



WEST TEXAS RURAL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Bylaws & Regulations

2023 Edition

Table of Contents

Article I. Introduction	5
Section 1.01 General Information	5
Section 1.02 Mission Statement.....	5
Section 1.03 Definitions	5
Article II. HLA Executive Board of Directors.....	7
Section 2.01 Description	7
Section 2.02 Officers Descriptions and Duties	7
Section 2.03 HLA Board Duties and Responsibilities.....	8
Section 2.04 Qualification, Nomination, Election, and Tenure of Officers	9
Section 2.05 Vacancies.....	10
Section 2.06 Removal of Officers.....	10
Section 2.07 Resignations	10
Section 2.08 Voting	10
Section 2.09 Meetings.....	10
Article III. League Membership	12
Section 3.01 Membership	12
Section 3.02 Admission Requirements	12
Section 3.03 Termination of Membership.....	12
Section 3.04 Association Boundaries.....	13
Section 3.05 Association Responsibilities	15
Article IV. Coaches.....	16
Section 4.01 Requirements.....	16
Section 4.02 Selection	17
Article V. Game Officials	18
Section 5.01 Responsibility	18
Section 5.02 Officials Selection.....	18
Section 5.03 Complaints	18
Section 5.04 Compensation	19
Article VI. Scheduling	20
Section 6.01 Responsibility.....	20
Section 6.02 General Requirements	20
Section 6.03 Field Coordination	20
Article VII. Certification of Players	21
Section 7.01 Certification of Official Rosters	21
Section 7.02 Official Rosters - Football	21

WEST TEXAS RURAL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE – BYLAWS - REGULATIONS

Section 7.03	Age Schematics	22
Section 7.04	Draft Rules and Procedures	22
Article VIII.	Practice and Game Regulations and Equipment	23
Section 8.01	Practice and Conditioning	23
Section 8.02	Equipment	23
Section 8.03	Mercy Rule	24
Section 8.04	Game Forfeiture	24
Section 8.05	Cancellation of a Game	24
Section 8.06	Spotting Rules	24
Section 8.07	Playing Field Personnel	25
Section 8.08	Gaming Officials	25
Section 8.09	Determination of Standings	26
Article IX.	Flag Rules	27
Section 9.01	Game Structure	27
Section 9.02	Flag Ball Carrier Weight Limits	27
Section 9.03	Scoring and Field Positions	27
Section 9.04	Team Requirements	28
Section 9.05	Game Play	28
Section 9.06	Field Specifications	29
Section 9.07	Coaches	29
Section 9.08	Uniforms and Flags	29
Article X.	Mighty Mites (MM) Rules	30
Section 10.01	MM Game Structure	30
Section 10.02	MM Scoring and Field Positions	30
Section 10.03	MM Ball Carrier Weight Limits	30
Section 10.04	Team Requirements	31
Section 10.05	MM Game Play	31
Section 10.06	MM Field Specifications	32
Section 10.07	MM Coaches	32
Article XI.	Junior PeeWee (JPW) and PeeWee (PW) Rules	34
Section 11.01	JPW / PW Game Structure	34
Section 11.02	JPW/PW Scoring and Field Positions	34
Section 11.03	JRPW/PW Team Requirements	34
Section 11.04	JPW/PW Game Play	34
Section 11.05	JPW/PW Field Specifications	35
Section 11.06	Coaches	35
Article XII.	West Texas Rural Youth Cheer	36

WEST TEXAS RURAL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE – BYLAWS - REGULATIONS

Section 12.01	West Texas Rural Youth Cheerleading	36
Article XIII.	Mandatory Play Rules.....	37
Article XIV.	Protests	38
Section 14.01	General	38
Section 14.02	Procedure.....	38
Section 14.03	Fees	38
Section 14.04	Hearing of Protest	39
Section 14.05	Protest Hearing	39
Article XV.	Code of Conduct.....	40
Section 15.01	Code of Conduct	40
Article XVI.	Complaints.....	41
Section 16.01	Purpose.....	41
Section 16.02	Procedure.....	41
Section 16.03	Hearing of Complaints.....	41
Section 16.04	Decision	41
Article XVII.	Penalties and Discipline.....	42
Section 17.01	Purpose.....	42
Section 17.02	Procedure.....	42
Section 17.03	Penalties and Fines.....	42
Section 17.04	Mandatory Penalties – Coaches	43
Section 17.05	Mandatory Penalties – Players.....	43
Section 17.06	Notice	43
Section 17.07	Appeal Hearings.....	43
Article XVIII.	Awards	44
Section 18.01	League Awards	44
Section 18.02	Association Awards	44
Article XIX.	Fiscal Responsibility	45
Section 19.01	Fiscal Authority.....	45
Section 19.02	Operating Budget	45
Section 19.03	Accounting Records and Reports.....	45
Article XX.	Insurance.....	47
Section 20.01	General	47
Section 20.02	Payment.....	47
Section 20.03	No Opt-Out Clause.....	47
Article XXI.	Forms	48
Section 21.01	League Forms (Appendix A)	48
Section 21.02	Association Use Forms (Appendix B).....	48

WEST TEXAS RURAL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE – BYLAWS - REGULATIONS

Section 21.03 Association Rotation of Playoff and Super Bowl Games (Appendix C) 48
Article XXII. Indemnification.....49
Article XXIII. Ratification.....49

Article I. Introduction

Section 1.01 General Information

- (a) This is a non-profit organization that shall be known as West Texas Rural Youth Football League, herein thereafter referred to as the “League”.
- (b) Address: P.O. Box 100, Clyde, Texas, 79510
- (c) The Official Logo for the League:



- (d) The Official letterhead for the League:



Section 1.02 Mission Statement

- (a) Our mission as a Youth Sports League is to promote good sportsmanship and physical fitness. The League’s goal is to familiarize the residents of West Central Texas with the West Texas Rural Youth Football League, to promote interest in the League, to seek responsible leadership, and to provide our youth with an opportunity to learn and play the sport of football in a supervised, organized, and safety focused environment.
- (b) The League will supervise and regulate participation through standardization of safe playing rules, enforcement of grade/age classifications, and approval of qualified adults.
- (c) The League will not discriminate because of race, sex, creed, or national origin.

Section 1.03 Definitions

- (a) HLA: Highest League Authority or HLA is used to identify the operating body that is responsible for the Team, League, or Association.

- (b) League: A “League” is a group of associations whose teams are playing under the authority of that conference as members. The conference is the “HLA Board of Directors” to whom all member associations are responsible.
- (c) Division: A particular classification of an age group is hereinafter referred to as a “Division.”
- (d) Association: The local town or organization with one or more teams shall be hereinafter referred to as an “Association.” The said Associations are responsible for paying their league fees.
- (e) Teams: The basic units of the organization within the League are identified as a selected group of certified players within an age Division and are hereinafter referred to as a “Team.”
- (f) Seeding: Regular season record will determine “Playoff” standings. A win/loss record will be kept on each team. (IE 10 season wins and 1 loss would be recorded 10-1) Two (2) points for each win, One (1) point for each tie, and no points for losses. Total points will determine seeding.

Article II. HLA Executive Board of Directors

Section 2.01 Description

- (a) The Executive Board of Directors for the League, herein thereafter referred to as the “Board”, shall consist of a Chair, a Co-Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Co-Secretary for Player Coordination, and a Co-Secretary for Game Coordination. The Board shall elect or appoint any position such as Assistant/Co-Secretaries or Assistant/Co-Treasurer as it deems necessary. No two positions may be held by the same person.

Section 2.02 Officers Descriptions and Duties

(a) Chairman (Chair):

- (i) The Chair shall be the principal executive officer of the League and shall supervise all the business and affairs and the day-to-day activities of the League.
- (ii) Shall preside over meetings at which he/she is present.
- (iii) May sign with the Treasurer or any other officer authorized, any deed mortgages, bonds, contracts, checks, or other instruments in which the case where the signing and execution thereof shall be especially delegated by the Board or by these Bylaws or by the state statute to some other officer or agent of the League.
- (iv) Shall perform all duties indicative of the office of Chair and the HLA Board of Directors meetings may prescribe such other duties as when deemed necessary.
- (v) Shall notify each Association and Board members of called meetings.

(b) Co-Chairman (Co-Chair):

- (i) The Co-Chair will act as Chair on a rotating basis or as appointed by the Board in the absence of the Chair.
- (ii) The Co-Chair will have the same requirements as the Chair.
- (iii) Shall perform all duties indicative to the office of Co-Chair and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chair or Board from time to time.

