

**2017**  
**BRAZOS VALLEY FOOTBALL**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**BY-LAWS and RULES**

(Effective June 4, 2017)

**7on7 COACHES MEETING**  
**March 05, 2017**

**COACHES MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017**

**PLAYER CERTIFICATION & WEIGH-IN DATE**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 05, 2017**

**MAKE UP PLAYER CERTIFICATION & WEIGH-IN DATE**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017**

**FIRST GAME DATE**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 02, 2017**

**WEEK 1 PLAYOFF GAMES**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2017**

**BVFA SUPER BOWLS**  
**AT&T STADIUM**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2017**

(Revised 06/05/17)



**Brazos Valley Football Association  
PO Box 2305  
Burleson, TX 76097**

<http://www.brazosvalleyfootball.org>

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**Brazos Valley Football Association  
2017 Brazos Valley Football Association  
Board of Directors, Officers, TASO Official & Advisory Board**

<b><u>ALVARADO</u></b>	<b><u>HILLSBORO</u></b>	<b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b>
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# Brazos Valley Football Association 2017 By-Laws & Rules

## ARTICLE I -- NAME

Section 1  
Section 2

The name of the corporation is the Brazos Valley Football Association, Inc. The Brazos Valley Football Association, Inc. may be referred to herein, and in general usage as BVFA.

## ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE

Section 1

The purpose and goals of BVFA are:  
(A) To teach the fundamentals of football.  
(B) To develop good character within each player.  
(C) To encourage the development of a physically fit body.  
(D) To create a healthy competitive spirit among the players.  
(E) To ensure the safety of each player.

Section 2

The motto of BVFA is: **“The Child first, and the Sport second!”**

## ARTICLE III -- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1  
Section 2

The period of duration of BVFA is perpetual. BVFA is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for such purposes that qualify BVFA as an exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 3

No part of the net earnings of BVFA shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that BVFA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Brazos Valley By-Laws and Rules. No substantial part of the activities of BVFA shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and BVFA shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Moreover, notwithstanding any other provision of these By-Laws, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

Section 4  
Section 5

**Fiscal Year:** The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.  
**Indemnification:** The corporation does hereby save and hold harmless and indemnify the officers and directors of the Association to the fullest extent allowed by law while acting reasonable within the scope of their capacity as an officer. This indemnification shall be considered to act secondarily and in excess to any coverage afforded to any officer under any validity collectible insurance policy from any source.

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**Section 6** **Dissolution:** Upon the dissolution of BVFA, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**ARTICLE IV -- MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1** BVFA membership is open to non-profit organization that can field one or more football teams in each division (Bantam, Minor, Major).

**Section 2** Membership Fees - Each member association of BVFA will pay an annual nonrefundable fee of \$50.00 per team.

**Section 3** Application for membership in BVFA must be in writing and presented at a regularly scheduled meeting for discussion. All applications must be submitted by the May meeting. The vote to accept or decline an application will take place at that meeting, pending a 30-day investigation period of applicant by elected officials.

**Section 4** Any organization requesting membership to BVFA within a town that an existing BVFA Member Organization already exists, must have a minimum of 2 years of organized football activities prior to submitting membership application to Brazos Valley Football Association.

**Section 5** Every effort should be made by the participating towns to have a Major, Minor and Bantam team for each league.

**Section 6** BVFA expenses shall be equally shared by Member Organization.

**Section 7** For an Association that is inactive to become active its Town Representative must attend a scheduled BVFA meeting.

**Section 8** It is the goal of the Brazos Valley Football Association (BVFA) to ensure the safety of the children that participate in BVFA football activities. The coaches, directors, officers of each BVFA member organization and the BVFA Officers will be of a character and exhibit behavior that ensures child safety.

(A) Therefore, the BVFA Officers shall select an independent company to conduct background checks of all BVFA coaches, directors, officers and cheerleader coaches. The BVFA Officers will report results of each association only to Town Representative.

(B) Each member organization shall monitor their behavior to ensure that this goal is attained. Each member organization shall discipline or remove any person whose behavior or background is inconsistent with this goal.

(C) If a BVFA Town Representative or Officer is made aware of a situation in which the safety of a child is at risk or may be at risk, the member organization and BVFA must be notified so that the appropriate action may be taken to protect the child.

(D) If the member organization fails to act in the appropriate manner and allows a coach who failed to pass or submit a Background Check form, the Head Coach of the team shall be banned for the remainder of the season and the following year.

BVFA Executive Committee shall also be authorized to take the disciplinary action that they deem appropriate against the individual or member organization, up to and including removal, banning, forfeiture of games and disassociation.

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(E) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for an alcohol related offense within the past twelve months may not transport any BVFA participants other than their own children.

(F) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for a first DWI or misdemeanor within the past thirty-six months may not transport any BVFA participants other than their own children.

(G) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for a second DWI, a misdemeanor for illicit or illegal drugs, or a felony within the past sixty months may not participate in any BVFA activities other than being a spectator.

(H) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for any sexual offense, injury to a child or child related offense from the time that he or she was seventeen years of age until the present time may not participate in any BVFA activities other than being a spectator.

(I) Member organization shall pay the following for background checks: \$15 per application received before/on the day of the annual BVFA coaches meeting and \$25 per application received after the annual BVFA coaches meeting.

(J) Failure to disclose information on a Background Check Form is grounds for denial.

(K) If a person's background check application is denied, he/she may appeal by appearing, in person, at the next scheduled BVFA meeting, and plead their case. The town representatives may overturn the denial, with a 2/3-majority vote. In order to call for a 2/3 vote, 2/3s plus one of the total number of Board members must be present.

(L) If any person is found based on past or current behavior to be a threat to the safety of the children, spectators or coaches or their main purpose is found to involve the disruption of games and safety of the participants may be removed from any BVFA and member association activity by a majority vote of the BVFA Board of Directors. This shall be enforced by each association and will be upheld for the remainder of that season or a specified time voted on by the Directors.

**ARTICLE V-- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Section 1** BVFA shall be managed by the Board of Directors. Each active member organization shall appoint one (1) individual to the BVFA Board of Directors. The appointed member of the BVFA Board of Directors is called a Town Representative. The term of each Town Representative shall be determined by each member organization for their respective seat on the BVFA Board of Directors, and until a successor is elected, or appointed, and qualified. An individual may not be both a Town Representative and BVFA Officer at the same time.
- Section 2** Each member organization shall have only one vote (regardless of the number of teams) on all matters. There will be no proxy vote. An alternative Town Representative shall be allowed to vote with a signed letter providing authority from the recognized Town Representative.
- Section 3** The immediate Past President may also serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.
- Section 4** The Board of Directors shall elect the Officers.
- Section 5** The Board of Directors shall have authority over all matters of BVFA and shall write and/or amend the By-Laws or Rules & Regulations. If the Board of Directors is undecided or tied on any decision, the President shall determine the outcome of the issue.



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**Section 6** Any suggested by law or rule change must be made for the Board’s consideration before the season starts. No rule changes shall be made after June 1st of that season.

**Section 7** **Advisory Board:** The Corporation may have up to ten advisory board members. Advisory board members serve only in an advisory capacity without vote or other formal authority over the affairs of the Corporation. Advisory board members shall be notified of all meetings of the Corporation, but are not required to attend. Advisory board members shall be elected for one-year terms or for terms for the remainder of the current year. The Advisory Board shall provide guidance and serve only in an advisory capacity. They are not required to attend or be fined for missing meetings. All advisory board member terms end on December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

**ARTICLE VI -- OFFICERS**

**Section 1** The Officers of BVFA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and the Chairman of the Rules. The Officers shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2** Elections of Officers for each season will be held by the Board of Directors during the last meeting of the year preceding the year in which the Officers shall serve.

**Section 3** If the office of President becomes vacant the Vice President shall assume the duties for the remainder of the elected term. If the offices of the Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, or Rules Chairman become vacant the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement to serve for the remainder of the elected term.

**Section 4** **Duties of the Officers:**

(A) The **President** shall be the principle executive officer of BVFA and subject to the control of the Board of Directors. He shall determine the location and time of all BVFA meetings and instruct the Secretary-Treasurer to notify the Board of Directors and Officers.

