

GENERATION OF DISCIPLES YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (GOD-YFL)

Bylaws

Section 1 – GOD-YFL Governing Rules

The purpose of GOD-YFL shall be to establish and interpret all uniform rules and guidelines for the proper operation of the GOD-YFL including game rules, personal conduct of players, coaches, parents and fans and to resolve complaints, protest and enforce said rules upon those found in violation.

1. The GOD-YFL in and of itself, can only be challenged for recall by an executive session and by a quorum of the voting members.
 - a. Voting:
 - i. Decisions shall be made by a majority vote of those present at the meeting.
 - ii. Proxy voting is prohibited.
 - iii. In the context of the GOD-YFL decision-making body, voting rights are exclusively reserved for the President and Vice-President. This stipulation ensures that the highest-ranking officials within the organization have the authority to influence decisions that affect the direction and policies of the body.
 - iv. Agenda Items and Voting Procedures:
 1. Seventy-two (72) hours' notice required.
 2. The Secretary shall include such items in the agenda for the next meeting or convene a special meeting if the matter is urgent.
 3. Items agreed upon by a majority vote of the Board shall be formally adopted.
 4. Emergency Voting:
 - a. In cases where immediate action is required, the Board may conduct votes electronically.
 - b. All electronic votes must be documented and entered into the official meeting minutes.
 5. Document Execution and Signatures:
 - a. All Board meeting minutes shall be recorded in writing and approved at the subsequent meeting by the Board,

within seventy-two (72) hours of posting. No response will result as an approval in place of vote.

- b. All votes and decisions shall be documented in the meeting minutes and require the signatures of the CEO and the Secretary, or their electronic equivalent.
- c. A complete record of all executed votes and approved decisions shall be maintained as part of the official organizational records.
- b. The GOD-YFL Board, shall have the power to initiate and/or conduct investigations on any suspected rule violations, bring charges, and discipline all individuals found to violate the GOD-YFL rules.
- c. Any individual refusing to answer questions from the GOD-YFL regarding alleged violations of rules will be placed on temporary suspension pending completion of the GOD-YFL investigation, at which time; a final decision will be made.
- d. Any protest or appeal must be logged with the GOD-YFL Board within 24 hours and must be followed by a written letter and video evidence within 72 hours submitted to the Secretary. The Secretary will notify the GOD-YFL board and the President and VP of the affected team in question to allow time for preparation of a rebuttal. The protest fee is \$50 and will be refunded after the case is heard and your protest is upheld. This fee will be lost if the protester loses the case and if the protester wins the case, the other team will be fined \$50. The fee will be deposited in the league account.
- e. Only protests on rules interpretations or the eligibility of a player will be considered by the GOD-YFL. The judgment of a CIF official call is not subject to protest, although misconduct on the part of an official should be reported to the GOD-YFL.
- f. Protests are decided in accordance with the administrative procedures of the GOD-YFL and based on evidence gathered after the investigation.
- g. Questions of or relating to the interpretation of the rules and regulations shall be addressed in writing to the GOD-YFL and should be clearly stated.
- h. If a special GOD-YFL meeting must be called to deal with alleged rules infractions committed by adults (Coaches, Administrators, parents, fans, etc.) the Team where the alleged violations belong to will be responsible for the cost of the meeting site as well as any fine that may be imposed by the GOD-YFL. If found in violation of said rules.
- i. Parents/spectators 18 or older may be used as witnesses with the approval of the GOD-YFL Board.

- j. The decision of the GOD-YFL board will be final without further appeal.
- k. Annual GOD-YFL fees are \$500 per team, \$100.00 per cheer program and will be due by the end of February of each year.
- l. All new teams entering GOD-YFL will have voting privileges the following day after all of Section 30 is met.
- m. Entry fee for Carnival:
 - i. All entrants 4 and older \$10.00
- ~~n.~~ Entry fee for regular season:
 - i. Adults-\$8.00
 - ii. Students K thru 12th grade-\$5.00
 - iii. Seniors 65 & over & Veterans-\$5.00
 - iv. Children 4 and under-Free
- o. Entry fee for Playoffs & Championship:
 - i. Adults-\$10.00
 - ii. Students K thru 12th grade-\$7.00
 - iii. Seniors 65 & over & Veterans-\$7.00
 - iv. Children 4 and under-Free

