



**WISCONSIN ALL-AMERICAN
YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

2026 OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

Effective for the 2026 Season

Governed by NFHS & WIAA Rules, as modified herein



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2026 OFFICIAL RULES

GOVERNING RULES All rules governing procedure and play by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) shall be followed unless otherwise specified in this document and/or any other policy and procedures document distributed by the AAYFL.



ARTICLE I. GENERAL RULES OVERVIEW

1) Rules

- a) Current year WIAA / National Federation Football Rules will govern, with the exceptions stated in this document.
- b) The League will establish a Rules Committee to review issues from Membership annually.
- c) All reported concerns are to be sent to the Rules Committee Chairman to be compiled for review by the committee.

2) Rules Committee Process

- a) Solicit ideas at the December League Meeting of concerns to be looked at by the Rules Committee. A follow-up survey will be sent to League Membership via email to prioritize items for the Rules change committee.
 - i) The Rules Committee will send proposed changes to the membership 30 days prior to the February meeting.
 - ii) Vote on any changes annually at the February meeting.
 - iii) Individual rules changes may still be proposed by teams without going through the committee.
- b) New rule adoptions are made by a majority vote of the membership.
- c) Changes, in any form, of existing rules will be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership.

3) League Meetings

- a) Teams are allowed one excused absence from formal league meetings during the calendar year.

NOTE: Notification of conflict must be made with any Executive Officer no less than 24 hours prior to the meeting that an excused absence is needed. Any unexcused absence during the calendar year will forfeit the excused absence provision.

- b) Only league members may attend board meetings.

ARTICLE II. COACHES

1) Background Checks

- a) All coaches (football, cheer, dance, etc.) in the AAYFL are required to have background checks that will be filed by each member organization, and to be conducted via Trusted Coaches.
- b) The League will set levels of acceptance for the background checks based on past incidents. Crimes of violence, drug offenses, abuse, or crimes involving children will disqualify a coach from coaching in the AAYFL.



- c) All coaches in the AAYFL are required to complete annual background safety checks and child safety courses.
- d) A coach cannot coach in the league until a positive report from the chosen service provider is received by the league.

2) Registrations & Certifications

- a) All football and cheer coaches in the AAYFL must be certified by either the ACEP, PACE, NFHS, NYSCA, USA Football or WYSCO programs. Additionally, all coaches shall complete the Child Safety Endangerment Act education (e.g. SafeSport) and are responsible for the entirety of information listed in Appendix E (Risk Management) on an annual basis. Copies of their acknowledgement shall be kept by each individual organization and are subject to verification at any time by the Executive Board.
 - i) This includes any cheer coach whose cheerleaders perform at any function involving the AAYFL and/or its member organizations.
- b) Coaches must recertify every 4 years by USA Football, Trusted Coaches, ACEP, PACE, NFHS or WYSCO.
- c) Background checks and certifications are due into the League Office no later than the final Monday in July, with the Coaches Roster Form.
- d) The deadline for adding coaches and providing all necessary information is the date of the second game of the current season.

EXCEPTION: If an organization loses a coach for any unforeseen circumstance after the second game, that organization is allowed to replace the lost coach on their roster without penalty.
- e) Coaches added may only participate once the league has received all proper documentation through an updated Coaches' Roster Form.
- f) One coach on each level must be CPR certified and be available at each practice and game.

3) Tests

- a) All Head Coaches, for each level, must also pass a WIAA rules test with AAYFL rules filtered in. This test will be sent out by the Executive Board of the league and will be open book. The test shall be issued to all league members when updated rules books are available, and is to be returned to the league office by August 31.

4) Conduct

- a) The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of his assistants and players, and the sideline conduct of parents and spectators.
- b) All organizations shall internally document their coaches' review and acknowledgement of the AAYFL Coaches Code of Conduct, Player Code of Conduct and Parent Code of Conduct as a part of the annual coach certification process. Member organizations may choose to codify additional



conduct rules during or after certification and place additional internal acknowledgement requirements as deemed necessary.

- i) Acknowledgement of reviewing all Codes listed above will be stipulated on the official League roster.

PENALTY: Individuals failing to comply with this requirement and/or the Code of Conduct shall incur, at minimum, fine(s) in accordance with the fine table in Article VIII, Section 2.

- c) Any coach ejected from a game will also be suspended from the next game. If the Executive Board feels the offense is serious enough to warrant additional game suspensions, they will have the authority to suspend a coach for additional games.
- d) Any coach receiving two (2) suspensions during a season will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- e) Suspension means the coach may not be within sight or sound of the playing field, including the use of wireless devices.
- f) Suspensions may be appealed to the Commissioner under the league appeal process.
- g) No smoking, alcohol, or use of tobacco products is allowed at AAYFL practices or games. The AAYFL has a Zero Tolerance Policy. If a coach appears intoxicated or smells of alcohol at a game or practice, they will be immediately ejected, suspended, or removed from their duties.
- h) No profanity or abusiveness shall be directed at officials or players.

ARTICLE III. ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

1) Team Commitments

- a) Member organizations will commit to grade level(s) and a specific number of teams at each level no later than May 1st for 8th grade for the upcoming season.
- b) Organizations may add teams until May 15 for the upcoming season. Teams may be added after May 15 with a waiver from the committee(s) or person(s) assigned to create the schedule.

NOTE: Teams added after May 1st are not guaranteed a place in the upcoming season's schedule. They are placed at the end of the line at their respective level(s).

- c) Any team(s) removed from an organization's committed levels after May 1st will each carry a forfeiture for each normally scheduled game for the entire season. Fines may only be waived or refunded via recommendation from the committee(s) or person(s) assigned to create the schedule and the approval of the Executive Board (or their designees). Such fines are due by July 31 in the affected season.
- d) Every effort will be made to publish A Level regular season game schedules by June 15 for the upcoming season. Subsequent levels will be published after the A Level is locked.



- e) Every effort will be made for each program to have an equal amount of home games; however, this will not be guaranteed. Once field contacts have been stated by March 1st, any conflicts dated after this may result in losing a home game if the schedule has already been drafted.

2) Roster Verification

- a) It is the responsibility of each member organization to verify the information provided for each player and that all players are in compliance as to residency, age, weight and numbering.
- b) Rosters for all teams must be submitted at one time and shall be submitted electronically.

3) Team Registration Form

- a) Registration forms (rosters) are due to the Commissioner, postmarked by the Monday prior to the first game of each season.
 - i) The only acceptable format is via the league website.
 - b) Rosters not turned in before the deadline will result in a penalty up to or including a \$350 fine and/or the forfeiture of the member's first game for all levels until said rosters are received by the league office.
 - i) Rosters not received by the Monday prior to the next week's games will result in forfeits until such time the rosters are turned in completely. Rosters with clerical errors will be returned with an opportunity to correct them.
 - c) Rosters need to be uploaded via the league form to the website **no later than** the Monday prior to the first game. (Do not change the form on the website.)
 - d) Rosters must have the names of all coaches, cheerleaders and their coaches listed.
 - e) All players are subject to random residence verification by any AAYFL Executive Officer and must submit proof of residency upon request.
 - f) If a player is staying with a family member other than parents, proof of guardianship is required.
 - i) Players who move into the member's school district after the start of the season can be added to the team only after all required roster information has been given to the commissioner, prior to the player's participation in a league game.
 - ii) After the deadline, only 3 players per team may be added to a roster.
- NOTE:** A new roster must be submitted with the additions clearly noted and all appropriate documentation and weight verifications, as required, up to the Monday after the second game.
- iii) After the second game of the season is completed, no additional addendums can be submitted.
 - iv) Players that join after the deadline must sit out the next two games.
- NOTE:** The WIAA Acclimatization rule still applies.
- g) Players found to be signed up for the wrong team must be taken by the AAYFL team where they should be playing.



- h) School and weight verification slips must be kept by each individual organization. Players affected must be noted on each team's roster and are subject to verification by an AAYFL Executive Officer, and the organization must provide proof upon request.
- i) The Commissioner shall make available to all teams the name and number of any player weight verifications and those players who will turn 15 during the season.

