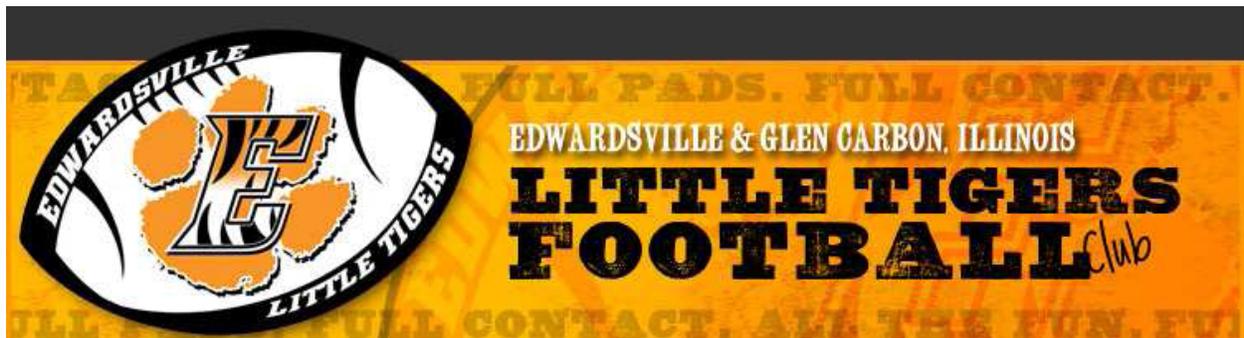


2016
Little Tiger Football
Coaching Requirements and Expectations



EDWARDSVILLE & GLEN CARBON, ILLINOIS

LITTLE TIGERS
FOOTBALL Club

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Mission Statement

To provide a positive and supportive environment for youth to develop skills and winning attitudes, improve character and sportsmanship, while competing in a fun and challenging atmosphere.

Philosophy

By explaining, demonstrating, and using repetitive drills, our coaches will focus on proper body positions and proper fundamentals of each skill, and will encourage our players to repeat these fundamentals. Our coaches will focus on developing self-esteem and confidence by believing in our players and giving them positive reinforcement.

Purpose

By becoming a part of Edwardsville Little Tigers Football, youth will experience:

- An improvement of self-esteem and self discipline
- A renewed respect for authority
- A respect and concern for others through sportsmanship
- An inclination to give 100% effort to all they endeavor
- A respect for teamwork, team spirit, and building friendships

General Coaching Qualifications

The Little Tiger Football Club has high expectations for the coaches that will be entrusted to teach the game of football to the youth of the Edwardsville and Glen Carbon communities. Little Tiger Football coaches will possess the following characteristics and qualifications:

- Passion for Football.
- Desire and ability to teach young men football and life skills.
- Knowledge of basic football skills.
- Knowledge of youth football rules.
- Win with class and lose with dignity.
- Never jeopardize the integrity of the game.
- Respectful to Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club members, game officials, and opposing teams showing good sportsmanship in all situations.
- Available for the time commitment required to coach football.
 - Head Coaches - approximately 15-20 hours per week during the season.
 - Assistant Coaches - approximately 10-12 hours per week during the season.
- Be in control at all times including intense game situations and parent exchanges.
- Adhere to all Little Tiger Football Club club rules (as provided in this pamphlet and throughout the season) and Tri County Junior Football League rules. See Attachment 1.
- Provide the signed application and pass the mandatory background check.
- Attend required coaches meetings. Head coaches see below. Assistant Coaches will attend the mandatory coaches school and miss no more than 50% of all other mandatory meetings.
- Recognize the “winner” in each child encouraging their strengths.

Head Coaching Qualifications

In addition to the basic qualifications for every coach, head coaches will possess the following characteristics and qualifications:

- Great decision making skills.... always puts the TEAM first.
- Great communicator with players, coaches, club officials, and parents.
- Great organizational skills.
- Great delegation skills.
- Great team building skills.
- Great Leader, who leads by example.
- Pass Youth Coaching Test provided by Tri-County Football League. See Attachment 1 for rules.
- Attend Mandatory Little Tigers Coaching School.
- Attend coaching clinics, either in person or online – at least 4 hours per year.
- USA Football Certified Coach.

Coaching Style

Each Head Coach will have his own style and expectations that should be shared with his coaching staff, players, and parents. The Little Tiger Football Club will not mandate a certain style but will expect the coach's style to support the Little Tiger Mission Statement and Philosophy. By way of example, and not limitation, Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club expects that coaches teach the game of football to each and every participant, not just play to win. That means, for example, (a) allowing more kids to touch the football, (b) if handing out a playbook, hand out playbooks to all kids on the team, (c) explain each position to all players, (d) if possible, allow at least 6 players on a team run the ball, (e) Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will provide tools to allow each coach the opportunity to fulfill the following coaching elements which should provide the basis of how each Head Coach manages and leads his team and how each Assistant Coach teaches the game.

- Evaluate each player's strengths and weaknesses, but boost self-confidence and self-esteem in all players.
- Put each player in the best situation to be successful recognizing the "winner" in every child.
- Be fair to each player and make impartial decisions. Decisions should be based on the best interest of all players.
- Keep the playbook simple.
- Coach the entire roster.
- Make football a fun and enjoyable experience.
- Don't use abusive language or berate or belittle players in any way.
- Understand that voice volume may be raised only to ensure that the player(s) being addressed can hear for proper understanding, or to offer strong encouragement.
- Never use profanity or foul language. Use of foul language and profanity is grounds for suspension from the club's coaching staff.
- Remember that you are working with children who will often make mental and physical mistakes.
- Be positive, smile, and enthusiastically encourage players.
- Always act in a manner to be an excellent role model for all Little Tiger Football players.
- Choose the proper game day attitude remembering that people care more about what you do than they do about what you say.
- Support the game officials with positive comments in front of players. Your lead will instill respect for authority and create a positive atmosphere for all that participate and watch.
- Do not argue with officials or opposing coaches.
- Only talk to officials to clarify the number of the player committing the foul, asking for amount of time left or timeouts and clarifying a call.
- Never question a judgment call.
- If you are removed from a game by an official you will be subject to discipline by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club and Tri County Football League, including a minimum of suspension for upcoming game(s) and could result in longer suspensions or expulsion from the club.
- Practice the circle of affirmation. See Attachment 2.
- Reinforce the motto "win with class and lose with dignity."
- Never run up the score. If your team is ahead by more than 4 touchdowns, slow the game down by putting in second string lineup or taking a knee.

Coaching Staff

The Head Coach will be responsible for selecting his coaching staff. Each team should have an Offensive and Defensive Coordinator. The Head Coach can fill one of the Coordinator positions but not both. The Head Coach will also have a sideline coach track plays during the game. A maximum of six coaches can be on the sidelines during the games, including the play monitor.

Communications

The Head Coach should work closely with the Team Mom to communicate team news, Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club news, and special events to the team parents. The Head Coach should also communicate his expectations to the players, the parents, and his coaching staff when the teams are determined. Email is the preferred communication tool but team or parent meetings can also be scheduled before or after practice. Regular meetings with the coaching staff are also encouraged.

Keep lines of communication open with parents. After each practice, you should gather parents for announcements and communicate issues related to the team. Communicate to parents that unruly or inappropriate comments from the sidelines during a game may result in penalties for the team. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to manage the conduct of a team's fans on the sidelines. Any issues related to conduct of fans should be immediately be communicated to the Athletic Director and/or President.

All comments or complaints from parents or otherwise should be channeled to through the Head Coach. If issues cannot be resolved, then comments should be channeled to the Coaching Coordinator, then the Athletic Director, and then the Board of Directors of Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club.

Coaching Training

Continuing education is important to the development of each coach. The Little Tiger football coaches are expected to attend one coaching clinic per year and head coaches are expected to complete at least 4 hours of clinic instruction (which can include on-line clinics). Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will provide information on club sponsored clinics throughout the year. Coaches are also encouraged to seek out clinics that are important to them and to use online resources to strengthen their coaching skills. All head football coaches are expected to become USA Football Certified through an on-line learning tool that includes tests.

Club Participation

The Little Tiger football coaches are the face of the organization. In addition to coaching football our coaches are expected to be active participants in club events during the season and off-season. Events include registration, equipment handout, parades, Tiger Time Out, and the awards banquets. The Little Tiger Football club is a volunteer organization that requires participation from all the club members. Due to family or work commitments it is difficult to participate in all events. However, we expect the coaches to make every attempt to attend the majority of events when volunteers are needed or send representation from your team.

Coaching Meetings

Head coaches are expected to attend all coaching meetings scheduled by the club. If you are unable to attend you will need to contact the Athletic Director or Coaching Coordinator and send representation from your team. Coaches are also welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly Little Tiger board meetings. Assistant coaches are expected to attend any mandatory meetings for all coaches and at least 50% of all other mandatory coaching meetings.

Practice Format

Football requires more practice time to be successful than any other team sport. The key to success is preparation and execution. Practice time is critical to the development each player.

The overall success of each player, your team, and the Little Tiger Football Club is dependent on productiveness of each and every practice. Practice time is limited so make every minute count. Your team will play the way they practice!

- Normal practices are scheduled for 2 hours per session. Each team will practice during times designated by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club and will not exceed 2.5 hours per session. Any exception to the regular practice schedule should be reviewed with the Athletic Director or Coaching Coordinator.
- An extra practice session can be scheduled if additional preparation is needed for an upcoming game. Example; A walk through or special teams practice the day before a weekend game. Any “extra” practice should be light, instructional, have purpose, and be well communicated to the parents. Field availability will be limited outside the regular practice schedule designated by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club. Any exception to the regular practice schedule should be reviewed with the Athletic Director or Coaching Coordinator.
- The head coach should have a backup plan if he is unable to attend practice. Practice should never be canceled because the head coach is unavailable. An assistant coach should be prepared to practice the team in advance or on short notice.
- Each head coach will prepare a written practice plan/schedule for each practice. A sample practice plan/schedule will be provided by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club. Each practice should cover what each individual team need to work on. As a coaching staff, everyone needs to collaborate. Head coaches will provide a written practice plan/schedule to the Athletic Director or the applicable Coaching Coordinator the day before a practice. This will ensure that practices are being prepared for and that the athletic director knows what he is seeing at any given time during a practice.
- Players should not be standing around or sitting practice. During drill work there should be enough stations so there are 6-8 players per station. This will keep the players active and allow more reps per player. Use the agility stations to accomplish your conditioning training and keep the pace fast without sacrificing correct form.
- Use scrimmages to practice game situations, player rotations, and prepare for your opponent.

- Try to keep drills to no longer than 10 minutes each.
- Keep live tackling drills limited to smaller spaces. For example, don't perform 10-yard high-speed ramming type drills. Review in depth safe and sure blocking and tackling techniques with the head up to lessen the possibility of neck and head injuries.
- Each team should have a dress rehearsal before the first game. Be prepared for the chaos of the first game. The dress rehearsal should include pregame warm-ups, offense, defense, special teams, substitutions, play calling, and coin toss.
- Short water breaks should be taken on a regular basis throughout practice to keep players hydrated. Take no chances with heat exhaustion, NO EXCEPTIONS! Let players take a break in small groups to minimize disruption that could impact the flow of practice.
- Always remember... "Hard work beats Talent when Talent doesn't work Hard!!!"
- You agree that you will abide by club rules related to practice schedules as prescribed by the Board or the Athletic Director.

Plays/Formations

Each team will be provided a club playbook that will be used as a guide and a reference. In order to develop consistency within our club and streamline the learning process for players at all levels, the following items will be mandatory when coaching your team.

- The offensive back numbering defined by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will be used at all times.
- The offensive and defensive line numbers/gaps defined by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will be used at all times.
- The name of the offensive formations defined by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will be used.
- The names of the defensive positions defined by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will be used.
- The blitzing and stunting system defined by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club will be used.
- Keep it simple!

Player Injuries

The safety of each player will be the top priority of every coach. Take each incident seriously and never joke or harass a player who says he is unable to participate. Never force a player to play or practice against his will.

- Always error on the side caution if a player is sick, hurt, or injured.

- If a player says he is sick or hurt then a coach should stabilize the player on the sideline and monitor his condition. A player should not return to action until he says he is ready. Communicate each incident with the parent.
- Injuries are generally more serious than a bump, bruise, or sick stomach and should never be taken lightly. Ice should always be used for injuries that could result in swelling. The parents and club President should be notified immediately when a serious injury has occurred.
- Each coach should have a medical kit in his coaching bag to handle minor injuries such as cuts and scrapes.
- Each team should have ice bags, a water jug, and water bottles at each game.
- Player injuries can often be avoided by inspection of practice and game fields. Before beginning a practice or game, inspect all fields to ensure that they are safe.
- If a player is injured and down, especially if a player appears to have a head or neck injury, do not remove a player's helmet except when instructed to do so by a medical professional or until you are absolutely sure that a player's injuries do not affect his head or neck.
- If a player is diagnosed with a concussion, he will not be allowed to play or practice until a release is received from a doctor.