Section 2 – *Members of the GOD-YFL Board*

- a. The GOD-YFL Executive Board is the highest authority, and its members shall consist of the following:
 - i. Executive Board Members
 - 1. Executive Board – The Executive Board will consist of 3 positions; CEO, CFO & Secretary. These are a rotating position and shall have two year terms. The Executive Board – bears the overall responsibility for any matters within GOD-YFL. The Executive Board must be at least 25 years of age and have experience with youth programs. The Executive Board oversees all league meetings. (Note – The Executive Board may be re-elected for consecutive terms but only if there is majority vote in favor by Board Members). The Executive Board executes all disciplinary issues with all coaches, parents and players within GOD-YFL.
 - a. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Responsibilities:
 - i. Overall administration and strategic leadership of the League.

- ii. Developing and implementing strategic plans and organizational policies.
 - iii. Ensuring compliance with all regulatory, legal, and organizational requirements.
 - iv. Representing GOD-YFL in external relations, partnerships, and community engagements.
 - v. Authorizing emergency actions, subject to subsequent Board review.
 - vi. CEO will break tie on Board Member votes, if this were to occur.
- 2. CFO must be at least 25 years of age. The CFO must be present at all GOD-YFL meeting and will be responsible for maintaining an accurate report of the GOD-YFL monthly accounting. The CFO reports directly to the Executive Board. (Note – CFO may be re-elected for consecutive terms but only if there is majority vote in favor by Board Members.)
 - a. Financial Manager and Oversight Officer (CFO)
Responsibilities:
 - i. Managing the organization’s financial accounts, including banking, budgeting, and accounting
 - ii. Preparing regular financial reports and presenting them to the Board.
 - iii. Overseeing the annual budget process and ensuring fiscal discipline and compliance with IRS regulations.
 - iv. Monitoring financial controls, authorizing disbursements, and maintaining financial reserves as required.
- 3. Secretary-The Secretary must be at least 25 years of age. The Secretary must be present at all GOD-YFL meeting and will be responsible for taking all minute notes. The Secretary plans meetings, answers and responds to all phone calls and emails, as well as organizing and distributing information to the Executive Board. The Secretary reports directly to the Executive Board. (Note – Secretary may be re-elected for consecutive terms but only if there is majority vote in favor by Board Members.)
 - a. Secretary Responsibilities:

- i. Custodian of Records and Communications.
- ii. Maintaining accurate and up-to-date records, including meeting minutes and official documents.
- iii. Distributing meeting agendas and relevant documentation to Board members prior to meetings.
- iv. Ensuring that all Board communications and correspondence are properly archived.
- v. Assisting in compliance with record retention policies and regulatory requirements.

ii. Board Members

1. All Board Members must be at least 25 years of age and possess prior experience in youth sports or youth development programs. Board Members serve a term of up to two years and must remain absent from board service for a period of one year before becoming eligible for reappointment, unless re-elected by a majority vote of the full Board. Board Members share shared responsibility for the oversight and governance of all league operations, including but not limited to rule development, scheduling, financial planning, and policy implementation. Board Members attend all scheduled league meetings, vote on all matters presented for decision, and support the mission and values of GOD-YFL. Board Members also assist the Executive Board in reviewing league-wide disciplinary matters and are expected to uphold the integrity and reputation of the organization at all times. A Board Member position must be held by President or Vice-President. If multiple roles are available, any GOD-YFL team that assumes multiple roles does not gain additional voting rights. Teams that do not hold a role are required to provide additional volunteers, in addition to the number of volunteers set per team, at all GOD-YFL events. Teams that assume multiple roles are not required to volunteer at GOD-YFL events.

- iii. League Information Officers (Two positions)-These positions must be at least 25 years of age. The League Information Officers will be responsible for maintaining the professional outlook of GOD-YFL and relaying all information on social media platforms. (These positions

may be re-elected for consecutive terms but only if there is majority vote in favor by Board Members.)

iv. League Information Officer Responsibilities:

1. Developing and executing communication strategies to promote transparency and engagement.
2. Managing the League's website, social media channels, emails and press releases.
3. Coordinating with teams, parents, coaches, and external stakeholders to disseminate accurate and timely information.
4. Ensuring that all public communications align with the League's mission and policies.

