

NEW YORK CITY AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Bylaws Rules & Regulations

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ARTICLE I LEAGUE OFFICERS

LEAGUE OFFICERS:

COMMISSIONER: Tim Cavanaugh

ARTICLE II DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

The divisions will be Bantam age limit is 14 (cannot turn 15 in the calendar year) and Intermediate age limit 17 (cannot turn 18 in the calendar year) both divisions will have no weight limit.

ARTICLE III CERTIFICATION

Certifications will begin at a date prior to the season start selected by the league and end on a date selected by the league. Teams may request their certification date and time during meetings. All certifications will be conducted at a date, time and location requested but approved by the league.

CERTIFICATION WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

Only Head Coaches and recognized assistants may be present at the certification. Parents, guardians, friends etc. will not be permitted in the room.

Each player being certified must present to the League Official a valid proof of birth. (Acceptable documents are: Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, or a government issued ID such as Passport or state ID.

Note: That for the Intermediate Division a High School Photo ID or State Non-Drivers Photo ID is required with Birth Certificate/Passport.)

The Player Registration Form supplied by the NYCAYFL must be properly filled out and submitted at the time of League Certification. The current or last school attended must be written on this form. A new Registration Form must be filled out, notarized and submitted for each season of the year of eligibility. Failure to present either of the above items will disqualify certification. All certifications will be conducted according to the following guidelines:

1. Max. 3 Teams will be certified at a time.
2. League designated officials will conduct the certification.
3. Each player shall be issued a photo identification card. The League will present these cards to the Head Coach or his authorized designate prior to the start of the season. These cards must be present throughout all league games.
4. Coaches will be issued a certified I.D. Card. Coaches must have this card with them at all league functions. This card must be presented to a League official or game official if requested.
5. At the designated time of certification each player will be charged **\$20.00**. Payment must be made at the time of certification. If a player misses their certification date the cost is **\$40.00** and they will have a week to be certified after the missed date.

ARTICLE IV GAME SCHEDULING

The league will make the schedule of games. The league will decide the playoff and championship sites.

ARTICLE V COACHES AND ASSISTANTS

Head Coaches must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Assistants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. All personnel must be of unquestionable moral character. The league maintains the right to deny any individual the privilege of being a coach if there is any question of character or dependability.

DIVISION ROSTERS:

BANTAM: 53 PLAYERS

INTERMEDIATE: 53 PLAYERS

ARTICLE VI ROSTERS

The League will supply a roster forms to all teams. This form must contain the following information: team name and division in large letters along the top, followed by player name, date of birth, and uniform number. Each player entry must be made on a new line. Hand written forms will not be accepted.

ARTICLE VII INSURANCE

Teams are required to have insurance. Proof of insurance must be shown to the League. The deadline will be the meetings immediately preceding the start of the season.

ARTICLE VIII GAME RULES AND PROTESTS

GAME RULES:

The Bantam and Intermediate Divisions will play under The Federation of High School rules (as published)

PROTESTS:

Protests must be made without delay. Protests may be made in writing to the league.

A written protest must be submitted immediately following the initial contact. The league will not recognize any separate investigations made by different organizations, teams, or coaches.

Player participation protests may be made after the rosters are submitted and at any time during the season including the playoffs. Any player found to be on the roster who is overage for his division, or found to be on any other roster in any other league while on a NYCAYFL roster or a private/public High School Roster will result in that team forfeiting all of its games. The team may continue to play but will not be eligible for post season play. In the event the team decides not to continue they will forfeit all rights to monies paid to the league. A coach may challenge (during the course of the game) any player who he feels is in violation of the age rule as set forth in the NYCAYFL By-Laws.

Any player related protests would be conducted in the following manner:

1. The game referee is to be notified immediately.
2. Both Head Coaches must notify the League of this matter within 24 hours following the conclusion of the game.
3. After the above process has been completed the league will take appropriate action.

All player cards must be present at the field during the entire course of the game. Failure to have these cards present will result in forfeiture for the offending team. No player shall be permitted to play if his/her I.D. Card is not available.

The coaches shall verify each player on the opposing team using their Player I.D. Cards prior to the game. If a player comes late to a game and has not been approved by the opposing team, that player must present his / her I.D. Card before participating in that game. Uniform numbers must be according to the roster.

There will be no protests on NYCAYFL rulings, official's decisions or judgments.

ARTICLE IX PLAYING DATES

See Schedule

ARTICLE X CONDUCT OF PLAYERS OR COACHES

Conduct of players and coaches at games and at any League Function that is not in the best interest of the League, may lead to expulsion from further participation in the League. Any player or coach ejected from a game for fighting, flagrant fouls, leaving the team area during a fight or other aggressive action not specifically covered by the rules of the game shall be automatically ejected from the game and suspended for the remainder of the League season. Additionally, the team will take a loss for that game. Any player, coach, assistant or person connected with the organization who in any manner strikes an official, League Official or Coach will be banned for life from all participation in the NEW YORK CITY AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Targeting will not be tolerated and any player found doing so will be ejected from the game and suspended for the next game.