Player Discipline

For the safety of the player and his teammates, each player is expected to participate in practice unless he is injured, has a school activity, or has an excused absence from the coaching staff. At the coaches discretion, if the player has two unexcused absences in the same week then the player will be ineligible to participate in the next game. The coach will need to inform the parent of the one game suspension.

Game ejections will be reviewed case by case. The Athletic Director should be informed if a player is ejected from a game. The Head Coach and Athletic Director will review the cause of the ejection and determine if the player should be suspended for the next game if the player is not automatically suspended by Tri County Football League.

Any player who is suspended from school will be ineligible to participate in practice or games during the duration of the suspension. Any additional discipline should be reviewed with the Athletic Director and club President.

Fighting, cussing, insubordination, unruliness, and any act that takes away from the football experience for the other players will not be tolerated in practice or games. The head coach should address the problem immediately and inform the parent if the problem persists.

Player discipline does not include touching a player when you are angry. Do not ever grab a player's head or facemask.

Equipment Management

The Head Coach is responsible for the collection of equipment at the end of the season. The Head Coach is also responsible for collection of equipment from any player that leaves the program prior to the end of the season. The club will provide an inventory sheet to each team that will be used to track the equipment of each player. There will be a designated collection day the week following the last game and one makeup date. The Head Coach should contact any player who does not return his equipment during one of collection dates and schedule a special collection for that player. The Equipment Director should be notified if all the equipment is not collected a week prior to the awards banquet.

The coaching staff should remove a player from practice or a game if an equipment issue is discovered. The player can participate again once the equipment issue has been resolved. Safety of each player is our top priority.

Coaching Life Skills

The football field is a one of a kind classroom that teaches our players many of the life skills that will be important as future adults, fathers, husbands, coaches, and employees. Leadership, Integrity, Loyalty, Teamwork, Respect, Discipline, Determination, Courage, Pride, etc are some of the skills that are characteristics of many football players. Little Tiger coaches will discuss the meaning and importance of these life skills with the players throughout the season. If the coaches make it important then it will become important to your players.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use

Use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated. Use of excessive use of alcohol or use of tobacco in the presence of players will not be tolerated. As a coach, you will not use alcohol or tobacco in the presence of players, on or off-field during the course of the season (the sole exception is an informal gathering at a private residence that is not sponsored by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club). You will not consume alcohol in any quantity prior to or during: practices, games, or other official team gatherings, including post-game/season gatherings. You will not use tobacco or alcohol on school property and municipal facilities since it is against Illinois law, and I may be subject to immediate removal as a coach if I do. You will not use illegal drugs or substances. You will not wear any clothing that promotes firearms, alcohol, tobacco products or bars; always dress professional. If (a) you fail any drug test, (b) we have reason to suspect that you are using (or have used) illegal drugs, (c) we have reason to suspect that you are intoxicated while in contact with children participating in Edwardsville Little Tigers Football (whether during club activities or otherwise, we may remove you as a coach or volunteer within Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club.

Coaches Pledge

Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club's goal is to help develop young boys into men beyond the lines of the football field by providing an environment where they will have fun and develop the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment and hard work. Winning is not the goal. We expect coaches to be consistent and caring role models with positive qualities. The following are not suggestions. We expect coaches will act as role models. Therefore, you agree and pledge that:

1. **Little Tigers Mission and Philosophy.** All my actions and decisions will support the mission, philosophy, purpose, requirements and guidelines set forth in the pamphlet entitled "Little Tiger Football Coaching Requirements and Expectations."
2. **Football Fundamentals.** I will teach the fundamentals of football to all players pursuant to the guidelines provided by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club.
3. **Preparation.** I will prepare for all practices and games.
 - a. I will strive to be organized and be efficient with my time having practices and drills planned out, written out and timed. I will abide by all club prescribed practice schedules and rules related to practice.
 - b. I will make drills game relevant and practice what is needed for each game.
 - c. I will strive to make the majority of drills with group sizes of no more than 6-8
 - d. I will strive to make drills no longer than 10 minutes.
 - e. I will keep live tackling drills limited to smaller spaces. For example, I will not perform 10-yard high-speed ramming type drills.
 - f. I will review in depth safe and sure blocking and tackling techniques with the head up to lessen the possibility of neck and head injuries.
 - g. I will adhere to the rules, programs and guidelines for practices and games of Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club and Tri-County Football League.
4. **Safety.** I will do my best to ensure that players have a safe experience while playing and practicing.
 - a. I will provide players plenty of water breaks. I will take no chances with heat exhaustion, NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - b. I will take no chances with injuries. I will always error on the side of caution.
 - c. I will inspect all playing areas to ensure that they are safe for play and practice.
 - d. I will be consistent, set parameters and will not let players go outside them.
 - e. I will never touch a player when I appear angry.
 - f. I will never touch a player in any private area.
 - g. I will never touch a player out of anger. I will only make contact when necessary. For example, when demonstrating a drill, technique or drill.
 - h. I will not grab a player's facemask or head.
 - i. If a player is injured and down, especially if a player appears to have a head or neck injury, I will not remove a player's helmet except when instructed to do so by a medical professional or until I am absolutely sure that a player's injuries do not affect his head or neck.
5. **Fun and Positive Experience.** I will do my best to ensure that all players have a fun and positive experience while playing and practicing.
 - a. I will strive to always have fun and keep it simple.
 - b. I will not use abusive language or berate or belittle players in any way.
 - c. I understand that voice volume may be raised only to ensure that the player(s) being addressed can hear for proper understanding, or to offer strong encouragement.
 - d. I will not use profanity or foul language and I understand that it will not be tolerated by the Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club.

- e. I will remember that I am working with children who will often make mental and physical mistakes.
 - f. I will be positive, smile, and enthusiastically encourage players.
 - g. I will always act in a manner to be an excellent role model for all Little Tiger Football players.
 - h. I will make decisions based on the best interest of all players.
 - i. I will strive to instill self-esteem and boost self confidence in all players.
6. **Sportsmanship.** I will encourage sportsmanship, team work, hard work and class at all times.
- a. I will choose the proper game day attitude remembering that people care more about what you do than they do about what you say.
 - b. I will support the game officials with positive comments in front of players. I understand that my lead will instill respect for authority and create a positive atmosphere for all that participate and watch.
 - c. I will not argue with officials or opposing coaches.
 - d. I will only talk to officials to clarify the number of the player committing the foul, asking for amount of time left or timeouts and clarifying a call.
 - e. I will never question a judgment call.
 - f. If I am removed from a game by an official I will be subject to discipline by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club and Tri County Football League, including a minimum of suspension for upcoming game(s) and could result in longer suspensions or expulsion from the club.
 - g. I will practice the circle of affirmation as set forth in the pamphlet entitled "Little Tiger Football Coaching Requirements and Expectations."
 - h. I will always reinforce the motto "win with class and lose with dignity."
 - i. I will never run up the score. If my team is ahead by more than 4 touchdowns, I will slow the game down by putting in second string lineup or taking a knee.
7. **Alcohol, tobacco and drug use.**
- a. I will not use alcohol and/or tobacco when in the presence of players, on-or off-field during the course of the season (the sole exception is an informal gathering at a private residence that is not sponsored by Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club).
 - b. I will not consume alcohol in any quantity prior to or during: practices, games, or other official team gatherings, including post-game/season gatherings.
 - c. I will not use tobacco or alcohol on school property and municipal facilities since it is against Illinois law, and I may be subject to immediate removal as a coach if I do.
 - d. I will not use illegal drugs or substances.
 - e. I will not wear any clothing that promotes firearms, alcohol, tobacco products or bars; always dress professional.
8. **Club Administration.**
- a. If I am a head coach, I will manage my sideline and parents.
 - b. I will bring issues related to sideline conduct to the attention of the Athletic Director or President.
 - c. I will always keep communication with parents open.
 - d. If I am a head coach, I will immediately retrieve and return equipment of any player that quits, and I will return equipment as directed by the Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club at the end of the season.
 - e. I will complete required paperwork and attend mandatory meetings, club events and clinics.
 - f. I will channel any comments or complaints through the Head Coach then Coaching Coordinator, then the Athletic Director, then the Board of Directors of Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club.

- g. I will abide by club rules related to playing time for participants including mandatory play monitor sheets.

9. **Club and School Support.**

- a. I will support (and not bad mouth) the Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club, District 7 Schools, athletic programs of District 7 Schools, fellow coaches.
- b. Dissension will tear the program apart and I will not participate in dissention.
- c. I will support the activities and decisions of Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club.

Attachment 1
Tri-County Rules

**SUBJECT TO CHANGES FOR THE 2016 SEASON. A NEW SET OF BYLAWS AND
STANDING RULES WILL BE PROVIDED UPON RECEIPT FROM TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL
CONFERENCE.**

**TRI-COUNTY JUNIOR FOOTBALL
CONFERENCE
An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation**

**AMENDED AND RESTATED
BY-LAWS**

May 2015

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PREAMBLE

Tri County Junior Football Conference (the “*Corporation*” or the “*League*”) was formed pursuant to the statutes of the State of Illinois on October 8, 1976 and original bylaws were adopted and last amended on June ___, 2013. These by-laws amend and completely restate those by-laws previously adopted by the Corporation and are adopted on this 12 day of May, 2015 by the Board (these “*By-Laws*”).

1. – NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The name of the Corporation is the Tri County Junior Football Conference. The principal office and registered agent of the Corporation shall be as prescribed by the Board.

2. – PURPOSE

- a) The purpose of the Corporation will be to:
- (a) promote the game of football in the Southwestern Illinois area;
 - (b) inspire children to practice good health, citizenship, and character;
 - (c) bring children together through means of a common interest in sportsmanship, fair play, and fellowship;
 - (d) keep the welfare of the children first and entirely free of adult lust and glory;
 - (e) acquaint the children with the fundamentals of the game; running, passing, kicking, blocking, and tackling;
 - (f) teach sportsmanship, love of the game, and the ability to overcome adversity; and
 - (g) promote safe play by encouraging children to play in their own weight and age division.
- b) The Corporation will not:
- (h) endorse, sponsor financially, nor support in any way, any political party or candidate for political office;
 - (i) take any action that is contrary to its purpose set forth in Section A of this Article 2;
 - (j) take any action or position contrary to its function as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois or as required pursuant to its recognition for exemption as a not-for-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “*Code*”).

3. – MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE

- 3.1 **GENERAL.** Only organizations that have been admitted to the League pursuant to the procedures set forth below and have not been terminated or suspended (including without limitation, suspension for failure to remain in Good Standing) will be a member of the League (each a “**Member**” and collectively, “**Members**”).
- 3.2 **ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.** An organization desiring to join the League (a “**Prospective Member**”) may be admitted as a Member as follows:
- (a) **Application and Documentation.** A Prospective Member will present an application for admission to the League (the “**Application**”) to the Board pursuant to procedures established by the Board. The Application will consist will consist of the following requirements:
- (i) Any potential new club may not appear before Growth and Development without sponsorship from 2 Tri-County organizations in good standing.
 - (ii) Prospective Member’s articles of corporation, articles of organization or similar proof of charter from the State of Illinois.
 - (iii) Prospective Member’s by-laws.
 - (iv) A copy of minutes of the most recent meeting of the Prospective Member and a copy of meeting minutes (or resolution in lieu of a meeting) of the Prospective Member authorizing the Prospective Member to pursue membership in the League.
 - (v) List of officers and board members of the Prospective Member.
 - (vi) Most recent bank statement with a balance of \$1,000.00 of the Prospective Member.
 - (vii) Any other document, evidence, requirement, fee or qualification prescribed by the Board.
 - h. The field must meet the approval of the Growth and Development Committee
 - i. Written letter of proof that they have home field available
- (b) **Admission.** Admission to the League pursuant to an Application will require the vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Directors present at a Regular Meeting or a Special Meeting called for such purpose.

- (c) **Initial Fees.** Upon admission to the League, Members will pay a fee of \$100.00 for a period of three (3) years (the “*Initial Fee*”).

3.3 **REMOVAL OF MEMBERS.** A Member may be removed as follows:

- (a) **By Vote.** A Member may be removed and expelled from the League, with or without cause, by the vote of at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Directors present at a Meeting, called for such purpose; provided, however, a quorum at any Meeting called for purposes of removal of a Member shall consist of three-fourths (3/4ths) of the then serving Directors and provided further, that Directors representing Members subject to removal are not entitled to vote in connection with removal and therefore will not be considered in determining a quorum of Directors at any Meeting called for such purpose.
- (b) **Absence.** A Member may be removed as set forth in Section B.1. of Article 4.
- (c) **Prohibited Affiliation.** Members may be removed as set forth in Section D.2 of Article 3.
- (d) **Good Standing.** A Member remains out of Good Standing until made to be in Good Standing by acceptance of the payment, document or other remedy that cause the Member to fall out of Good Standing.
- (e) **Actions Against the League.** Any Member that files, or causes to be filed, or whose representative Director(s) file, or cause to be filed, any legal action against the League (including without limitation, an action filed in any court of competent jurisdiction or any alternative dispute resolution filed against the League, such as arbitration, whether voluntary or involuntary, or mediation), shall immediately be suspended and disqualified as a Member.