(c) Treasurer:

- (i) The Treasurer shall be responsible for providing financial advice and guidance to the Board and to the League as a whole.
- (ii) Shall maintain such records, as are appropriate to the effective operations of the League, prepare and deliver financial reports monthly or as required by the Chair.
- (iii) Shall be responsible for all funds and securities of the League; receive and give receipts for money due and payable to the League in such banks or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.
- (iv) Will obtain insurance for the league.
- (v) Shall perform all the duties indicative to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as prescribed by the Board.

(d) Secretary:

- (i) Shall compose and send board meeting agendas to HLA and the Board.
- (ii) Shall be responsible for recording League meetings minutes.
- (iii) Will add to the Bylaws any amendments voted in by the Board.
- (iv) Shall be the custodian of all League records.
- (v) Will also provide requested information to anyone, if approved by the Board.
- (vi) In general, shall perform all duties indicative to the office of the Secretary and other duties prescribed by the Board.

(e) Co-Secretary (Player Coordination):

- (i) The Co-Secretary for Player Coordination shall be responsible for collecting and verifying registration forms and birth certificates for players.
- (ii) Prepare official MPRs for each team and will be responsible for notifying the HLA and involved parties of game roster changes.
- (iii) Verify background checks have been completed on coaches/volunteers.
- (iv) In general, shall perform all duties indicative to the office of the Secretary and other duties prescribed by the Board.

(f) Co-Secretary (Game Coordination):

- (i) Shall publish regular season and playoff game schedules for approval by the board.
- (ii) Will handle collection of MPR sheets for each game during the season.
- (iii) Will collect official score cards at the end of each game to record scores and standings at the end of regular season.
- (iv) Is responsible for scheduling referees for the games.
- (v) In general, shall perform all duties indicative to the office of the Secretary and other duties prescribed by the Board.

(g) Co-Secretary (Cheer Coordination):

- (i) The Co-Secretary for Cheer Coordination shall be responsible for collecting and verifying registration forms and birth certificates for cheerleaders.
- (ii) Verify background checks have been completed on coaches/volunteers.
- (iii) The Co-Secretary for Cheer Coordination shall also Chair the West Texas Rural Youth Cheerleading Board and make all recommendations regarding Cheer to the HLA.
- (iv) In general, shall perform all duties indicative to the office of the Secretary and other duties prescribed by the Board.

Section 2.03 HLA Board Duties and Responsibilities

- (a) The Board reserves the right to refuse participation to anyone not acting in the best interest of the League or its participants.

- (b) The Board shall manage the duties of the League and is authorized to:
- (i) Determine and approve the annual operating budget.
 - (ii) Determine and fix annual team charter fees.
 - (iii) Set rules for admission of members and accept or reject an “application for Membership” submitted by any organization.
 - (iv) Secure officials for regular or post season games.
 - (v) Interpret the By-Laws and Playing Rules.
 - (vi) Review violations of said rules.
 - (vii) Consider any other business which is properly brought before them.
 - (viii) Coordinate all activities of the League, including scheduling playoffs and regular season games.
 - (ix) Provide general publicity for WTRYFL and WTRYC
 - (x) To make rules for their own government and fix and enforce penalties for violations of such.
 - (xi) To generally manage, transact business, and conduct all affairs necessary to the welfare of the League.
 - (xii) Suspend play or practice when it is in the best interest of the League or its participants thereof.
- (c) It is the responsibility of each member of the Board to ensure compliance of all rules, regulations, and By-Laws of the League. This includes monitoring their Associations and any other Association within the League for compliance of the same. It is each Executive Board Member’s responsibility to take immediate action to notify the League of any violation and if within their Association what action they have taken to correct future violations. If a member of the HLA Board has knowledge of any violation and fails to report the violation, they may be removed from the HLA Board.

Section 2.04 Qualification, Nomination, Election, and Tenure of Officers

- (a) The Officers of the League shall be elected or appointed every two (2) years by the Board no later than December 31st and shall take appointment beginning January 1st of that next calendar year. The election of each officer shall be conducted separately by secret ballot or a show of hands.
- (b) Nominations shall be received from each Associations HLA representative. Floor nominations will be accepted.
- (c) Qualifications:
- (i) The prerequisite for Chair, Co-Chair, Co-Secretaries and Treasurer shall be that he/she be an active member and participant in their Association.
 - (ii) Any individual wanting to be elected to the board as Chairman or Co-Chairman needs to hold a board position for at least 1 year prior.

Section 2.05 Vacancies

- (a) A vacancy occurs on the Board if:
 - (i) A Board member resigns (Sec. 2.07),
 - (ii) A Board member is removed from office (Sec. 2.06),
 - (iii) An Association leaves or is removed from the League,
 - (iv) A Board member has reached their term and has not been re-appointed.
- (b) A vacancy that exists prior to a new election shall be appointed by the Chair and approved by the Board.

Section 2.06 Removal of Officers

- (a) An Executive Officer of the League may be removed from their position on the Board by an affirmative vote of, no less than, three-fourths majority vote of the Board.
- (b) An Officer of the Board should not be removed under bias and the Board should have appropriate justification, as outlined in these Bylaws and the Rule and Regulations Manual.

Section 2.07 Resignations

- (a) Any Officer may resign at any time.
- (b) Notice shall be to the Chairman or the Co-Chairman of the Board, either written or verbal.
- (c) All resignations shall take effect at the date of the receipt of notice, or anytime thereafter as determined by the Chairman.
- (d) The acceptance of a resignation by the Board shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 2.08 Voting

- (a) All appointed members of the Board shall be considered a “voting member”, excluding the Chairman.
- (b) The Chairman shall be the deciding vote in all votes that result in a tie.
- (c) No less than three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a passage of a motion for the transaction of business.

Section 2.09 Meetings

- (a) Attendance: All members of the Board should make every effort to attend all called meetings. Notice shall be given to the Chair, Co-Chair, or the Secretary if a member’s absence is unavoidable.

- (b) Annual Meetings: The purpose of the annual meeting of the Board shall be to elect new members, if necessary, to the Board. The date of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Board on the last Regular Board Meeting of the previous year.
- (c) Regular Meetings: Regular Meetings of the Board shall be established annually and noted in their minutes. There should be no less than (6) six Regular Meetings and no more than (12) twelve in a calendar year. Regular meetings will be held either in person or via remote hosting on the 4th Sunday of every month at 3:00 PM. Regular meetings will begin in February and end in July, with the July meeting being held in person to certify all teams for the regular season. The Chairman may call a regular meeting in December if it is necessary to close out any remaining business for that year's season for the League.
- (d) Special Meetings: When deemed necessary by the Chairman, special meetings may be called or at the request of any member of the Board, in writing, to conduct business. Should the Chair fail to call a special meeting when requested to do so by a Board Member, then the elected Co-Chair will call and conduct such special meeting, when requested to do so, in writing, and the request contains the signatures of three (3) or more Board Members.

Article III. League Membership

Section 3.01 Membership

- (a) Membership of the League shall consist of any Association that is admitted in accordance with Section 3.02 of Article III. Any Association organized for the purpose of operating a youth football program may apply for membership in this league.

Section 3.02 Admission Requirements

- (a) Any Association within the territorial jurisdiction of a public school district within ESC 14 (Region 14), that is classified as no smaller than 2A and no larger than 3A. (Effective August 1st, 2023; Associations that are currently members on or before this date as not subject to this rule.)
- (b) Each applicant must:
 - (i) Make a written application, to include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all officers and directors, expressing why your Association or organization would like to join the League.
 - (ii) State in writing that upon acceptance, the applicant will abide by the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the League and any amendments or modifications thereto.
 - (iii) Pay all fees, assessments, and fines set forth by the League.
- (c) Each application shall be presented to the Board and approved with no less than three-fourths affirmative vote from the Board.
- (d) New Associations shall be placed on a (1) one-year probationary period and be excluded from voting privileges for the duration of that time. Upon completion of the probationary period, the HLA Board will convene in a closed meeting to discuss and consider the permanent approval of the Association and selection of HLA Representative. The HLA Board may also opt to extend the probationary period or deny membership into the League based on cause.
- (e) The Chairman will draft a formal letter to the Association with all pertinent details of the Leagues determination.