(B) The **Vice President** shall perform such duties from time to time that may be assigned to him/her by the President. In the President's absence, or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and shall be subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

(C) The **Secretary-Treasurer** shall have custody of the BVFA By-Laws & Rules, BVFA Checkbook, and all other corporate and financial records of BVFA. He/she shall receive and disburse all funds with the approval of the BVFA Board of Directors. He/she shall keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed and shall submit a financial report at all BVFA Board of Directors meetings. He/she shall be responsible for corresponding with government agencies and filing any required reports. He/she shall transmit all corporate and financial records to any person elected to succeed him/her.

(D) The **Chairman of Rules** shall be responsible for reviewing the BVFA By-Laws & Rules with the Board of Directors during the first quarter of each year. He is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in interpreting the BVFA By-Laws & Rules. After June 1st through the end of the football season the Chairman of Rules and the Officers are responsible for making all rules interpretations.

**Section 5** **Executive Committee:**

(A) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and Rules Chairman.

(B) The Executive Committee shall establish the policies and procedures to ensure that the By-Laws and Rules passed by the Board are implemented and followed.

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(C) Executive Committee shall determine and enforce the penalties established by the Board for violations of any Article, Section, Rule or Procedure.

(D) A 2/3 vote of the Board is required to annul or reverse a decision of the Executive Committee. In order to call for a 2/3 vote, two-thirds plus one of the total number of Board members must be present.

**ARTICLE VII -- MEETINGS**

**Section 1** There shall be a meeting in the 1st Quarter of each year. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the coming year’s activities, problems with the previous year activities, review applications for membership in BVFA, and any proposed changes to the By-Laws and Rules.

**Section 2** A quorums of the Board of Directors must be present before any business can be conducted. The requirement for a quorum shall be met if the majority of the Board of Directors is present at a meeting.

**Section 3** The location and time of all BVFA meetings shall be determined by the President.

**Section 4** BVFA meetings shall be presided over by the President. If the President is unable to attend the meeting it will be presided over by the Vice President or in his absence the Secretary-Treasurer or Rules Chairman.

**Section 5** Notice of meetings shall be given by written notice, e-mail, telephone, or in person by the Secretary-Treasurer or any other BVFA Officer at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.

**Section 6** If a Town Rep or his/her representative or a BVFA Officer is not present at a BVFA monthly meeting that Town Representative’s Association or the BVFA Officer will be fined \$25.00 for each meeting missed. Each BVFA Officer will be allowed to miss one meeting without being fined. The fine will be paid to the BVFA Secretary/Treasurer. A monthly drawing will be held to determine which association receives the previous month’s fines. Only Member Associations and BVFA Officers represented at the previous meeting will be eligible for the drawing. The BVFA Secretary/Treasurer will distribute money collected to winners of the drawings at first regular BVFA meeting in August.

**ARTICLE VIII -- CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS**

**Section 1** **Contracts:** The BVFA Board of Directors may authorize the President or Vice President to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on the behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instruments.

**Section 2** **Check and Drafts:** All checks or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation shall be signed by at least two Officers.

**Section 3** **Deposits:** All funds of the league shall be deposited from time to time in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as Officers of BVFA may choose.

**ARTICLE IX -- BVFA REVENUE**

**Section 1** Each Member Organization shall be allowed to sell Regular Season Game Passes and Single Game Tickets with the income going to the Member Organization that sold the tickets. The fees shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors and the charge shall be the same for all towns. Regular Season Game Passes shall not cover admission to the Playoff/Championship Game Series.

**Section 2** **Regular Season Game Passes shall be sold for:**  
(A) ADULTS ----- \$20.00  
(B) STUDENTS (Grade 1 thru 12) ----- \$5.00  
(C) UNDER 1st GRADE ----- No Charge

**Section 3** **Single tickets shall be sold for:**  
(A) ADULTS ----- \$3.00  
(B) STUDENTS (Grade 1 thru 12) ----- \$1.00  
(C) UNDER 1st GRADE ----- No Charge

**Section 4** The income gained from sales other than the gate admission (i.e., concessions) shall go to the hosting Member Organization.

**Section 5** **Consolation/Playoff/Championship All Day Game Tickets.** The Member Organization hosting the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series shall be responsible for selling **All Day Game Tickets**. All the income from the ticket sales less the payment for the game officials shall go to BVFA.

**Consolation/Playoff/Championship tickets shall be sold for:**  
(A) ADULTS ----- \$5.00  
(B) STUDENTS (Grade 1 thru 12) ----- \$3.00  
(C) UNDER 1st GRADE ----- No Charge  
(D) SENIOR CITIZENS (60 years old) ----- \$2.00

**Section 6** All Member Associations hosting BVFA playoff games are required to submit the BVFA Playoff Ticket Sales Report no later than the Wednesday, immediately following the games, to the BVFA secretary/treasurer. The BVFA Playoff Ticket Revenue received by the hosting member association must be received by the BVFA secretary/treasurer by the Saturday following the games.

**ARTICLE X -- LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

**Section 1** Active Member Organizations of BVFA:  
(A) Alvarado Youth Association  
(B) Burleson Boys and Girls Club  
(C) Cleburne Football League  
(D) Crowley Football Association  
(E) Granbury Peewee Football Association  
(F) Hillsboro Youth Association  
(G) Joshua Pee Wee Football Association  
(H) Midlothian Youth Football League  
(I) Waxahachie Youth Athletic Association  
(J) Whitney Wildcat Football League

**Section 2** If a Member Organization is unable to field at least one team in a season it will be classified as an “Inactive Member Organization”. If an Inactive Member Organization remains inactive for two years or fields a team with another organization, it will be dropped from membership. (A) NONE

## ARTICLE XI -- DIVISIONS

- Section 1** BVFA shall consist of **Major, Minor, and Bantam Divisions.**
- Section 2** The **Major Division** teams shall meet the following requirements:  
(A) Each player **must not turn 12 years old before May 1st** in the year of the upcoming season. **No seventh (7th) grade players.**  
(B) Any player that **weighs more than 120 pounds** (in shorts) at the time of the weigh-in shall be classified as a **Restricted Player.**
- Section 3** The **Minor Division** teams shall meet the following requirements:  
(A) Each player **must not turn 10 years old before May 1st** in the year of the upcoming season.  
(B) Any player that **weighs more than 100 pounds** (in shorts) at the time of the weigh-in shall be classified as a **Restricted Player.**
- Section 4** The **Bantam Division** teams shall meet the following requirements:  
(A) Each player **must be in at least the 1st grade and not turn 8 years old before May 1st** in the year of the upcoming season. **No kindergarten players.**  
(B) Any player that **weighs more than 80 pounds** (in shorts) at the time of the weigh-ins shall be classified as a **Restricted Player.**
- Section 5** All players have the option of removing clothing with the exception of shorts prior to weigh-in. Once a player steps on the scale to weigh, the weight displayed by the scale will be considered official weight. Player will not have the option to remove further clothing. Player does have the option to verify weight on the other scale, if available, in identical clothing. Lowest registered weight displayed between the two scales will be considered the official weight for the season.

## ARTICLE XII -- SCHEDULES & GAME SITES

- Section 1** All schedules shall be determined by the BVFA Officers.
- Section 2** There shall be at least an 8-game schedule plus a Consolation/Playoff/ Championship Game Series.
- Section 3** Any town having a problem getting a field after the schedule is set must go to the other town to play, if possible, or accept the decision of the BVFA Officers. **BVFA Officers must receive notification by 8 PM Thursday prior to game time.** The four BVFA officers will decide the outcome; reschedule, declare forfeit, etc.
- Section 4** The BVFA football season is from August 1 through December 31.