3.4 **GOOD STANDING.** A Member will NOT be in “*Good Standing*” and will lose their right to Director representation on the Board and will no longer have any right to vote on matters affecting the Corporation if a Member:

- (a) fails to pay any amounts due to the League (including, without limitation, dues, fines, fees, payments or other monetary consideration whatsoever as prescribed hereunder or by the League) on or before the same become due and payable;
- (b) any director or officer thereof, and/or any Director representing that Member affiliates in any way with other football league(s), conference(s), or similar organization(s) considered to compete with the League, as determined by the Board, without first obtaining approval from two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Directors at a Meeting called for such purpose (a “*Prohibited Affiliation*”); if a Member is not in Good Standing due to a Director’s Prohibited Affiliation, the Director engaging in such Prohibited Affiliation will be immediately terminated from the Board and will be prohibited from serving as a Director for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months from the date of said Director’s termination; or

- (c) fails to provide the Member Report on or before the due date as prescribed by the Board.

Reinstatement of a Member not in Good Standing will require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Directors at a Meeting called for such purpose.

3.5 INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS.

- (a) **Member Report.** The following information will be provided to the League pursuant to rules prescribed by the Board (the “*Member Report*”):
 - (i) Member’s officers including name, phone number, address, e-mail address (if available);
 - (ii) Member’s organizational mailing address;
 - (iii) evidence that the Member’s organization is in good standing with the State of Illinois;
 - (iv) a list of the name, phone number, address, e-mail address, cell phone number and facsimile number (if available) of each Director nominated for the then fiscal year by the Member;
 - (v) such other information related to each Member as prescribed by the Board.
- (b) **List of Member Organizations.** The League will maintain a list of Members including information provided on the Member Report.

3.6 **LIABILITY.** No Member shall be personally liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of the League solely because of their membership in the League.

4. – FEES, FINES AND PENALTIES

4.1 FEES.

- (a) **Initial Fees.** Members shall pay the Initial Fee as set forth in Section B.3 of Article 3.
- (b) **Team Fee.** Each year, Members will pay a fee per team as prescribed by the Board for each team that will participate in the League’s games (the “*Team Fee*”). Fifty percent (50%) of the Team Fee will be refunded on or prior to December 31 of each year if the applicable Member’s team completes its games within the game schedule as prescribed by the League. In the event a team fails to participate in all League games (including post-season games as applicable), the Member will forfeit the Team Fee. Forfeiture of the Team Fee does not limit the right of the League to collect additional fines or other actions, including suspension as set forth herein and in rules prescribed by the League.

- (c) **Other Fees.** The Board may impose fees, dues, reimbursements, fines and penalties pursuant to rules of the League or otherwise.

4.2 FINES AND PENALTIES.

- (a) **Fines for Failure to Attend Meetings.** Any Member that fails to have at least one (1) Director attend two (2) Meetings during any twelve (12) month period will be assessed a fine as prescribed by the Board (the “*Initial Meeting Fine*”). Any Member that fails to have at least one (1) Director attend three (3) Meetings during any twelve (12) month period will be assessed a fine in addition to the Initial Meeting Fine, as prescribed by the Board. Any Member that fails to have at least one (1) Director attend four (4) Meetings during any twelve (12) month period will be expelled from the League and Directors for said Member will be removed from the Board. There will be no excused absences.
- (b) **Other Fines.** Upon notice to the Members, the Board may impose other fines and penalties pursuant to rules of the League.

5. –BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 5.1 **MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION.** The affairs of the Corporation will be managed by a Board of the Directors selected as provided in this Article 5 (the “*Board*”).

- 5.2 **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS.** On or before the Regular Meeting held in January of each year and pursuant to rules and procedures prescribed by the Board, each Member will nominate a maximum of three (3) primary representatives and three (3) alternate representatives to the Board (each a “*Director*” and collectively for all Members, “*Directors*”) who are qualified pursuant to Section C. of this Article 5. One (1) Primary representative must attend the regular scheduled monthly meeting.

- 5.3 **QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS.** A nominated Director must attend at least one (1) Meeting prior to becoming a Director. No person will be a Director for more than one **Organization.**

- 5.4 **REMOVAL OF A DIRECTOR.** A Director may be removed as follows:

- (a) **By Vote.** Directors may be removed, with or without cause, by the vote of at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of Directors present at a Meeting, called for such purpose.
- (b) **Absence.** Directors may be removed as set forth in Section B.1. of Article 4.
- (c) **Prohibited Affiliation.** Directors may be removed as set forth in Section D.2 of Article 3.
- (d) **Removal of Member.** Upon the removal or termination of a Member, the Member’s representative Directors will be automatically removed.

- (e) **Actions Against the League.** Any Director that files, or causes to be filed, any legal action against the League (including without limitation, an action filed in any court of competent jurisdiction or any alternative dispute resolution filed against the League, such as arbitration, whether voluntary or involuntary, or mediation), shall immediately be removed as a Director and the Member they represent shall be removed as a Member.
- 5.5 **VACANCIES.** Unless the vacancy of such Director results from the removal of the Director pursuant to Sections D.3., D.4. or D. 5. of this Article 5, any vacancy created by such removal shall be filled for the unexpired term in respect of such vacancy by nomination from the Member that the vacating Director represented by written nomination to the Secretary.
- 5.6 **COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS.** Directors shall not receive any remuneration for their services; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation or reimbursement of expenses therefor.
- 5.7 **CHECKS AND FINANCIAL POLICY.** All checks or demands for money and notes of the Corporation shall be signed by such Officer or Officers or such other person as the Board may from time to time designate, provided that any two (2) signatures must accompany all checks and drafts of the Corporation.
- 5.8 **LIABILITY.** No Director shall be personally liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of the League solely because of their service on the Board.

6. – MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Regular Meetings and Special Meetings are sometimes collectively referred to in these Bylaws as “*Meetings*”, but the terms “*Meeting*” or “*Meetings*”, as used in these Bylaws, do not include Committee Meetings)

6.1 REGULAR MEETINGS.

- (a) **Schedule.** The regular meetings of the Board will take place on the following dates at the Regular Meeting Location (each a “*Regular Meeting*” and collectively, the “*Regular Meetings*”)
- (i) **7PM**, the second (2nd) Tuesday of January, February, March, April, May, June July, August, November and December of each year; and
- (ii) **8PM**, the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of September and October of each year.
- (b) **Location.** The location of Regular Meetings (the “*Regular Meeting Location*”) will be determined as follows:

- (i) Any Member desiring to host the Regular Meeting must submit written application to host the meetings to the Secretary before the Regular Meeting held in January of each year. For Regular Meetings, facilities must:
 - (1) be indoors with adequate heating, air conditioning and ventilation;
 - (2) accommodate the number of Directors and Officers currently serving on the Board and any other party presenting or attending Regular Meetings;
 - (3) be available for twelve (12) consecutive months on the dates set forth in Section A. 1. of this Article 6 after approval by the Board.
- (ii) The Regular Meeting Location will be decided by the vote of the Directors at the Regular Meeting held in February of each year and will remain in that location until March of the following year unless changed by the vote of the Directors or, in the event a change in the Regular Meeting Location becomes necessary prior to any Meeting, then at such location as prescribed by the Executive Committee, in which case the Regular Meeting Location will be at a location otherwise provided by notice to each Directors by any Officer.

(c) Time. 7pm December thru July and 8pm August thru November

B. **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** A special meeting of the Board (each a “*Special Meeting*” and collectively with respect to all such meetings, the “*Special Meetings*”) may be called as follows:

- (a) **Action of Members.** If requested by three (3) or more Members, the President shall schedule a special meeting within five (5) days of the request by notice to each Director.
- (b) **Action of President.** The President shall have the power to call any Special Meeting as deemed necessary by notice to each Director.
- (c) **Notice.** Notice of any Special Meeting occurring during the months of August through November of any calendar year must be sent to the Directors at least three (3) days prior to the Special Meeting. Notice of any Special Meeting occurring during the months of January through July or in the month of December of any calendar year must be sent to the Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the Special Meeting. Notice of any Meeting or cancellation of any Meeting may be given personally, or by first class mail, by e-mail, facsimile or telephone pursuant to the information provided on the Member Report or announced and recorded in the minutes of the Board at any Regular Meeting.

6.3 ABSENCES.

- (a) If a Director is not present fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled Meeting time, the Director will be counted absent and not in attendance.

- (b) A Member whose Director(s) is absent from Meetings is subject to the fines and penalties set forth in Section B.1. of Article 4.

6.4 **QUORUM.**

- (a) **Waiver of Notice.** A Director's attendance at or participation in any Meeting waives any required notice of the meeting unless the Director upon arriving at the Meeting or prior to the vote on a matter not noticed in conformity with the law or these Bylaws, objects to lack of notice and does not vote for or assent to the objected to action. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any Meeting need be specified in any notice or waiver of notice of such meeting unless otherwise provide by law or in these Bylaws, in which case such express provision shall govern and control.
- (b) **Majority.** At all Meetings, a majority of all the Directors in office shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of a majority of the Directors present at any Meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board, unless the action is one upon which, by express provision of the statutes or these Bylaws, a different vote is required, in which case such express provision shall govern and control. If a quorum shall not be present at any meeting of Directors, the Directors present thereat may adjourn the Meeting, from time to time, without notice other than announcement at the Meeting, until a quorum shall be present.

6.5 **CANCELLATION.** No Meeting may be canceled unless agreed upon by a majority of the Executive Committee. Meetings may be cancelled by notice to each Director. Notice of any cancellation of any Meeting may be given personally, or by first class mail, by e-mail, facsimile or telephone pursuant to the information provided on the Member Report or announced and recorded in the minutes of the Board at any Regular Meeting.

6.6 **VOTING.** At Meetings, each Member is entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes and only one (1) vote per Director present, unless the action is one upon which, by express provision of the statutes or these Bylaws, a different vote is required or prohibited, in which case such express provision shall govern and control.

6.7 **RULES OF ORDER.** Robert's Rule of Order will govern the proceedings of all Meetings, except where it conflicts with these Bylaws.

7. – OFFICERS

7.1 **OFFICERS.** The Officers of the League (the "*Officers*"), will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and a Treasurer.

7.2 **NOMINATIONS.**

- (a) **Qualifications.** The following are the qualifications to be nominated as an Officer of the Corporation:

- a. the nominee must have been a Director for at least one (1) year; and
 - b. the Member that the nominee represented as a Director must be in Good Standing at the time of the nomination.
- (b) **Submitting a Nomination.** Any Member may nominate a qualified person as an Officer of the Corporation. All nominations for Officers will be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee by the Regular Meeting held in November. All nominees must be endorsed in writing by the Member they represent.
- 7.3 **ELECTION.** Officers will be elected by vote of the Directors at the Regular Meeting held in December each year. Voting will be by secret ballot and a nominee must receive a majority of votes cast by Directors present at the Regular Meeting held in December to be elected as an Officer. If any nominee fails to obtain a majority of votes, then a run-off election will take place at the same Meeting of the two (2) nominees with the greatest number of votes by secret ballot. This process will continue until one (1) nominee receives the majority of votes cast by Directors present at the Regular Meeting held in December.
- 7.4 **TERM OF OFFICE.** Each Officer will serve for a term of one (1) year or until a successor is elected. Officers may be elected to successive terms.
- 7.5 **REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.** An Officer may be removed as follows:
- (a) **By Vote.** Officers may be removed, with or without cause, by the vote of at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of Directors present at a Meeting called for that purpose. Unless the removal of such Officer results from the removal of a Member (in which case the Officer will be automatically removed as set forth in Section E.4. of this Article 7).
 - (b) **Absence.** If that Officer misses two (2) Meetings and/or Committee Meetings without giving notice to another member of the Executive Committee.
 - (c) **Prohibited Affiliation.** Officers may be removed as set forth in Section D.2 of Article 5.
 - (d) **Removal of Member.** Upon the removal or termination of a Member, any Officer endorsed by their representative Member will be automatically removed from office.
 - (e) **Actions Against the League.** Any Officer that files, or causes to be filed, any legal action against the League (including without limitation, an action filed in any court of competent jurisdiction or any alternative dispute resolution filed against the League, such as arbitration, whether voluntary or involuntary, or mediation), shall immediately be removed as an Officer.
- 7.6 **VACANCIES.** An Officer may resign at any time by delivering notice to the Corporation. A resignation is effective when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a future effective date. The Corporation shall hold a special election to fill any vacancy on the Executive Committee

(a “**Special Election**”). Any Member in Good Standing may nominate a qualified person to fill the remaining term of the office left vacant pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section B. of this Article 7, except that nominations will be due by the next Regular Meeting after notice of the Special Election by the Executive Committee to each Director (the “**Special Election Nomination Date**”). Election of the Officer pursuant to the Special Election will be pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section C. of this Article 7, except that the Special Election will be held on the next Regular Meeting after the Special Election Nomination Date. Any Officer elected by Special Election will serve the remainder of the term of the Officer he or she replaced.

