must then be striped according to their new weight bracket. Players exceeding the maximum weight limit of the league shall be ineligible to play that day.

Players arriving late to a game that miss weigh-ins prior to a game beginning must be either weighed or waived through before they may enter any game that day. Game play will not be delayed or stopped for weighing in players.

Players weighing less than their Jamboree weight will retain their Jamboree weight as their official weight. No player may ever drop to a lower weight bracket from their official Jamboree weight bracket.

Players that weigh above the maximum weight limit for the Mite division may play up on the Pee Wee division if their organization's rules allow these players to play at the higher grade level.

**If a coach refuses to have a player on their team weighed for any reason, that player is ineligible to play in any SMYFL jamboree or game.**

## Preseason Practices

Mite preseason football practices may begin no earlier than the Monday that is two weeks prior to the date of the Mite Jamboree.

Preseason football practice is allowed for purposes of conditioning. No pads other than helmets may be worn during preseason sessions. Preseason practices will have no contact. Footballs may be used at these practices.

## Practices

Football practice means the organized instruction of youths eligible to play football in the SMYFL during the upcoming season by the coaches of, or any person affiliated with, an organization which is a member of the SMYFL. This does not preclude football clinics being offered publicly for football instruction.

Football practice using footballs and football equipment may begin one week after the first allowed day of preseason practice.

Mite teams may have a maximum of five(5) days of practice a week prior to the first SMYFL scheduled game of the season. After the first game, a maximum of three(3) practices a week may be held at the head coach's discretion. No double session practices are allowed. Practices are limited to a two hour maximum length. Scrimmages are counted as a practice in regards to the maximum number of practices allowed during the week.

## Schedule

Game schedules for will be established by the SMYFL Board of Directors

Game time for all regular season games played on Sunday shall be 1p.m. All Saturday evening games shall start at 6:00p.m. For all day games, the 'A' game shall always be played first, immediately followed by the 'B' game unless agreed upon by both team's head coaches at least ninety-six(96) hours prior to the game start time. For all night games, the 'B' game shall always be played first, immediately followed by the 'A' game unless agreed upon by both team's head coaches at least ninety-six(96) hours prior to the game start time.

If a team only has enough players to field one team, the 'A' game must be played first.

## Rosters

An organization's player roster shall consist of the following information about every player:

- Full name
- Age
- Date of birth
- Jersey number
- Weight
- School system the player attends

If the school system attended is the same for all players on the roster, then an indication of that fact may be made on the roster rather than specifying the same school for each player.

Each roster may consist of up to a maximum of fifty-six(56) players. Once a team or organization reaches more than fifty-six(56) players, they must divide the players into two(2) balanced teams.

There will be no cutting of players, except for not meeting eligibility requirements. Disciplinary reasons are allowable grounds for cutting players, and are enforced at the head coach's discretion.

Rosters are due before the start of the annual Jamboree.

Rosters must be signed on the line immediately below the last listed player by both coaches performing

weigh-ins. No blank line(s) may be left on the player roster form above the coaches' signatures.

The SMYFL must be informed of all addition(s) or correction(s) to the submitted roster (which occur any time after submission of the complete roster) within one (1) week of the addition(s) or correction(s). Failure to comply with the submission deadline shall result in a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine levied against the non-compliant organization.

Submission of rosters shall be made either in paper form submitted to the President of the SMYFL, or in a league approved electronic format, such as email, made available to all teams. In either form, it is the responsibility of the representative of each organization to verify that their organization's submitted roster was successfully received by the SMYFL.

Players may be added to a team's roster according to local rules and the rules of eligibility as specified in these bylaws. The head coach of a team is responsible for submitting roster updates to the SMYFL president at the earliest possible time.

For player additions, the next week's opposing coach must be notified before the game, and the player must be weighed to determine the weight category for that player. The weight category must be agreed upon by both teams' coaches prior to participating in the SMYFL game. The official weight shall be recorded on the team's official roster, and the player's parents and the team's head coach must both sign and date the roster below the player's information to attest that all information provided is true.

Any player meeting the eligibility requirements for playing Mite football that participates with a Pee Wee team and is listed on that Pee Wee team's first official game roster will not be allowed to return/participate at the Mite level during that year. Any player otherwise eligible to play Mite football may return to their organization's Mite team prior to the first game.