ARTICLE XI EQUIPMENT AND GAME BALL

The NYCAYFL requires equipment that is of the highest quality affordable to an organization to be provided for the protection of the players. Colored Mouthpieces are mandatory in all divisions. All team members must be dressed with the same jersey, football pants, and helmets. Shoulder guards and approved footwear for their division.

In the event of duplication of team colors, it will become the responsibility of the away team to make the adjustments when conflicting teams meet.

Game Ball:

BANTAM Any ball ending in Y
INTERMEDIATE High School ball

ARTICLE XII FIELD MARKINGS

The field shall be marked according to NYCAFYL specification in all divisions. The width of the field must be fifty-three (53) yards and one (1) foot wide. The end zones must be ten (10) yards deep. There will be markings on all fields, which must include sidelines, end lines, goal lines and markings every ten (10) yards for the width of the field. Failure to have the field properly marked may result in the game being played under protest which can lead to a forfeit if upheld by a league committee. Goal Posts are not mandatory. -Box area for visiting team and sidelines:

All home teams are required to have the opposing team's sideline (25 to 25) boxed out with either cones, caution tape or suitable markings.

This would include markings behind the sideline as well so as to prevent anyone from entering the box if you are not a coach or player of that team.

Failure to have the opposing box set up by pregame would result in a 15-yard penalty to start the game and the game held up until the sideline markings are completed.

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach and coaching staff of the home team to ensure that the opposing team's players and coaches are part of an environment that is both safe and worry free. A pregame discussion is to occur between both Head Coaches and officials to discuss and review any field concerns. During the course of the game should an opposing coach feel the need to have their sideline cleared of any unauthorized personnel not associated with their team, they can ask any official on the field for an official time out to meet with them and the home team Head Coach to have the issue addressed and sideline cleared. In the event that the sideline issue is not addressed properly, a 15-yard penalty can be assessed to the home team by the referee on the game. If the matter continues and escalates to a point where the game cannot continue, the Commissioner is to be called immediately from the field and a decision will then be made by the Commissioner as to how to proceed further or to have the game suspended.

Game Lighting for Night games: (Amendment to field markings)

Any field that is not properly lit for a night game cannot be used by the home team.

All areas of the field must be suitably lit (sidelines and end zones included).

If a team plays their home games at night and does not have suitable lighting to play their home game, they must then have a secondary field that is suitable for play.

Should no field be available, the team will then either switch home and away dates with the team they are scheduled to play, or have to travel to the opposing team's field.

Should there not be home and away dates on the schedule to switch, then the game will be played at the opposing team's field that is suitable for play resulting in the loss of a home game for the originating team's home game.

It is the responsibility for each organization and home team to notify the Commissioner by Tuesday evening (game week) at the latest should there be a foreseeable home field issue. The league will understand should an emergency issue arise either later in the week or in extenuating circumstances on the day of the game. This will then be dealt with appropriately by the Commissioner and a decision rendered.

ARTICLE XIII ELIGIBILITY

Any player whose name appears on a High School Roster, Eighth Grade Roster or any other roster in another league cannot play in the NYCAYFL. This restriction also applies to any team participating in another league. Any such violation will result in expulsion of the player, or team from the league for the remainder of the season and the outcome of any games, will result in the forfeiture of those games. Any player that was placed upon a team (organization) roster from the previous year cannot be placed upon a different team (organization) roster for the succeeding year unless the following procedure is completed.

- The team (organization) for which the player intends to participate must give written waiver notice to the League stating the player's full name, previous team (organization) and the new team (organization).
- The team (organization) for which the player intends to participate must receive written approval on the Waiver Notice from the teams Head Coach or qualified officer of the organization. This statement must include the player's full name as well as the past and present team (organization).
- The league will not permit any team or organization to "raid" or act in any other method that may be considered unfair or adversely affect or otherwise jeopardize the operation and stability of any other team or organization.
- The NYCAYFL will mandate whenever the concerned teams (organizations) cannot come to an agreement. The League Decision will be final and binding.

ARTICLE XIV POSTPONMENTS

The League stresses the mandate that all scheduled games will be played on the regularly scheduled date and time. If, however this is not possible it is the responsibility of the team in difficulty to notify the other team at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled game time. They must also notify a League Officer to reschedule the officials. Failure to do so will result in the payment of the other team's expenses as well as full payment to the officials assigned to that game.

Bantam Games and Intermediate Games must have a minimum of three officials.

If two teams are at the field and one team feels that the game can be played and the other team does not, then the referees assigned to that game would make the decision. If however both teams agree to play, the officials are obligated to have the game played provided that there are no safety issues or any other circumstances that by rule would prohibit the game from being played.

Email in the event of postponement:

Tim Cavanaugh - NYCAYFL Commissioner – commissioner@nycayfl.com

See Coaches Contact List

ARTICLE XV MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled at the discretion of the League. In person or via Zoom.