7.7 **PRESIDENT.** The President shall:

- (a) Be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall preside at all Meetings at which he or she is present.
- (b) Execute bonds, mortgages, and all other contracts except where permitted by law to be otherwise signed and executed, and except where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board to some other Officer or agent of the Corporation.
- (c) Be an ex officio member of all committees except for the Nominating Committee.
- (d) Perform such duties as prescribed by the Board, the rules of the League and these Bylaws.
- (e) See that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect.

7.8 **VICE PRESIDENT.** The Vice President shall:

- (a) Preside at all Meetings at which he or she is present in the absence or disability of the President.
- (b) Be in charge of league standings, weekly results, weigh in stamps and sportsmanship standings.
- (c) Solicit officials (referees) from each Member for League post-season competitions and schedule officials (referees) for each post-season competition site pursuant to the rules of the League.
- (d) Distribute the form of the official weigh in cards for football players and scheduling and organizing the official League sanctioned weigh in of football players pursuant to the rules of the League.
- (e) Collecting and organizing data from the official game cards and official (referee) cards from League games, including post season competition games.
- (f) Administering a competency evaluation of all officials (referees) each year.

- (g) Inspecting and confirming the playing fields for all Members pursuant to the rules of the League and these Bylaws.
- (h) Perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board, the President, the rules of the League or these Bylaws.

7.9 **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall:

- (a) Keep or cause to be kept a record of all Meetings and shall record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose.
- (b) Give, or cause to be given, notice of all Meetings.
- (c) Be responsible for authenticating all records of the Corporation.
- (d) Report on all Members not in Good Standing.
- (e) Keep and distribute a current list of the Directors with all pertinent contact information.
- (f) Perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board, the President, the rules of the League or these Bylaws.

7.10 **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Have custody of the Corporation's funds and securities, and keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation, deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board.
- (b) Disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers for such disbursement, and shall render the President and the Directors, as Regular Meetings, or whenever the Board or the President may otherwise require, an account of all of the transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation.
- (c) Give the Corporation a bond in such sum and with such surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory to the Board for the faithful performance of duties of his or her office and for the restoration of the Corporation, in case of his or her death, resignation, retirement or removal from office, of all books, papers, vouchers, money and other property of whatever kind in his or her possession or under his or her control belonging to the Corporation.
- (d) Report all amounts owed by Members not in Good Standing.
- (e) Perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board, the President, the rules of the League or these Bylaws.

- 7.11 **LIABILITY.** No Officer shall be personally liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of the League solely because of their service as an Officer of the Corporation.

8. – COMMITTEES

8.1 **STANDING COMMITTEES.**

- (a) **Executive Committee.** The committee of all of the Officers is sometimes referred to in these Bylaws as the “*Executive Committee*”. The Executive Committee shall:
- (i) Have and exercise the authority of the Board between meetings of the Board.
 - (ii) Be responsible for representing the Corporation in all resolution of disputes filed against the Corporation, whether in a court of competent jurisdiction or in any alternative dispute resolution such as arbitration or mediation.
 - (iii) Propose a budget at the Regular Meeting held in January each year for approval by the Board.
 - (iv) Solicit quotes regarding rates and coverage for insurance to be carried by the Corporation and the Members and make recommendations at the Board.
- (b) **Ages and Weights.** The Ages and Weights Committee is comprised of all Members. The Ages and Weights Committee shall review the existing ages and weights divisions and recommend changes to the Board for approval.
- (c) **Rules and Bylaws.** The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall be comprised of all Member Organizations. Each the Committee will review these Bylaws, rules of the League and any other governing documents and bring back recommended changes to the Board for approval.
- (d) **Growth and Development.** The Growth and Development Committee is comprised of all Members. The Growth and Development Committee shall hear and decide if prospective Members that desire to join the League have satisfied the criteria as set forth in these Bylaws and the rules promulgated by the Board and shall decide if prospective Members shall be presented to the Board.
- (e) **Nominating.** The Nominating Committee shall be selected from Members of the Board at the January Regular Meeting each year. The Nominating Committee shall accept nominations for Officers and present the ballot for Officers to the Board.
- (f) **Scheduling.** The Scheduling Committee shall be selected from Members of the Board at the January Regular Meeting each year. The Scheduling Committee shall coordinate all scheduling efforts of the League, both regular season games and playoff games pursuant to rules promulgated by the Board.

(g) **Discipline and Rules Interpretation.** The Disciplinary and Rules Interpretation Committee shall be comprised of all Members.

(i) **Duties.** The Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee shall:

- (1) Continually study the playing rules of the game, the rules of the League, and interpretations of all such game and League rules and make recommendations known to the Board and the Rules and Bylaws Committee.
- (2) Continually study the behavior of Members and investigate unethical behavior as it pertains to the rules and policies of the League.
- (3) Conduct all hearings related to the violation of rules or ethics committed by Members and their players, coaches, field officials (referees) or spectators as set forth in the rules of the League or these Bylaws.
- (4) Conduct and oversee any other disciplinary matters as may come before the League in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Board and these Bylaws.
- (5) Meet two (2) times per month during the regular season. If a player, coach, assistant coach or individual has been ejected from a League football game, such player, coach, assistant coach or other individual will be suspended from all League activities until the next scheduled Disciplinary Committee meeting.

(ii) **Committee Makeup.** All Members shall make up the Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee; provided, however, a Member may not have more than one Director on the Rules and Disciplinary Committee, but may allow an alternate Director to serve on the Rules and Disciplinary Committee if the Director selected representing that Member is unable to attend. A Director sitting on the Rules and Disciplinary Committee may not vote on a matter involving a matter related to the Member that Director represents.

8.2 **SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** The Board, by a resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors in office, may designate one or more other Board committees, each of which shall consist of at least two Directors. Such committees shall, to the extent provided in such resolution, have and exercise the authority of the Board. Any committee set forth in Section A. of this Article 6 or as set forth in this Section B. or this Article 6., shall be herein referred to as a “*Committee*” and collectively as “*Committees*”.

8.3 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**

- (a) **Location.** The location of any Committee meeting (each a “*Committee Meeting*” and collectively, “*Committee Meetings*”) will be determined by the chairman of the Committee.
- (b) **Time.** Upon the determination of the location of a Committee Meeting, any member of the committee will give notice to each Director of the schedule of Committee Meetings including the time of commencement of each Committee Meeting the location of each Committee Meeting. The notice may be in writing, via electronic mail or announcement at any Regular Meeting.
- (c) **Notice.** Notice of any Committee Meeting occurring during the months of August through November of any calendar year must be sent to the Directors at least three (3) days prior to the Committee Meeting. Notice of any Committee Meeting occurring during the months of January through July or in the month of December of any calendar year must be sent to the members at least ten (10) days prior to the Committee Meeting. Notice of any Meeting or cancellation of any Meeting may be given personally, or by first class mail, by e-mail, facsimile or telephone pursuant to the information provided on the Member Report or announced and recorded in the minutes of the Board at any Regular Meeting.
- (d) **Absences.** If a Director who is a member of a Committee is not present thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled Committee Meeting time as set forth in the notice to be provided pursuant to Section C.2. of this Article 6., the Director will be counted absent and not in attendance. A Member whose Director(s) is absent from any Committee Meeting is subject to the fines and penalties set forth in Section B.1. of Article 4.
- (e) **Quorum.**
 - (i) **Waiver of Notice.** A Director’s attendance at or participation in any Committee Meeting waives any required notice of the Committee Meeting unless the Director upon arriving at the Committee Meeting or prior to the vote on a matter not noticed in conformity with the law or these Bylaws, objects to lack of notice and does not vote for or assent to the objected to action. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any Committee Meeting need be specified in any notice or waiver of notice of such Committee Meeting unless otherwise provide by law or in these Bylaws, in which case such express provision shall govern and control.
 - (ii) **Majority.** At all Committee Meetings, a majority of all the Directors in office who are members of said Committee shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of a majority of the Directors who are members of said Committee who are present at any Committee Meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Committee. If a quorum shall not be present at any Committee Meeting, the Directors present thereat may adjourn the Committee Meeting, from time to

time, without notice other than announcement at the Committee Meeting, until a quorum shall be present.

- (f) **Cancellation.** No Committee Meeting may be canceled unless agreed upon by a majority of the Directors who are members of the Committee. Committee Meetings may be cancelled by notice to each Director. Notice of any cancellation of any Meeting may be given personally, or by first class mail, by e-mail, facsimile or telephone pursuant to the information provided on the Member Report or announced and recorded in the minutes of the Board at any Regular Meeting.
- (g) **Rules of Order.** Robert’s Rule of Order will govern the proceedings of all Committee Meetings, except where it conflicts with these Bylaws.

9. – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

9.1 AGES AND WEIGHTS.

DIVISION	Age as of September 1 st	Max Weight	Position Restrictions
TYKES	5-6	Unlimited	Over 65 lbs = Striper
7U	7	Unlimited	Over 80 lbs = Striper
8U	8	Unlimited	Over 90 lbs = Striper
9U	9	Unlimited	Over 100 lbs = Striper
10U	10	Unlimited	Over 110 lbs = Striper
11U	11	Unlimited	Over 120 lbs = Striper
12U	12	Unlimited	Over 135 lbs = Striper
14U	14	Unlimited	Over 175 lbs = Striper

- (a) **Age Restrictions.** The minimum age for participation shall be five (5) years of age. Maximum age for participant shall be fourteen (14) years of age. The player's age shall be considered his or her age as of September 1 of the calendar year in which League play begins. For example, if a player’s birthday is September 1 and the player turns 9 years old on September 1, that player will play in the 9U Division.

- (b) **Grade Restrictions.** No player shall have completed the eighth (8th) grade, nor be in the ninth (9th) grade and play in the League.
- (c) **No Like-Sport.** No player shall participate in a like-sport and also participate in League play. Like-sport shall be defined as set forth in the then current rules and regulations promulgated by the Illinois High School Association or as set forth in the Illinois High School Association bylaws and constitution.

9.2 **GENERAL LEAGUE RULES**

All eligible players on each team must participate in each game a mandatory eight (8) plays. A player weighing in at half-time is only required four (4) plays per game. The following penalties will be assessed against those organizations not complying with this rule:

First Offense: \$150.00 fine, forfeit of the game and a 1 game suspension for the head coach of the team found to be in violation of this rule.

Second Offense: \$250.00 fine, forfeit of the game and a two game suspension for the head coach of the team found to be in violation of this rule.

Third Offense: \$500.00 fine, forfeit of the game, and a one year suspension for the head coach of the team found to be in violation of this rule.

Play-offs: \$500.00 fine, forfeit of the game, and a suspension applicable to the offense(s) listed in this rule.

If applicable, this suspension will carry over into the next season.

10. – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Executive Committee, shall after paying or making provision for the payment of the Corporation's lawful debts, shall distribute all assets to any of the following organizations: (1) each Member, in equal shares; (2) organizations who have been organized and are operated for purposes consistent with those of the corporation who are operated as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any future law of the United States for substantially the same purposes (the “**Code**”); (3) organizations operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code; (4) to the State of Illinois or a political subdivision thereof; or (5) to the United States of America, and to no other organization or person.

11. – ALTERATION, AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Directors at a Meeting called for such purpose where at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Members are represented. For example, if there are twelve (12) Members in Good Standing, each having two (2) voting Directors, then nine (9) Members must be represented at a Meeting by a Director to constitute a quorum at such Meeting and there must be at least sixteen (16) Directors voting to alter, amend or repeal these Bylaws. No alteration, amendment or repeal of these Bylaws shall be voted upon at the same Meeting called for such purpose at which such alteration, amendment or repeal is introduced, but such alteration, amendment or repeal of these Bylaws shall be voted upon at the next Meeting called for such purpose. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any alteration, amendment or repeal of these Bylaws after the Regular Meeting held in July of each year, must be by unanimous vote of all Directors at a Meeting called for such purpose where all Members are represented. For example, if there are Twelve (12) Members, each having two (2) voting Directors, then all twelve (12) Members must be represented at a Meeting by a Director to constitute a quorum and all Directors present at such meeting must vote to alter, amend or repeal these Bylaws.

12. – DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, CONFLICTS AMONG MEMBERS AND INVESTIGATIONS

- 12.1 **MEMBERS.** Members must maintain discipline within their organizations and during the games which each Member hosts. Failure to do so may cause the Member to be disciplined by the League. Disciplinary matters involving a Member's players, coaches, assistant coaches, officials (referees), administrators, teams, or spectators shall be handled as set forth in the rules of the League and these Bylaws.
- 12.2 **CONFLICT BETWEEN MEMBERS.** In the event of a conflict between Members, upon written request of any Member to any the President or the Secretary, the Executive Committee shall assign the dispute to the Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee for resolution pursuant to the rules of the League and these Bylaws.
- 12.3 **INVESTIGATION BY THE LEAGUE.** The League may conduct an investigation of any matter related to League play, cheerleading, the conduct of a Member, its coaches, officials (referees), administrators, teams or spectators, a Member's Good Standing or any other matter related to a Member through the Executive Committee, the Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee or any other Special Committee appointed by the Board for such purpose. Any hearing regarding such matters shall be before the Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee. At such a hearing, the Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee will render a recommended disciplinary action to the Board against said parties, if necessary. Failure of a party to attend such hearing, except upon request for rescheduling of the hearing to enable such party to attend, received by the President or Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the establishment of the hearing date, shall not excuse such party from being bound by the recommendation of the Discipline and Rules Interpretation Committee and/or decision of the Board.

13. - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin the first day of January in each year.

14. - SEAL

The corporation shall not have a seal.

Tri-County Standing Rules

August 2014

Tri-County Standing Rules

August 2015

**SUBJECT TO CHANGES FOR THE 2016 SEASON. A NEW SET OF BYLAWS AND
STANDING RULES WILL BE PROVIDED UPON RECEIPT FROM TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL
CONFERENCE.**

TRI-COUNTY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

STANDING RULES

As Amended
May 2015

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ARTICLE 1 – NEW MEMBERSHIP

Moved to Tri-County By-Laws ARTICLE 3.B.1

ARTICLE 2 – DUES AND FEES

- A. All dues and fees are due on the date specified in the By Laws, these Standing Rules, or as specified by the league president subject to board approval. Any member organization owing money to Tri County Junior Football Conference is a member organization not in good standing.
- B. Unless otherwise specified; all fines, debts, fees & penalties are due by the next regular meeting.
- C. All fees or fines must be paid prior to any refunds given.
- D. Any member organization owing money to another member organization as determined by the League will pay the debt through the Tri County Junior Football Conference by check. All fines, debts, fees, penalties owed by a member organization to another member organization must be paid through the Tri-County Treasurer.
- E. All fines and fees not paid by due date are subject to a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) late charge per month unless specified otherwise.

ARTICLE 3 - SCHEDULING

- A. **SCHEDULE TIMEFRAME** – The schedule for games played within the League will run from the first weekend after Labor Day and conclude no later than the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, and will include Playoffs.
- B. **GAMES** – minimum of six (6) regular season games will be played (a forfeit is considered a game played). However, the Scheduling Committee will attempt to schedule a minimum of eight (8) regular season games.
- C. **FIELD AVAILABILITY** – All Organizations must designate a home field(s) within reasonable proximity to their respective community. The designated field will be where all scheduled home games are played. Beginning in 2015, simultaneous games will not be played on adjacent fields which are not separated by at least 25 yards. Situations that require a relocation of the home field venue exceeding more than two consecutive games will require 2/3 approval of the Board. A form setting forth field availability as prescribed by the Scheduling Committee (the "***Field Availability Form***") must be submitted to the Scheduling Committee no later than the July regular meeting of the Board.
- D. **SHARING FIELDS** – If an Organization shares a field with a high school or other activity, the Organization must submit a copy of schedules for all teams or activities on that field to the Scheduling Committee no later than the August regular meeting.
- E. **COMMITMENT OF TEAMS** – On or before 7:00 p.m. of the third Friday in August (the "***Team Declaration Date***"), all Organizations will inform the Chairman of the Scheduling Committee in writing on a form as prescribed by the Scheduling Committee (the "***Team Declaration Form***") the following information for the upcoming season: (1) the number of teams by Age Division; (2) the number of teams in each Age Division; and (3) the designation of Conference (as defined below) for each team within each Age Division including a first and second preference if a team is willing to be placed in a Conference (as described in Article 2, Section N. 5. below).
- F. **TEAM ADDITIONS/WITHDRAWALS**
1. **Prior to Game Schedule Publication.** Adding or withdrawing a team or teams after the Team Declaration Date but before the League publishes the game schedule for teams playing within the League (the "***Game Schedule***") will result in a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per team. This fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) must be paid at the Scheduling Meeting. No games will be played by any team of an Organization that fails to pay this fine prior to the start of the season and all scheduled games will result in forfeit until payment has been made. Requests for the addition of a team or teams are not automatically guaranteed. The Scheduling Committee will immediately review any request to determine if any additions can be incorporated into the schedule without the need for a major overhaul of an already completed schedule. The Scheduling Committee's decision will be final. A One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) fine per team will be assessed only in the event the request is approved.

2. **After Game Schedule Publication.** After the Game Schedule is published by the League, no teams may be added by any Organization. Withdrawing a team or teams after the game schedule is published will result in a fine of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per team. This fine of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) must be paid at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board after withdrawal of the team or teams by the Organization. No games will be played by any team of an Organization that fails to pay this fine and all scheduled games of said Organization will result in forfeit until payment has been made.

- G. **PRESENTING SCHEDULES** – Schedules will be presented at a special meeting called by the President of the Board during the week prior to week one (1) of the season schedule.
- H. **SCRIMMAGES** – Beginning August 1 of the fiscal year through **January 1**, scrimmages are permitted both within and outside of the League without Board permission. Any contest outside of non-scheduled League games will be considered a scrimmage (i.e. pre-season and post-season tournaments, bye weeks, etc.). From March 1 to July 31, scrimmages **must** be approved by the Board.
- I. **FIELD PERMISSIONS** – A written statement confirming field usage must be presented to the Board at the regularly scheduled June meeting. This statement will require the signature of the individuals having authority to grant such usage.
- J. **SCHEDULE REVIEW MEETING** – The special schedule meeting (the "**Scheduling Meeting**") will be held by Labor Day at time and place as directed by the Chairman of the Scheduling Committee. The Scheduling Meeting is a required meeting for all Organizations of the League and the Executive Committee and only two representatives from each Organization may attend.
- K. **GAMES** – Regular scheduled home games will be at least two hours (2) between start of games, with fifteen (15) minutes allowance for game starting time. In the event of a serious injury, or multiple injuries, teams will be allowed to continue **up to fifteen (15) minutes beyond** the next game's scheduled start time [example: if a game is scheduled to start at two o'clock (2:00) p.m., the previous game's participants will be allowed to play until two fifteen (2:15) p.m. if needed as a result of an extended delay for injury]. **The only exception to this rule would be if the last game of the day is running late. That game will be played to completion as long as the head official and/or TC Rep deems that lighting is sufficient to continue.** It is the responsibility of the home team to clear the field if a game is running long. The field should be cleared no later than the next game's scheduled start time, with the exception of Article 8, Section A. 7. below. The score at the time the game is called is considered final. Failure to do so will result in forfeit of the next game by the home team. The head referee's watch is official. The only exception is, if a game is running late, and it is mutually agreed upon by the head coaches of the succeeding game to allow their game to start late. It should, however, be understood by both parties, that the head coaches of yet another succeeding game may not agree to start late, thus creating the possibility of their game being halted due to time constraints. Beginning with **Daylight Savings** Time, no game will be scheduled to start later than three o'clock (3:00) p.m. unless mutually agreed upon by both clubs and the facility has access to the usage of lights.

- L. **GAME TIME FRAMES** – All League games will be played on Saturday or Sunday. Start times for games will be scheduled within the following time frames: D.S.T. - 9:00 am thru 4:00 pm C.S.T. - 9:00 am thru 3:00 pm. **Games can not start earlier than their scheduled time.** Any scheduled game times outside these parameters will require mutual agreement between the two Organizations. The last scheduled game of the day can be continued until the home club determines that lighting is an issue.
- M. **TYKES GAMES** – The scheduled start times for any game succeeding a Tyke contest may begin no sooner than one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes after the scheduled start time of any such Tyke contest.
- N. **SCHEDULING GUIDELINES**
1. **Conferences.** If an Age Division contains fourteen (14) to twenty one (21) teams, the Age Division may be split into two (2) divisions to be identified as National Conference and the American Conference. If an Age Division contains less than fourteen (14) teams, the schedule for play will be determined pursuant to Article 3, Section N. 5. below. If there are more than twenty one (21) teams in any Age Division, a special meeting will be called to determine if an additional Conference(s) will be added, the logistics and criteria for the additional Conference(s) and scheduling logistics for the additional Conference(s).
 2. **Conference Criteria.** With the exception of the Tykes and 7 and under Age Divisions (which will be divided based on geographic location in order to provide ease in travel for the younger age groups and not the criteria below but will otherwise consist of a single conference), conferences will be divided to allow teams competitive parity and balanced play. Scheduling will make every effort to avoid scheduling games whereby teams from the same Organization will play against one another.
 - a. **National Conference Criteria.** The National Conference should consist of teams:
 - 1) desiring a higher level of competition;
 - 2) with larger, stronger and more athletic players;
 - 3) with players that have previously played organized football; and
 - 4) that played in the American Conference Championship Game in the immediately preceding year (when the team returning is made up of at least 9 players from the team playing in the American Conference Championship in the immediately preceding year).
 - b. **American Conference Criteria.** The American Conference should consist of teams:
 - 1) desiring an instructional and development level of competition;
 - 2) desiring or needing more technical teaching;
 - 3) from Organizations that are new to the League.
 - c. **Additional Conferences.** As set forth in Article 3, Section N. 1. above, if an additional Conference(s) is required due to the size of any Age

Division, a special meeting of the Board will be called pursuant to the Bylaws to determine if an additional Conference(s) will be added, the logistics and criteria for the additional Conference(s) and scheduling logistics for the additional Conference(s). For example, logistics may include splitting the National Conference and/or the American Conference into regional Conferences such as the East American Conference and the West American Conference or the North National Conference and the South National Conference.

3. **Selection of a Conference.** The final placement of a team in a Conference will be left to the Scheduling Committee. The criteria set forth in Article 3, Section N. 2. above are guidelines to assist the Scheduling Committee in their decision to place a team in a particular Conference and not a mandate from the League. The Scheduling Committee will be informed of the request related to Conference selection by each team within an Organization by submitting the Team Declaration Form as set forth in this Article 3., Section E. Teams will all select a first preference for the Conference in which a team desires to play.
 4. **No Conference.** If the Scheduling Committee deems that there are not enough teams to form more than one Conference, or if no Conference is formed for an Age Division as determined by the Scheduling Committee, all teams in that Age Division will be scheduled as follows:
 - a. Scheduling of teams will be based upon a random schedule assigned by a computer program selected by the League.
 5. **Home vs. Away.** Unless field availability dictates otherwise, individual teams will not have a plus/minus margin for home and away games exceeding one (1). Unless field availability dictates otherwise, individual Organizations will have a plus/minus margin for home and away games as close to zero as possible. Furthermore, this statistic will be documented and filed annually by the Scheduling Committee for future reference.
 6. **Postponements.** The Vice President and Athletic Director must be notified by the home team regarding postponements due to inclement weather or other conditions beyond the reasonable control of the home team no later than the Monday **night** following the postponement. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit for the home team. The postponed game must be rescheduled no later than 10 days following the postponement and played no later than the last day of the regular season (Sunday of Week 9). Failure to do so by either team will result in a forfeit.
- O. **PLAYOFFS** – The following guidelines will be used in determining the format and scheduling for post-season play. It is the general consensus of the League that post-season play will be reserved for teams that attain a level of success during the regular season that will qualify them for the post-season. Every team in a particular Age Division and/or Conference, as applicable, will be ranked from highest to lowest using a predetermined criterion as outlined in Article 4 hereof. Teams must qualify in accordance with the standards set forth in the respective Age Division and/or Conference in which they compete as determined by their ranking.

1. **Playoff Games.** With the exception of the Tykes Division (who will have no post-season play), post-season play will consist of a maximum of two (2) games, which must be contested on consecutive weekends (each a "***Playoff***" and collectively, "***Playoffs***"). The first round of the Playoffs will consist of a semi-final game ("***Semi-Final Game***") for each Age Division and/or Conference, as applicable. The second round of the Playoffs will consist of a championship game ("***Championship Game***") from the winners of the Semi-Final Games.
 - a. **Start Times.** Start times for Semi-Final Games will be scheduled between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Sunday of the week following the conclusion of the regular season. Start time for the Championship Game will be scheduled between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Sunday of the week following the Semi-Final Game. Organizations hosting Playoffs may schedule Playoff games later than 3:00 p.m. if (1) the hosting Organization has lighted playing fields approved by the Vice President, and (2) the Organizations whose teams are playing in a Playoff game after 3:00 p.m. approve.
 - b. **Determination of Teams.** The top four (4) ranked teams with in an Age Division and/or Conference, as applicable, will qualify for the Playoffs with "1 versus 4" and "2 versus 3" as opponents in the Semi-Final Game with the winners advancing to the Championship Game.
 - c. **Champion.** For each Age Division and/or Conference, as applicable, a Playoff will be used to decide the champion regardless of the number of teams in the Age Division and/or Conference.
2. **Fields.** Beginning in alphabetical order (**using one (1) list**) all Semi-Final Game fields and Championship Game fields will be assigned to Organizations on a rotational basis from year to year, with the following provisions:
 - a. **Field Inspection.** Field must be inspected and approved by Vice President prior to the assigned Semi-Final Game or Championship Game, as applicable. The Vice President is responsible for scheduling alternate playoff sites if he determines that the primary field is not playable for any reason. Beginning with the 2015 season, simultaneous games will not be played on adjacent fields which are not separated by at least 25 yards.
 - b. **Good Standing.** Organizations must be in good standing with the League.
 - c. **First Year Organizations.** Excludes 1st year member organizations (**for 1 season**).
 - d. **Minimum Games.** Must host a minimum of (3) games at each venue.