4) Residency Requirements

- a) A player who resides in a community that has an AAYFL team but attends school in another community/district that also has an AAYFL team will be allowed to play for the team in the district where he attends school, provided that said player has been enrolled in that school district for at least two years prior to said player participating. Once a player opts to play under this rule, said player would not be allowed to switch back and forth between the programs.

NOTE: If a player would lose his open enrollment opening in the school district where he attends school, he would be allowed to play in the school district where he resides.

- b) If a player attends school in a member's high school district boundary and his home high school district does not field a team in the AAYFL, he can play on the team where he attends school.

NOTE: (a) and (b) apply to both public and private schools.

- c) A player who lives in a district that does not support organized tackle football at a specific grade(s) is eligible to play for a League member whose district directly borders their home district. Said player is only allowed to play during the grade level(s) that are not supported by their home district.
 - i) If a player chooses a neighboring program that has younger levels to participate in, then once the home district that the child lives in has an organized tackle football program for the grade level they are in, the player must return to that program.

NOTE: If the player chooses to forego any season during their ability to play for a League member, they shall forfeit their ability to utilize this clause.

- d) All players residing out of a team's district boundaries must be identified on the roster and have a School Verification Form signed by school district administration. This confirmation of school attendance must be submitted with the team roster.
- e) When a new team enters the league, players who are affected by the new member's boundaries will be given the opportunity to choose which member they wish to play for. This is a one-time choice and must be exercised in the first year of the new member's existence.
 - i) This choice is only given to those players who played for the existing team during the previous season.

5) Age Requirements

- a) If a player turns 15 during the season, the player can finish the season with the team. If the player turns 15 prior to the start of the season, they will be ineligible to participate.
- b) Players in the 9th grade or above are prohibited from participating at any time.



- c) 6th & 5th grade players must be age 13 and under prior to the start of the season.

6) Weight Restrictions & Policies

- a) All players must be weighed between the first official day of practice and the due date of the team rosters on the deadline for that season.
- b) No player lined up in an eligible position at the snap may exceed the following maximum weight limits. This restriction will be determined prior to league play based on roster weight verification rules.
 - i) Maximum weight at the 8th grade level is 160 lbs.
 - ii) Maximum weight at the 7th grade level is 140 lbs.
 - iii) Maximum weight at the 6th grade level is 120 lbs.
 - iv) Maximum weight at the 5th grade level is 100 lbs.
- c) Players over the maximum weight for each level must wear jersey numbers 50 through 79 if playing on offense — **no exception**. Players wearing 50–79 are unable to line up off the line of scrimmage and are ineligible to carry the ball or go out for a pass on offense. They can still be dual numbered if they are under the weight limit.
- d) Every player listed on the official roster must have the official individual AAYFL weight verification. The individual form shall be kept by their respective organization. Players affected must be noted on each team's roster and are subject to verification by an AAYFL Executive Officer, and the organization must provide proof upon request.
- e) Players who are lined up in an eligible position at the snap must remain at or below the maximum weight allowed for each level throughout the season to play those positions. Verifications must take place as required in Rule III.6.a.
- f) Players may play down one level if they meet the following requirements:
 - i) Maximum weight for 8th graders playing down to the 7th grade team will be 110 lbs., and they must have a weight verification slip if 100 lbs. or more.
 - ii) Maximum weight for 7th graders playing down to the 6th grade team will be 90 lbs., and they must have a weight verification slip if 80 lbs. or more. Players must also be 12 and under to play down to the 6th grade level.
 - iii) Maximum weight for 6th graders playing down to the 5th grade team will be 80 lbs., and they must have a weight verification slip if 70 lbs. or more. Players must also be 12 and under to play down to the 5th grade level.

PENALTY: Violation of this rule will constitute a forfeiture of the game if an opponent's protest of the game is upheld. Violation of III.6.d–e will also be assessed the weight challenge protest fee.



7) Split Teams

- a) Members fielding split teams (two 8th grade, two 7th grade, two 6th grade, or two 5th grade teams) are still considered one organization for practice purposes.

8) Team Designations

- a) All players must have a team designation on the roster (8th, 7th, 6th, 5th grade).
- b) Players may be moved up and returned to their original team designation.
- c) No player may be moved down from their original team designation unless they are rostered at both levels prior to the season, and they must adhere to weight restrictions stated in Article III.6.f.

9) Waivers

- a) Special eligibility requests or waivers must be made in writing to the Board prior to the last league meeting before the start of the season and will be limited to the following exceptions:
 - i) A person who has been a coach within the same organization for three years may apply to have his child play for the team on which he coaches. Verification will be done by roster check.
 - ii) An eighth-grade player who has moved into another district may apply to play for their previous team, if they have played for at least two seasons. Verification will be done by roster check.
 - iii) If a player changes home residence from one AAYFL member to another AAYFL member prior to the start of a season, the new team is required to accept the player.

10) Player Conduct

- a) Any player ejected from a game will also be suspended from the following game.
- b) Players suspended may not be in uniform but may attend the game as a spectator in the stands.
- c) There is no appeal for a player suspension unless there is overwhelming, clear video evidence to overturn the ruling by the board of directors.

ARTICLE IV. PRACTICE RULES AND POLICIES

1) Start of Practice

- a) Members shall vote on season game dates prior to the beginning of even-numbered seasons for that season plus the following season.

NOTE: The first allowable practice date is August 1 for the 2026 and 2027 seasons, with the first game to be played no later than the final Saturday in August.

- b) A practice is defined as an organized gathering of players and coaches.
- c) Meetings for sign-up and equipment issue are not considered practices.



2) Allowable Practice Time

- a) Prior to school starting, unlimited practice is allowed.
- b) After school is in session, a maximum of 6 hours per week is allowed.
- c) The 6-hour weekly limit includes any organized team meetings, whether held at the practice field or off-site. The combined total of all organized team activities during the week must not exceed 6 hours.

3) Scrimmages

- a) Teams are allowed 3 scrimmage dates prior to the Sunday of the week that the league game schedule begins.
- b) Additional games or scrimmages are not allowed until after a team's league season has ended.
- c) Scrimmages are defined as organized competition between two teams from different organizations.
- d) Teams from the same organization may practice together, including drills that involve contact.

NOTE: 6th/5th grade teams may not participate in contact drills with 8th/7th grade teams.

4) Player Equipment

- a) Only football helmets originally purchased by their respective AAYFL member organization may be used.
- b) All AAYFL member organizations must follow the useful life, certification, and reconditioning requirements of the helmet manufacturer.

5) Jersey Numbering & Patches

- a) All teams must have white away jerseys and dark color jerseys for home.
- b) No sponsorship representation or commercialization of the uniform is allowed.

ARTICLE V. GAME RULES AND POLICIES

1) Game Length

- a) All games will be played in four quarters of eight minutes each, except at the 8th grade level.
- b) All 8th grade games will have nine minute quarters.
- c) In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, only the 8th grade game will use an overtime period(s). All other levels will end in a tie and not use overtime.
 - i) Teams must either run or pass for a PAT beginning in the 3rd overtime period.

2) Game Times

- a) Saturday at 9:00 AM for the 8th grade game. Each subsequent game shall begin 10 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game. No game can start more than 10 minutes from the slated



game time. There must be a 10-minute warm-up on the field after the conclusion of the previous game.

- b) By mutual agreement, or when emergency field conflicts occur, organizational League contacts may reschedule game times. Please notify the Assignor of Officials and the League Office/Scheduler via email well in advance of any changes.

NOTE: Preferred notice is one week or more before the scheduled game.