## ARTICLE XIII -- CONSOLATION/PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

- Section 1** The location of the Playoff/Championship Game Series shall be determined each year according to listed rotation of towns. The opportunity to host the Consolation/Playoff/ Championship Game Series shall be rotated between all of the Member Organizations of BVFA. A Member Organization shall be given first choice based upon the rotation table listed below. The Member Organization that has first choice shall host the higher standing games. If that Member Organization declines to host the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series that year, the next Member Organization listed in the table shall be given the opportunity to host the games. The number of Towns hosting games shall be determined each year based upon the required games to be played. Teams from a Member Organization that is hosting the games shall play at that location. If teams from Towns that are both hosting games are playing each other in the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series, the team with the highest

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ranking in the Standings shall host the game. If both teams have the same ranking in the Standings a coin toss shall determine which shall be the home team. If a town is hosting Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game games its teams will be on the Home Team side. A coin toss shall determine which shall be the home team if teams from Towns that are both hosting games are to play in the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series. If a new organization joins the BVFA, they shall be added to the end of the rotation table listing.

**Section 2      CONSOLATION/PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING ROTATION**

2017	Cleburne	2021	Joshua	2025	Crowley
2018	Hillsboro	2022	Whitney	2026	Waxahachie
2019	Burleson	2023	Alvarado		
2020	Midlothian	2024	Granbury		

**ARTICLE XIV -- PARENTAL PERMISSION AND INSURANCE**

**Section 1**      All players must supply written permission from their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in the BVFA.

**Section 2**      Member organizations are required to participate in BVFA’s General Liability Insurance and Excess Accident Medical Insurance Plan. Players and cheerleaders for each organization will be covered under this insurance plan with each member organization paying a per team fee to Brazos Valley Football Association for the insurance coverage.

(A) BVFA Insurance will cover players and cheerleaders only during a member organization’s official organized practices and games. All member organizations will have coverage in place no later than the annual BVFA official start date of August 1<sup>st</sup> for each season.

(B) BVFA’s member organization insurance policies are set up to coordinate with the family insurance policies of players. Family insurance policies shall be the primary carrier and any BVFA/Member organization insurance coverage shall be secondary for any occurrence. This policy is considered usual and typical coverage for these activities.

(C) All bills that are not covered or paid by the family personal insurance policy or BVFA/Member organization will be the responsibility of the family.

(D) BVFA/Member organization insurance claim forms are provided to each member organization. A member organization’s Town Representative is responsible for providing families with a claim form when requested and then verifying that all information listed on the claim form is accurate and complete prior to submitting to the insurance provider. A duplicate copy of each claim submitted must be sent to the BVFA Secretary-Treasurer for BVFA record keeping purposes.

**ARTICLE XV – PLAYER RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS & SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Section 1**      Only players living in or attending schools in a Member Association’s school district, including private schools, can play for that Member Association's teams. Sign-up forms shall specify the name of the school that the player attends, the name of the school district in which the player resides, and be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

(A) **Live-In (LI)** means that the player lives in and attends a school in the school district of the Member Association.

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(B) **Attends (ATT)** means that the player does not live in the school district of the Member Association, but attends a school that is located in the district of Members Association.

(C) **Children not meeting the Live-In or Attends requirements** and **residing in areas that do not have tackle football programs**, are eligible to play for a Member Association, subject to **Special Considerations approval**.

(D) The residence declaration made at the player's first Player Certification & Weigh-in shall be applicable for the remainder of a player's career with that Member Association. The player must continue to play for that Member Association unless he or she moves to a school district of another Member Association. If the player moves, he or she may continue to play for the same Member Association for the remainder of his BVFA career, or move to the Member Association of his or her new school district. If the player elects to play for the Member Association of the new school district, the player cannot go back to the original Member Association unless the player's residential requirements change.

(E) Flag Football Players will not be recognized as a returning player for any Member Association under BVFA.

### **Section 2**

#### **Special Consideration**

(A) Every Special Consideration request must be submitted on a **Special Consideration Form** and be approved by the Board of Directors. Special Consideration must be presented and approved before the player is Certified & Weighed In.

(B) There is one type of Special Consideration:

(1) Residence Special Consideration.

(C) A **Residence Special Consideration** allows a child who does not meet the "**Live-In**" or "**Attend**" requirements to play for a Member Association.

(1) Reason for request must be stated and supporting documentation presented at the time of the request: copy of player's sign up form, proof of address and school district which the player attends (i.e., copies of utility bills, property tax statement, letter from school).

(2) The **approval date** of the **Residential Special Consideration Request** **must be stated on the Team Roster**.

(3) Once a **Residence Special Consideration Request** has been approved it will be valid for as long as the player remains active in BVFA and resides in the same school district. The player must continue to play for the Member Association that presented the **Residence Special Consideration Request** unless the player moves to a different school district.

(D) A copy of the **Approved Special Consideration Form**, signed by a BVFA Officer, **must be kept in the Coaches Book**; the original form must be kept by the Secretary of the Member Association.

(E) If a team is found to have one or more players that did not meet the residential requirements and for whom a Special Consideration was not approved, the offending team will not be allowed to participate in the BVFA Playoffs. The next team listed below the offending team in the Standings shall take the offending team's spot in the BVFA Playoffs.

### **Section 3**

**A player may not be added to the BVFA Team Roster after the Player Certification & Weigh-In**, if he/she met the "Live-In" or "Attends" requirements at the time the Player Certification & Weigh-In was conducted.

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**Section 4** **No player shall be refused to sign-up until 24 hours prior to the Player Certification & Weigh-In**, except for physical reasons or if a member association declares an earlier sign up cutoff date. An earlier sign up cutoff date may be no earlier than July 15th and must be declared at the regular June meeting. No sign ups may be made after the declared date unless approved as a Special Consideration.

### **ARTICLE XVI -- PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

**Section 1** All players are required to wear helmets with an appropriate face mask and four-point chin guard, shoulder pads, and football pants equipped with a complete set of pads. All players must wear a full mouthpiece that is attached to the helmet or face mask, unless the mouthpiece is doctor prescribed. A letter from the doctor must be with player's photo in Team Book. No replaceable or metal cleats shall be allowed.

**Section 2** Coaches are requested to inspect all equipment periodically throughout the season to make sure it is safe for competition.

**Section 3** The game jerseys must have numbers on both the front and the back.

**Section 4** Only last name and/or first initial shall be allowed on jerseys, as it appears on official roster. Advertising may be placed on the front or sleeves of jerseys.

### **ARTICLE XVII -- UNIFORM COLORS**

**Section 1** The uniform colors listed in this section are the approved colors for the following Member Organizations:

(A) **ALVARADO** - All Teams: White Jersey with Purple Numbers outlined in Gold with White Pants.

(B) **BURLESON** - All Teams: Graphite Gray Jersey with Black Numbers outlined in Neon Green with Black Pants.

(C) **CLEBURNE** - All Teams: Gold Jerseys with Gold Numbers outlined in Black with Black Pants. Secondary Uniform: Pink Jersey with Pink Numbers outlined in Black with Black Pants.

(D) **CROWLEY** - All Teams: Black Jerseys with Black Numbers outlined in Purple with Black Pants.

(E) **GRANBURY** – All Teams: Black Jerseys with Purple Numbers outlined in Gold with Black Pants. Secondary Uniform: White Jersey with Purple Numbers and Black Pants.

(F) **HILLSBORO** – All Teams: Maroon Jerseys with White Numbers outlined in Black with Black Pants.

(G) **JOSHUA** - All Teams: Black Jerseys with Blue Numbers outlined in White with Black Pants.

(H) **MIDLOTHIAN** - All Teams: Blue Jerseys with White Numbers outlined in Black with Black Pants.

(I) **WAXAHACHIE** – All Teams: Black Jerseys with Green Numbers outlined in White with Black Pants.

(J) **WHITNEY** – All Teams: Graphite Gray Jerseys with Blue Numbers outlined in White with Gray Pants.

**Section 2** If two (2) teams play that have like uniforms; **it is mandatory that the visiting team's uniform (Body of Jersey) differentiate for the games scheduled against each other.** If the visiting team's uniform does not differentiate at game time, the visiting team will forfeit the game and the home team shall receive a recorded win of 17-0.

**ARTICLE XVIII -- TEAM SIZE**

**Section 1** In any weight division, if **31 players** sign up there must be **two teams**; **three teams** if **55 players** are signed up; **four teams** if **81 players** sign up; and **five teams** if **101 players** sign up.

**Section 2** **No** team shall have **more than 65%** of the team roster consist of players with their Date of Birth being On or Before the following dates for each division. The **only exception** to this rule shall be if there is less than 35% of the players whose Date of Birth is after the Age Threshold that is listed. The following are the Age Thresholds that will determine the Team Percentage.