- e. **Restrooms.** Fields must have a working public address system and separate water closet/restrooms for men & women.
 - f. **Waiver.** If an Organization chooses to waive their opportunity for Playoff games, then the next eligible Organization, meeting the specified criteria above, will have the option to host Playoff games.
 - g. **Host Schedule Submission.** An Organization hosting Semi-Final Games will submit a schedule to the Executive Committee for approval prior to midnight of the Monday following the last game of the regular season. An Organization hosting Championship Games will submit a schedule to the Executive Committee for approval prior to midnight of the Monday following the last game of the Semi-Final Games.
- 3. **Jersey Color.** Playoff teams determined to have a higher ranking than their opponent will have the right to choose their jersey color. Whenever their opponent's jersey color is of a contrasting color, opponents may wear the jersey color of their choice.
 - 4. **Sidelines.** The Playoff team determined to have a higher ranking than their opponent will have the right to designate the sideline for which their team box will be located whenever both teams are competing at a neutral site. Playoff teams competing at their home site will always have the right to designate the sideline for which their team box will be located, regardless of team rankings. In the event opponents are both competing at their home site, the team determined to be of a higher rank will designate the sideline of their choice.
- P. **DEFINITIONS** – For purposes of this Article 3 the following terms will have the following meanings:
- 1. ***"Age Division"*** will mean the Divisions as set forth in Article 7 of the Bylaws.
 - 2. ***"American Conference Championship"*** will mean the game determining the winner of the playoff games for the American Conference in any given Age Division.
 - 3. ***"American Conference"*** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section N. 1 and 2 hereof.
 - 4. ***"Athletic Director"*** will have the meaning set forth in the Bylaws.
 - 5. ***"Board"*** will mean the Executive Board as set forth in the Bylaws.
 - 6. ***"Bylaws"*** will mean the duly adopted Bylaws of the League.
 - 7. ***"Chairman of the Scheduling Committee"*** will be chairman of the Scheduling Committee pursuant to the Bylaws.

8. **"Championship Game(s)"** will mean the final game of a playoff in any Age Division and/or Conference as set forth in Article 3, Section O.1.
9. **"Conference" or "Conferences"** will mean each of, or collectively, the American Conference and/or the National Conference, as applicable, or any other Conference or regional division thereof as provided in Article 3, Section N. 1. and 2. above.
10. **"Executive Committee"** will have the meaning set forth in the Bylaws.
11. **"Game Schedule"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section F. 1 above.
12. **"League"** will mean the Tri-County Junior Conference.
13. **"National Conference"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section N. 1 and 2 above.
14. **"Organization"** will mean a football organization or club admitted to and in good standing with the League.
15. **"Playoff" or "Playoffs"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section O.1. above.
16. **"Playoff Committee"** will have the meaning set forth in the Bylaws.
17. **"Scheduling Committee"** will mean the committee designated in the Bylaws as the Scheduling – Regular Season and/or Scheduling – Playoffs and Championships, as applicable.
18. **"Scheduling Meeting"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section J. above.
19. **"Semi-Final Game(s)"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section O.1.
20. **"Team Declaration Date"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section E above.
21. **"Team Declaration Form"** will have the meaning set forth in Article 3, Section E. above.
22. **"Tyke" or "Tykes"** will mean the 5 and 6 year old Age Division.
23. **"Vice President"** will have the meaning set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 4 – LEAGUE STANDINGS

- A. The following format will be used to calculate league standings: two (2) points for a win; one (1) point for a tie; and zero (0) points for a loss.

- B. Standings and weekly game results will be maintained by the Vice President on the Tri-County web site each week.
- C. All weekly game results must be reported to the Vice President either by phone, fax, the Tri County Website, e-mail or as otherwise directed by the Vice President in advance no later than 8 pm on the following Wednesday.

ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS

- A. **REGULAR MEETINGS** – All TC monthly meetings are to be held on the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month at seven o'clock PM (7:00 PM), except for the months of August thru November, which will be held on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesdays at eight o'clock PM (8:00 PM).

ARTICLE 6 – PLAY-OFFS

- A. Play-off seeding will be determined as follows:
 - 1. Total league standing points earned
 - 2. Head to head play
 - 3. Strength of schedule (add league standing points earned by opponents)
 - 4. If a tie still exists between two (2) or more teams those teams involved will draw for the remaining seed(s). The order of the draw will be determined by the order in which the organizations are listed in the By Laws.
 - 5. If a tie exists between three or more teams for 2 seeds: the top seed will be determined as in 1 through 4 in order. To determine next seed, the process above (1 through 4) will be repeated with the remaining teams.

ARTICLE 7 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. **RULES FOR UNLIMITED WEIGHT PLAYERS**
 - 1. **KICK-OFF** – Maximum of five (5) unlimited weight players may participate on the kick-of team at any position.
 - 2. **RECEIVING** – Maximum of five (5) unlimited weight players may participate on the receiving team, any and all of which must be positioned in the area extending ten (10) to fifteen (15) yards beyond K's free kick line and between the side lines at the time of the kick.
 - 3. **OFFENSE** – Maximum of five (5) unlimited weight players may participate on the offensive line of scrimmage, any and all of which must be positioned as an

interior lineman at the snap.

4. DEFENSE - Maximum of five (5) unlimited weight players may participate on the defensive line of scrimmage, any and all of which must be positioned within the lateral parameters of the free blocking zone at the snap.
 - a. EXCEPTION – Defensive unlimited weight player(s) may be positioned outside the lateral parameters of the free blocking zone to cover an offensive interior lineman, which may or may not be an unlimited weight player. However, any and all defensive unlimited weight player(s) positioned outside the lateral parameters of the free blocking zone must remain on the defensive line of scrimmage and shall be positioned no further from the ball than the outside shoulder of the offensive interior lineman furthest from the ball at the time of the snap.
 - b. EXCEPTION – In the event the offensive unit shifts after initially positioning themselves at the line of scrimmage, the only restriction that will then apply to the defensive unlimited weight player(s) is the requirement to be positioned on the defensive line of scrimmage at the snap.
5. Unlimited weight players are not allowed to advance the ball, except under the following situations:
 - a. Interceptions
 - b. Fumbles, provided the recovered fumble results in a change of team possession
 - c. Scrimmage kicks by unlimited weight player R1, provided the kick ends when R1 gains possession in or behind the expanded neutral zone.
 - d. Free kicks by unlimited weight player R1, provided R1 is the only player of R to have touched the ball and the ball is not first touched by R1 more than fifteen (15) yards in advance of K's free kick line.

It is also permissible for unlimited K1 to put the ball in play with a free kick, attempt a try or a field goal with a scrimmage kick or punt the ball from a scrimmage kick formation, which requires K1 to be positioned directly behind the center to receive a snap other than a direct hand to hand exchange.

Whenever unlimited weight player K1 is designated by position as the kicker for a try or field goal attempt, the ball shall become dead immediately should K1 retrieve a mishandled or errant snap. However, K1 may retrieve an errant snap and scramble to elude opponents in an attempt to successfully complete a punt attempt. Passing or handing the ball is considered advancing the ball and is not allowed. Any unlimited weight player advancing the ball will be ruled down at the spot.

6. Any player wishing to participate as a non striper must make current week's weight.
7. Unlimited weight players shall wear a minimum one (1) inch stripe of a contrasting color on helmet running from ear hole to ear hole across the top of the helmet or a 2" stripe from logo to logo. Penalty for violation of this rule will be illegal participation.
8. Violation of any of the aforementioned position restrictions by an unlimited weight player shall result in an illegal participation infraction if flagged during a live ball and shall be penalized accordingly. Officials should attempt to recognize illegal formations and flag them during the dead ball prior to a snap that is eminent and therefore penalize the offending team for illegal procedure.

B. 7U / 8U DIVISION RULES

1. Any player wishing to participate, as a non-striper, must make current week's weight [example: week two (2) must weigh eighty six (86) pounds or under, regardless of initial weigh in weight].
2. There shall be NO rushing the kicker by the defense, if the offense elects to kick the ball (they must be allowed to kick). As we have allowed the offense the free kick, in order to be fair, no offensive player may leave the line of scrimmage before the ball is kicked. The offense must kick the ball (no fake kicks). The penalty for both defense and the offense shall be encroachment/illegal procedure, respectively. As this is a 7U / 8U, the expanded neutral zone shall be used for enforcement of the penalty.
3. 7U The offensive center is not to be hit or **to be lined up over** by the defense, unless he moves to become a blocker. A repeated infraction will result in a fifteen (15) yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
4. Tykes through 8U must declare if they intend to kick. If they do kick, and fail to declare it is a 15 yard penalty. A fake kick is not allowed.
5. After the offense has declared their intent to punt, attempt a field goal or extra point, the defense must have a minimum of six players on their line of scrimmage and no more than three players more than 10 yards beyond the neutral zone to their goal line at the time of the free kick.

C. TYKE DIVISION RULES: THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS DIVISION IS PURELY INSTRUCTIONAL

1. Any player wishing to participate, as a non striper, must make current week's weight [example: week two (2) must weight sixty six (66) pounds or under, regardless of initial weigh in weight].
2. GAME CARDS – Game cards will be filled out completely, including sportsmanship points, but no score shall be recorded.
3. A maximum of two (2) coaches from each team is allowed on the playing field. Once the offense is set no instructions from coaches on the field at this time. Penalty for this violation will be illegal participation.
4. The defense will consist of a maximum of six (6) players on their line of scrimmage at the time of snap. All other players must be at least two (2) yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage. Only defensive players positioned on their line of scrimmage within the free blocking zone may enter the neutral zone and cross the offensive scrimmage line at the snap. However, once a play has developed to the degree in which the ball advanced beyond the offensive line of scrimmage or outside an imaginary line that runs parallel to the sidelines and through the point at the lateral end of the free blocking zone, only those restrictions that are I.H.S.A. rule book defined will apply to the defense. In this particular division, the intent of this rule is not to disallow the defense from tackling the offense behind the line the scrimmage, but rather to provide the offense an opportunity for a play to develop. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be assessed for violation of this rule.
5. The offensive center is not to be hit or **to be lined up over** by the defense, unless he moves to become a blocker. This situation is to be controlled by the referee **and the defensive coach**. A repeated infraction will result in a fifteen (15) yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
6. There shall be no rushing the punter by the defense. If the offense elects to punt the ball, they must be allowed to punt. As we have allowed the offense the free kick, in order to be fair, no offensive player may leave the line of scrimmage before the ball is kicked. The offense must punt the ball (no fake punts). The penalty for both the defense and offense shall be encroachment/illegal procedure, respectively. As this is a Tyke Division, the expanded neutral zone shall be used for enforcement of the penalty. In addition, the punting team shall have the option to move the ball twenty (20) yards up field. However, this option cannot be exercised once the offensive team has crossed mid field.
7. After the offense has declared their intent to punt, the defense must have a minimum of six players on their line of scrimmage and no more than three players more than 10 yards beyond the neutral zone to their goal line at the time of the free kick.
8. Games shall consist of four (4) twenty minutes (20) minute quarters, with a ten (10) minute halftime. The clock shall run continuously. It will be the duty of the head referee to speed up the offensive call.
9. The game will have two (2) kick-offs. A coin toss will take place. Team choosing to be R at the start of the first (1st) half will be K at the start of the second (2nd) half.

10. After A has crossed B's goal line the ball will be placed on the fifty (50) yard line for a change of possession. There will be no extra point attempt.
11. No score shall be posted on any scoreboard, announced, or displayed in any other manner.
12. The offensive center may turn the football parallel to the line of scrimmage in order to initiate a snap.

ARTICLE 8 – GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

- A. All games shall be played under Illinois High School Association playing rules with the following exceptions:
 1. All games shall consist of four (4) ten (10) minute periods.
 2. There shall be free substitution
 3. Rest intervals between second (2nd) and third (3rd) quarters shall be ten (10) minutes.
 4. All eligible players in attendance at a game must participate in the game a mandatory eight (8) plays (unless injured and unable to return). If a player is weighed in at halftime they must play a mandatory four (4) plays in the second (2nd) half (unless injured and unable to return). A player that has not weighed in, is overweight, or injured, must remove their helmet and shoulder pads to remain in the player's box. During the regular season, if a request is made by either team, a play monitor from each Organization will keep track of the opposing team's plays. The monitors will stand together in a designated area agreed upon by the Organizations and utilize a standardized participation form. The monitors will report their findings at the end of the second (2nd) quarter and the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter to the head official, who will then notify each head coach. All Playoff games will be monitored and utilize the procedures outlined above.
 5. All League games will be played on Saturday or Sunday. The home organization is to notify the League Scheduling Committee of field availability for Saturday and/or Sunday games by the regularly held August meeting each year. Opposing teams will be notified of changes in time and/or date due to field availability no later than midnight on Tuesday of the week in which games are to be played as confirmed by the President and **Athletic Director** of the League. Any rescheduling of games as confirmed by the President must be rescheduled between the hours of nine o'clock (9:00) a.m. and four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on Saturday or Sunday unless mutually agreed upon by the Organizations competing in the rescheduled game(s).
 6. Points after touchdown shall be two (2) points for a kick and one (1) point for a run or pass.