Section 3.03 Termination of Membership

- (a) Voluntary Withdrawal: Any Association of the League may voluntarily withdraw from membership by tendering its written resignation to the League Chair or Co-Chair, accompanied by full payment of all fines, assessments, fees, and debts owed to the League. The effective date of voluntary withdrawal shall be the date of the written resignation.

- (b) Involuntary Termination: Membership in the League shall be automatically whenever:
 - (i) A membership Association permanently disbands its organization or ceases its activities.
 - (ii) A member disbands all its teams during the regular season or fails to register and field all team(s) by the start of the regular season.
 - (iii) The HLA Board of Directors voted by, no less than, three-fourths (3/4) of the total members of membership of any Association for actions unbecoming a member, or detrimental and/or disruptive to the League.

The Chair and Co-Chair shall communicate with and use all due diligence when working with Associations to prevent involuntary terminations. WTRYFL and its Associations shall maintain an open line of communications to ensure, prior to any decision to terminate membership, that all due process and notifications have been exhausted. Ultimately it is the discretion of the Board of Directors, based on recommendations from the Chair and/or Co-Chair, whether to terminate an Associations Membership.

Section 3.04 Association Boundaries

- (a) Boundary Lines are determined by the affiliated Independent School Districts (ISD) of the specified Association.
 - (i) School Districts that are categorized as 3A shall be designated to Division I
 - (ii) School Districts that are categorized as 2A shall be designated to Division II
- (b) An Association shall request permission from the League to accept players that attend an ISD that is not within their specified boundaries as indicated in Sec. 3.04(c) unless otherwise outlined in subsection (d) of this section.
- (c) Current Associations, corresponding ISD boundaries, and Division of play:

Clyde Jr Football	Clyde ISD	Division I
Coleman Youth Sports Association	Coleman ISD	Division II
Early Youth Football	Early ISD	Division I
Eastland Youth Football	Eastland ISD	Division I
Hawley Youth Football	Hawley ISD	Division II
Jim Ned Youth Football	Jim Ned ISD	Division I
Merkel Youth Football and Cheer Assoc.	Merkel ISD	Division I
Mitchell County Youth Football	Colorado City ISD	Division II
Winters Youth Football	Winters ISD	Division II

(d) Exceptions:

- (i) If an Association has reached their maximum allotted players for a specific team, the board may approve those players to be rostered with another Association that has not met their maximum player allotment. This rule may only apply so long as it does not prevent an eligible player from being rostered with the receiving Association.
 - (ii) If any Association is unable to fill a team in any given age division, the player may go to another Association with a team in that age division.
 - (iii) If a player comes from an area that does not have a youth football program, a nearby or adjacent Association may accept these players.
 - (iv) ALL ELIGIBLE PLAYERS SHALL BE ROSTERED PRIOR TO ACCEPTING ANY TRANSFER PLAYERS.
- (e) All other exceptions not outlined in subsection (d) shall be reviewed and approved by the Board on a case-by-case basis.
- (f) If you have a discrepancy with your designated Association, you must notify the Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Board in writing, prior to the end of registration. Your letter should include a detailed account of the discrepancy and the desired Association or Organization requested to transfer to and the discrepancy will be brought to the attention of the Board for a vote.

Section 3.05 Association Responsibilities

- (a) Each Association will elect officers and report in writing the names of the elected officers to the Board no later than the first day of the sanctioned season for that calendar year.
- (b) Each Association is responsible for its own fundraising, pictures, equipment needed for play, and League fees, to include all league insurance premiums, to be paid to the League Treasurer no later than August 1
- (c) Each Association is responsible for securing and maintaining playing facilities. If an Association does not have access to a local field, games will be scheduled at alternative fields.
- (d) Each Association will be responsible for their own concessions and workers for concession stands.
- (e) Each Association will be responsible for fees charged by Referees and Officials for each game. All fees for Officials shall be disclosed to all Associations, by the Chairman of the League, prior to the start of the season.
- (f) Each Association shall appoint at least one Association Representative and notify the Board in writing prior to the start of that year's sanctioned season.
- (g) Each Association is responsible for doing its own background check on Coaches, Board Members, Volunteers, and/or anyone 18 years of age or older that will or could have any direct contact with children participating in any League sanctioned events, to include practices and ceremonies during the sanctioned season. Verification of background checks will be required for all personnel.
- (h) Each Association is responsible for collecting and maintaining copies of birth certificates, proof of enrollment or residency, age waivers, and pool player waivers for all players. These documents will need to be made available for certification by the Board two weeks prior to the first sanctioned pre-season game of the corresponding season.
- (i) Each Association is responsible for obtaining each player's proof of ISD enrollment and making it available if requested.
 - (i) If a player is enrolled in or attends home school, the Board will accept a proof of residency for that player so long as their residency is within the specified boundaries of that Association and a letter from a parent simply stating that the player is home schooled.
- (j) It is each Association's responsibility to maintain all registration documents each year. In addition, when providing registration forms, birth certificates, and ISD enrollment forms, the format for each division will be up to the discretion of the Co-Secretary (Player Coordination).

Article IV. Coaches

Section 4.01 Requirements

- (a) The position of Coach shall be open to any responsible, qualified person with sufficient interest in the sport. He/She will develop and utilize his/her talents to teach the fundamentals of the sport and the rules of the game, to the participating youth.
- (b) Each coaching applicant shall declare satisfactory character, background check, and sincerity of purpose by completing a Coaches/Volunteer Application Form. This form must be submitted to your local Association prior to participating as a Coach.
- (c) Each Association is responsible for background checks. If a felony, violent, or sexual offense is found at any time within the last ten (10) years, the person will not be allowed to coach or be on the field. Failure to perform background checks may result in a League fine and or other disciplinary actions by the League.
- (d) Texas Dept of Public Safety site for qualifying organizations is located at <https://publicsite.dps.texas.gov/DpsWebsite/CriminalHistory/>.
 - (i) Background Criminal History checks should be conducted annually.
- (e) This applicant states his/her agreement to comply with these By-Laws and Playing Rules of the League and gives written consent to submit his/her name in for a criminal background check by signing the application form.
- (f) All coaches that are also board members, for either the WTRYFL Executive Board, WTRYC Board, or a Local Association Board, will relinquish all and any authority as a board member while coaching on the field.
- (g) All Head Coaches are required to attend a concussion training session.
- (h) Approved concussion training: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>
- (i) Cheerleading Coaches will be required to annually attend specialized safety training specific to cheer.
 - (i) All coaches must attend a Cheerleading Safety and Risk Management Course.
 - (ii) Instruction shall be provided by a certified instructor.
- (j) All coaches shall attend mandated training at a minimum of every (2) two years.
- (k) A Coach holding a Medical Doctor, a Registered Nursing License, or is a certified Emergency Medical Technician or equivalent medical certification, is not required to attend first aid, however a copy of their license will be needed for their file.

Section 4.02 Selection

- (a) Each Association is responsible for developing a system for the selection of their Coaching staff. Disputes related to specific Association staffing decisions should be addressed within their respective Association.

- (b) Once Coaches are selected and been through the appropriate background investigation, it shall be documented on the coach's application and shall be forwarded to the Co-Secretary (Player Coordination) for verification, no later than two weeks prior to the first sanctioned WTRYFL game.

Article V. Game Officials

Section 5.01 Responsibility

- (a) The League shall be responsible to select, contract, and coordinate the officials for all games sanctioned by the League.
- (b) All League Officials shall conduct themselves in a manner that fosters exceptional sportsmanship, courtesy, and professionalism.

Section 5.02 Officials Selection

- (a) The following specifications shall be in effect for the selection, use, and coordination of officials during the current season for all League sanctioned football games.
 - (i) Quality and Type: Three (3) football officials, registered with the Texas Association of Sporting Officials (TASO), or other state recognized Sporting Officials Association, shall be used for each game in all divisions excluding Flag Division.
 - 1) Two (2) football officials shall be used for all Flag Division games.
 - (ii) Only one official in each game shall be considered a trainee.
- (b) All officials shall be familiar with the special rules pertaining to each Division of the League. The Officials in charge of each game shall provide the necessary coordination and have the authority to enforce all administrative and playing rules of the League.
- (c) In the event of an ejection, other than a 'fan' ejection, a formal report shall be filed with the league, prior to the official leaving the facility for the day – preferably at the end of the contest in which the ejection occurred. (WTRYFL Ejection Form)

Section 5.03 Complaints

- (a) All complaints of Officials shall be made directly to the Presidents of the two Associations represented that day. They shall then forward unresolved complaints to Chairman or his/her designee of the Board.
- (b) All complaints by Officials pertaining to the attitudes of coaches and parents shall be forwarded to the Board by way of the Chairman or his/her designee. The Board shall be advised and responsible to discuss complaints with the Association complained against.
- (c) Resolution of all complaints will be in writing from the Chairman of the Board and made directly to the President of the Association(s) and/or the Coordinator of the Officials.
- (d) Any disciplinary actions imposed will be in correspondence with the Leagues Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Conduct and approved by an affirmative vote from the Board.