**Bantam Division** – On or Before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 (65% Maximum)

**Minor Division** – On or Before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (65% Maximum)

**Major Division** – On or Before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 (65% Maximum)

**Section 3** No player shall be cut from a team.

**Section 4** If a team has 30 players and after the date of the weigh-in, a player (who meets qualifications) joins, the team shall **not** have to split. This will apply to all team numbers listed in Section 1 above.

**ARTICLE XIX -- COACHES**

**Section 1** A Head Coach must be declared at the time of the weigh-in for each team.

(A) A coach that is declared Head Coach of a team may not coach another team in the same division they were declared a Head Coach.

**Section 2** Only the Head Coach shall be allowed to discuss any game matters with an official.

(A) All Head Coaches are responsible for their parents, spectators, and anyone on their side of the field.

(B) All Head Coaches that are unable to maintain control of their sidelines are subject to being penalized by the game officials.

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Verbal Warning

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – 15-Yard Penalty

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – Ejection from Game (Head Coach and Spectator(s))

**Section 3** Each Head Coach shall be allowed up to 4 Assistant Coaches. Head coach and all assistant coaches contact information must be listed on the official BVFA roster when submitted for player certification and weigh-in.

**Section 4** The penalty for a Head Coach found guilty of the violation of any Article, Section or Rule shall be determined by the BVFA Officers up to a maximum penalty of being barred from Coaching. The Head Coach of the team in question shall be notified as soon as possible by the President.

**Section 5** Anyone having direct communication with players and/or coaches from sidelines; (i.e., via headphones, electronic devices, etc.) will be considered a coach. Anyone with headphones, electronic devices, etc. must remain on sidelines between the 25-yard lines (not on the field or in the stands), excluding half-time.

**Section 6** Any Coach pulling a team from the playing field during a game will be subject to NCAA and/or Brazos Valley Football Association rules and disciplined, as BVFA deems appropriate.

**Section 7** (A) Any coach ejected from a game for any reason is suspended from the next game and is also suspended from all association activities for the week prior to that game. This includes practices and the next game. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.**



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Any violation of this suspension will warrant further disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors, Town Representatives and Officers. After a coach's second ejection, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

(B) Any coach ejected from the final game of the season for their team for any reason is suspended from the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the following year and is also suspended from the association activities for the week prior to that game. This includes all practice and the next game.

**Section 8** If any **coach is ejected from a game**, both Town Representatives of the teams playing shall notify a BVFA Officer.

**Section 9** There shall be no use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, in any form, by the Coaches during any event (meetings, practices, or games) associated with the Brazos Valley Football Association activities.

**Section 10** **Six Play Rule**. BVFA requires that a Head Coach play each player on a team a minimum of 6 downs per game. Each Member Association will be responsible for requiring each of their Head Coaches to maintain accurate BVFA Six Play Sheets for each game played. The Head Coach and two assistant coaches will be required to sign each Six Play Sheet for each game to serve as witnesses that the information on the sheets is true and accurate. If a Head Coach fails to comply with the minimum play requirements for his team and players, they will be subject to the following penalties by BVFA:

(A) **1st Offense** – Written Warning for failure to comply with BVFA Rules and Regulations. The warning will be signed by BVFA President, Association Town Representative or other Association Board Member and the Coach to verify the warning had been issued.

(B) **2nd Offense** - One Week Suspension from all Association football related activities, including practices and games.

(C) **3rd Offense** – Suspension from all Association activities relating to BVFA for the remainder of the season and will be subject to further action or suspension if deemed necessary by BVFA.

## **ARTICLE XX -- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

A Sportsmanship Plaque shall be given in each League at the end of the season. If there are Divisions for a League, then a Sportsmanship Plaque shall be awarded in each. The purpose of this award shall be to recognize the teams that exhibit the ideals and character of good sportsmanship throughout the season. This award shall be voted on by the Association Board of Directors and also by the Head Representative from the TASO Officials that worked the games that season.

## **ARTICLE XXI -- PRACTICES**

**Section 1** No practice shall be held, other than organized football activities (i.e., football camps, spring football, 7-on-7), **before the first day of August** each year.

**Section 2** No more than one practice per day shall be allowed.

**Section 3** No more than 4 practices (including scrimmages) in a 7-day period shall be allowed. During season this means 4 organized meetings, including game.

**ARTICLE XXII -- PLAYER CERTIFICATION & WEIGH-IN AND TEAM ROSTER**

- Section 1** There shall be only two Player Certification & Weigh-Ins per season. The date of the Player Certification & Weigh-In shall be determined each year by the BVFA Officers.
- Section 2** Each player must provide a valid certificate of birth (or other proof of birth date) and a current photo to the BVFA Representative conducting the weigh-in.
- Section 3** The Home Town Representative shall complete the BVFA Roster Form prior to the date of the Player Certification & Weigh-Ins (**not during the weigh-in**). **PLAYERS ON THE BVFA ROSTER SHALL BE LISTED IN ORDER BY THEIR GAME JERSEY NUMBER.** The BVFA Representative shall verify the furnished BVFA Roster Form for the following information:
- (A) Town
  - (B) Division
  - (C) Team Name
  - (D) All Coaches' Names & Phone Numbers
  - (E) Game Jersey Number
  - (F) Player Name
  - (G) Age
  - (H) Date of Birth
  - (I) Qualification Option - New players will be identified as one of the following: "LI" for live in; "ATT" for attends; "SC" for Special Consideration. Returning players who played for the same association the previous year will be identified by the designation "RP".
- Section 4** The BVFA Representative shall **confirm** that the provided photo is the player to be weighed-in and also cross check the valid certificate of birth information. A BVFA Representative shall actually **conduct** the weighing of each player. There shall be a Brazos Valley Football Association Weigh-in and Roster Form furnished to each team in every member association.
- Section 5** All players shall be certified and weighed-in on the two specified dates. Any player remaining uncertified after the second date will be dropped from the roster.
- Section 6** A copy of the official BVFA Roster Form, the proof of age documentation (i.e., birth certificates), and a photo of each player must be carried to each game by the Head Coach. This information must be made available for review upon request **only** by the opposing Head Coach or Referee at the game location. The request must be made prior to the start or after the end of the game. The review shall be requested in a timely manner as to not interfere with a scheduled kick-off time.
- Section 7** Player jersey number and official weight shall be posted on the BVFA website. Posting players last names will be left to the discretion of the local association.
- Section 8** **No player may be added to a roster after the first game.**
- Section 9** The Secretary of each member association will keep copies of the official BVFA Roster Form for each team for 2 years.

**ARTICLE XXIII -- GAME RULES & REGULATIONS**

- RULE 1** **GAME RULES.** BVFA games shall be played under NCAA rules except where BVFA rules differ.

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**RULE 2**

**TASO OFFICIALS.** BVFA shall coordinate provision of three TASO Officials for each game and officials shall be paid by the Member Organizations hosting the games. If only one official is present, the game shall be played. Should no officials show within 30 minutes of a scheduled start time, both teams may leave and the game shall be rescheduled by the Town Representatives, if possible. If the Representatives cannot agree on a rescheduled time, the BVFA Officers shall determine the time and location of the game. Should a team not show up within 30 minutes of a scheduled start time, the “No Show” team shall forfeit the game.

(A) Official’s fees shall be determined each year by the TASO members. Three officials should be provided for each game. 2016 Official’s fee shall be:

- (1) **Three Officials \$50.00 per official per game** called.
- (2) **Two Officials \$60.00 per official per game** called.
- (3) **One Official \$90.00 per game** called.

(B) TASO Officials, for a given season, cannot hold a position on BVFA Board of Directors, or be on the coaching staff or hold a position connected with any participating Town’s Association.

**(C) SCOREBOARD CLOCKS**

1. BVFA will provide a TASO Official to run the clock for all Play-Off Games held at a field that has a scoreboard with a working clock.
2. All BVFA member associations will be required to provide a visual game clock when hosting a BVFA regular season football games. Hosting member associations will be responsible for providing a previously trained volunteer, minimum 18 years of age, as the designated game clock operator. Hosting member associations will also provide 2-Way radio set so that on the field officials may communicate with the game clock operator before, after or during a game.