### Squads

Each team shall consist of an 'A' squad and a 'B' squad. Squads are not required to be grade specific. A Grade 3 player may play on either the 'A' or 'B' squad, and a Grade 4 player may play on either the 'A' or 'B' squad.

'A' squads are to be made up of the more talented/experienced players on the team. 'B' squads are players that need additional time and instruction.

### Game Equipment

A minimum of two (2) footballs of game quality will be available at each game, provided by the home team. Any team desiring to use a ball other than that supplied by the home team must supply their own as described previously. The official agreed upon balls that may be used are the Wilson "K-2" football or the Nike Vapor Strike Pee Wee. Footballs do not need to be branded with the "NFHS" label for any level.

The home team is responsible for having at least one calibrated scale to conduct official player weigh-ins. This scale must be the same model scale established by SMYFL as the official digital scale for player weigh-ins.

### Game Rules

Games will be played under Federation Rules. The home team will provide a current rule book at each

game.

Games shall consist of four(4) eight(8) minute regulation quarters for both the 'A' and 'B' games, with regulation stop clock. If both team's coaches agree before the game, the game can be run as a controlled scrimmage with relaxed rules for play clock time.

During 'A' and 'B' games, a maximum of two(2) coaches from each team are allowed on the field to aid in coaching. If a team elects to have a coach on the field as described above, that coach is considered part of the field, and should remain in the same position he/she was in at the snap of the ball for the remainder of the play. Note: Coaches should try to select a spot that is not likely to interfere with normal play. If one team elects to not have a coach on the field, the other team may still choose to have their coach on the field if they desire.

At the Mite level, all players will play.

There will be no kickoffs. Instead of a kickoff, the ball will be placed on the team's own 40 yard line.

There will be no punting. A team may declare that they are punting, and the ball will be moved forward 25 yards from the line of scrimmage. If that would result in a touch back, the ball would be moved out to the 20 yard line.

Defensive blitzing is **not allowed at the Mites level.**

A maximum five(5) man defensive line is permitted outside the 20-yard line. The only allowed defensive formations are 3-5, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, and an 8-man line. The 5-2, 5-3 or 5-4 (5 man line, 1 nose guard, 2 tackles, 2 ends) and 3-5 (1 nose guard, 2 tackles, all head-up) formation may be used at anytime. Inside the 20-yard line, a maximum of an 8-man line is permitted.

Linebackers, **cornerbacks, and safeties** may line-up anywhere as long as they are **five(5)** yards off the line of scrimmage, **or when inside the 20 yard line three(3) yards off the line of scrimmage.** They will not move toward the line of scrimmage until the snap of the ball. Player will be warned the first time – second offense will result in a five(5) yard penalty.

Defensive tackles must line head-up on the second man out from the offensive center on each side. If an offense runs a formation that would force the defense to line up illegally by these rules (i.e. unbalanced, over-shift, two tight ends), the defense may adjust to run any defense they desire, including lining up in the gaps or having an all eleven(11) players on the line.

**Offensive line is required to have gaps of 6 to 18 inches at all times, except during punts.**

Offense is allowed to have a man in motion. Offense is not limited to one handoff during the course of a down.

~~The defense may rush the punter with only the five (5) down linemen. Defensive ends must be in down position to rush the punter. Down lineman may be two (2) stripes on punt and punt receiving teams, except for offensive ends. In 'B' games only, defensive players *may not* rush the punter. Kicking team may not fake the punt. The ball will not be advanced in place of a punt.~~

### Gentlemen's Rule

Common courtesy dictates that when one team attains a commanding lead of eighteen(18) points or more, the leading team will take measures to even the level of play of the two teams, with substitution of different players freely exhibited. Disciplinary action may be taken by the Board of Directors against any team not following this ideal.

These measures do not mean a team must allow the other team to score, rather players who normally get less playing time, or even 'B' players playing in 'A' games, should be used. The goal of this rule is to avoid humiliating or demoralizing participants into disliking football.

### Overtime

If the score is tied at the end of regulation, there will be no overtime played, 'A' or 'B' games.