- b. Cheer Director– The Cheer Director will be responsible for directing, coordinating, organizing, and monitoring the cheer programs in GOD-YFL. The Cheer Director will report directly to The Executive Board. Please refer to the cheer bylaws for more detailed instructions on the responsibilities.

i. Cheer Director Responsibilities:

1. Overall administration and strategic leadership of Cheer League.
2. Developing and implementing strategic plans and organizational policies pertaining to cheer.
3. Ensuring compliance with all regulatory, legal, and organizational requirements pertaining to cheer.
4. Representing GOD-YFL in external relations, partnerships, and community engagements regarding cheer.
5. Authorizing emergency actions, subject to subsequent Board Members' review.

- c. Director Football Operations/Equipment-The Director of football operations and equipment position is responsible for developing, monitoring, and managing all logistics associated with all football skilled camps, coaches' training and event field equipment.

i. Director Football Operations and Equipment Role Responsibilities:

1. Overall strategic and logistics of football rules and update CIF rules to Board Members.
2. Developing and implementing strategic plans and organizational policies pertaining to football league camps/clinics.

3. Ensuring compliance with all regulatory, legal, and organizational requirements pertaining to the game of football and equipment.
- d. Director Fundraiser/Grant-The Director Fundraiser/Grant works under the direction of the Executive Board to develop, plan and direct grant projects. This position is responsible for writing major grant applications, pre-award coordination of all grant applications for the GOD-YFL. Organization of fundraisers to aid any financial goals for season.
 - i. Director Fundraiser/Grant Role Responsibilities:
 1. Research, identify and recognize external opportunities that present viable funding opportunities and goals.
 2. Aid in the planning, writing, program design, budget development, and evaluation of grant funded projects.
 3. Advise GOD-YFL Board Members regarding negotiation of new fundraiser, effective fundraiser startups and fundraiser management issues.
 4. Maintain official records and documents of all grant application/process and fundraiser outcome.
 5. Submit all financial outcome to GOD-YFL CFO.
 6. Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with funding agencies, auditors and community.
- e. Volunteer Director-Volunteer Director keeps record of all volunteers for event. Creates a platform for all volunteer(s) to join and follow through on day of GOD-YFL event(s).
 - i. Volunteer Director Responsibilities:
 1. Coordinate and maintain a list for event day of all volunteer(s)' time slot/program.
 2. Oversee and ensures that all duties of volunteer(s) are fulfilled, during GOD-YFL event(s).
- f. Vendor Coordinator-Vendor Coordinator booking appropriate vendors for GOD-YFL event(s). Stocking food and drinks, if needed for GOD-YFL event(s). Presenting rules/contract for vendor(s) and processing payments to submit to GOD-YFL CFO. This role reports directly to the Executive Board.
 - i. Vendor Coordinator Responsibilities:
 1. Maintaining list of vendor(s) for event(s). Brought to Board Member(s) for majority vote.
 2. Coordinating vendor contract/payment for processing thru GOD-YFL CFO.

3. Provide list of food/drink(s) needed for event(s) with proper breakdown of cost, brought forth to GOD-YFL Board Members' majority vote.
 4. Overseeing all vendors during GOD-YFL event(s).
 5. Ensuring vendor compliance with all regulatory, legal, and organizational requirements pertaining to venue.
- g. Venue Director-The Venue Director will be in communication with all open venues for the season. Venue Director will coordinate dates and prices for all GOD-YFL events. The Venue Director reports directly to the Executive Board.
- i. Venue Director Responsibilities:
 1. Coordinating all GOD-YFL event venue.
 2. Overall administration and strategic planning for all League venues.
 3. Developing and implementing strategic plans for all future GOD-YFL venues.
 4. Ensuring compliance with all regulatory, legal, and organizational requirements pertaining to venue.
- h. Advisory Board Purpose
- i. The Advisory Board serves as an optional, collaborative group designed to support league operations by gathering input, assisting with planning, and presenting well-developed recommendations to the League Board. This group operates outside of official Board Room meetings.
 - ii. Participation
 1. Participation in the Advisory Board is **voluntary** for all Board Members.
 2. Members may choose to engage based on interest, availability, or expertise.
 3. Non-participation does not affect a Board Member's voting rights.
 - iii. Responsibilities
 1. Advisory Board participants may:
 - a. Collect feedback from coaches, parents, and community members.