(D) BVFA will provide officials with an overview of the BVFA Rules that they should know order to officiate BVFA games. The BVFA TASO Official will distribute a copy to any official that he assigns to work BVFA games. Member Associations may also provide copies for officials who work their games.

**RULE 3**

**GAME TIME: Bantam, Minor and Major** games shall consist of **4 quarters lasting 8 minutes each with regulation clock.**

(A) If a team should become 20 points behind in the second half of a game, the head coach of the trailing team may request the Referee to run the clock without stoppage where the clock would normally stop.

(B) Time warnings shall be given to the Head Coaches of both teams via three, two, and one minute warnings in the second and fourth quarter of games.

**RULE 4**

**MINOR RULES:** The following shall apply for the **Minor Division Only:**

(A) One Coach per team shall be allowed on the field for the first game only. After first game, no Coach shall be allowed on the field except for injuries. The Coach must be **at least 10 yards from the ball** at the time it is snapped. No verbal comments can be made by the Coach after the play has started.

(B) If a team has a bye for the first scheduled game of the season, that team’s Coach and the opposing Coach shall be allowed on the field for the second game day of the season.

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- RULE 5**     **BANTAM RULES:** The following shall apply for the **Bantam Division Only:**  
(A) One Coach per team shall be allowed on the field on offense and defense. The Coach must be **at least 10 yards from the ball** at the time it is snapped. No verbal comments can be made by the Coaches after the play has started, i.e., the ball is snapped.  
(B) The playing field shall be **standard NCAA width and length** (100 yards).
- RULE 6**     **LANGUAGE:** Profane language and/or **trash talk** shall not be tolerated.  
(A) 1st Offense is a warning to player and coach.  
(B) 2nd Offense player will be removed from the game for 4 plays, 15-yard penalty, dead ball foul.  
(C) 3rd Offense is ejection of player from the game, 15-yard penalty, dead ball foul.
- RULE 7**     **JEWELRY:** No jewelry shall be worn. This is illegal equipment and there will be a 15-yard penalty.
- RULE 8**     **RESTRICTED PLAYERS:** Restricted Players shall follow these requirements:  
(A) A restricted player **may play guard, center, or tackle and can be the end man on either end of the line of scrimmage on offense** at the time the ball is snapped, but **cannot advance the ball on offense**. They may play any position on defense. **On defense, he/she may advance the ball by pass interception, fumble recovery, or cover a lateral**. Violation of the rules shall result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. The top of a restricted player's helmet must be marked with contrasting tape in the shape of an "X" across the top (a minimum of 6" long and ¾" wide).  
(B) On offense, a restricted player **may attempt to punt; kick a field goal; or kick a point after touchdown**. The player **cannot in any case advance the ball past the scrimmage line or attempt to pass the ball**. The player **must attempt to do what the playing position indicates** (i.e., no attempt to confuse the defense). Violation of this rule shall result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down.  
(C) A player shall be determined restricted at the time of the Player Certification & Weigh-in only. If a player gains weight after the weigh-in, he/she shall play the remainder of the season as an unrestricted player.  
(D) A restricted player not properly marked (see above section B), automatically sets out for four plays and must be properly marked before entering game.
- RULE 9**     **PLAYER EJECTIONS:** Any player ejected from a game for any reason is suspended from their team's next scheduled game that follows the ejection. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**. Any violation of this suspension will warrant further disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors, Town Representatives and Officers.
- RULE 10**    **TIE GAME:** In the case of a tie game during Regular Season there shall be "Sudden Death" Overtime. There shall be a coin toss with the visiting team's captain making the Call. The winner of the coin toss shall have the opportunity to choose either an Offensive or Defensive start. The team that elects for offense shall have a 1st and Goal situation from the opponent's 10-yard line. That team shall have 4 legal Downs to attempt to score in any manner (i.e. - touchdown or kick a field goal). Regardless of the outcome of the first offensive attempt to score, the other team shall then be given the same situation on the same end of the field. If both teams do not score or if still tied, then the 1st and goal situation is repeated.

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If after 2 Opportunities for each team to score, the game is still tied, the game is officially a **TIE game**.

- (A) Penalties will be the same as a regular game.
- (B) Extra points will be attempted after each touchdown.
- (C) The defense can score same as a regular game.
- (D) If there is a turnover, then the defensive becomes the offense.
- (E) Time-outs- ONE (1) time-out per team in overtime

**RULE 11**

**TIE-BREAKER:** If at the end of the season the conference records do not determine the final standings, the tiebreaker will be as follows. In the case of a three-way tie, if one of the teams has defeated the other two teams during the regular season, then that team shall have the highest position. If the other two teams have played, and one has defeated the other, then that team shall have the next highest position. If there still remains a tie, the following guidelines will be used to break the tie.

- (A) A plus/minus system will be used. Margin of victory or margin of defeat will decide a team's plus or minus rating.
- (B) All games played between the tied teams will be used in this tiebreaker.
- (C) The cap for margin of victory is 16 points.
- (D) The highest rated team will be the highest seed. The next team with the best rating will be the next seed.
- (E) If two teams are still tied, a head to head winner will decide the highest seed.
- (F) If teams are still tied, then division opponents will be used to break ties with the same guidelines are before. If still tied, then games played within the conference will be used to break ties.
- (G) Any team that has elected to forfeit a game during the season shall receive a -17 (minus 17) score.
- (H) Any team that has been awarded a win from forfeit during the season shall receive a +17 score.

**Examples:**

Team A 24	Team A 12	Team B 22
<u>Team B 16</u>	<u>Team C 30</u>	<u>Team C 14</u>
Team A is + 8	Team A is - 16	Team B is + 8
Team B is - 8	Team C is + 16	Team C is - 8

$$\text{Team A total} = + 8 - 16 = - 8$$

$$\text{Team B total} = - 8 + 8 = 0$$

$$\text{Team C total} = - 8 + 16 = + 8$$

\*\* Team C is the highest seed based on rating.

\*\* Team B is the next seed based on rating.

\*\* If A and B would have tied based on ratings, Team A would be the next seed based on head to head competition.

**RULE 12**

**PLAYOFF TIES:** In Championship Games the regular season format shall be adhered to for the breaking of ties. All Consolation Games, if tied, will remain tied.

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**RULE 13**     **CANCELLATIONS:** Games shall be played during inclement weather. **Games shall only be canceled by the Referee once started** and he will immediately announce to both Head Coaches. All teams shall go to the scheduled game location where the decision to play shall be made. Games once started and then stopped due to weather or other circumstances will continue later and proceed where game was when stopped. If a game cannot be continued on the scheduled day, the Referee shall report the following to the TASO Official -- time remaining in the game, the score, the location of the ball on the field, the name of the team in possession of the ball, remaining timeouts, and the number(s) or name(s) of any players or coaches who were ejected from the game. Elected Officers and Referees will confer about cancellation during Championship play.

**RULE 14**     **SIDELINE PERSONNEL:** The official sideline personnel for each team shall consist of no more than eight (8) BVFA approved individuals.

**RULE 15**     **WATER BREAKS:** There will be one (1) water break per quarter called by the officials at approximately the middle of the quarter.

**RULE 16**     **FORFEITURE OF GAME:**

(A) A game shall be ruled as a forfeit if one or both teams fail to take the field 30 minutes after the scheduled time of the game. The score of the game shall be 0-0 and the team that failed to show up will be given a loss. If both teams fail to take the field, both teams will be given a loss.

(B) Each team shall participate in the scheduled Consolation/Playoff post-season game(s) unless there are an odd number of teams in a Division, in which case the last place team in the Conference with the largest number of teams shall not be scheduled a Consolation game.

(C) Penalties

    (1) Regular Season Game

        (a) The Association of the forfeiting team shall reimburse the Association hosting the games the total cost of the TASO Official for the forfeited game.

        (b) The penalties for the Head Coach shall be the same as if he/she were ejected (Section XIX. Section 7).

    (2) Consolation/Playoff Game

        (a) The Association of the forfeiting team shall reimburse BVFA the total cost of the TASO Official for the forfeited game plus an additional \$200.00.