Section 5.04 Compensation

- (a) Each home association is responsible for compensating the officials assigned to their home games.
 - (i) Playoff games, championship games, and the Super Bowl, the hosting stadium (association) will only be responsible for half, WTRYFL will compensate the remaining half.

- (b) Compensation Rates (Effective: 6/25/2023):
 - (i) Flag: \$45.00
 - (ii) Tackle: \$50.00
 - (iii) Overtime: \$10:00 per OT period

- (c) Travel Rates (Effective: 8/1/2021):
 - (i) Within 45 miles of Abilene, Texas: \$15.00 (Driver Only)
 - 1) Clyde, Hawley, Tuscola, Merkel, Winters

 - (ii) Exceed 45 miles of Abilene, Texas: \$50.00 (Driver Only)
 - 1) Colorado City, Breckenridge, Eastland, Coleman, Early

- (d) Article IV of these Bylaws has been approved by both parties.

Rusty Edmonds, WTRYFL TASO Representative

Date:



Phillip Conklin (Jul 2, 2023 22:19 CDT)

Phillip Conklin, WTRYFL, Chairman

Date: Jul 2, 2023

Article VI. Scheduling

Section 6.01 Responsibility

- (a) Co-Secretary (Game Coordination) shall schedule all preseason, regular season, and playoff games. This schedule will be presented for approval by the Board annually.

Section 6.02 General Requirements

- (a) The following requirements shall apply to all scheduling:
 - (i) Scheduling shall be prepared to provide, as equally as possible, a home and away schedule.
 - (ii) Scheduling shall be subject to the limitations imposed by playing field availability.
 - (iii) Once approved the schedule will remain intact.
 - (iv) All game cancellations must be approved by both Associations.
 - (v) The playoff bracket will be floating week to week.
 - (vi) The team that finishes the regular Season with the best overall record will receive the highest seed.
 - (vii) The team that finishes the regular season with the worst overall record will receive the lowest seed.
 - (viii) Each team will receive a seed based on how they finish in the regular season standings.
 - (ix) The highest seed will play the lowest seed in each playoff game.
 - (x) The highest will be the home team in each playoff game.
 - (xi) In any division with more than (4) four Associations, only the top (4) four will advance to the playoffs.

Section 6.03 Field Coordination

- (a) Each Association is responsible for securing playing fields for each of their scheduled home games during regular season play.
- (b) Each Association is responsible for reporting field locations to the Co-Secretary (Game Coordination) prior to the approval of the season schedule.
- (c) Each Association is responsible for all fees associated with the use of their home field location.
- (d) Playoffs and Super Bowl Championships locations will be selected on a rotating basis based on Appendix A of these Bylaws.

Article VII. Certification of Players

Section 7.01 Certification of Official Rosters

- (a) Certification of Master Player Rosters (MPR) and Master Cheer Rosters (MCR) will be two weeks prior to the first sanctioned pre-season game.
- (b) All MPR/MCR will be signed by the Co-Secretary (Player Coordination), or by the Co-Secretary (Cheer Coordination), and the Chair or Co-Chair.
- (c) After all the MPRs have been verified, they will be sent to the designated Association/Organization.
- (d) A copy of the MPRs will be forwarded to the Co-Secretary (Game Coordination) for weekly verification once games have commenced.

Section 7.02 Official Rosters - Football

- (a) A player is officially registered when his name is submitted on the Master Player Roster (MPR) and is certified by the Co-Secretary (Player Coordination) or an Executive Board member in his/her absence.
- (b) All players must have a copy of their birth certificate on file with his/her local Association. They must also have proof of school enrollment OR proof of residency showing they reside in the appropriate league boundaries as defined by Sec. 3.04(c) and the League's Hold Harmless Agreement.
- (c) A minimum of eleven (11) players must be certified before playing the first regular season game.
- (d) All teams will be capped in accordance with their division of play.
 - (i) Tackle Teams: (35) thirty-five maximum player rosters.
 - (ii) Flag Teams: (24) twenty-four maximum player rosters.
 - 1) A roster may exceed the maximum number if **all** players rostered were previously rostered in that Association or any Association within the League the previous season of play.
- (d) No players will be added to the Rosters after the deadline.
 - (i) Roster deadlines will be determined by the Board prior to the beginning of league sanctioned practices.

- (e) Removal of Players: Players should be reported to the Co-Secretary (Player Coordination) and deleted from a certified roster for any of the following reasons:
 - (i) A player has been injured to such an extent that he/she will be unable to play before the close of the regular season.
 - (ii) A player has moved from an Association boundary.
 - (iii) A player has been removed, as determined by their local Association or the League, for disciplinary reasons.
 - (iv) A letter shall be submitted to the League outlining the reason for removal and a new MPR will be published and returned to the appropriate Association.

Section 7.03 Age Schematics

- (a) All ages apply to the child's age on or before **August 31st**.
- (b) Divisions will be set by **grade**. If a player has been held back or failed one grade level, that player must still play with his/her current grade. If a player has been held back or failed two or more grade levels, that player will be placed with the grade level that he/she would be in if they had not been held back.
- (c) Division breakdowns are as follows:
 - (i) FLAG: Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten
 - 1) A flag player cannot be **7** on or before August 31st.
 - (ii) MIGHTY MITES: First and Second Grade
 - 1) A Mighty Mites player cannot be **9** on or before August 31st.
 - (iii) JUNIOR PEEWEE: Third and Fourth Grade
 - 1) A Junior PeeWee player cannot be **11** on or before August 31st.
 - (iv) PEEWEE: Fifth and Sixth Grade
 - 1) A PeeWee player cannot be **13** on or before August 31st.
- (d) A parent of a child at the upper grade for a division (Kindergarten, Second or Fourth graders) that wishes to move that child up to the next division may do so provided that the Age Waiver Form is completed and approved by his or her Local Association.
- (e) There will be no runt rule in effect.

Section 7.04 Draft Rules and Procedures

There will be no drafts for any town and no splitting of teams.

Article VIII. Practice and Game Regulations and Equipment

Section 8.01 Practice and Conditioning

The West Texas Rural Youth Football League mandates the following conditions not as a mechanism to ensure 'fair play' but as a device to ensure the safety of all athletes that participate in our league. West Central Texas climates are traditionally extremely hot during the start of our seasons and practice, it is not only our obligation to ensure player safety, but our responsibility. Each one of our communities is charged with a League Board Member, it is that members committed responsibility to our athletes to ensure their community organization is adhering to the following guidelines.

- (a) The Board of Directors shall set the official practice start date each season.
- (b) Mandatory Conditioning:
 - (i) Conditioning shall start on Monday, (2) two weeks prior to the official practice start date.
 - (ii) There shall be a minimum of (4) four, (2) two-hour practice sessions for each player rostered in the tackle division.
 - (iii) There shall be no pads, tackling, or physical contact during conditioning.
 - (iv) Conditioning shall consist of exercise-based drills ONLY. There shall be no contact during the conditioning period.
 - (v) There shall be no playbooks or 'play call formations' during conditioning.
- (c) **Practice Time:** Each team is allowed no more than (8) eight hours per week before the beginning of school. After the start of school, each team is allowed no more than (6) six hours per week.
- (d) Camps: Each Association/Organization may hold camps/clinics at their discretion.
 - (i) Home Associations/Organizations shall be responsible for their own insurance premiums for any camps or clinics conducted outside of the parameters of the League's insurance policy. It shall be each HLA's responsibility to ensure conformity to the League's Insurance Policy.

Section 8.02 Equipment

- (a) Provide Field Markers, Chains, and Down Markers:
 - (i) Each home Association is responsible for providing and maintaining their own field markers for all hosted games. Equipment should be in good condition, clearly marked, and within TUIL and NCAA standards.