All organizations will be limited to a maximum of two representatives of a program at a meeting.

Organization Heads will be counted as part of this two-person limit.

The league will be responsible for the conduct of the meeting. Any person requested to leave must do so without delay. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action such as being disqualified from participation.

ARTICLE XVI NEW TEAMS

The NYCAYFL commissioner will, following the discussions with the league directors on decide on the admission of a new organization entering the NYCAYFL.

The NYCAYFL commissioner can remove or revoke an organization(s) membership to the league at their discretion.

ARTICLE XVII SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS AND GAME TIMING

BANTAM and INTERMEDIATE

12 Minute Quarters

4 OFFICIALS

All games are subject to a Four (4) Minute Warning at the end of each half, second and fourth quarters.

ARTICLE XVIII FORFEITS AND DELAYS

All teams must show up an hour before game time. Any team that is not there an hour before game time will automatically lose the coin toss.

Forfeit timing will commence at the scheduled start of the game. If a team arrives at the field more than 20 minutes late, the game will be forfeited. If a game becomes forfeit under the rules and the forfeiting team feels that there are extenuating circumstances, they have the right to contact the league in writing to state their case. This must be done within one day of the forfeit-taking place. The league, after investigating the merits of the request will decide the matter.

Improper markings or failure to mark a field may result in forfeit. Forfeits may be awarded for any stipulated reason contained in these by-laws and rules. If a forfeit is given to a team, they will receive a loss and 35 points added to their points allowed.

If a game cannot be finished or played because of inclement weather, curfew, civic disturbances, or subway strikes the commissioner will reschedule the game after speaking to both teams and finding a mutual agreement.

ARTICLE XIX TIE BREAKERS

Game- If after 4 quarters a game score is tied. Teams will flip a coin for first possession. Each team will start at the opposing 25-yard line and attempt to score. If the first team scores the second team will have the opportunity to try and tie the game. If the second team cannot outscore them in their attempt the first team wins. If they tie it the process will be repeated until a team is declared the winner.

Standings- If a tie in the standings ties for will be decided as follows:

1. Least Points allowed
2. Most Points For
3. Head-to-Head

ARTICLE XX LEAGUE AWARDS

The coaches will vote by secret ballot for the players nominated for League Awards. Their respective coaches will present the slate of nominees. There will be no ties for any award. Any player nominated for a League Award must be an All-Star selection by his/her team.

ARTICLE XXI POST SEASON OR NON-SCHEDULED GAMES

Any team looking for post season or non-scheduled game, must notify and receive permission to do so from the League commissioner. All requests must be in writing.

ARTICLE XXII SCHEDULE OF YEARLY FEES:

Each team shall be charged a fee of \$500 for the first team, and additional \$350 for the second team, to cover the cost of the league and league awards.

ARTICLE XXIII REIMBURSEMENT

In the event that a regularly scheduled game cannot be played reimbursement will be made according to the following:

TEAM BUS REIMBURSEMENT:

This article expands upon and clearly defines the financial responsibility for bus travel as originally put forth in ARTICLE XIV. The stipulation stated in Article XIII to contact the league is still in effect.

Any team that forfeits a game is responsible for the traveling team's bus or other traveling expenses to a maximum of \$500.00. This reimbursement applies to bus or automobile not both.

The traveling team must have a valid receipt for the bus. The forfeiting team must make the payment by the first Monday after the forfeit.

If this reimbursement is not made by the time stipulated above by the forfeiting team they will then forfeit the next week's game.

OFFICIALS REIMBURSEMENT:

If the game officials are not notified prior to their departure for the game that a game has been forfeited, they will receive payment from the Teams. The league will collect the game fees from the forfeiting team. All future games will be forfeited until the game fees are paid to the League.

NYCAYFL NEW YORK CITY AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE ERROR:

In the event a game is not played as a result of a league error, the league will bear the same responsibility for reimbursement as detailed in the TEAM BUS REIMBURSEMENT.

ARTICLE XXIV SCHEDULE CHANGES

The league will be solely responsible for determining the feasibility of schedule changes. The league must be notified by email no later than Monday Evening 7:00pm of the week prior to the originally scheduled game.

ARTICLE XXV GAME REPORTING

The Organization Head will be responsible for submitting a game report to the league no later than 11:59 PM the Monday immediately following the game. The game report should consist of the game date, division, final score and comments on the game. Final Scores have to be reported via the Website Area "Scores". However, the actual report must be submitted by the Organization Head as stated above.

This responsibility may be delegated to another party. Failure to comply with the above will result in league action.

Bylaws have to be signed by Organization Head and Head Coaches of participating Teams.

I/We hereby confirm I have read the NYCAYFL Bylaws and agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions of this Bylaws for participation.

Organization Head - Print Name

Signature

Head Coach Intermediates - Print Name

Signature

Head Coach Bantams - Print Name

Signature

Date signed: _____