### Playoffs

There will be no playoffs for Mite level football.

### Jamboree

The Mite teams will host a yearly jamboree to start their season. The jamboree will be held on the first weekend after Labor Day.

The jamboree host team shall be responsible for all expenses of hosting the jamboree, including paying for all game officials for the event. If town ordinances require police or medical services to be in attendance, the host team is solely responsible for those fees.

The host team will keep all profits, or be responsible for all losses.

The host team shall be responsible for paying the assigner fee for the year in which they host the jamboree. That fee will be set by agreement of the SMYFL board with appointed league Assigner.

Each organization participating at the Mite level will have an opportunity to host the annual jamboree. The jamboree rotation will be as follows:

- Gorham
- Westbrook
- York
- Noble
- Wells
- Kittery
- Marshwood
- Kennebunk
- Massabesic

An organization may elect to pass on hosting the jamboree if they so wish.

If additional SMYFL organizations add Mite programs, that organization will be added to the rotation list, and be slotted to have their spot in the rotation be at the end of the rotation, before the current year's host has their next chance to host. For example, if Wells is the jamboree host in a year that a new team is added, the new team will be slotted between Noble and Wells.

The host organization is responsible for providing the official weigh-in scale used on the day of the jamboree. All players shall be weighed in on the same scale.

All teams that attend the jamboree must bring with them a minimum of two(2) official rosters that will be used for weigh-ins.

## **ARTICLE VIII VISITING TEAM CONDUCT**

Visiting teams and visiting spectators may not sell food at another team's fields without written permission from the President of the organization hosting the game(s) at their field.

Visiting teams and visiting spectators may not solicit fundraisers at another team's field without written permission from the President of the organization hosting the game(s) at their field.

## **ARTICLE IX ETHICS**

No organization may in any way perform utilize, or participate in the electronic or photographic surveillance of a game, scrimmage, or practice in which that organization is not participating. Surveillance includes videotaping, tape recording, monitoring of communication between coaches of any participating team other than your own team, photographing, aerial viewing, and satellite reconnaissance.

Electronic communication amongst coaches of a team during a game is permissible only when both teams have equal opportunity for the use of such facilities. For example, if one team wishes to use walkie-talkies to communicate from a higher vantage point to a coach on the sidelines, this is allowed only if both teams have the equipment available to them at the playing field. If one team elects not to use the available equipment, the other team may still use the equipment.

## **ARTICLE X GAME PROTESTS**

Protests will be presented in writing to the President of the SMYFL within forty-eight (48) hours of the occurrence of the incident in protest. The President will then review the nature and wording of the protest before presenting it to the SMYFL Board of Directors for consideration.

If the team from which the President is a representative is involved with the incident in protest, the Vice President will be presented the written protest in place of the President. If both the President's and Vice President's teams are involved, the Secretary shall be presented the written protest. The person to whom the protest is submitted shall preside over any consequent hearing on the protest.

In the event that a question arises as to a team's failure to abide by the rules of the SMYFL, in which the team in question must supply hard copy material to prove its compliance, the team questioning the other team's action must supply a formal complaint registered with the person fitting the constraints detailed in the previous paragraph. The team in question will have a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours to provide proof of their compliance before the Board of Directors of the SMYFL may act on the complaint in the manner described herein.

Protests will be decided upon by the SMYFL Board of Directors, with the decision being made by member organizations not representing teams directly involved in the protest.

The SMYFL Board of Directors is empowered to seek outside sources of information regarding any and all protests.

In the event that the SMYFL Board of Directors finds a protest valid, the Board of Directors will decide what resulting actions will be taken. All actions prescribed are to be fair and just according to the severity of the infraction. Decisions by the SMYFL Board of Directors are final.