3) Host Site Management

- a) Organizations will identify a Game Manager(s) with documented duties as assigned by the organization to include the following (at a minimum):
 - i) Instructions for field and facility preparation prior to the game(s).
 - ii) Expectations for where spectators are/are not allowed during the game(s) (i.e., "sideline controls," which extend to spectator areas such as bleachers).
 - iii) Specific facility security check procedures as required.
 - iv) Instructions for the contact, communication and facilitation of emergency services in cases of medical emergencies.
 - v) Instructions for the facilitation of medical services conducted by assigned, qualified medical personnel in cases of non-emergency medical situations.
 - vi) Instructions for addressing aberrant spectator behaviors in and around the facility.
 - vii) Instructions for handling spectator or coach ejections from the field and/or facility.
 - viii) Instructions for field and facility closure preparation in advance of the end of the last game of the day.
- b) Weather Postponements:
 - i) When severe or electrical weather is imminent, organizations shall follow the written policy regarding the process.
 - ii) Postponements due to weather or any other unforeseen circumstances must be rescheduled and played no later than the Tuesday following the postponement. Failure to do so by either team will result in a forfeit.
 - iii) This rule applies only to the 8th grade level (7th, 6th, or 5th grade games are not required to be rescheduled).

4) Playing Time

- a) No player may play in more than four quarters per week, unless a game is rescheduled and/or is a scheduled playoff game.
- b) A quarter of play is participation in one or more plays per quarter.



5) Season Length & Championship

- a) The official AAYFL season will consist of eight (8) regular season games for the 8th, 7th, 6th & 5th grade levels.
- b) The 8th grade level only will have a championship game between the two (2) remaining teams left in the playoffs as a ninth game.
- c) There will be an allowance of two (2) "reserve" games for programs with one (1) team at the level they are seeking to schedule a "reserve" game. These games will not count in any standings and are only to get kids more playing time.

6) Game Field Requirements

- a) A certified trainer must be scheduled to be available at the site of all AAYFL scheduled games.
- b) Spectator restraining lines must be a minimum of 5 yards from the playing field.
- c) Responsible persons, age 16 or older, must work the sideline chains and down box for all levels of play. These individuals are game officials, required to be unbiased, neutral observers. Those individuals who do not follow these requirements will be removed by the Crew Chief.
- d) Game announcers will express information that adds to the enjoyment for all participants. Play-by-play during action on the field, derogatory comments, or opinions will not be tolerated.
- e) All League Championship Playoff games will consider the recommendations as rules, including bleachers for spectators.

7) Game Field Recommendations

- a) Provide a safe, playable field.
- b) Field clock.
- c) Source of water.
- d) Goal posts. No goal posts or lines need be on secondary fields.
- e) Restrooms must be available in reasonable proximity to the field and within reasonable walking distance.

8) Scoring

- a) Two points are scored for a kicked extra point; one point for a run or passed extra point.

9) Game Equipment

- a) Footballs used in AAYFL games must be leather (non-composite): any brand, as long as the ball meets the size requirement by grade.

PENALTY: The game(s) in which the non-approved ball(s) was used shall be forfeited, and the Head Coach may face possible suspension. Subsequent offenses may include, but not be limited to, automatic suspension of the Head Coach for an indefinite period of time, or other sanctions as deemed necessary by the Conduct Committee and/or the Executive Board.



- b) Home teams must have a back-up football available for games in the event of poor field conditions due to weather.
- c) The visiting team may use their own game ball.
- d) Electrical devices (walkie-talkies) are allowed only if both teams have equal opportunity to use and agree to use such. If, in the course of the game, one set malfunctions, the team with the working units will be requested to stop using the equipment.

10) In-Game Weight Restrictions

- a) Players over the maximum ball carrier weight for each team may punt, kick extra points, kick field goals, or kickoff.
- b) A punter or a kicker over the maximum ball carrier weight is allowed to:
 - i) Execute a handoff;
 - ii) Throw a forward pass;
 - iii) Kick the ball; or
 - iv) Throw a backward pass.
- c) A punter or a kicker over the maximum ball carrier weight is not allowed to:
 - i) Participate in a fake that involves a run beyond the line of scrimmage;
 - ii) Cross the line of scrimmage; or
 - iii) Block during the course of a fake, whether behind or beyond the line of scrimmage.
 - iv) No player over the weight limit may line up in the backfield during a punt or extra point.
- d) Restrictions for that player end when either the ball is kicked or there is a change of possession.

PENALTY (V.10.b-d): Ineligible receiver downfield.

- e) No player over the maximum ball carrier weight may line up more than 15 yards from the ball on the kickoff receiving team.
- f) No defensive player over the ball carrier weight limit may receive or return a punt or field goal that goes beyond the LOS, nor may he receive the ball by hand-off or backward pass during the play.

PENALTY: Violation of these rules is forfeiture of the ball game and a minimum one-game suspension for the head coach of the team involved.

- g) The Commissioner shall make available to all teams the name and number of any player with weight verifications.

11) In-Game Procedure for Handling Player Weight Questions

- a) Head Coaches have the primary responsibility for knowing the weight rules and keeping their team in compliance with those rules.
- b) In the event a Head Coach questions a player's weight and that player's eligibility to play in a weight limit position, they should refer to the following procedure:



- c) If the coach feels that one of the rules covering weight restrictions has been broken, call a timeout prior to the next play in the game.
 - i) Inform the Crew Chief what rule and player you are challenging. You must choose to protest at this point.
 - ii) The Crew Chief will meet with the opposing Head Coach and inform them of the rule and player that the opposing team is protesting.
 - iii) Inform both the Head Coach and Crew Chief that you are playing the game under protest. The protest should be noted in the Crew Chief's postgame report.
 - iv) The timeout will be returned to the challenging team.
 - v) The challenging team is **required** to file a written protest with the league office within 24 hours. Assistance under the league protest of rules violations will begin at this point.
- d) The challenging team must gather evidence — video tape, team rosters, and name of the player — and submit it with their protest.
- e) When a protest of a player's weight is filed, an AAYFL Executive Board member will verify the player's weight following the league protest procedure.

12) Coaches Time Out

- a) One (1) non-chargeable timeout per team will be allowed for opposing Head Coaches to meet during the game for the purpose of letting opposing Coaches know reserves are in the game. Coaches may not converse with their respective team on the field, unless they wish to use a regular timeout.

13) Defensive Alignments

- a) 6th & 5th grade teams are allowed a maximum of six (6) defensive players within five (5) yards of the line of scrimmage (box) prior to the snap of the ball. This rule is only in effect outside the defensive team's 5-yard line. You can load the box (11 players) inside the 5-yard line and on extra points.
 - PENALTY:** Violation will constitute a five-yard illegal defense penalty.
- b) Once an offensive team enters the 5-yard line or closer, any subsequent offensive penalty will still allow the defense to put 11 in the box.
- c) Once the offense is set on the line of scrimmage, the defense must be set for the players in the box. Players are not allowed to move in or out of the box.

14) 5th Grade Kicking

- a) No rushing the punter/kicker until the ball is kicked.
- b) If a team drops back a punter, or lines up for a try or field goal, the kicker/punter must kick the ball within 3 steps (punter) of receiving the snap or 7 seconds (kicker) from the snap. No fake kicks of any type are allowed.



PENALTY: If the punter takes more than 3 steps or the kicker takes more than 7 seconds, it will be an illegal procedure penalty against the kicking team and the end of the down for the FG/XP team.

- c) No player on offense or defense can move from their line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked.

15) Head Tackling

- a) There will be no tackling anywhere above the shoulder pads.
- b) Tackling is defined as any grabbing, wrapping, or holding of the neck or head during the attempt to tackle any ball carrier.

PENALTY: A fifteen-yard (15) penalty for a face mask will be assessed.

16) Coaches Reports

- a) All 8th grade Head Coaches are required to file an Officials Rating Form with the league office within 48 hours of the game being rated, using the Zebraweb website at: <https://zebraweb.org>.
- b) Failure to provide a completed Officials Rating Form, for each league game, will cause a \$25.00 fine to be levied against the member organization for each game a rating form has not been submitted.
- c) All Head Coaches at the 7th/6th/5th grade levels are also encouraged to file an Officials Rating Form to help maintain the quality of officiating in the league.
- d) It is the responsibility of the home team to report the game scores by **3:00 PM Sunday** for publication in the weekly standings.
- e) The scores should be entered into the League website. Should the website experience technical difficulties, or the game be played on a different day than Saturday, they should then be emailed to office@aayfl.org.
- f) A fine of \$100.00 will be levied against any home team that fails to post the game score by the set deadline.