- b. Assist in planning the upcoming season (operations, scheduling, improvements).
- c. Help organize and propose league events, activities, or initiatives.
- d. Research and develop ideas or solutions for league needs.
- e. Collaborate with fellow members outside of formal Board meetings.

iv. Meeting Structure

- 1. Advisory Board discussions occur **outside of official Board Room meetings.**
- 2. Meetings may be informal and scheduled as needed.
- 3. Notes and recommendations should be documented for clarity.

v. Presentation to the League Board

- 1. Advisory Board participants may bring forward proposals and recommendations.

vi. During official Board meetings:

- 1. Participating members may **present, explain, and elaborate** on the topic.
- 2. The purpose is to ensure informed discussion before a vote.

vii. Voting Authority

- 1. **All official decisions require a vote from the League Board.**
- 2. Advisory Board members do not hold separate voting power within the advisory group.

viii. During official meetings:

- 1. Participating members retain their standard voting rights
- 2. Board members who did not participate in Advisory Board discussions:
 - a. May vote on the matter.

- b. Will not participate in detailed presentation or development of the proposal.

- i. Terms

- i. Each Board member shall serve a term of two (2) years.
 - ii. The majority vote can prolong the term to an additional two (2) years but cannot exceed a continuous four (4) years.

- j. Elections

- i. New Board Members shall be nominated and elected by a majority vote of the current Board Members. Only an organization's President/VP can act in any form of capacity on the board.
 - ii. Elections shall be held annually at the final meeting of the calendar year.
 - iii. All nominations must be submitted in writing and reviewed by the Board Members, prior to the election process.

- k. Removal

- i. A Board Member may be removed for misconduct, failure to perform assigned duties, or actions detrimental to the organization.
 - ii. Definition of Misconduct:
 - 1. For the purposes of this Agreement, "misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following actions:
 - a. Fraud, dishonesty, or misappropriation of organizational funds or assets.
 - b. Gross negligence in the performance of duties or failure to adhere to established policies and procedures.
 - c. Violations of safety protocols, particularly those designed to protect youth participants, staff, and volunteers.
 - d. Harassment, abuse, exploitation, or any form of discriminatory behavior directed toward youth, staff, volunteers, or other members.
 - e. Behavior or actions that significantly harm the reputation or operational integrity of GOD-YFL.
 - f. Removal shall require a majority vote of the Board Members following a formal review process.

- iii. Vacancies

- 1. In the event of a vacancy, the majority vote of Board Members for a replacement to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

2. Such appointments shall be made in a manner that minimizes disruption to organizational operations.

I. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

i. Fiscal Responsibility

1. The CFO are conducted in a responsible, transparent, and compliant manner.

ii. Bank Accounts

1. All funds of the organization shall be deposited in a federally insured financial institution.
2. All disbursements shall require majority Board Members' vote to prevent misuse of funds.
3. All fines shall be deposited and used towards GOD-YFL expenses.

iii. Annual Budget

1. The GOD-YFL Board Members shall approve an annual budget prior to the commencement of each fiscal year.
2. The CFO shall present quarterly financial reports to the Board Members for review.

iv. Reserve Fund Policy

1. To ensure financial stability, GOD-YFL shall maintain financial reserves equal to the greater of:
 - a. Three (3) months' operating expenses, or
 - b. A sum of \$10,000 will be kept in the GOD-YFL bank account annually to cover the league's operational expenses.
 - c. The Board Members shall review and, if necessary, adjust the reserve fund policy annually.

Section 3 – GOD-YFL *meetings with scheduled annual agendas.*

- a. In the January general meeting, the GOD-YFL shall receive from each team their suggested changes for the following year.
- b. The proposed rules changes must be formalized with the Secretary and prepared for discussion for the February meeting.
- c. At the February meeting, the proposed changes will be discussed and voted on. The proposed rule changes must be approved by a majority vote. If approved, the rule change will become a part of that year's rule. All rules can be re-discussed.

- d. Any rule changes after June 1 meeting must be approved by a majority vote and the matter voted on is effective for the following season.
- e. In the February general meeting, ALL TEAMS seeking entry into GOD-YFL must pay their mandatory league fee's to be considered into GOD-YFL, even if they have been in the league in previous years.