Section 8.03 Mercy Rule

- (a) The Mercy Rule:
- (i) Anytime Team A is ahead of Team B by 28 points or more **AT** or **AFTER** halftime, the Mercy Rule will become available, at Team B's Head Coaches discretion. The Head Coach must notify the official that they wish to apply the Mercy Rule.
 - (ii) The Mercy Rule will become automatic at any time a team is ahead by (35) thirty-five points.
 - (iii) Once the Mercy Rule is in effect.
 - 1) The official game is over, and the score is frozen and recorded, and
 - 2) Game play resumes as normal, and
 - 3) The game clock will run continuously.
 - (iv) Continuing to intentionally run-up a score after the Mercy Rule has been applied could result in sanctions being brought against the Association and the Head Coach as determined by the Board.

Section 8.04 Game Forfeiture

- (a) In the event a flag team is not able to fill a (6) six-man roster, that coach must forfeit that game.
- (b) In the event a tackle team is not able to fill a (10) ten player roster at the start of the game, that coach must forfeit that game.
 - (i) Should the roster fall below (9) during that game, that coach must declare a forfeit.
- (c) Coaches choosing to play shorthanded do so knowing the opposing coach has no obligation to match the players on the field. Opposing coaches can play down to match the shorthanded team but are not required to.

Section 8.05 Cancellation of a Game

- (a) A cancellation due to weather may be called by the Home Associations Field Coordinator or equivalent board position. All cancellations must be immediately reported to any League Board Member present. That Board Member will notify the cancellation to the Co-Secretary (Game Coordination) for that game(s) to be rescheduled.
- (b) In the event of an emergency, a League Board Member present may cancel a game.
- (c) All cancelled games shall be rescheduled and played at the discretion of the Board.

Section 8.06 Spotting Rules

- (a) Each team may use spotters to assist a coach or team during a game.

- (i) A spotter must be above field level. Whether in a press box or bleachers.
- (ii) Spotter may only use electronic equipment to communicate with the coach.

Section 8.07 Playing Field Personnel

- (a) The general area of the playing field will be clear of all spectators except for the presence of an ambulance, stadium security personnel, and league officials. All spectators, including players from other teams, shall watch the game behind the fence or from the bleachers. One warning will be given and then the Association may be assessed a penalty.
- (b) Bench / Player Area:
 - (i) The bench area is reserved exclusively for players, coaches, and authorized personnel only. Teams and Coaches must keep sidelines clear for all officials.
- (c) Each team is allowed the follow field personnel (per game):
 - (i) One (1) Head Coach,
 - (ii) Four (4) Assistant Coaches,
 - (iii) Two (2) Water / Equipment personnel.

Section 8.08 Gaming Officials

- (a) The head coach is the only coach that can approach the officials about any issues that need to be discussed. If an assistant coach tries to approach an official, he may be ejected. The Game Officials have the final say on the field. Any protests or complaints are to be made after the game it to the participating Association Presidents. If necessary, they will forward the complaints to the League Board.
- (b) No Home or Visiting Association Board Member has the authority to disrupt any game that is in progress, doing so may result in sanctions being brought upon that Association by the League.
- (c) An Association Board Member or Coach, who is also a League Board Member, must first act as an ambassador of the League and be non-biased in any decisions that require being made. Failure to do so may violate the responsibilities as outlined in Article II of these bylaws.

Section 8.09 Determination of Standings

- a) Teams will receive standings based on their win loss record within their division. If there is a tie the game played between the two teams will determine order of ranking.
- b) If there are only four teams in a division, then they will have two rounds of playoffs, seeded as determined in (a).
- c) If there are more than four teams, there will be two rounds of playoffs, seeded as determined in (a), seeds five and below will automatically be eliminated from playoff contention.
- d) Playoffs:
 - (i) Division One (D1):
 - 1) Round 1: Divisional Semi-Finals
 - a) Seed 1 VS 4
 - b) Seed 2 VS 3
 - 2) Round 2: Divisional Championship
 - (ii) Division Two (D2):
 - 1) Round 1: Divisional Semi-Finals
 - a) Seed 1 VS 4
 - b) Seed 2 VS 3
 - 2) Round 2: Divisional Championship
 - (iii) WTRYFL Super Bowl:
 - 1) D1 Champion VS D2 Champion

Article IX. Flag Rules

Section 9.01 Game Structure

- (a) Two (2) 20-minute halves.
- (b) Ten (10) minute halftime.
- (c) Teams will change field direction at the beginning of the second half of play.
- (d) The game clock will run continuously, excluding the final two (2) minutes of each half under these rules:
 - (i) The play is stopped due to the ball going out of bounds,
 - (ii) A timeout is called,
 - (iii) An injury on the field,
 - (iv) At the signal of the Lead Official.
- (e) Each Team will have three (3) 45-second timeouts per half.
- (f) 40-second play clock once ball is set.

Section 9.02 Flag Ball Carrier Weight Limits

- (a) A ball carrier is anyone who lines up in the back field or intentionally carries or catches the ball at any point during the game.
- (b) There are no weight requirements for Flag division.

Section 9.03 Scoring and Field Positions

- (a) Scoring:
 - (i) Touchdown: 7 Points
 - (ii) Safety: 1 Point
 - (iii) PAT/FG: There are no PATs or Field Goals in Flag Division.
- (b) After a touchdown has been scored, the ball will change possession and will be placed at the opposing 20-yard line. (i.e.: 60 yards to scoring end zone.)
- (c) A safety will result in the defense taking possession and becoming the offense. The ball will be placed at midfield.

Section 9.04 Team Requirements

- (a) There will be a maximum of 8 players from each team on the field. There is a minimum of 6 players to field a team.
- (b) If a team fields a team shorthanded, the officials and opposing coach must be informed. Late arrivals will be permitted to enter the game after officials and coaches have been notified. If a team is unable to field a team with 6 players, the team must forfeit. If a forfeit occurs, the two teams may still play a practice game. Teams are not required to play down to the number of players on the opposing team.

Section 9.05 Game Play

- (a) Game Ball: K2 or “PEE WEE” Football.
- (b) Punts and Punt Returns: A team may punt the ball after notifying the officials. There will be no rushing on the punting team. The play is dead once the punted ball has touched the ground.
- (c) Center Sneak: No Center sneaks allowed.
- (d) Quarterback Sneak: There will be no QB sneaks. No runner that takes the ball from Center may run up the middle between the normal alignments of guards on the line of scrimmage. QB may run up the middle only after the 8-second rush rule is activated.
- (e) Rushing: There will be no rushing for eight (8) seconds (officials will time and signal coaches to rush), or until QB comes out of pocket, or ball changes hands. “Pocket” meaning the area between guards, from the line of scrimmage, with there being no boundary in the backfield. Guards may not split more than one (1) yard out to provide a larger pocket. Rushing will be once a defensive player crosses the line of Scrimmage.
- (f) Blocking Stance: Hands to chest (No hand cupped in other hand and elbows pointed out), no defensive player will cross the line of scrimmage until the rushing rule is activated. The offensive line may block with hands to torso without full extension until the rushing rule is active. Lateral (side to side) motion is allowed on both sides. Once the rush is active, defensive players may “swim” past blockers. There will be no pushing from either the offense or defense.
- (g) There will be no tackling or diving for flags.
- (h) There will be no flag guarding or shielding by means of hands or clothing.

Section 9.06 Field Specifications

- (a) The field will be marked 40 yards sideline to sideline and 80 yards goal line to goal line, in 20-yard increments.
- (b) A down marker will be used to keep track of downs at the line of scrimmage.
- (c) A 20-yard chain set will be used to mark 1st downs.

Section 9.07 Coaches

- (a) Only two coaches will be allowed on the field for each team.
- (b) Prior to the ball being snapped, coaches on the playing field should be 5 yards behind the deepest player. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of offside.
- (c) Coaches on the field should never interfere or participate in the play in any way. The head coach is the only coach that can approach the officials about any issues that need to be discussed. If an assistant coach tries to approach an official, he/she may be ejected. The Game Officials have the final say on the field. (Ref. Sec. 8.07)

Section 9.08 Uniforms and Flags

- (a) Jerseys should be a t-shirt style.
- (b) **Shirts must be tucked in.** This is to prevent interference with the flag itself.
 - (i) Officials may call a 10-yard personal foul penalty.
- (c) Flags must be a distinctive color apart from the uniform and no shorter than 12 inches.
- (d) Flags must separate from belt or waistband. Flags are to be on each hip and should be adjusted as needed.