ARTICLE VI. PLAYOFFS & CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

1) Playoff Qualifying Determination & Brackets

- a) In Divisions 1 & 2, each 8th grade Conference Champion, and the 4 next best records regardless of Conference (Wild Cards), will constitute the playoff field, provided there are more than 12 teams in the respective Division. In Division 3, each 8th grade Conference Champion (or the 2 best records if only 1 Conference), and the 2 next best records regardless of Conference (Wild Cards), will constitute the playoff field. The designated home team shall be determined by the best remaining seed.
 - i) Conference Champions are determined by best Conference record for conference games played in a team's respective Conference. Any ties will be decided by the tiebreaker protocol laid out in Section 2 of Article VI. For Divisions 1 & 2, Conference Champions will receive the 1–4 Seeds in the Playoffs. For Division 3, Conference Champions (or the 2 best records if only 1



Conference) will receive the 1 & 2 Seeds. These Seeds will be determined by Overall record. Any ties will be decided by the tiebreaker protocol laid out in Section 3 of Article VI.

- ii) Wild Card spots are determined by the best Overall record of the non-Conference Champions regardless of Conference. Any ties will be decided by the tiebreaker protocol laid out in Section 3 of Article VI. For Divisions 1 & 2, Wild Cards will receive the 5–8 Seeds in the Playoffs. For Division 3, Wild Cards will receive the 3 & 4 Seeds. These Seeds will be determined by Overall record. Any ties will be decided by the tiebreaker protocol laid out in Section 3 of Article VI.
- iii) Brackets for Divisions 1 & 2 will each consist of 8 teams, with one side of the bracket having the 1 vs. 8 & 4 vs. 5 matchups and the other having the 2 vs. 7 & 3 vs. 6 matchups, that will be played in Week 7 of the Season. The winner of 1 vs. 8 will play the winner of 4 vs. 5, and the winner of 2 vs. 7 will play the winner of 3 vs. 6, in the semi-finals in Week 8 of the Season. The winners of the semi-final matchups will play in their respective Division's League Championship Game in Week 9 of the Season. The bracket in Division 3 will consist of 4 teams, with the 1 vs. 4 & 2 vs. 3 matchups in the semi-finals in Week 8 of the Season. The winners of the semi-final matchups will play in the Division 3 League Championship Game in Week 9 of the Season. Designated home teams shall be determined by the best remaining seed in each matchup. Examples of the brackets are shown below.

Divisions 1 & 2 — 8-Team Bracket



Divisions 1 & 2 Playoff Bracket (Seeds 1–8)



Division 3 — 4-Team Bracket



Division 3 Playoff Bracket (Seeds 1–4)

- b) The league will provide a 5-man crew for the League Championship games.
 - i) The league will pay the cost of the officials for the League Championship games.
 - ii) The fee for officials working the League Championship games will be \$75.00 per official.

2) Tie Breaker Procedure within Conference (to determine Conference Champion)

- a) 2-team Tie Breaker:
 - i) Winner of head-to-head game
 - ii) Best Overall Record
 - iii) Coin Toss / Random Number Generator (see Section 4 of this Article for the procedure)
 - b) Multi-team Tie Breaker:
 - i) Best overall record
 - ii) Best total opponents' winning percentage
 - iii) Best total opponents' opponents' winning percentage
 - iv) Best percentage of away wins
 - v) Best percentage of home wins
 - vi) Coin Toss / Random Number Generator (see Section 4 of this Article for the procedure)
- (1) Once one team is eliminated, the process restarts until there are fewer than three teams remaining. Once there are only two teams remaining, the tie breaker shifts to Section 2(a), the 2-team Tie Breaker.



- (2) If teams are tied and have not played each other, a playoff game shall be played no later than the following Wednesday evening at a site to be determined by the League.

3) Tie Breaker Procedure outside Conference (to determine Wild Card spots & Playoff Seeding)

a) 2-team Tie Breaker:

- i) Winner of head-to-head game
- ii) Best total opponents' winning percentage
- iii) Best total opponents' opponents' winning percentage
- iv) Coin Toss / Random Number Generator (if both teams have clinched a berth) **(see Section 4 of this Article for the procedure)**

b) Multi-team Tie Breaker:

- i) Best overall record by percentage
- ii) Best total opponents' winning percentage
- iii) Best total opponents' opponents' winning percentage
- iv) Best percentage of away wins
- v) Best percentage of home wins
- vi) Coin Toss / Random Number Generator **(see Section 4 of this Article for the procedure)**
 - (1) Once one team is eliminated, the process restarts until there are fewer than three teams remaining. Once there are only two teams remaining, the tie breaker shifts to Section 3(a), the 2-team Tie Breaker.
 - (2) If teams are tied, have not clinched a playoff berth, and have not played each other, a playoff game shall be played no later than the following Wednesday evening at a site to be determined by the League.

4) Coin Toss / Random Number Generator Procedure

Ties decided by Coin Toss / Random Number Generator under Sections 2 or 3 above are settled by the Commissioner (or an uninvolved Deputy Commissioner if the Commissioner's organization is tied), who gives the tied organizations at least 24 hours' notice and uses the Google Random Number Generator set from 1 to the number of tied teams. Teams are numbered by record (then alphabetically); the team whose number is drawn receives the higher seed, repeating for multi-team ties. The Commissioner records and distributes the result within 24 hours, and it is final.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICIALS — CONTRACTS / INFORMATION

1) Contracts

- a) All contracts will be handled by the league office, with the officiating crews being assigned by the league.



- b) All teams will have crews assigned prior to August 29th.
- c) Officials working this league will be considered independent contractors and responsible for any taxes on game fees.

2) Game Responsibilities

- a) If at least two WIAA officials are not present, the game must be rescheduled. WIAA officials must work all AAYFL games.
- b) At the option of the host organization, crews for 6th/5th grade games may use a Rookie/Student official as a fourth, either obtained by the Crew Chief or host organization from local high schools, for the purpose of spurring interest and training young officials.

3) Fees

- a) Game fees for officials shall be as follows:
 - i) All League games — \$75.00 per official (4-man crew).
 - (1) Host option — \$50.00 for a rookie/student.

NOTE: Game fees shall be paid on site to each official.

- ii) Officials must attend and/or participate in the annual League meeting to be eligible for a pay increase.
- b) Game fees may be changed on a yearly basis.
- c) Game fee assistance may be provided by the League on an "as-needed basis" only.

4) Removal from Active Status

- a) Any contracted WIAA-sponsored official who loses their WIAA license, certification, or sponsorship will be ineligible to work AAYFL games until a letter of reinstatement by the WIAA is provided to the AAYFL Commissioner.
- b) Any action or cause considered by the AAYFL Executive Board to be detrimental to the AAYFL, its members, players, coaches, spectators, or others associated with the AAYFL will immediately void any and all contracted games with the official(s) involved and the AAYFL.

5) Game Reports

- a) All protests and ejections must be filed within 24 hours of the game in which they occurred.



ARTICLE VIII. FEES / FINES / PENALTIES

1) Fees

Description	Amount
Application for Membership (one-time, non-refundable)	\$500.00
League Administration Fee	\$150.00 per team entered in AAYFL
League Insurance Fee	Set by carrier

- a) The application for membership fee is a one-time, non-refundable expansion fee. The fee is due at the time of the expansion presentation.
- b) The League Administration fee is an annual fee paid by every organization for every team entered into the AAYFL.
- c) The League Insurance fee is an annual fee paid by every organization for every team entered into the AAYFL. The rates are set by the League's insurance carrier.