## **ARTICLE XI VIOLATIONS**

Violations of rules regarding rescheduling of games will be handled in the following manner:

- In the event the home team fails to abide by the rules stated in the bylaws, the home team will lose home field advantage for the make-up game and will have to play the game at a time convenient to both teams. The team that is in violation will lose home field advantage to the opposing team to which the violation was committed for a period of two consecutive seasons.
- In the event that a team refuses to show for a scheduled league game, that team will have the following actions taken against them:
  1. Placed on probation for the remainder of the season and for the entire following season
  2. Lose all playoff rights for the current season
  3. If the game was scheduled as an away game for the team in violation, that team will be assessed a fine of three hundred (\$300) dollars to compensate for the home teams' loss of revenue (gate and concession). Fine is to be paid to the home team before the end of the regular season.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **PLAYER/COACH EJECTIONS**

If a player is ejected from a SMYFL scrimmage or SMYFL scheduled game, the player must immediately leave the playing field and remove their upper body pads and helmet. The player may not participate in any warm-ups or games for the remainder of that event's games.

An ejected player is also suspended from participating in the team's next SMYFL scheduled game day, both 'A' and 'B' games. The suspended player may participate in the week's practices at the coaches' discretion. The player may attend the game from which he/she is suspended, but may not be dressed in any pads.

If a coach is ejected from a game, the coach must immediately leave the playing field and spectator area. The coach is not allowed to participate in any further games, warm-ups, instruction or communication with players or coaches for the remainder of that event's games. If the coach is also a coach of any other SMYFL team at any grade level, the ejected coach is also ejected from coaching the next scheduled SMYFL game day for that team.

An ejected coach is also suspended from participating in the team's next SMYFL scheduled game day, both 'A' and 'B' games, as well as the next game for any other SMYFL team that they coach. The suspended coach is not allowed to attend the game, even as a spectator. The ejected coach may participate in the week's practice at the discretion of his/her organization's leadership during the suspension. If the coach is also a coach of any other SMYFL team at any grade level, the ejected coach is also ejected from coaching the next scheduled SMYFL game day for that team.

If an ejected/suspended player participates in a game while subject to the ejection/suspension penalty, the head coach of that player's organization will be immediately ejected from the game, and is subject to the rules of ejection for coaches for future games. The team will also immediately forfeit the game, regardless of the outcome or current state of the game. A letter will be written by the SMYFL president to the board of directors of the player's organization notifying them of the new infraction and the penalties assessed.

If an ejected/suspended coach participates in a game while subject to the ejection/suspension penalty, the head coach of that player's organization will be immediately ejected from the game, and is subject to the rules of ejection for coaches for future games. The team will also immediately forfeit the game, regardless of the outcome or current state of the game. A letter will be written by the SMYFL president to the board of directors of the coach's organization notifying them of the new infraction and the penalties assessed.

In the event that a player or coach is ejected from a game, the head referee officiating over that game or the officials' Head Assigner must notify the President of SMYFL of the ejection within 48 hours of the ejection. The home team head coach must also notify the President of SMYFL of the ejection within 48 hours of the ejection. The President of SMYFL will then notify the head coach of the team whom the ejected player/coach's team will be competing against in the next scheduled SMYFL games. No public announcement will be made regarding any ejection (to protect the privacy of individuals), though any direct inquiry made to the President of SMYFL by a SMYFL Board of Director member regarding ejection of player/coach will be answered in full.

If more than one ejection or suspension of a player or coach is levied against an individual during the course of a season, that player, coach, or organization may be subject to additional penalties levied by the SMYFL voting membership. Additional penalties could include, but are not limited to, forfeiture of playoff berth, monetary penalties, or suspension/removal from SMYFL.

## **APPEALING AN EJECTION**

In the event of an ejection of either a player or coach, that player or coach may appeal the ejection. The request for review must be submitted to the president of SMYFL within 48 hours of the end of the game in which the ejection occurred.

If the president determines that there may be grounds for an appeal, the president shall immediately schedule a Board of Appeals meeting to happen as soon as possible. The Board of Appeals will consist of the current Board of Directors of SMYFL. In addition, the SMYFL president shall appoint one head coach from each division at the same level of play that the ejection occurred to sit on the Board of Appeals. The head coaches appointed to the Board of Appeals may not be the head coach of either team involved in the game where the ejection occurred.

The ruling of the Board of Appeals shall be final.