        (b) The Head Coach shall be banned from coaching in BVFA for the remainder of the season and the entire next season.

    (3) Reimbursement for Regular Season game forfeitures must be paid by the last regular BVFA meeting at which time post-season games are scheduled.

    (4) Reimbursements or fines to BVFA due as a result of Consolation / Playoff game forfeitures must be paid by the first regular BVFA meeting of the next season.

**RULE 17**     **HORSE-COLLAR TACKLE:** The horse-collar tackle is a maneuver in which a defender tackles another player by grabbing the back-inside of an opponent's shoulder pads from behind and yanking the player down. The penalty for making a horse-collar tackle is a 15-yard personal foul.

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**RULE 18**     **CUT BLOCKS:** Blocking below the waist is only legal in the **Free Blocking Zone**. The FBZ is a rectangle eight yards by six yards. It is four yards on either side of the ball and three yards behind each side of the line of scrimmage. Only players in the FBZ at the snap of the ball are eligible to be involved in the block. Any below the waist block outside the FBZ is an illegal block. Any block below the waist after the ball has left the FBZ shall be considered an illegal block. Offensive and Defensive players can commit this foul.

**(A) Offensive Cut Block Violation Enforcement:**

- (1) Foul will be a 10-yard penalty.
- (2) If the foul occurs behind the LOS, the 10-yard penalty will be marked off from the original LOS and replay of the previous down.
- (3) If the foul occurs beyond the LOS, the 10-yard penalty will be marked off from the spot of the foul and replay of the previous down unless the yardage gained after the penalty enforcement still resulted in a 1st down.

**(B) Defensive Cut Block Violation Enforcement:**

- (1) If the foul occurs behind the LOS, a 10yd penalty will be marked off from the original LOS and the offensive team will receive automatic 1st down.
- (2) If the foul occurs beyond the LOS, the penalty will be a spot foul with the offensive team receiving an automatic 1st down.

**RULE 19**     **DISTANCE & DOWN MARKER VOLUNTEERS:** The visiting team must provide three (3) volunteers to run the distance and down markers, which will be utilized on the visiting team's sideline.

**RULE 20**     **GAME BALLS & PLACE KICKING TEES:**

- (A) BVFA shall provide **GAME BALLS** for each team. Game balls are to be used for **Games Only** and are **not for practice purposes**. If BVFA does not have sufficient funds to purchase game balls each member association shall pay for their teams' game balls. All game balls will be purchased by BVFA.
- (B) The Official Game Ball for Major Division shall be the Wilson TDJ leather ball.
- (C) The Official Game Ball for Minor Division shall be the Wilson K-2 leather ball.
- (D) The Official Game Ball for Bantam Division shall be the Wilson K-2 leather ball.
- (E) Both Head Coaches shall meet with the Head Official at the coin toss before the game and certify that the Game Ball meets the above requirements. If other balls are needed because of poor weather conditions, they must also meet the above requirements.
- (F) Place kicking tees are optional.

**ARTICLE XXIV – FLAG FOOTBALL RULES**

**RULE 1**     **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** Each Team shall play with 8 players. If a team for any reason falls below the minimum number of players, the opposing coach is encouraged to play the same number of players to make the teams equal.

**RULE 2**     **GAME BALL:** A synthetic or genuine leather K2 sized football shall be used.

**RULE 3**     **LENGTH OF GAME:** The game shall consist of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves. A five (5) minute halftime shall separate the two halves. The twenty minute halves will have a continuous running clock. Game Referee will maintain a 90 second play clock that is started on the referee's whistle or marking of the ball.

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- RULE 4**     **POSSESSION:** A coin toss will determine who shall receive the choice of possession or side at the beginning of each game.
- RULE 5**     **LINE OF SCRIMMAGE:** The Offensive Team must have a minimum of 4 players set on the line of scrimmage at the time of the snap of the ball. Players in motion do not count as players on the line of scrimmage. Once the center has placed his hands on the ball, no offensive player may enter the neutral zone. Following the ready for play whistle and until a legal snap, no defensive player may encroach, touch the ball, stand in, or in any other way interfere with the offensive team.
- RULE 6**     **FUMBLES:** Any ball that is fumbled during a down will be dead by rule once it has touched the ground.
- RULE 7**     **BLOCKING:** Blocking is allowed. Hands must be placed below the neck and above the waist while a block is engaged.
- RULE 8**     **OBSTRUCTION OF THE RUNNER:** Obstruction of the Runner – A defensive player shall not hold, grasp or otherwise obstruct the forward progress of the runner when attempting to remove the runner’s flag.
- RULE 9**     **(A) UNIFORMS AND FLAG BELTS:** All jerseys must be tucked in and are not permitted to hang over the player’s flag belt. All players are required to have three (3) flags on their belt at all times; one on each side and one on the back of the player. BVFA will provide each Member Association with Flags and Flag Belts from an approved Manufacturer or Vendor. Runners shall not flag guard by using any part of the body or ball to deny the defense the opportunity to pull or remove a flag.
- (B) UNIFORM COLORS**  
ALVARADO - Purple  
BURLESON – Charcoal Gray  
CLEBURNE - Vegas Gold  
CROWLEY – Black  
GRANBURY - Purple  
HILLSBORO - Maroon  
JOSHUA - White  
MIDLOTHIAN – Blue  
WAXAHACHIE - Red  
WHITNEY – None
- RULE 10**    **MOVING THE BALL:** Each team shall begin possession at the 30-yard line. Both teams move towards the same end zone while on offense. Cones or markers shall be placed on the 30, 20 and 10 yard lines along the field sidelines. Each team has 4 downs in which to move the ball to the next zone of downs (i.e. a team starts possession at the 30-yard line and has 4 plays to reach the 20-yard line.)
- RULE 11**    **OFFICIALS:** The hosting town has the responsibility to provide a uniformed official (black and white striped shirt) for each game. The referee shall be the game manager and keep track of game time, game play clock, conduct the coin toss, assess any necessary penalties and mark the spot of the ball after each down is played.
- RULE 12**    **PENALTIES:** All offensive penalties will be a loss of down. Defensive penalties will be given at the discretion of the referee. All penalties will be used as a learning tool to the players and should be explained to the players when they are assessed.



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**RULE 13** **SCORING:** A touchdown is scored in the same manner as in tackle football. There will be no 2-point conversion attempts. After a touchdown is scored, the other team shall take possession as the offensive team starting at the 30-yard line. The score for these games will not be kept by the referee.

**RULE 14** **ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES:** Flag Teams will not be allowed more than three (3) organized team activities within a one (1) week period, including games.

**RULE 15** **GAME SCHEDULES:** The Flag Football Season shall consist of an eight (8) game schedule. Flag season shall start the same weekend as the tackle season. All Flag games will attempt to be scheduled to begin in the morning prior to the start of any tackle games or in the afternoon following tackle games. Game times are subject to change.

**RULE 16** **COACHES:** All Flag Football coaches will be required to have a background check performed by BVFA. Coaches will not be allowed on the field without having their BVFA badge present. No more than three (3) coaches will be permitted on the field at any time for a team. Defensive coaches must remain a reasonable distance back as to not affect the course or outcome of a play.

### **ARTICLE XXV -- 7on7 FOOTBALL**

**Section 1** **AGE GROUPS & DIVISIONS:** Divisions will be established as defined below. If a division fails to make a 4-team minimum, it will be combined with another division.

(A) **Minor Division:** Players may not turn the age of 10 before May 1st.

(B) **Major Division:** Players may not turn the age of 12 before May 1st. **No 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Graders.**

(C) 7on7 coaches must maintain a team book with a copy of a birth certificate or legal proof of birth and a copy of current report card or other acceptable proof of current grade level for each player listed on a team official roster. This book must be available at all games and a challenging/opposing coach can request to review the book before or immediately after a game only. Failure to provide a team book upon request will be a violation and subject to normal punishment by BVFA officers as regulated by the BVFA By-Laws.

(E) Any player residing within a BVFA Member Association area that does not offer or participate in the BVFA 7on7 League, are eligible to play for other BVFA Member Associations for 7on7 only.