7. All games shall consist of four (4) quarters. In the event of a tie, over-time will be played in accordance with IHSA rules. During the regular season only, no over-time period will be started after the scheduled start time of the succeeding game. Post season playoff games will play over-time, if needed, until a winner is determined.
 8. When one team secures a twenty-four (24) point lead, the game clock will run continuously, except for a called time out, an injury time out, an officials time out for time needed to assess a penalty following a live ball foul, or the time between a score and the ensuing kick-off, including any un-timed down.
 - 9.. In the (4th) quarter the team winning by twenty-four (24) or more points will not be allowed to call a time out. Penalty for this infraction shall be unsportsmanlike conduct, which is a fifteen (15) yard penalty. When one team secures a forty (40) point lead, the game shall be considered final. In the event that the winning team has not fulfilled its obligations under the 8 play rule as stated in this Article 8, Section A. 5. above.
 10. When a quarterback is not under center it will be considered a long snap. Center cannot be hit while snapping the ball.
- B. PROTEST – No protest will be allowed if a game is played (game meaning a point in time when games start). A protest must be made at game time to the referee and the opposing coach. The coach making the protest must write a brief summary on the back of the game card. The protest must be followed up in writing to the Secretary of Tri County Junior Football Conference within seventy two (72) hours after the scheduled game time. A twenty-five (\$25.00) dollar deposit fee must accompany the written protest. If the protest is upheld, the twenty-five (\$25.00) dollar deposit will be returned. If denied, the deposit will be placed in the League treasury and the resulting outcome shall be a forfeit by the team that raised the protest.
- C. Equipment shall be as follows:
1. A durable helmet approved by NOCSAE with an approved face guard (not comprised of or containing exposed metal), shoulder pads, pants, thigh pads, knee pads, mouth pieces and shoes, which meet the requirements as outlined in the National Federation of State High School Associations rule book and adopted by the Illinois High School Association. Stockings, a cup, kidney pads and supporters are optional.
 2. Special protection devices may be used only when the team coach or a physician attests to the need and approved by the game officials.
 3. Two (2) game jerseys are required. A colored jersey for home games and a white jersey for away games. The front and the back of jersey shall be reserved for player numbers, team name and/or logo and player name only. Numbers shall be a minimum of six (6) inches on the front and eight (8) inches on the back. No commemorative or other patch beyond the criteria described above may appear on team jerseys without the approval of the Board. The offensive jersey number systems of the I.H.S.A. shall be disregarded and any number can be used.

4. A team no duplicate numbers. Violation of this rule shall be illegal participation. The player shall not be allowed to remain in the player's box.
5. Any player wearing an "eye shield" is only permitted to wear a "clear, molded and rigid" eye shield. Although a doctor's letter is not required, this rule cannot be altered by a doctor's letter. Meaning, a doctor's letter DOES NOT take precedent over this rule. A player can wear tinted eye glasses under a clear eye shield.

D. PRACTICE

1. **January 1 – June 30.** Organization sponsored Non-Pad Football Activities that may be perceived as “practice” are allowed between January 1 and June 30 of each year. “*Non-Pad Football Activities*” mean coaching, instructing, and teaching players **WITHOUT PADS** (by anyone associated with or sponsored by the Organization) such as, but not limited to, flag football, running football plays, instructing football techniques and methods such as tackling, throwing, catching, blocking, scrimmages, etc.). No Organization (or anyone associated with or sponsored by the Organization) is permitted to hold camps, clinics, practice, scrimmages where pads are to be used until August 1 and all Non-Pad Football Activities must cease on or before July 1.
2. **July 1 – July 31.** Organization sponsored conditioning, strength training and other similar *Non-Football Related Activities* WITHOUT PADS are allowed between July 1 and July 31. “*Non-Football Related Activities*” mean any activity that is **NOT** related to coaching, instructing and teaching the game of football, football techniques and methods such as tackling, throwing, catching, blocking, explaining or running football plays, etc.
3. **August 1 – December 31.** Organizations may practice pursuant to I.H.S.A. rules.

These rules are intended to prevent a team within a Organization from gaining an early season advantage by engaging in an organized team practice, which may be held under the false pretense of a camp, clinic, scrimmage, etc. Any person(s), including but not limited to, coaches, members, directors, parents, etc. associated with an Organization engaging in an such activities or attempting to circumvent the rule(s) that pertain to this policy, as determined by the Board of the League, even though the a specific circumstance is not addressed within the these Standing Rules, the Bylaws or other governing document, prior to August 1, will play all games in the regular schedule, but all games will be deemed a forfeit and forfeiture penalties will apply as set forth herein.

E. PLAYING FIELD

1. The playing field shall be of regulation size with the opposing team benches on the opposite side of the field. Goal posts and a working game clock will be required. Time and score must be legible on the game clock. Beginning in 2015,

simultaneous games will not be played on adjacent fields which are not separated by at least 25 yards.

2. Each team will control fans and keep them at least five (5) yards behind the boundary lines. Clubs that join the league after August 1, 2015, the restriction is (10) yards behind boundary lines. Each home team shall provide a restraining line behind the benches. The restraining line is defined as a visible barrier, portable or permanent, at least two (2) feet off the ground, running the length of the field, End line to end line, on both sides of the field. Only the following may be within those above mentioned boundaries: players, coaches, game officials, Tri County Junior Football Conference representatives, athletic directors, chain gang, stats person, and emergency personnel.
 - a. The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of his assistants, players, and sideline conduct of parents and spectators. All Head Coaches, for each level, must take an IHSA rules test with Tri-County rules filtered in. This test will be will be open book and administered by Regional Athletic Director through the direction of the Executive Committee of the league.
3. All team personnel, including a maximum of six (6) coaches, (1) monitor and one (1) statistician, shall stay in a designated box as defined by I.H.S.A. rules during the game time. Coaches and statisticians shall wear some kind of visible organizational identification at all games. If not in compliance the referee or Tri County representative shall ask you to leave the field.
4. Copy of the Tri County Junior Football Conference By-Laws and Standing Rules will be available at all games at all playing fields. Failure shall result in a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fine.
5. All fields are subject to inspection and approval by Tri County Junior Football Conference Executive Committee at any time.

F. GAME EQUIPMENT – The home team shall furnish all the following equipment:

1. GAME BALL SPECIFICATIONS – Tykes thru 10U Divisions must use a ball with a width circumference measuring approximately eighteen (18) inches and a length circumference measuring twenty-four (24) inches (example: K-2 or equivalent balls). The 11U thru Juniors Divisions must use a ball with a width circumference measuring approximately nineteen (19) inches and a length circumference measuring approximately twenty-six (26) inches [example: TPY, Junior, or Youth size footballs]. The offensive team in any division has the option to use any ball meeting the above specifications and as outlined in the I.H.S.A. rules.
2. WEIGH IN SCALES – Scales must be a balance type or digital scales using only the whole number (example 89.2 is 89 lbs and 9.9 is 89 lbs), no spring type. Scales must be certified every two (2) years and proof must be visibly displayed for the opposing team.

3. YARD MARKERS – All yard markers must meet I.H.S.A. safety requirements.
4. OFFICIAL TIME – When the official time is kept on the field, the procedure will be the same as I.H.S.A. rules.
5. PENALTIES – All preliminary and final penalty reports will be given to both team benches by the referee.

G. OFFICIALS

1. For 7U thru 11U, each home team will provide at least three (3) officials for each game; at least two (2) of these officials must be licensed and in uniform; and all officials must be at least eighteen (18) years of age as required by N.F.H.S. A game may start with two (2) licensed officials if mutually agreed upon by the opposing coaches. If the third (3rd) official is not present by the start of the third (3rd) quarter, the game is over and the result is a forfeit by the home team. A thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fine shall be imposed and paid to the League by the home team in addition to any other fines/penalties that are applicable.
2. For 12U-Juniors, each home team will provide at least four (4) officials for each game; at least three (3) of these officials must be licensed and in uniform; and all officials must be at least eighteen (18) years of age as required by N.F.H.S. A game may start with three (3) licensed officials if mutually agreed upon by the opposing coaches. If the fourth (4th) official is not present by the start of the third (3rd) quarter, the game is over and the result is a forfeit by the home team. A thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fine shall be imposed and paid to the League by the home team in addition to any other fines/penalties that are applicable.
3. A minimum of two (2) N.F.H.S. licensed officials is all that is required for Tykes' games.
4. All chain gang members must be sixteen (16) years of age or older and clock operators must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
5. The home team shall be required to provide each head coach with the Tri County Junior Football Conference "Officials Card" at the pre game conference. This card shall contain the following information: printed names of all game officials, position they will be working for that game, state association identification number and classification. If the third (3rd) game official is not licensed, enter "none" in the space provided for official identification number and "trainee" in the space provided for classification.
5. The pre game conference, which shall be conducted by the referee, will include opposing head coaches, team captains, and all other game officials. The home team shall present each opposing coach with an "Officials Card" of which all information regarding the game officials shall be completed. The section reserved for the coaches to rate the game officials shall be completed at the conclusion of the game, free from scrutiny and without repercussion for an honest evaluation of all game officials. The coach shall rate each official's on

field performance based upon the instructions & criteria set forth on the card, with reference to their ability for consideration to work play-off games. It shall be mandatory for all coaches to complete and send this card to the league's official recorder (Vice President) bearing postmark no later than the WEDNESDAY following the Saturday or Sunday game played. This requirement may be met by sending the "Officials Card(s)" to the vice president along with the Game Card(s). Visiting coaches, likewise, may send their "Officials Cards(s)" to the Vice President with their organization's home game cards. If this is not a viable option, it shall be the responsibility of the coach to meet the deadline requirement previously stated.

6. Officials will not record sportsmanship ratings until the opposing coaches have signed the Game Card verifying the score.
7. No coaches, parent, or siblings may officiate a game in which their team and/or family member participates. This rule is to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

H. TEAM ROSTERS AND WEIGH-IN GAME CARDS

1. Each team shall register a maximum of thirty five (35) players, in addition to the team coaches and be ready for competition by the second (2nd) Tuesday of September.
2. Team rosters will be made available at the time of weigh-in. The roster will include name, game card number, date of birth (NO numbers may be used for the month of birth), age and weight. Rosters shall be completed in an ascending card number order. A team forfeit shall be imposed for each week any documented card violations are discovered. A one time \$50.00 fine will be imposed against the club that stamps or approves any documented card violations.
3. All Weigh-in Cards will be laminated at the time of official weigh-in by the League.
4. If a loss of card(s) occurs, the member organization will notify the President of the League, prepare a new card(s) and have it authenticated by the President or next ranking Officer available, using the President's stamp. Additionally, the Regional Athletic Director may also authenticate a new card using his/her designated Regional Athletic Director stamp. A fine of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) per card up to a maximum of two hundred (\$200.00) will be imposed for loss of a card(s). Fines are due at the next regular meeting of the Board of the League after loss of the card.

ARTICLE 9 – AWARDS

- A. Individual Awards will be presented to top two teams in their respective division. Trophies and plaques will be of approximately equal monetary value.

- B. A sportsmanship plaque is awarded for sportsmanship demonstrated by spectators, coaches, and players. Organizations that score in the top 3 will earn a sportsmanship award.

ARTICLE 10 – RECORDING PROCEDURES FOR SCORES

- A. Game Cards & Officials Cards for all football games must be completed correctly and must be received by the official recorder (Tri County Junior Football Conference Vice President), emailed by eight o'clock (8:00) p.m. and bearing postmark no later than the Wednesday following the Saturday or Sunday game played. A five dollar (\$5.00) fine will be assessed to the home team per game for violation. The fine will be strictly enforced, with no exceptions. Conference standings will be determined by awarding two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.
- B. If a player is ejected from a game, the name(s) shall be listed on the back of the game card and given to the Vice President. The Vice President will notify offending team and next scheduled opponent of the suspension.

ARTICLE 11 – INITIAL WEIGH IN RULES

- A. An initial League Weigh In must be held for all participants in the League.
- B. All participants must weigh in for the official weigh in wearing only shorts, shirt, and socks.
- C. Each weighing team must consist of at least one (1) current year Tri County Junior Football Conference representative, alternate representative or Tri County Junior Football Conference officer.
- D. Tri County Junior Football Conference representative, alternate representative, or Tri County Junior Football Conference officer will record weight as accurately as possible on ID cards at initial weigh in. Age is to be verified by birth certificate **(paper copy ONLY no pictures of a birth certificate will be accepted)**, baptismal record, military ID, passport, state certified documented age or Tri County Junior Football Conference ID card from one year previous.
- E. ALL cards must be filled out in advance with the exception of weight and sequence number. The month of birth MUST be written in full or abbreviated, NO numbers shall be used for month of birth (example: Sept 10, 2010 or 10 Sept 2010 NOT 09/10/2010). Each player's picture [not more than two (2) years old] is to be glued or stapled to the card. All cards must be typed, printed or in original ink, with no strike through, scratch outs or use of any corrective fluid or tape. Do not glue the picture to the card until the card is filled out correctly, as spoiled cards must be reprinted. Polaroid pictures are not to be used.
- F. Representatives doing the weigh in will number each card in the upper right hand corner with year and numerical sequence as the players are weighed in (example: 2010-01,

2010-02, up to and including 2010-35). The weigh in team is to retain the number of players weighed in on each team. If the maximum number of players [thirty-five (35)] is reached, no other player may be weighed in on that team unless a "Voided" card is given to the weigh in team (example: card 2010-13 is voided and given to the weigh in team, the applicant will then be assigned the voided number 2010-13).