2) Fines and Penalties

Description	Amount
Unexcused / Multiple Meeting Absences	\$100.00
Late payment of League financial obligations	\$25.00 or 25% of balance
Forfeited games (per game, max amount)	\$1,000.00
Violation of weight restriction rules	\$500.00
Late submission of coaches roster	\$350.00
Late submission of players roster	\$350.00
Use of an ineligible player (per game, max amount)	\$2,500.00
Failure to complete background checks	\$500.00 / coach
Failure to post score	\$100.00
Failure to submit an official's evaluation	\$25.00
Failure to comply with Codes of Conduct (max amount)	\$1,000.00
Conduct Detrimental to the League (min)	\$750.00
Appeal filed with the League	\$250.00



- a) Any payment of the League's financial obligations that is late will be charged a fine of either \$25.00 or 25% of the remaining balance due, whichever amount is greater.
- b) The Executive Board will make the decision as to the amount of the fine for a forfeit. Any monies that are collected by the forfeiture shall be passed on to the offended organization to recover any possible lost revenues.
 - i) Any team forfeiting two or more games in a season may be considered for removal from the league.
- c) Violation of the weight verification rules will include the following:
 - i) Forfeiture of the game(s) involved.
 - ii) The forfeiture fine will also apply here.
 - iii) Probation or suspension of the violating organization.
 - iv) The Executive Board will determine the final penalty to be imposed.
- d) Completed rosters not turned in before the Monday prior to the first game of each season will result in a penalty outlined in Rule III.3.b.
 - i) Complete rosters must include all information accurately filled out.
- e) An ineligible player is one that does not meet one or more of the requirements listed in Article III and/or is not accurately listed on the roster.
- f) Scores must be submitted to the league office by the winning team of each game, or the home team in the case of a tie.
 - i) Each 8th grade Head Coach is required to submit an evaluation on the officiating crew for that game.

3) Protests and Appeals

Description	Amount
Protest Filed with League Office	\$350.00
Appeal Filed with League Office	\$250.00

- a) The fee must accompany the protest. A written protest, with any documentation or evidence supporting the protest, must be delivered to the League Office within 48 hours of the violation or notification which will be protested. Failure to file an in-game weight protest will result in a \$200.00 fine. Funds will be returned if the protest is upheld. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
- b) The fee must accompany the appeal. A written appeal, with any documentation or evidence supporting the appeal, must be delivered to the League Office within 48 hours of notification of the penalty/fine. An appeal fee of \$250.00 must accompany the appeal. Funds will be returned if the appeal is successful. Judgment calls on the field and player suspensions due to ejection cannot be appealed. Programs may appeal the second game of a suspension. Programs must supply sufficient evidence (game footage and a written statement from the program). Programs not supplying



sufficient evidence will have the appeal denied. No appeal fee, but subject to league judgment and discretion.

ARTICLE IX. SOP FOR COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS AND APPEALS

1) Complaints

- a) Complaints or concerns received in the League Office which are of an internal nature of a League Member, whether from parents or other outside sources, will be directed to the League Member contact person without any editorial or recommendation from the Commissioner.
 - i) Unresolved issues will be directed to the Deputy Commissioners not assigned an Appeals Committee (if necessary).
 - ii) The ranking Deputy Commissioner will determine a final decision to the unresolved issue.
 - iii) The opinion of any Executive Board member may be sought in determining a solution to unresolved issues.
- b) The ranking Deputy Commissioner will forward the final edict to the League Member contact person and the complainant, and copy the League Secretary and Commissioner to archive in the league records, in the event of any future legal issues.

2) Protests

- a) Protests by a League Member concerning game issues will be submitted in writing to the League Office, which will then be forwarded to the ranking Deputy Commissioners not assigned to the Appeals Committee, without any editorial or recommendation from the Commissioner.
- b) The Deputy Commissioners will determine whether the protest should be heard or if another action is required.
- c) In accordance with the rules governing a protest, the ranking Deputy Commissioner will confirm that the required protest fee has been submitted with the protest or sent to the League Treasurer, and that the protest has been made within the time frame called for in the rules.
- d) The determination of the protest will be handled by the quorum of the assigned Deputy Commissioners.
 - i) The ranking Deputy Commissioner will write the ruling concerning the protest.
- e) The ruling on the protest will be sent to the League member protesting, the League Member or person against whom the protest was made, as well as the League Secretary and Commissioner, who will inform the League Membership of the ruling.

3) Appeals

- a) Appeals of any league office action (fines, late fees, suspensions, probation) against a League Member must be submitted in writing to the league office, which will then forward the appeal to the Executive Board.



- b) The Deputy Commissioners not assigned to the Appeals Committee will determine if the appeal should be heard or if another action is required.
- c) In accordance with the rules governing an appeal, the ranking Deputy Commissioner will confirm that the required appeal fee has been submitted with the appeal or sent to the League Treasurer, and that the appeal has been made within the time frame called for in the rules.
- d) The determination of the appeal will be handled by the quorum of the assigned Deputy Commissioners. The ranking Deputy Commissioner will write the decision on the appeal.
- e) In the event of a tie vote between the Deputy Commissioners, the Commissioner, Treasurer, or Secretary (whichever is not involved with the initial action being appealed) will cast the deciding vote on the issue.
- f) The ruling on the appeal will be sent to the League Member making the appeal, as well as the League Secretary and Commissioner, who will inform the League Membership of the ruling.
- g) If any event requires a ruling or opinion (i.e. protest, appeal, complaint), it is the responsibility of the ruling party(s) to make every attempt to do so within 48 hours from the time the event is handed over for a ruling or opinion.

4) Members Appeal & Protest Procedures

- a) The letter for appeal/protest and appropriate check shall be submitted to the AAYFL Office within 24 hours of the incident in question.
- b) All information regarding the appeal/protest shall come solely from the member's AAYFL official league representative, including but not limited to the following items:
 - i) Any relevant game film.
 - ii) Notes and/or comments from the member's coaching staff.
- c) If the action being appealed involves the suspension of a coach, the penalty may be delayed by one week to allow the Appeals Committee to thoroughly investigate the situation and rule on the appeal.
- d) If the suspension involves the final game of the season, no delay will be allowed.

5) Appeals Committee Procedures

- a) Once the member has fulfilled all the above requirements, and the AAYFL Office has obtained the appropriate amount of money for the appeal/protest, a quorum of the assigned Deputy Commissioners will handle the appeal/protest.
 - i) The League Commissioner will appoint the ranking Deputy Commissioner to write the ruling.
 - ii) Review all information provided by the appealing/protesting member, including but not limited to game film(s) and officials' reports (if applicable).
 - iii) If necessary, contact BOTH head coaches/league representatives for a written incident report.
 - iv) Review any and all prior problems with the team(s)/coach(es)/player(s) involved in the incident.



- v) Review evaluations of officials (if applicable).
- vi) Review overall crew rating of officials working the contest (if applicable).
- vii) Discuss the incident with the Crew Chief (if applicable).
- viii) Take any further appropriate action necessary to render a decision (i.e. weigh player(s); further discussion with Head Coach(es)).
- ix) Review all facts in evidence with the other two members of the Appeals Committee and write the final decision on the appeal/protest. The deadline is the Friday **prior** to the following game.
- x) A suspended player protest can only be appealed to the conduct committee if video evidence is provided to the committee to support the appeal.
- xi) The conduct committee will review video evidence and apply steps 4 through 9 above.



APPENDIX A. COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Article One — Responsibilities to Players

- 1) A coach should always be aware of the tremendous influence he has over his players, and his ability to influence them for good or bad. Parents entrust their dearest possession to the coach's charge, and the coach should make every attempt to see that those who have played under him have been positively influenced for having done so. The coach should never place the value of a win above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in his players. The players' safety and welfare are always uppermost, and never sacrificed for personal prestige or selfish glory.
- 2) In teaching the game of football, the coach must realize that there are certain rules and standards for protecting players and determining a winner and loser. Any attempts to beat these rules, to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct have no place in the game, nor has any coach guilty of such conduct any right to call himself a coach. The coach who conducts himself according to these principles need have no fear of failure, for in the final analysis, the success of a coach can be measured in terms of the respect he has earned from his own players and his opponents.
- 3) The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem, which should not fall under the duties of the coach, but under the auspices of trained medical personnel. A coach's responsibility is to see that injured players receive prompt and competent medical attention, and that physicians' orders are carried out to the letter.
- 4) A player's future should not be jeopardized by any circumvention of eligibility rules.
- 5) A player's academic success takes priority over any coach's demands which would jeopardize the same.