**Section 2** **FIELD DIMENSIONS:**

(A) Field Length

1. Minor Division – 30 Yards

2. Major Division – 40 Yards

(B) Field Width--160 feet (60 feet to hash mark, 40 feet between)

(C) End Zone—10-yards deep

**Section 3** **STARTING THE GAME:**

(A) Both games (when both ends of the field are being utilized) will begin at the same time. The official shall blow his whistle indicating the game has begun. The game time will be displayed on a visible scoreboard.

(B) Visitors (TBD before kickoff), will always align their team on the right sideline facing the end zone, home will always align their team on the left sideline facing the end zone.

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(C) Ball is placed on the right hash mark or the center of the field when at the 40-yard line (30-yard line for Minor division).

(D) Referee will announce score and time remaining before each offensive possession begins.

### **Section 4**

#### **MOVING THE BALL:**

(A) No kicking/punting is allowed.

(B) The field is marked at 15 yard intervals with cones or yard markers. (3 first downs without a penalty would result in a touchdown).

(C) **Major Division:** Division will receive 4 downs at each interval.

1. The first interval will be from the 40-25-yard line.
2. The second interval will be from the 25-10-yard line.
3. The last interval, which is "Goal-To-Go", 10-yard line to the End Zone.
4. If the offensive team fails to make a first down the opposing team will take possession of the ball at the 40-yard line.

(D) **Minor Division:** Each minor team will have 4 downs at each interval.

1. The first interval will be from the 30-20-yard line.
2. The second interval will be from the 20-10-yard line.
3. The third interval, which will be goal to go, 10-yard line to the End Zone.
4. If the offensive team fails to make a first down the opposing team will take possession of the ball at the 30-yard line.

(E) Possession always begins at the 40-yard line (30-yard line for Minor Div.) at the right hash. No penalty can be assessed in excess of the 40/30 yd. line. A loss of down will be assessed instead.

(F) Offenses always move in the same direction.

### **Section 5**

#### **SCORING:**

(A) Touchdowns are worth 6 points.

1. A team may elect to attempt a 1-point PAT from the 5-yard or 2-point PAT from the 10-yard line.

(B) Interceptions are worth 2 points.

1. Interceptions that occur on the PAT are worth 2 points for the defensive team.

(C) Official game score is kept by the field referee and game manager.

### **Section 6**

#### **BREAKING TIES:**

(A) No games in 7on7 Football will end in a tie.

(B) Each team will have an opportunity to participate on offense during each overtime period.

(C) A coin flip will determine the first possession. The coin flip will be called by the visiting team.

(D) Each team will begin their offensive possession from the 15-yard line and have 4 downs to score. If a team scores on their offensive position in the first overtime period, that team may attempt a 1 or 2-point PAT.

(E) In the event that additional overtimes are required, each team will be required to attempt 2 point conversions from the 10-yard line.

### **RULE 1**

#### **P.A.T.'s:**

(A) 1 Point Conversion - The "extra point" is achieved by scoring from the 5-yard line.

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- (B) 2 Point Conversion – The 2-point conversion is achieved by scoring from the 10 yard line.
- (C) Interceptions on a PAT attempt are dead balls and worth 2 points to the defense.

**RULE 2**

**GAME CLOCK AND TIME OUTS:**

- (A) Neither team receives any time outs during the game.
- (B) The game clock is continuous during both halves of play.
- (C) Each half is 20 minutes with a 10-minute half-time.
- (D) Games will start 10 minutes after the completion of the previous games.
- (E) All teams must show up 15 minutes before game time. It is imperative all games begin and end on schedule to prevent delays of other games.
- (F) If a team is not present at the start of a game, the present team can elect to receive a win by forfeit or allow the other team 10 minutes on the game clock before electing the win by forfeit.
- (G) A scoreboard clock shall be used to display game time. In the event of an injury to a player that requires stoppage of play to occur, the official shall use a stop watch to track the amount of time lost due to the injury timeout. At the completion of the regulation 20-minute time period, the official shall extend the game to account for time that was lost. The extended time shall not exceed 5 minutes. This time will be kept by an official.

**RULE 3**

**OFFENSIVE FORMATIONS:**

Standard offensive formations must be used to simulate contact football situations. The following Offensive formation rules apply:

- (A) There must be 3 players on the LOS. The center must not have anyone within 4 yards of his spot.
- (B) Any player on the LOS that is "covered" by another player on the LOS is ineligible to receive a pass. Example: TE is aligned 4 yards from the center on the line of scrimmage; a WR is aligned on the LOS between the TE and the sideline. The TE is ineligible to receive a pass by the formation because the WR is "covering" the TE. In order to be eligible, the WR needs to be off the LOS.
- (C) A maximum of 3 players can be on one side of the center on the initial alignment. A team can motion a player so more than 3 players are on one side of the center at the time of the snap.
- (D) Only one player is allowed to be in motion at any one time.
- (E) The QB can be aligned under center or in the shotgun formation.
- (F) The center is not an eligible receiver at any time during a play. The center must snap the ball between the legs or underhand to the quarterback.

**RULE 4**

**QUARTERBACK PASS CLOCK:** The quarterback only has (4) seconds to throw the ball (6 seconds for the minor division). Time starts when the ball is snapped and stops when the quarterback releases the ball. If the time is over 4 (or 6) seconds, it will result in a loss of down for the offensive team.

- (A) If the QB releases the football in less than 4.0/6.0 seconds the play will stand.
- (B) If the QB clock has exceeded 4.0/6.0, the official will wait until the play is over (the play is not blown dead), then brings the ball back to the original line of scrimmage with a loss of down.
- (C) The official will blow his whistle to signal the end of the play, approx. 2 seconds after the expiration of the 4.0/6.0 second allotment if the ball has not been thrown by the offensive team.

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(D) In the event the defense intercepts a pass that is thrown after the allotted 4.0/6.0 seconds and before the official has whistled the play dead, the defense will be awarded the 2 points and possession of the ball.

**RULE 5**      **OFFICIAL GAME BALLS:** Each team will use its own ball during offensive possessions.

(A) K2 balls for the Minor division only.

(B) Major Division may use a TDJ or TDY sized ball.

(C) The intent of this rule is to ensure that the higher levels do not use an undersized ball to gain an advantage. Synthetic or genuine leather balls are permitted.

**RULE 6**      **TURNOVERS:**

(A) Fumbles and interceptions are dead balls at the spot with the last team retaining possession.

(B) An interception will award 2 points and possession to the defense.

(C) All fumbles will be considered dead balls with the offensive team retaining possession at the spot where the fumble occurred.

(D) A muffed snap is not a fumble/dead ball. The 4.0(6.0) second count remains in effect on snaps.

**RULE 7**      **GAME CLOCKS:**

(A) Each team will have 40 seconds to snap the ball once the previous play was whistled over by an official.

(B) Delay of game penalty will be loss of down plus 5 yards.

(C) Play clock is typical for all divisions and teams.

(D) It is the responsibility of the offense to get the ball back to the line of scrimmage. The center must refer to referee's spot for official marking and placement of ball.

**RULE 8**      **LEGAL PASSES:**

(A) All passes must be forward and have at least a 3-yard separation between passer and receiver.

(B) No double passes, lateral passes, pitches or handoffs are allowed as that would constitute an illegal pass.

(C) "Shuffle" passes are permitted as long as the 3-yard separation is achieved between passer and receiver.

**RULE 9**      **BLOCKING:**

(A) Once a receiver catches a ball, **all other offensive players must stop at their current position**. They **cannot block** or be eligible to obtain the ball in any manner (i.e. hook and latter/ hitch and pitch). If an offensive player blocks for another, the play will be blown dead at the spot of the block.

**RULE 10**      **END OF THE PLAY:**

(A) Receiver/Ball carrier is legally down when touched below the neck with one or both hands. (Excessive force by shoving, pushing, or striking a blow will be penalized by automatic first down and 5 yards. Expulsion of a player(s) may occur if fouls are ruled unsportsmanlike & flagrant).

**RULE 11**      **MARKING THE FOOTBALL:**

(A) Offensive team is responsible for retrieving and returning the ball to the previous spot or the new scrimmage spot.