Article X. Mighty Mites (MM) Rules

Section 10.01 MM Game Structure

- (a) Four 8 Minute Quarters.
- (b) 10-minute halftime.
- (c) Teams will change field direction at the beginning of the second half of play.
- (d) The game and play clocks will run in accordance with UIL Rules
- (e) Each Team will have three (3) 45-second timeouts per half.

Section 10.02 MM Scoring and Field Positions

- (a) Scoring:
 - (i) Touchdown: 6 Points
 - (ii) Safety: 1 Point
 - (iii) PAT/FG: 1 point for PAT / 2 points for FG

Section 10.03 MM Ball Carrier Weight Limits

- (a) A ball carrier is anyone who lines up in the back field or intentionally carries or catches the ball at any point during the game.
 - (i) All ball carriers must be certified by weight.
- (b) Weight requirements per division:
 - (i) Mighty Mites: 80 lbs.
- (c) Regular Season: On the date of the first official game all players will be certified to carry or receive the ball. If a player is certified to carry the ball, he/she will receive an official WTRYFL sticker which will be placed on the back of the helmet. No other weigh ins will occur during regular season play. Weigh-in will commence when the team has made a board member aware that the team has gathered and is ready for weigh in and it must occur at least one hour before kickoff.
- (d) Any player not weighed in during the first game of the season will not be an eligible ball carrier. If there is an extenuating circumstance, that Association shall submit, in advance and in writing, to the Co-Secretary (Play Coordination) their circumstance, to be approved by the HLA Board. If approved, that player shall be weighed in at the very next available game and certified in accordance with sub-section (c).

Section 10.04 Team Requirements

- (a) There will be a maximum of 11 players from each team on the field. The minimum is 10 and a team will forfeit the game should they not be able to fill the team when game play begins.

Section 10.05 MM Game Play

- (a) Game Ball: K2 or “PEE WEE” Football.
- (b) **RESTRICTED PLAYERS:** A “Restricted Player” by definition; a player who has either opted out of League weigh-in or exceeds the maximum weight limit for a ball carrier for their division.
- (i) A restricted player may play guard, center, or tackle and can be the end man on either end of the line of scrimmage on offense at the time the ball is snapped but cannot advance the ball on offense.
 - (ii) A restricted player may attempt to punt, kick a field goal, or kick a point after a touchdown.
 - (iii) The player cannot in any case advance the ball past the scrimmage line or attempt to pass the ball.
 - (iv) The player must attempt to do what the playing position indicates (i.e., no attempt to confuse the defense). Violation of this rule shall result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down.
 - (v) They may play any position on defense.
 - 1) On defense, a restricted player may advance the ball by interception of a pass, or by a fumble recovery.
 - 2) A restricted player may not advance the ball after receiving the ball by a lateral pass from a team member, violation of this rule shall result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down.
 - (vi) On special teams, a restricted player cannot line up in a position where they expected to return the punt or kick off.
 - 1) If the restricted player is on the front line and receives the kick, they may return a kick.
 - 2) If a restricted player recovers a fumble, they may advance the ball until they are considered down by the officials and the whistle has blown to stop game play.

It is the coach's responsibility to educate and teach responsible and safe game play, if the League is presented with compelling evidence that a coach is attempting to circumvent this rule, League sanctions may be brought against that coach and Association/Organization as defined by Article XVII of these Bylaws.

- (c) Punts, Punt Returns, and Field Goals: A team may punt the ball, after notifying the officials. There will be no rushing on the punting team. The ball will be placed in the punter's hand and the ball will be deemed live once it has touched the punter's foot. The ball can be returned or recovered by the kicking team once the receiving team has touched it. Field Goals are the same as punts, no long snap or place holder. Kick will take place from kicking tee. No fakes or rushing by the kicker. The ball may be returned by the receiving team. If returned for a touchdown, the score will count as (2) two points.
- (d) Quarterback sneaks are not allowed up the middle or into the A gaps. Defense is not allowed to lineup in these areas so it would not be fair to allow the quarterback to sneak it up the middle, however the quarterback may take the snap and run down the line and then up field once he is more than 1 yard on either side of the center.
- (e) Rushing/ Blitzing: No defensive players will be allowed to line up over center or in the A Gaps. Defensive ends, Linebackers, corners need to be at a minimum 3 yards off the line of scrimmage and may advance at the snap of the ball. All linemen lined up inside the defensive ends must be in a three- or four-point stance to advance at the snap of the ball.
- (f) Overtime Rule: Overtime will be played out in accordance with official UIL rules.
- (g) Chop blocks, or cut blocks are not permitted. A player will be given an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for the first offense. If a player does it again during the same game, the player will be ejected. If multiple players commit cut, or chop blocks during a game, the coach will receive an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after the third such block that is called.
- (h) All other UIL rules will be enforced.

Section 10.06 MM Field Specifications

- (a) Field Size: Entire field will be used.
- (b) A down marker will be used to keep track of downs at the line of scrimmage.
- (c) A 10-yard chain set will be used to mark 1st downs.

Section 10.07 MM Coaches

- (a) Only two coaches will be allowed on the field for each team.
- (b) Prior to the ball being snapped, coaches on the playing field shall be 5 yards behind the deepest player. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of offside.
- (c) Coaches on the field should never interfere or participate in the play in any way once the ball is in play.

- (d) The head coach is the only coach that can approach the officials about any issues that need to be discussed. If an assistant coach tries to approach an official, he/she may be ejected. The Game Officials have the final say on the field. (Ref. Sec. 8.07)

Article XI. Junior PeeWee (JPW) and PeeWee (PW) Rules

Section 11.01 JPW / PW Game Structure

- (a) Four 8 Minute Quarters.
- (b) 10-minute halftime.
- (c) Teams will change field direction at the beginning of the second half of play.
- (d) The game and play clocks will run in accordance with UIL Rules
- (e) Each Team will have three (3) 45-second timeouts per half.

Section 11.02 JPW/PW Scoring and Field Positions

- (a) Scoring:
 - (i) Touchdown: 6 Points
 - (ii) Safety: 1 Point
 - (iii) PAT/FG: 1 point for PAT / 2 points for FG

Section 11.03 JRPW/PW Team Requirements

- (a) There will be a maximum of 11 players from each team on the field. The minimum is 10 and a team will forfeit the game should they not be able to fill the team when game play begins. If the team falls under 9 players during the game, the game will result in a forfeit.

Section 11.04 JPW/PW Game Play

- (a) Game Ball: TDJ or “JUNIOR” Football.
- (b) Chop blocks, or cut blocks are not permitted. A player will be given an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for the first offense. If a player does it again during the same game, the player will be ejected. If multiple players commit cut, or chop blocks during a game, the coach will receive an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after the third such block that is called.
- (c) Punts and Punt Returns: A team may punt the ball after notifying the officials.
 - (i) JPW: The ball will be snapped to the punter and the ball will be deemed live once it has touched the punter’s hands. The ball can be returned or recovered by the kicking team once the receiving team has touched it.
 - (ii) PW: Official UIL rules.

- (d) Field Goals:
- (i) JPW: Ball will be snapped to a place holder. The ball is live once the ball is kicked. No rushing the kicker. No fakes or rushing by the kicker or place holder. The ball may be returned by the receiving team. If returned for a touchdown, the score will count as (2) two points.
 - (ii) PW: Official IUL rules.
- (e) Overtime Rule: No game shall end in a tie. Overtime will be played out in accordance with official UIL rules.
- (f) All other UIL rules will be enforced by officials unless stated above.

Section 11.05 JPW/PW Field Specifications

- (a) Field Size: Entire field will be used.
- (b) A down marker will be used to keep track of downs at the line of scrimmage.
- (c) A 10-yard chain set will be used to mark 1st downs.

Section 11.06 Coaches

- (a) JPW: Only one coach will be allowed on the field for each team.
 - (i) As season progresses, Coaches are encouraged to coach from the sidelines.
- (b) PW: No coaches will be allowed on the field during game play.
- (c) Prior to the ball being snapped, JPW coach on the playing field shall be 5 yards behind deepest player. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of offside.
- (d) Coaches on the field shall never interfere or participate in the play in any way. The head coach is the only coach that can approach the officials about any issues that need to be discussed. If an assistant coach tries to approach an official, he/she may be ejected. ***The Game Officials have the final say on the field. (Ref. Sec. 8.07)***

It is the coach's responsibility to educate and teach responsible and safe game play, if the League is presented with compelling evidence that a coach is attempting to circumvent this rule, League sanctions may be brought against that coach and Association/Organization as defined by Article XVI of these Bylaws.