## **ARTICLE XIII ELIGIBILITY INFRACTIONS**

Any suspected violations of the eligibility rules may be brought before the Board of Directors and dealt with under the Rules of Protest. In the event of a question arising on the eligibility of a player, a copy of a birth certificate or other government issued form of verification of the date of birth for that player must be presented within forty-eight(48) hours to the President\* of the SMYFL, but preferably immediately, to clarify eligibility. If the eligibility question revolves around the Sphere of Influence, reasonable proof of meeting the Sphere of Influence requirements must be provided to the President\* of the SMYFL within forty-eight(48) hours. Failure to produce such proof within the prescribed timeframe will result in the player being barred from participation in any further practices or games until such documentation is provided.

*\* If the player whose eligibility is in question is on the roster of the team that the President of the SMYFL is affiliated with, then the proof of eligibility shall be directed to the Vice President of the SMYFL*

In the event that an infraction of player eligibility is determined to have occurred, all games that occurred to date that the player was on the roster for are forfeited by the team, and the organization may be reduced to Probationary Membership status for the infraction. Further disciplinary actions may be taken at the determination of the SMYFL voting membership.

## **ARTICLE XIV SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**

Each organization's "sphere of influence" defines which potential athletes an organization is able to draw from in creating an official team roster. Any athlete that falls within a team's sphere of influence, and meets all other eligibility requirements may be listed on a team's official roster and participate as a member of that organization within SMYFL activities. The sphere of influence for each organization is strictly defined, and no exceptions to the rules are allowed at the Middle School level. See Addendum A of these bylaws for a detailed description of each organization's sphere of influence.

To change the area serviced by a member organization, a majority vote must be authorized by the Board of Directors.

## ADDENDUM A ORGANIZATIONAL SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

- Biddeford** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Biddeford or Arundel\*, or attends Biddeford public school system, or private schools within the town of Biddeford.
- Bonny Eagle** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Buxton, ME, Hollis, ME, Limington, ME, or Standish, ME or attends Bonny Eagle Middle School (MSAD #6).
- Greely** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Cumberland, ME or North Yarmouth, ME; or attends Greely Middle School (MSAD 51).
- Gorham** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined town of Gorham, ME or attends the Gorham Middle School
- Kennebunk** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Kennebunk ME, Kennebunk Port, ME, or Arundel, ME\*, or attends Kennebunk Middle School (MSAD. 71).
- Kittery** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined town of Kittery ME or attends the Shapleigh Middle School
- Marshwood** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of South Berwick ME, Eliot ME, Rollinsford NH\*\*\*; or attends Marshwood Middle School (MSAD 35)
- Massabesic** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Alfred, ME, Limerick, ME, Lyman, ME, Newfield, ME, Shapleigh, ME, or Waterboro, ME\*\*; or attends Massabesic Middle High School (R.S.U. 57)
- Noble** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Berwick ME, North Berwick ME, or Lebanon ME\*\*; or attends Noble Middle School (MSAD 60)
- Portland** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined city of Portland, or attends Portland public school system, or private schools within the city of Portland.
- Saco** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns of Saco, ME, Dayton, ME, or Arundel, ME\*, or student that attend Saco Middle School or Thornton Academy Middle School.
- Sanford** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined city of Sanford\*; or attends Sanford public school system, or private schools within the city of Sanford.
- Scarborough** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is in the defined town/city of Scarborough, ME, or attends Scarborough Middle School
- Somersworth** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined town/city of Somersworth, NH or Rollinsford, NH, or attends Somersworth public/private schools within the city of Somersworth.
- South Portland** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined city of South Portland, or attends South Portland public school system, or private schools within the city of South Portland.
- Wells** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined towns or Wells, ME or Ogunquit, ME\*\*\*; or attends Wells Middle School (C.S.D. 18).
- Westbrook** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined city of Westbrook, or attends Westbrook public school system, or private schools within the city of Westbrook.
- Windham** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined town of Windham or Raymond, ME, or attends Windham Middle School
- York** - Any student whose permanent physical residence is within the defined town of York, ME or Cape Neddick, ME\*\*\*; or attends York Middle School

\*Arundel students have the option of participating with Biddeford, Saco or Kennebunk, at the discretion of the family

\*\*Acton students will play for Sanford if Sanford allows them, otherwise Acton players may participate for either Noble or Massabesic

\*\*\*Kittery students have the option of participating with York, Marshwood or Wells if they do not have a team in SMYFL