Article Two — Rules of the Game

- 1) The rules and suggestions which appear in the AAYFL Rule Book and the National Federation Rule Book should be considered an integral part of this Code of Ethics, and should be carefully read and observed.
- 2) Every coach should be familiar with the rules of the game. He is responsible for teaching and interpreting them to and for his players.
- 3) Players must adhere to both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
- 4) To gain an advantage by circumvention or disregard for the rules brands a coach or a player as unworthy of being associated with his games.
- 5) A coach is responsible for flagrant roughing tactics used by his players. He shall not permit faking of injuries in order to stop the clock, nor permit an illegal shift or other deceitful tactics designed to draw the opponent offside.
- 6) A coach must be mindful that it is NOT the purpose of football to hurt or injure an opponent by legal or illegal tactics.



Article Three — Officials

- 1) No competitive contest can be played satisfactorily without impartial, competent officials. Officials must have the respect and support of the coaches and players. On- or off-the-record criticism of officials to players or the public is considered unethical.
- 2) Officials are to be treated in a courteous manner at all times. Criticisms of officials should be made to the AAYFL office. For a coach to address, or permit anyone on his bench to address, uncomplimentary remarks to any official during the progress of the game, or to indulge in conduct which might incite players or spectators against officials, is a violation of the rules and is considered conduct unworthy of a member of the coaching profession.

Article Four — Other Responsibilities

- 1) A coach's conduct and behavior should always bring credit to himself, his team, and to the game of football.
- 2) Before and after the game, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings.
- 3) No coach or anyone in an official team capacity shall make uncomplimentary remarks to an opponent's players before, during, or after a game.
- 4) Demeaning awards which glorify or reward play outside the spirit of the rules are not in the best interest of the game and should not be condoned.

APPENDIX B. PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) Players must always adhere to the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the game rules, behavior contrary to the spirit of the rules of the game, or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
- 2) Players must consistently display high standards of behavior.
- 3) Players must appreciate the importance of striving to win, not winning itself.
- 4) Players will not use any form of profanity.
- 5) Players must respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each and every person involved in the sport.
- 6) Players must accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance, and not argue with the game officials.
- 7) Players will not refuse to abide by an official's decision, or perform a verbal, forceful or disrespectful demonstration of dissent to an official's decision.
- 8) Players will not engage in an abusive verbal attack, including "trash talking" or taunting, toward any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
- 9) Players will not engage in a physical attack, including but not limited to the laying of a hand upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or kicking of any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
- 10) Players will not use deliberately rough tactics during a game against an opponent.



- 11) Players will do their best to remember that youth sports are supposed to be FUN, and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.

APPENDIX C. PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents are as important to the success of the football team as the players and coaches. Parents should work with coaches to mentor and support players in a positive manner, and help them become first-class athletes by adhering to the following guidelines:

- 1) Always support the team (pick them up, never put them down).
- 2) Always be indifferent to the attitudes and abilities of the other team.
- 3) Always walk away from an official's "bad call" with your head up.
- 4) Never use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco at AAYFL games or practices, and control your actions and language while at these events.
- 5) Heated discussions have no place in front of the players. Parents and coaches should postpone conversations that are getting out of hand.

Although many parents have coaching experience and may have played at a higher level than the current coaches of the team, please refrain from coaching skills that contradict program goals to your players. They are being taught to play as a team, each player performing a set function that his teammates can rely on. A player who abandons his teammates to do something his parents coached him to do (which contradicts team schemes/techniques) is letting down his team and himself. This may open the door for an opponent to win a game, or it may cause him or a teammate to be injured.

APPENDIX D. BYLAWS OF THE WISCONSIN ALL-AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Last Amended: February 12, 2018

Article I — Name

This organization shall be known as the WISCONSIN ALL-AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (WIAAYFL), Inc.

Article II — Purpose

The Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League (AAYFL), Inc., hereinafter referred to as "Corporation," is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The powers of this corporation shall include, but shall not in any way be limited to, the following:

- A. The corporation will attempt to provide an opportunity to youth, ages 14 and under, to participate in the sport of football and bring youth together through a common interest in fair play and fellowship.



- B. The corporation's goals are to help build character and sportsmanship, as well as to assure safety and provide intelligent supervision insofar as it is possible, and to provide for the welfare of the participants.
- C. To educate, promote youth football, fundraising and solicitation.

Article III — Membership

Membership in the corporation shall be gained by a majority vote of all existing member organizations of the AAYFL. Each member organization shall be entitled to one (1) vote and hold one (1) seat on the Board of Directors in conducting the business of the corporation.

Members shall be eligible to serve on committees established by the Board of Directors or the Commissioner for the purpose of advising or assisting in carrying out the purpose of the corporation. All committees shall be represented by each division within the league. Members shall be eligible for election to the Executive offices of the corporation.

Any member of the corporation shall be subject to suspension or dismissal from membership if they should fail to conduct themselves in the commonly accepted manner of good sportsmanship or in such a manner as to jeopardize the safety or welfare of a participant, or for actions detrimental to the league or its membership. Members will automatically be suspended until all league obligations are met. Members must adhere to all decisions of the board.

Notice of a charge to suspend or dismiss a member shall be presented in writing to the Executive Board of Directors and will specify in detail the actions upon which said charge is based. A non-refundable fee of one hundred (100) dollars must also accompany the charges. The charge will be heard promptly by the Board of Directors at a formal meeting and a decision will be handed down. Suspension or dismissal of a member will require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article IV — Board of Directors

The corporation shall be managed by the existing member organizations. Each member organization shall appoint one (1) individual to the Board of Directors. The term of each director shall be determined by each member organization for their respective seat on the board, and until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified.

Article V — Meetings

The annual meeting of the members shall be held at any convenient time and place within the last three (3) months of each calendar year. Such meetings shall be called by the Commissioner upon thirty (30) days' written notice. Other meetings may be held to suit the requirements of the corporation's business and the convenience of the directors. Such meetings may be held at any place within the State of Wisconsin. Meetings of the board may be called by or at the request of the Commissioner or any two (2) directors.

Notice of meetings shall be given by written notice delivered personally or mailed to each director at his home address at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail properly addressed with postage prepaid.



Attendance of a director shall be mandatory for all properly called meetings of the board. A fine of twenty-five (25) dollars shall be levied against a member organization whose representing director fails to attend a properly called meeting of the board, unless notification of conflict is made to the Commissioner before the scheduled board meeting.

Article VI — Executive Officers

The Executive Officers for the corporation shall consist of the following: Commissioner, six Deputy Commissioners (with representation from every Division), a Treasurer, a Secretary, and such other officers and assistant officers as the Board of Directors may deem necessary.

All officers shall serve two (2) year terms. The Commissioner, Treasurer, and three Deputy Commissioners shall be elected in odd-numbered years by majority vote of the Board of Directors. The remaining three Deputy Commissioners and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of the corporation shall be served thereby.

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Article VII — Duties

The Executive Officers shall be responsible for the enforcement of all league rules or corporate policies established by the Board of Directors. They shall have authority to address any violations and impose any appropriate penalties.

COMMISSIONER shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall in general supervise and control all business and affairs of the corporation. He shall at present preside over all meetings of the members.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS shall be a liaison to the executive officers for their respective conference. They shall assist the Commissioner in the administration of the corporation. They shall settle disputes within their conference, except when it involves their own team.

SECRETARY shall handle all correspondence and documentation of the corporation. The secretary will also keep the minutes of the corporation and board meetings.

TREASURER shall control the funds of the corporation, and have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the corporation. It shall be the function of the treasurer, in conjunction with the commissioner, to prepare an annual budget for board approval. Interim treasury reports shall be prepared and presented at each board meeting for approval by the board of directors. All funds received for the corporation must be deposited in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected by the board of directors.



Article VIII — Nominations

Initial nominations for Executive Officers will be accepted by open nomination or volunteering to serve as an executive officer. Nominations will be accepted at the annual meeting.

Article IX — Elections

A majority vote will constitute election. Voting rights shall be allocated among members as follows: each member organization shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Election results will be determined immediately by the Secretary and Treasurer.