Article XII. Cheerleading West Texas Rural Youth Cheer

Section 12.01 West Texas Rural Youth Cheerleading

- (a) The West Texas Rural Youth Cheer Board is an extension of the WTRYFL and is a subordinate board to the HLA Board of Directors that shall be chaired by the Co-Secretary (Cheer Coordination).
- (b) The WTRYC Board shall consist of (1) one representative from each Association that is a member of the WTRYFL.
- (c) WTRYC Board shall develop and maintain a set of Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations specific to cheerleading.
- (d) WTRYC Chairman shall submit WTRYC Bylaws, and any changes recommend by the WTRYC Board to the HLA Board for final approval.

Article XIII. Mandatory Play Rules

Currently the league is not enforcing mandatory play rules.

Organizations may choose to continue to play players a minimum number of plays, but this will not be enforced by these Bylaws and Regulations.

Article XIV. Protests

Section 14.01 General

- (a) A game may be protested if the provisions outlined in the procedures below are followed.
- (b) Protests involving the judgments and/or decisions of a Game Official are not valid protests and should follow procedures outlined in Article XVI of these Bylaws.

Section 14.02 Procedure

- (a) All protests shall be:
 - (i) Submitted in writing and accompanied by the protest fee.
 - (ii) Signed by the protesting Head Coach.
 - (iii) Forwarded by the protestor to the League within 72 hours of the scheduled start time of the game under protest.
 - (iv) Made known to the Official in charge of the game and the opposing Head Coach at the time the decision to protest is decided, if made on the game field. The protesting team shall declare, “that the game is being played under protest.”
 - (v) Declared by the protesting team prior to kick-off for protests of pre-game violation(s).
 - (vi) A concise statement of the grounds upon which the protesting party expects to call as witness on behalf of the protest.
 - (vii) In the event a Head Coach insists on a protest regarding weight, the protesting Coach and/or Association/Organization shall remit the \$100.00 protest fee to a League Official (Board Member) prior to any investigation into the protest.
 - 1) The League will not mandate any certified player to ‘re-weigh’ due to protest, the Co-Secretary (Player Coordinator) shall be contacted, and the official certified roster will be referenced. Should that player meet the required weight at the time of certification, the protest will not be upheld and the protesting Coach and/or Association/Organization shall forfeit the protest fee.
 - 2) The \$100 fee shall be remitted to the League Treasurer at the first available opportunity and a receipt provided to the protesting Association.

Section 14.03 Fees

- (a) A cashier’s check, money order, cash, or Association check payable shall accompany each official protest to WTRYFL in the amount of \$100.00.
- (b) The fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- (c) If the protest is deemed invalid, the fee shall be retained by the League and deposited in the General Fund.

Section 14.04 Hearing of Protest

- (a) If any team requests a hearing with the association, it must be done so in writing and submitted to the board no later than seven day of the time the event occurred. It will be reviewed, and a response given in a reasonable amount of time.

Section 14.05 Protest Hearing

- (a) If the protest complies with all the requested specifications above, the Chair shall appoint a five-member committee from neutral Association members to include the Chair.
- (b) All protests shall be decided by the majority vote of all protest committee members.
- (c) All decisions rendered by the Protest Committee shall be final and there will be no right to appeal.

Article XV. Code of Conduct

Section 15.01 Code of Conduct

- (a) No obscene, foul, cursing, derogatory, or otherwise offense language towards; spectators, coaches, officials, players, or anyone with the privilege of being present at any WTRYFL sanctioned event.
- (b) No Alcohol permitted at any WTRYFL event or on the property of any ISD facility or stadium, in accordance with State Law.
- (c) No Tobacco use on the field or inside of any ISD facility or stadium, in accordance with State Law. To include, but not limited to:
 - (i) Cigarettes
 - (ii) Cigars
 - (iii) Chewing Tobacco
 - (iv) Snuff
 - (v) E-Cigarettes
 - (vi) Vapes
- (d) No Illegal or Illicit drugs as defined by Sec. 481 of the TEX. HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, permitted at any WTRYFL event or on the property of any ISD facility or stadium.
- (e) No person(s) shall be under the influence of anything defined in (b) or (d) while attending any WTRYFL event or while in any ISD facility or stadium.
- (f) All participants shall always exercise good sportsmanlike conduct while attending or participating in WTRYFL events, games, ceremonies, or any other event that is sanctioned by the WTRYFL.
- (g) No fighting, bullying, intimidating, or any other physical act, with the sole intent to create fear or physical harm to anyone attending or participating in any WTRYFL event.

Article XVI. Complaints

Section 16.01 Purpose

- (a) To create a non-bias process in which that any individual or Association having membership within the League can make complaint to be heard and evaluated by the Executive Board of Directors.

Section 16.02 Procedure

- (a) All complaints shall be submitted in writing on a complaint form.
- (b) All complaints shall be submitted to the League Chair or Co-Chair no later than 10 days of the date of the alleged violation or infraction.

Section 16.03 Hearing of Complaints

- (a) If the complaint complies with all the requirements specified in Sec.16.02 of this Article, the Chair will appoint a Hearing Committee to hear the complaint.
- (b) The Hearing Committee shall convene within seven (7) days of being appointed, conduct a hearing, and render a decision thereon. The hearing of the complaint shall be in closed session with all accused parties present if they so desire.
- (c) All accused parties shall be notified of the hearing. Such notice shall also include all violations to be heard. The accused party may call witnesses on their behalf.

Section 16.04 Decision

- (a) All complaints shall be decided by a majority vote of the Hearing Committee members and reported back to the League Board by the Chair.
- (b) If there are any instances where discipline is warranted, it shall follow the procedures outlined in Article XVII of these Bylaws.

Article XVII. Penalties and Discipline

Section 17.01 Purpose

- (a) The purpose of this section is to deter violations as outlined in these Bylaws and to encourage a safe and fun atmosphere for all parties involved in the activities of the WTRYFL.

Section 17.02 Procedure

- (a) All Penalties and Discipline shall have due process and start with the procedures outlined in Article XIV of these Bylaws.
- (b) Penalties and Discipline shall be progressive in nature based on the severity of the violation as determined by the Board.
- (c) On field discipline shall be dictated by the Gaming Officials and reported, if necessary, to the on-site Board Member. That Board Member(s) shall document the violation and report it to the Board Chair or Co-Chair for further review and to present to the Board, if necessary.
- (d) Administrative Discipline (Associations/Organizations) shall be dictated by the Board by way of an administrative hearing convened by either the Chair or Co-Chair with a 3/4 majority (Super Majority) of the Board present.
- (e) Home Associations are responsible for upholding all rules and regulations set forth by these Bylaws. An Association may be administratively disciplined if the Board has determined that the Association has not taken appropriate action to prevent and/or deter violations as outlined in these Bylaws.

Section 17.03 Penalties and Fines

- (a) Individual Penalties may range from a formal reprimand by the Board to permanent removal from the League, as determined by the Board.
- (b) Administrative Penalties include, but are not limited to, the following.
 - (i) Formal Written Reprimands from the Board.
 - (ii) Monetary Fines no less than \$25.00, but not to exceed \$1,000.00.
 - (iii) Suspension of play for all divisions.
 - (iv) Removal from the League.

Section 17.04 Mandatory Penalties – Coaches

- (a) Any Coach that is ejected will be subject to a minimum of (1) one game suspension.
 - (i) Additional games and/or permanent suspension may be added based on the nature of the ejection and the subsequent investigation by the League.
 - (ii) If the Coach in question has been ejected previously, the League may impose additional suspension games or choose to permanently suspend the Coach for the remainder of the season or indefinitely.

Section 17.05 Mandatory Penalties – Players

- (a) Any player that is ejected will be subject to a minimum of (1) one game suspension.
 - (i) Additional games and/or permanent suspension may be added based on the nature of the ejection and the subsequent investigation by the League.
 - (ii) If the Player in question has been ejected previously, the League may impose additional suspension games or choose to permanently suspend the Player for the remainder of the season or indefinitely.

Section 17.06 Notice

- (a) Any Player or Coach that has discipline imposed by the League will receive written notice to the Home Association or Organization from the Chair or Co-Chair of the League outlining the discipline imposed, date of offense, effective date, and date of return.