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- (B) Clock does not stop and any delay by offense in retrieving and returning the ball to the line of scrimmage and checking with the official to ensure the ball is properly spotted will result in a delay of game and will be a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot.
- (C) The center must correctly spot the ball or check with the official and place the ball correctly prior to running an offensive play. If an offensive play is run from an inaccurate spot as a result of a center failing to comply with this procedure, a 5-yard penalty will be assessed or loss of down if ball is at the original line of scrimmage.

### **RULE 12**      **DELAY OF GAME/DEAD BALL FOULS:**

- (A) Two delay of game penalties in the same possession results in a turnover. The defensive team will then put the ball in play on the 40 (30 for Minor) yard line.
- (B) Any dead ball foul on a play that results in the defense getting the ball and it is unable to be penalized back to the 40 (30 Minor) yard line will result in a loss of down penalty. The defense, now the offense, would be starting play with 2nd down.

### **RULE 13**      **DEFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE:**

- (A) Defensive Pass Interference will be a spot foul (1st down at the spot).
- (B) Defensive pass interference in the end zone will be an automatic 1st and goal at the 5-yard line. If the ball is closer to the end zone than the 5-yard line at the time of defensive pass interference, the spot closer to the end zone will be utilized with an automatic 1st down.

### **RULE 14**      **OFFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE:**

- (A) Offensive Pass Interference is the same as NCAA rules. (15 YARD PENALTY) If the offensive team is between the 40 and 30 yard cones, and a 15-yard penalty can't be administered, then the penalty will result in loss of down.
- (B) Offensive receivers are **NOT** allowed to run "pick" plays that create physical contact with defenders to allow other receivers to become open.

### **RULE 15**      **ILLEGAL CONTACT:**

- (A) Responsibility to avoid contact is with the defense.
- (B) There will be **NO** chucking, or deliberate bumping, jamming or grabbing. These actions will result in a "tack on" penalty at the end of the play (5-yard penalty) or the down will be replayed with a 5-yard penalty should the result of the play be an incomplete pass

### **RULE 16**      **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:**

- (A) No taunting or "trash talking" (5-yard penalty & expulsion if flagrant) is allowed at any time during game.
- (B) Any players involved in a physical confrontation will be immediately ejected from the game.
- (C) A team removed from a game for fighting will not be allowed to participate or play for remainder of year.

### **RULE 17**      **MINOR DIVISION COACHES ONLY:** A coach shall be allowed on the field during a team's offensive possessions. The coach shall remain a minimum of 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage. After the ball is snapped, the coach on the field, shall not be allowed to provide verbal instructions to players. 1st offense of verbally instructing players during play will be a warning. 2nd and subsequent offenses will result in a loss of down and 5-yard penalty.

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**RULE 18** **MOUTH PIECES:** All players are required to have mouth pieces at all times during the play of the game.

**RULE 19** **DRESS CODE:** Players will not be allowed to wear caps, hats, visors or sunglasses (excluding prescription) on the field during the game.

**ARTICLE XXVI – VIOLATIONS OF BY-LAWS AND RULES**

**Section 1** Violation of any Article, Section or Rule shall bear a penalty as determined by the BVFA Officers. Penalties may range from a Letter of Reprimand up to being removed from BVFA. Penalties shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section 2** Reporting a Violation:

(A) Only a Town Representative may report a violation of the By-Laws and Rules to the Executive Committee. The violation must first be reported by telephone and a complete written report must be submitted. Violations may be submitted to either the Rules Chairman or President.

(B) Complete written report of the violation must state the specific Article and Section or Rule Number that has been violated; the date and description of the violation; identity of the person or persons who committed the violation; how and when the Town Representative became aware of the violation; and include any supporting evidence or documentation that may be necessary to support the allegation.

(C) Violation that occur during, and affect the outcome of, a game.

(1) Only a Head Coach of a team involved in the game may choose to report a violation.

(2) The Head Coach must put up a \$300.00 deposit (cash, money order or cashiers check only) with the complete written report. If the violation is upheld the deposit will be returned to the coach. If the violation is not upheld the deposit goes to the BVFA general fund.

(3) The Head Coach must report the violation to the Town Representative no later than 24 hours after the completion of the game. The Town Representative must report the violation by telephone to the Rules Chairman or President by the Sunday that follows the game, no later than 12:00 am.

(4) The complete written report must be signed by the Head Coach and Town Representative. It must be delivered to the Rules Chairman or President no later than 12:00 am of the first Tuesday that follows the Sunday in which the notification of the violation was given by telephone.

(5) The Executive Committee will meet and determine the outcome of the report of violation no later than the following Wednesday at 12:00 am. The President will telephone the Town Representatives of the parties immediately after a decision is made. An email will be sent to all Town Representatives explaining the reported violation and the Executive Committee's decision.

(6) A complete written report of a violation that occurs in the final game of the Regular Season must be presented at the BVFA Regular Meeting on the Sunday immediately following game. A decision will be made at that time and all Town Representatives will be notified of the decision by the resident at the meeting.

(D) Violations that do not affect the outcome of a game.

(1) Notification that a violation has occurred must be made by the Town Representative by either email or telephone to the Rules Chairman or President within 24 hours of the time he or she becomes aware of the violation.

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(2) The complete written report of the violation must be received by the Rules Chairman or President no later than 72 hours after the telephone notification of the violation was made. This report may be made by email or letter and signed by the Town Representative.

(3) The Executive Committee will meet and determine the outcome of the report of violation not later than five (5) days after receiving the written report. The President will telephone the Town Representatives of the parties immediately after a decision is made. An email will be sent to all Town Representatives explaining the reported violation and the Executive Committee's decision.

(4) A complete written report of a violation that occurs in the final week of the Regular Season must be presented at the BVFA Regular Meeting on the Sunday immediately following the final Regular Season game. A decision will be made at that time and all Town Representatives will be notified of the decision by the President at the meeting.

### **Section 3**

Teams as listed in Article X Section 1 may not be voted out of the BVFA for reasons other than for disciplinary action or for any misconduct exhibited by members of a team(s), including coaches, at or during a game. The Head Representative of TASO officials shall report to the BVFA President any misconduct by any member of a team. Disciplinary action shall be determined by the BVFA Officers.

## **ARTICLE XXVII – MEDIA AGENCIES & VENDORS**

### **Section 1**

#### **Definitions:**

(A) A “media agency” for purposes of these criteria shall mean a daily or weekly publication, cable system, radio station, television station or television network, which issues Press Credentials to its employees.

(B) A “vendor” for the purposes of these criteria shall mean a person or company that promotes or exchanges goods or services for money.

(C) The “game area” for the purposes of these criteria shall mean football field and the surrounding area in which BVFA requires individuals to pass background checks in order to enter. The location of media and vendor employees shall be in the sidelines area outside of the Team Area (25-yard line to 25-yard line), which extends around the end zones.

### **Section 2**

**Media & Press:** Any Media Agency employee presenting current Media Credentials for admission to a game shall complete and sign the BVFA Media Agency & Press Credentials Agreement form. After the Media Agency & Press Credentials form is completed and signed the person will be admitted and allowed access to the game area and press box, if available and there is room.

### **Section 3**

#### **Vendors:**

(A) A vendor must submit a completed and signed Vendor Application & Agreement a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the date of the event or game at which the vendor is applying for approval to conduct business.

(B) If a vendor sets up, performs services and/or transacts business in the game area the vendor's employees shall be subject to the same background check requirements as BVFA Officers and Member Associations (Article IV Section 8) and must wear IDs with photographs.

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**Section 4**     **Approval or Rejection:** A Member Association shall approve or reject, unless the event or game is directly under the supervision of BVFA Officers. A Vendor application for an event or game directly under the supervision of BVFA Officers must be approved by the Executive Committee.

**Section 5**     **Approved Forms:** A Member Association shall make a copy of any Media Agency & Press Credentials form or Vendor Application & Agreement that it approves and keep it. The original form shall be sent to the BVFA Secretary-Treasurer no later than seven days after it is approved.

**ARTICLE XXVIII -- AMENDMENTS**

The BVFA By-Laws and Rules may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose between February 1 and June 1 of any year. Special Policies, which ensure the safety and the health of players, may be instituted by the Board of Directors after June 1.