Article X — Executive Administrator

The Executive Administrator(s) is/are appointed by the Executive Officers. The Administrator(s) have no term limit.

Article X.i — Stipends

The following stipends will be paid out at the end of the season:

Executive Administrator — \$5,000

Commissioner — \$6,000

Webmaster — \$5,000

League Scheduler — \$3,000

Article XI — Quorum

Business may be conducted at any meeting of the membership or Executive Officers when a majority is present. Notification of all meetings must have a minimum of thirty (30) days' written notice.

Article XII — Rules

All meetings shall be run in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Article XIII — Amendment

These bylaws may be amended at any business meeting by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the corporation members present, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous business meeting or in writing to each member thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Article XIV — Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year.

Article XV — Use of Funds and Assets

The funds and assets of the corporation shall be used solely for the purposes of the corporation as set forth in Article II of these bylaws. No part of the corporation's funds may be used for propaganda or influencing legislation. No part of such funds, assets, and earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to any member, director, officer, or other official of the corporation. The corporation may be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.



Article XVI — Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Executive Officers, 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 individual organization member, in equal shares; (2) organizations which have been organized and are operated for purposes consistent with those of the corporation and which are operated as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States law); (3) organizations operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes which shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of such Code; (4) to the State of Wisconsin or a political subdivision thereof; or (5) to the United States of America, and to no other organization or person.

Article XVII — Fees

The Executive Officers will determine league fees annually and incorporate these fees into the league budget. The budget will be presented to the members of the corporation annually for their approval. The budget presentation shall occur during a meeting of the membership in the first quarter of the calendar year pertaining to the budget. The determined fees will be the responsibility of each member of the corporation. All fees will be written into the league rules.

Article XVIII — Effective Date

The bylaws shall be in effect commencing with their adoption.

Article XIX — League Expansion

A. Internal Expansion (for existing members who anticipate future growth which will warrant expanding their programs to run two "A" & "B" programs).

1. Organization must show a three-year history of 46 players on each roster (8th and 7th grade), or keep a waiting list for a period of 3 consecutive years to show additional players available, including this list with the player roster to the league by September 1.
2. Organization must make a formal presentation requesting expansion, outlining the required points, and fulfilling requirements necessary for all organizations requesting expansion.
3. Single Season Expansion (for members and associate members who have enough players in their programs to field an additional team(s) in a single season).
 - a. Additional teams may be added to the game schedule for a single season based on maintaining an even number of teams at the respective level. Each team shall roster a minimum of 18 players, unless approved by the Executive Board on an individual basis. Teams will be added on a first-come, first-served basis as recorded by the commissioner.
 - b. Fee per team: standard annual league fee applies as determined above. Non-refundable fees are due after team acceptance and prior to March 1.
 - c. Fielding an additional single season expansion team does not constitute an additional league membership.
 - d. All residency rules, weight and age restrictions, etc. apply.



- e. The commissioner shall create a game schedule as fairly as possible; however, single season expansion teams may travel longer distances due to pairing in another division.
- f. Single season expansion may be repeated in subsequent years. Expansion one year does not guarantee an available expansion slot the following year.

B. External Expansion (for new organizations wishing to join the AAYFL).

- 1. Organization must make a formal presentation requesting expansion, outlining the required points, and fulfilling requirements necessary for all organizations requesting expansion.
- 2. An organization may enter the league with only one team at each level. Further expansion by the organization must follow internal expansion bylaws.
- 3. Organizations seeking membership at the 6th and/or 5th grade levels only must fulfill the requirements necessary for all organizations requesting expansion. Membership would be in the form of a Non-Voting Associate Membership, which would have all the rights and responsibilities of full membership, except there is no right to vote on any issue.

C. The following requirements must be addressed by organizations requesting expansion; a detailed description of each will be provided to the league.

- 1. Board of Directors (minimum 5).
- 2. Letters of agreement from High School Coach and Athletic Director.
- 3. Fundraising/cost expectancies.
- 4. Playing field/facilities.
- 5. 8th & 7th grade teams (minimum 46 players total), or a minimum of 30 players total for a combined 8th/7th grade team (Division 3 only).
- 6. Coaching staff.
- 7. League financial requirements.
- 8. Detailed school district boundary map.
- 9. The Board of Directors shall set the league expansion fee at the end of each season.

D. The League will vote to expand or not for the next season of play at the final meeting of the year.

- 1. Formal presentations must be made to the league prior to the conclusion of the March meeting for admittance to the league for that season.
- 2. Expansion will take place to maintain an even number in the league.
- 3. The Board of Directors shall set the league expansion fee at the end of each season.

Article XX — Divisional Procedures

A. Combined level teams

- 1. If a combined team has enough players to meet the minimum number at each grade level, they may split those teams into individual graded teams.



2. If a team does not have enough to field teams at individual grade levels, they must play at the higher-grade level.
3. Combined level status will be evaluated on an annual basis.

B. Process to determine Divisional realignment

1. If an organization wishes to be realigned into a different Division, they must submit their request in writing to the League Office for distribution to the Realignment Committee prior to March 1.
2. The Realignment Committee will evaluate all requests and submit recommendations to the Board of Directors.
3. The Organization shall present their request for realignment to the Board of Directors at the March meeting for approval. Upon approval, the Organization will be placed in their requested Division, provided the amount of 8th grade teams allows for even scheduling.
4. The request will be based solely on the 8th grade level, and all subsequent levels must follow.

APPENDIX E. RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Last Amended: May 31, 2019

Purpose: As our society increases its awareness of the problems associated with child abuse, organizations involved with America's youth must work diligently to provide them with a safe environment and to help deal with the issue of child abuse. Each Organization has the responsibility of developing a formal, written program to help prevent child abuse and molestation and to help all of us become more aware of the warning signs of child abuse.

AAYFL Position: The Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League and its members will not knowingly allow any person convicted of a crime of violence, physical abuse, or sale of illegal substances, or who has any other convictions that would indicate a pattern of behavior that would have a detrimental effect on children, to be placed in a position that would involve direct contact with children.

Applicability: This policy shall apply to any of the following who have regular contact with children:

- 1) All Coaches (Football, Cheer, Dance, etc.)
- 2) Administrators — including employees of the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League and its affiliates
- 3) Other Volunteers

The Program: The program shall consist of the following parts:

- 1) Establishing Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League guidelines for appropriate behavior.
- 2) Providing a means to gather information about those people who come in contact with our children.
- 3) Establishing written guidelines for the handling of this information.



- 4) Helping our members to identify and deal with child abuse.

AAYFL Guidelines for Appropriate Behavior

1) Relationships Between Youths and Adults: Generally speaking, adults are those persons in the role of coach, assistant coach, administrator, board member, game official, or adult volunteer. Typically, there is a relationship where the adult has authority over the player. As such, there is a need to offer special protection to the players to make sure that adults in positions of authority do not misuse their authority to the detriment of the player.

While most of us think that the roles of adults and players or children are straightforward, there are situations where a team could have a 17-year-old or under assistant coach. This assistant coach may be viewed as an adult and authority figure, or as a child or player regarding his relationship with an older head coach. People in positions of authority must make sure not to abuse their authority to the detriment of others. By establishing formal guidelines for behavior, everyone will know what behavior is acceptable and what behavior is not. Our goal for establishing codes of conduct is to help provide a safe and healthy atmosphere for our members and their families.

2) Guidelines: The physical and emotional well-being of our players and their families must be protected. These guidelines will provide a formal standard that will eliminate any possible misconception about the expected behavior as established by the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League.

3) Physical Contact: Adults and others in positions of authority must be aware that physical contact can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary to teach a skill, treat an injury, or console or congratulate the player. Physical intimidation, physical punishment, or threatening a player with physical harm are not appropriate behaviors and will not be tolerated. However, reasonably requiring players to do push-ups or running for misbehavior would not likely be considered inappropriate.

- a) Sexual contact of any kind between adults and players is prohibited, whether or not the contact is consensual.
- b) Hazing or any type of initiation to an organization or a team is prohibited.
- c) Corporal punishment is prohibited.