- G. Representatives performing the initial weigh in, after seeing proof of age and verifying each player's weight shall initial and date in the space provided on the lower portion of each card.
- H. ALL cards are to be stamped with the weigh in teams stamps. An unstamped picture is to be used. Stamps are to partially cover picture and card.
- I. The final weigh in date will be the date of the last regular meeting of the Board prior to the start of the regular season. All stamps are to be returned to the Executive Committee at the completion of the final weigh-in.
- J. No bathroom scales will be used for the initial weigh in.
- K. Weigh In Teams are as follows:
 - a. Belleville Devils - Knights, East St. Louis, Fairview, JJK, Cahokia
 - b. O'Fallon - Collinsville, Highland, Troy, Mascoutah
 - c. Edwardsville - Alton, Bethalto, Jerseyville, Granite City

ARTICLE 12 – GAME WEIGH IN RULES

- A. No bathroom scale will be used Digital scales may be used using only the whole number (ex. 89.2 is 89 lbs and 89.9 is 89 lbs). Scales must be certified every two (2) years and proof must be visibly displayed for the opposing team.
- B. Home teams will provide a shielded and covered area for players to weigh in. A Tri-County Representative must be **available** for the weigh-in but does not have to be present unless a dispute between teams should arise.
- C. At game weigh-ins the scale should be set at the maximum weight of the division being weighed. At that time the player hands his ID card to the weigh in team for approval. After the balance arm has come to a stop and is not being stopped by the retention bar scale the player shall be said to have passed the weight requirements for the game. Digital scales may be used using only the whole number.
- D. Game weigh-ins are to be conducted by a Tri County Junior Football Conference representative, alternate representative, or Tri County Junior Football Conference officer when possible. Home management shall conduct weigh-ins. Coaches are only to witness weigh in. Coaches will weigh in each other only if there is no Tri County Junior Football Conference representative present.

- E. For regular season and playoff games each team shall be required to have two (2) rosters available at weigh in time (for the booth and opponent). Rosters are to be in numerical Jersey order and have the number listed first then the player's name. Rosters are to be typed or printed legibly. The penalty for this violation will be a Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00) fine. A copy of the initial weigh in roster is not required for the playoffs.
- F. The team coach must have League identification cards available at all times. All cards must be completed for the player to be eligible for that game
- G. The MANDATORY weigh in will commence no earlier than one (1) hour prior to the scheduled starting time of the game and no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game. Teams arriving later than one (1) hour prior to scheduled starting time of game shall forfeit their privilege to witness the weigh in. League identification cards will be presented to the opposing coach at that time. In addition, the identification cards will be provided at the time of a protest or forfeit.
- H. An additional weigh in will be provided at half time of each game [example: scheduled game time is one o'clock (1:00) p.m., any player arriving or overweight after twelve forty-five (12:45) p.m., must weigh in at half time and is ineligible for the first (1st) half].
- I. If a player weighs in before a game begins and is designated as not meeting that division's weight requirements and is marked as a striper for that game, that player will not be allowed to then re-weigh at halftime and subsequently play the second half of the same game as a non-striped player. Once a stripe is applied to a player for a specific game, they are a striped player for the entire game.

ARTICLE 13 – INSURANCE

- A. First payment will be due at the beginning of the regular scheduled July meeting or a \$100.00 fine will be assessed. Payment will be half of previous year's payment per organization. Organizations failing to make payment by the first (1st) installment deadline will be required to provide their own insurance and therefore be subject to the rules under Article 14, Section D.
- B. Final installment will be due at the regular September meeting [fourth (4) Tuesday of September]. Total cost to be figured by each club per team roster(s). The result of an organization that fails to provide final installment by the designated deadline, shall forfeit their right to practice and/or participate in games until final payment is made. If a team is scheduled a "Bye" during a week in which payment is overdue, the result shall be a forfeit.
- C. Liability payment as well as any additionally insured must also be paid at the regular September meeting.
- D. Those member organizations choosing to purchase insurance individually rather than through the Tri County Junior Football Conference designated insurance company must furnish, from their insurance company, a certificate in writing to the Tri County Junior Football Conference Secretary no later than the regular July meeting. No practice or games shall begin until this certificate is received.
- E. The Insurance Committee is to furnish the name of the Tri County Junior Football Conference designated insurance company, its agent and policy number, plus all information for claims handling at the regular July meeting.
- F. The Secretary of Tri County Junior Football Conference must receive the final weigh-in roster (initialed by last entry per team) at the regular September meeting [fourth (4th) Tuesday of the month]. Any team whose final weigh in roster and game stamp are not received by this date will be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each violation. An additional ten dollars (\$10.00) per day will be assessed for each day thereafter. If not received prior to the start of the next scheduled game, forfeiture of that game by team in violation will occur and continue until the rosters and/or stamps are submitted. Any roster found to be filled out incorrectly must be corrected and received by the Secretary prior to the next scheduled game. Failure to do so results in the same repercussions as stated earlier in this paragraph.
- G. It shall be the responsibility of the Insurance Committee to negotiate with insurance companies to obtain the best coverage for the best premium for its member organizations and bring forward their recommendation at the regular April meeting for discussion and to be voted on at the regular May meeting.
- H. In order to avoid a possible conflict of interest, no member of the Insurance Committee shall be employed by or act as an agent for the Tri County Junior Football Conference designated insurance company used in that fiscal year, but may act as an advisor only.

ARTICLE 14 – FORFEITS

- A. A forfeit shall be defined as a game that does not get started or completed by either team. A disqualification shall be defined as a game that gets completed but later has certain determinations that demonstrate ineligibility on the part of either team.
- B. In the event that a visiting team forfeits a game, they will be responsible to reimburse the home field fifty dollars (\$50.00) per official for the four (4) officials the home field was required to hire. In addition to, the highest officer whose team is not involved will appoint a three (3) person committee to consider the reason for the forfeit and determine the amount of restitution to be paid to the home field for lost concessions, not to exceed \$350.00. The committee shall consist of three (3) members from different organizations not involved in the forfeit. In the event all Executive Officers are affiliated with the teams involved in the protest, power to appoint the committee reverts back to the President. This committee will meet within two (2) weeks and their findings will be final.
- C. In the event that a home team forfeits a game, they will be subject to a fine or penalty. The highest officer whose team is not involved will appoint a three (3) person committee to consider the reason for the forfeit and determine the amount of **said penalty not to exceed \$500.00**. The committee shall consist of three (3) members from different organizations not involved in the forfeit. In the event all Executive Officers are affiliated with the teams involved in the protest, power to appoint the committee reverts back to the President. This committee will meet within two (2) weeks and their findings will be final.

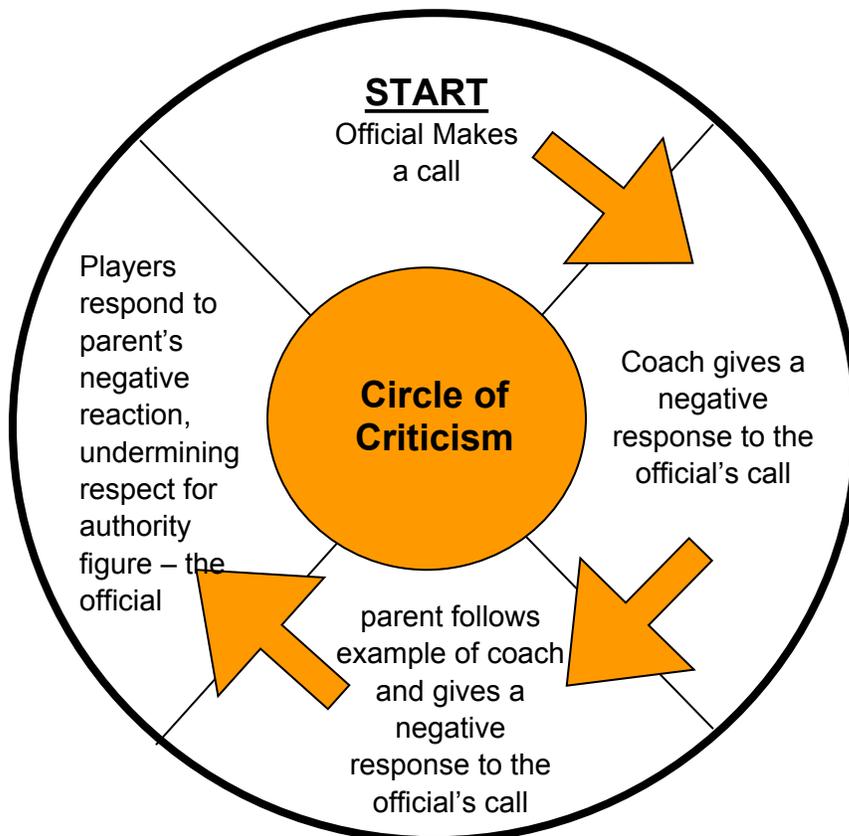
Attachment 2

Game Day Attitude

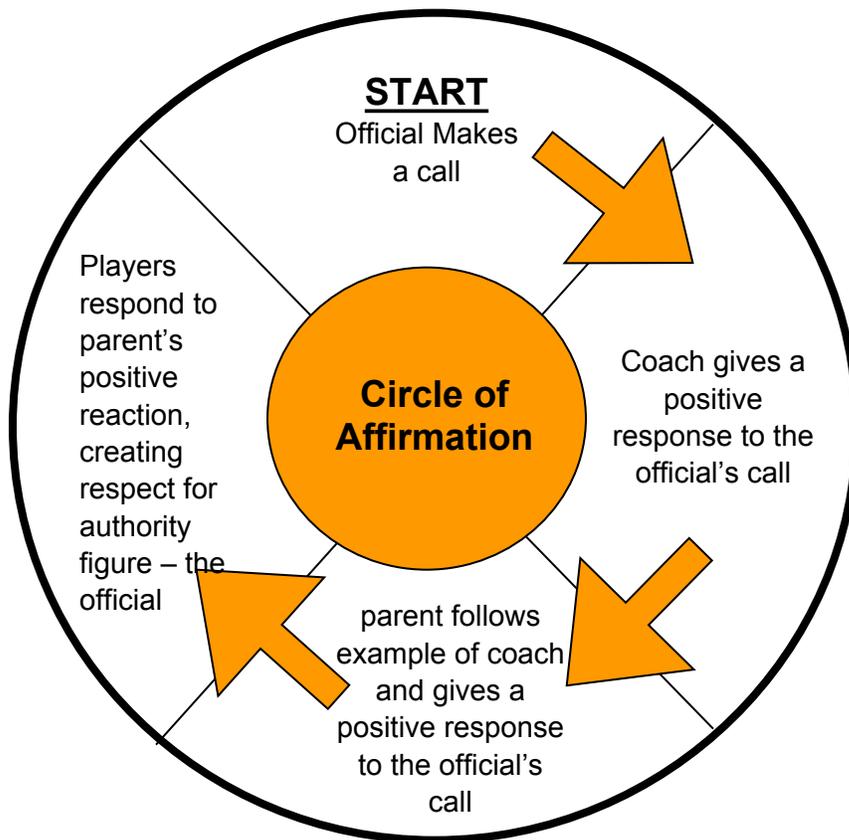
One of the key points in becoming an effective coach is choosing the right game day attitude. Actions and reactions on the field will have a lasting effect on kids. The Circle of Criticism and Circle of Affirmation are simple concepts that illustrate the results associated with negative and positive feedback given to the game officials/referees. We expect coaches and game officials/referees to work together as a unified team.

What happens in the Circle of Criticism?

- The Circle of Criticism begins when a coach responds negatively to a right or wrong call made by the referee.
- The coach's example gives the parent the implied permission to react negatively toward the referee.
- A parent's example causes the child to assume that it is acceptable to react in the same way. The result can be a negative attitude toward the referee, who represents authority on the field.



What happens in the Circle of Affirmation?



- The Circle of Affirmation begins when the coach gives a positive response to a right or wrong call made by the referee.
- The coach's example influences the parent to react positively toward the referee.
- A parent's example encourages the child to give a positive response. The result is a positive attitude toward authority.
- The Circle of Affirmation goes beyond the referee. A coach's affirmation of players inspires encouragement and positive comments from parents, family members, and other players.

Practicing the Circle of Affirmation makes the game a better experience for everyone involved.