Section 17.07 Appeal Hearings

- (a) All appeals shall be made in writing within (10) ten days of the date they received their notice from the League.
- (b) The notice shall have a point of contact for the current Chair and Co-Chair in which to address the appeal.
- (c) The Chair shall convene a special meeting at a time and location determined convenient for the Board to allow for the Board to hear the appeal.
 - (i) The Appeal Hearing shall require a voting quorum of at least (3) three voting Board Members.
 - (ii) Failing to appear for the Appeals Hearing will result in a default, no other appeals will be accepted.
- (d) All decisions are final upon completion of the Appeals Hearing.

Article XVIII. Awards

Section 18.01 League Awards

- (a) The League will purchase and presents awards to Football Players, Cheerleaders, Coaches, and the Home Association, as determined by the Board, to the season champion for each age division.
- (b) Awards that are not individualized shall be property of that Home Association unless otherwise determined by that Association or Organization.

Section 18.02 Association Awards

- (a) Individual players may be presented awards from their Association or sponsor for participation. The value of these awards will not exceed the current TUIL standard to maintain amateur status of youth league players.

Article XIX. Fiscal Responsibility

Section 19.01 Fiscal Authority

- (a) The league will hold a checking account at Prosperity Bank and the following members will be allowed access to the account:
- (i) Chairman
 - (ii) Co-Chairman
 - (iii) Treasurer

Section 19.02 Operating Budget

- (a) The Treasurer shall prepare an annual operating budget for the League and submit it to the Executive Board of Directors for approval. In preparing the annual budget, the Treasurer shall consider the following requirements:
- (i) The annual budget shall reflect all money that is expected to be transacted through the League bank account and shall depict the anticipated revenues and expenses.
 - (ii) The annual budget shall provide for a reserve at the end of each fiscal budget year for beginning operations for the following fiscal year.

Section 19.03 Accounting Records and Reports

- (a) The League Treasurer shall maintain adequate accounts and records of the League business and properties. He / She shall establish an accounting system, which has individual accounts or sub-accounts identical to those presented in the annual budget. All such accounts and records shall be kept at the principal address of the League Treasurer.
- (b) All records shall be open to inspection by the Board. An independent person appointed by the Board will audit the financial records each year between Jan 1st and Jan 31st of each year. Results of the audit will be submitted to the Board.
- (c) Two different Board members will sign all checks. This will include, but is not limited to the Chair, Co-Chair, and Treasurer.
- (d) The Treasurer shall provide annually a financial statement of the League to the Board. This statement shall be presented no later than the August meeting of the Board. A quarterly report will be given and one end of the season report:

- (i) A financial statement of the League, listing all assets and liabilities as of Nov 30th.
 - (ii) An accounting of all revenue sources received by the League for the year ending Nov 30th.
 - (iii) An accounting of all expenditures by the League for the year ending Nov 30th.
 - (iv) An inventory of all equipment owned and controlled by the League.
- (e) Any individual required to travel to a destination outside the boundaries of the League, while representing the League, shall be entitled to recover basic expenses of transportation, lodging, and meals. An expense report must be completed by the authorized League representative and forwarded to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the authority to approve such expenses and reimburse the League representative in accordance with the current allowable expenses and detailed in the Expense Report instructions.

Article XX. Insurance

Section 20.01 General

- (a) All Associations will be covered by a football accident insurance policy which must be in effect prior to the first practice session so that all players/cheerleaders participating are covered. This policy must cover injuries sustained by players while participating in practices, exhibition games, regular season games, play-off games, and while traveling to and from any specified event.

Section 20.02 Payment

- (a) The Board is responsible for contracting insurance for all Associations connected with West Texas Rural Youth Football League. The premiums will be paid when designated by the insurance company. Insurance roster forms shall be submitted to the insurance company after certification of players, if applicable.

Section 20.03 No Opt-Out Clause

- (a) As part of League membership requirements, all Associations/Organizations are required to carry League insurance and pay required League insurance minimums, per participant, to the League no later than the first day League practice begins.

Article XXI. Forms

Section 21.01 League Forms (Appendix A)

- (a) These forms are to be utilized in their original format and are not to be altered without approval from the Board.
- (b) Forms:
 - (i) Mandatory Play Roster
 - (ii) Complaint and Protest Form
 - (iii) Player Injury Report
 - (iv) WTRYFL Ejection Report Form

Section 21.02 Association Use Forms (Appendix B)

- (a) These forms are “ready to use” templates that can be used by any Association that is a member of the League. The information contained is of the minimum standard and is what is required by the League.
- (b) Associations may alter and use these forms as needed.
- (c) Forms:
 - (i) Master Registration Form
 - (ii) Coach or Volunteer Application
 - (iii) Age Waiver Form
 - (iv) Pool Player Waiver

Section 21.03 Association Rotation of Playoff and Super Bowl Games (Appendix C)

- (a) Voted and approved by Board on April 24, 2022
- (b) Voted and approved by Board on June 25, 2023

Article XXII. Indemnification

IF ANY PART OF THESE BYLAWS SHALL BE HELD INVALID OR INOPERATIVE FOR ANY REASON, THE REMAINING PARTS, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE AND REASONABLE, SHALL BE VALID AND BINDING.

Article XXIII. Ratification

THESE BYLAWS SUPERSEDE ALL PREVIOUS BYLAWS AND AMEDMENTS AND HAVE BEEN RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AND SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON THE 25th DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR 2023.

APPROVED BY:



[Phillip Conklin \(Jul 2, 2023 22:19 CDT\)](#)

Phillip Conklin, Chairman



[Mandi Booker \(Jul 3, 2023 11:12 CDT\)](#)

Mandi Booker, Co-Chairman

ATTESTED BY:



[Jennifer Kirkland \(Jul 3, 2023 11:43 CDT\)](#)

Jennifer Kirkland, Secretary



[Justin Leathers \(Jul 3, 2023 11:44 CDT\)](#)

Justin Leathers, Co-Secretary (Game Coordinator)



[Matt Stephens \(Jul 3, 2023 11:13 CDT\)](#)

Matt Stephens, Treasurer



[Kristy Carnes \(Jul 3, 2023 11:57 CDT\)](#)

Kristy Carnes, Co-Secretary (Player Coordinator)



[Paul Vallejo \(Jul 3, 2023 12:20 CDT\)](#)

Paul Vallejo, Board Member



[Kasey Bullock \(Jul 3, 2023 12:04 CDT\)](#)

Kasey Bullock, Co-Secretary (Cheer Coordinator)



[Hunter Davis \(Jul 7, 2023 13:42 CDT\)](#)

Hunter Davis, Board Member



[Brandon Walker \(Jul 3, 2023 12:07 CDT\)](#)

Brandon Walker, Board Member



[Preston Teel \(Jul 7, 2023 12:16 CDT\)](#)

Preston Teel, Board Member



[Lauren Palmer \(Jul 3, 2023 12:15 CDT\)](#)

Lauren Palmer, Board Member

APPENDIX “C” – Playoff and Super Bowl Schedules

(*) – Round 1 (**) – Round 2 (SB) – Super Bowl

2021:

<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
Jim Ned - **	Merkel - **
Breckenridge - *	Hawley - *
Clyde – SB	Coleman
Early	Colorado City
Eastland	

2022 SEASON (Rotation Set):

<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
Clyde - **	Hawley - **
Early - *	Coleman - *
Jim Ned – SB	Colorado City
Eastland	Merkel
	Winters (Probation 2022)

2023 SEASON:

<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
Early - **	Coleman - **
Jim Ned - *	Colorado City - *
Eastland	Winters
Merkel	Hawley - SB
Clyde	

2024 SEASON:

<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
Jim Ned - **	Colorado City - **
Eastland - *	Winters
Merkel - SB	Hawley
Clyde	Coleman
Earl	

APPENDIX “C” – Playoff and Super Bowl Schedules

Super Bowl Rotation:

2021 – Clyde

2022 – Jim Ned

2023 – Hawley

2024 – Merkel

2025 – Coleman

2026 – Early

2027 – Colorado City

2028 – Eastland

2029 – Winters












WTRYFL ByLaws 2023


Final Audit Report


2023-07-07


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Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAA2bQsQw4b_fdAWyDsAsWqWvA3mZLV4T1


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-  Email viewed by phillip.conklin@myfca.us
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 Agreement completed.

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