4) Social Contact: Adults should not spend time or socialize alone with players. Pulling a player to the side for additional instruction in plain view of the remainder of the team would be an exception to this rule. However, an adult in a one-on-one situation with a child is generally considered inappropriate and should be avoided. Another exception would be if a child was the last one waiting for a ride home from practice; the coach should not leave the child until the child's parent or ride home has arrived.

- a) Adults should respect the privacy of players. If showering or changing room facilities are available, schedules should be made such that adults and children have separate use. Adults should not allow others to use these types of facilities without the expressed wishes of the player involved.



Health and Well-Being

Adults share the responsibility for the player's health while at practices, scrimmages and games. Adults should **always** have a player's medical release forms and medical kits with them. Coaches should have an emergency plan in place so that, if someone is hurt in a practice or a game, the coach knows who to call, where emergency personnel might take the injured party, and how to contact family members.

- 1) Any head injuries resulting in disorientation should result in a player remaining out of the game.
- 2) Any bleeding that occurs must be administered to with latex gloves and properly sterilized bandages. All bleeding must be stopped prior to re-entering the game. Any bandages, uniforms or other items that have come in contact with the blood must be properly disposed of.
- 3) Adults transporting players must model safe driving techniques and enforce seat belt use for all vehicle occupants.
- 4) The conditions of the field and goals must be conducive to safe play. Weather conditions must also be reasonably safe from lightning or extreme conditions.
- 5) Adults should be aware of the signs of neglect and abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) of the players. Signs of this should be reported to the local law enforcement agency.

Language

- 1) Offensive or vulgar language by adults or children is unacceptable. Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League events, including games and practices, should be family-oriented events. Adults should model good communication skills.
- 2) Language that is denigrating in nature, content, or tone, or that refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or religion, is not acceptable.
- 3) Inappropriate or threatening language used toward an official, coach, player, or parent may be grounds for removal from a game or the premises, or both.

Violations

Violations will be handled in accordance with existing Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League policy. Sanctions can include fines, suspensions, or release by the affiliated Organization or the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League.

- 1) The appropriate legal authorities will be notified based upon the nature of the violation.
- 2) Any person witnessing a violation of these guidelines should report the incident to the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League office, the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League Commissioner, or their Organization President.

Gathering Information Concerning Volunteers — Background Check Procedures

Each Organization will be responsible for obtaining an approved Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League Background Check (see Article II, Section 1) for all Organization members that have regular contact with children, including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- 1) Coaches



- 2) Administrators — including employees of the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League and its affiliates
- 3) Other Volunteers

Once the background check is completed, all failed checks will be reviewed by the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League Executive Board. If any of the criminal background checks shows a conviction or convictions that display a pattern of behavior that may have a detrimental effect on children, that person will be advised that he or she is not eligible to begin their role or continue in their role with the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League or its affiliate member.

Since criminal histories are a matter of public record, and the fact that the person involved may be asked to step down from their role with the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League or its affiliate member, the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League will not guarantee that this type of information, once discovered, will be kept confidential.

- 1) The information gathered will be reviewed by the All-American Youth Football League Executive Board.
- 2) The final decision on what is an acceptable or unacceptable criminal history will be made by the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League Executive Board.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can generally be divided into four different types: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.

- 1) **Physical abuse** is any non-accidental injury to a child. It is often caused by an action or omission of a caregiver. Injuries include bruises, welts, cuts, fractures, burns or internal injuries. Physical abuse can be one or two isolated incidents, or it can occur over a prolonged period of time.
- 2) **Emotional abuse** includes all acts that result in the child's sense of "self" being seriously impaired. This type of behavior can include demeaning remarks, rejecting the child, ignoring or isolating the child, name calling, or telling the child that he is not a good person or athlete.
- 3) **Sexual abuse** is any sexual activity between a child and an adult, or between children when there exists an unequal distribution of power, such as when one is significantly older or physically larger than the other.
- 4) **Neglect** occurs when a caregiver fails to provide basic needs such as adequate food, sleep, safety, supervision, clothing, or medical treatment.

Signs of Abuse: Each type of abuse has its own distinct signs. People dealing with children should be aware of the signs of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Below is a description of the signs of abuse for each of the four categories. Each category has its own behavioral indicators as well as physical indicators.

Physical abuse — behavioral indicators:

- a) Wary of adults
- b) Cannot recall or consistently explain how injuries occurred



- c) May cringe if touched accidentally
- d) Extremely aggressive or extremely withdrawn

Physical abuse — physical indicators:

- a) Injuries inconsistent with the explanation
- b) Presence of several injuries in various stages of healing

Emotional abuse — behavioral indicators:

- a) Severe depression
- b) Extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness
- c) Overly compliant, too mannered, too neat and clean
- d) Extreme attention seeking
- e) Displays extreme inhibition in play

Emotional abuse — physical indicators:

- a) Frequent psychosomatic complaints such as headaches, nausea, abdominal pains

Neglect — behavioral indicators:

- a) Frequent absence from school or practice
- b) Inappropriate or dirty clothing
- c) Engaged in delinquent acts such as alcohol or drug abuse
- d) Pale, listless, unkempt
- e) Frequently forgets proper equipment, water, etc.

Neglect — physical indicators:

- a) Poor hygiene
- b) Unattended physical problems or medical needs
- c) Consistent lack of supervision

Reporting Instances of Child Abuse

Suspected instances of child abuse are extremely sensitive in nature. A great deal of care should be exercised in reporting suspected cases of child abuse. Because of the serious consequences of child abuse, it is the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League policy to report child abuse if it is suspected. Since child abuse can be difficult to spot without the proper training, please do not discuss a case of abuse or suspected abuse with anyone except the proper authorities. If you are uncertain about whether to report abuse, please contact the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League Office.

- 1) If a child confides in you that he or she has been the victim of abuse, do not panic or overreact. Do not criticize the child for confiding in you. Finally, respect the child's privacy.



- 2) If the child is in imminent danger, and you feel that you need to offer immediate assistance, you should contact the local police department. The police departments have the expertise to handle an emergency or crisis involving children.
- 3) If the child does not appear to be in any immediate danger, you should call the Department of Social Services for your county. The Department of Social Services can assign a social worker to review the case and determine what course of action is in the best interests of the child.

APPENDIX F. SEVERE WEATHER ACTION PLAN

The forecast is calling for a high chance of thunderstorms. What plans should we have in place?

Thunderstorms pose a significant safety risk to players, coaches, officials and fans. Having action plans in place is paramount to taking care of everyone involved in a quick and effective manner.

Organization Heads / Game Management

1. Make sure you have access to your high school and/or a sturdy building that people are allowed to enter — especially teams (if available). Do this before game day.
2. Have radar (at minimum) at the ready at all times. A lightning detector is preferable.
3. Have a mobile phone ready at all times. The League needs to be notified if you're on a weather delay and/or may alert you to weather moving in. Additionally, make sure you have your host site (AD if a high school) contact's phone number to call as well.
4. Make sure your PA Announcer gives clear, concise and definitive instructions as to where fans are to go with lightning/thunder in the area. Make sure you have your bleachers and playing areas (including benches) fully cleared as soon as humanly possible.
5. Inform your team, your opponent and the Crew Chief as to where the teams and officials will go.
6. Facilitate a meeting with the Site Manager, the opponent's Organizational Head, the host site contact (AD preferably) and the Crew Chief regarding what the next step will be (how long to wait it out, using the 30-minute rule). The decision is between the Organizational Heads, in conjunction with the host site contact. The Crew Chief is there for rules facilitation and as a witness.
7. Contact the League with the results of the discussion; if a rescheduling is decided, it needs to be decided on at the site. Once the meeting concludes, the decision is final.

Head Coaches

1. Help facilitate the quick and orderly process of getting players and coaches to safety as quickly as possible.
2. Work with the Crew Chief to facilitate a rescheduling date (if necessary). The League will assign crews accordingly.

REMINDER: 7th, 6th and 5th grade games are not required to be rescheduled (by rule). Those games will be at the bottom of the priority list for reassigning officials.