Section 4 – Responsibility of participating Teams

- a. *Boundaries: The GOD-YFL board does recognize Unified Boundaries. A player may play for any team he/she desires to play for with a waiver. However, should a team board member or coach be actively recruiting outside of their assigned School district and or another team's roster, and proof of the recruiting is brought to the attention of GOD-YFL disciplinary action can be taken up to a full calendar year suspension.*
- b. Insurance Coverage
 - i. GOD-YFL shall secure and maintain Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance with a minimum coverage limit of \$5,000,000 per occurrence and a \$1,000,000 aggregate limit, or such higher limits as the Board may determine to be necessary based on the organization's risk profile.
 - ii. In addition, GOD-YFL shall secure and maintain general liability insurance to protect Board members, staff, and volunteers from legal claims arising from organizational activities.
- c. GOD-YFL teams that do not have the full roster, you indicated when the schedule is generated, and it is after June 1, the team will be assessed a fine of \$500 due to hardships that will occur due to that team not being created.
- d. No New teams wanting to enter GOD-YFL will not be allowed enter without the Board approval of majority vote (75%).

Section 5 – Ages & Weights

- a. *Senior Division (195 lb. limit)*
 - i. Grades: 5th & 6th.
 - ii. A player must be under the age of 13.
 - iii. CANNOT TURN 13 BEFORE DECEMBER 1ST OF SEASON.
 - iv. All Senior 5th & 6th graders must present proof of age with an original birth certificate.
- b. *Junior Division (155 lb. limit)*
 - i. Grade: 3rd & 4th.

- ii. All players must be under the age of 11.
 - iii. CANNOT TURN 11 BEFORE DECEMBER 1ST OF SEASON.
- c. *Pee Wee Division (120 lb. limit)*
 - i. Grades: Kinder, 1st and 2nd.
 - ii. Player may not exceed 120 pounds, as weighed wearing a pair of shorts.
 - iii. X-Man Ruling – Pee Wee Players weighing 86.0 pounds or more shall be designated as an “X-Man” during official league games. (Refer to Pee wee Section 15.)
 - iv. CANNOT TURN 9 BEFORE DECEMBER 1ST OF SEASON.
- d. Scholastic Eligibility
 - i. A complete copy of last year’s report card or an official school document with players name, grade, and school year.
 - ii. If participant report card is from a school district in another team's recruiting area.
 - 1. There is a maximum of 3 team waivers per level for each program per season. No sign off needed.
 - 2. If a participant has played with a GOD-YFL or Verified League team consistently since the beginning of the immediately preceding season. That individual is eligible for a Grand-father waiver. Some proof IE players card is required.)
 - 3. If a team is full, a player can play for another area program on 1 year overflow waiver.
 - 4. Teams exceeding their allotted three (3) waivers shall:
 - a. Begin each regular season game, during that season, at all levels, with a 24-point deficit.
 - b. The offending team shall forfeit next season's Grand-father waiver at a rate of (1) waiver forfeited.
 - c. The offending team will forfeit any profit sharing that season.
 - iii. Players that attend a Unified School District in an area in which no GOD-YFL Team is assigned, that player may play with a GOD-YFL Team of their choice.
 - iv. GOD-YFL Team area assignments will be defined by the unified/districts each year at the regularly scheduled board meeting each February.
 - v. Players declaring Home School, Private School, Gate, Charter, and Religious Education centers will be open for eligibility.

1. They provide a current transcript from the school to be eligible for player certification.
- e. Violations of any of the above rules pertaining to eligibility shall result in removal of the player and forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player taken part in. To be decided by the GOD-YFL Executive board.

Section 6 – General Rules

- a. Plenty of free water access will be made available to all coaches and players at the carnival, there will be ice made available to the coaches and players, making sure there is enough inventory of water to not run out at all. Keep all drinks cold with the ice available.
- b. All league events will be required to be cashless.
- c. Season registration will commence on March 1st of the season. This timeline is crucial for ensuring that all participants are adequately prepared and informed prior to the start of the season. It allows for proper planning and organization, ensuring that all necessary resources and materials are in place for a smooth registration process. Participants are encouraged to mark their calendars and prepare any required documentation ahead of this date to facilitate a seamless registration experience.
- d. Pre-season training is a critical phase in preparing athletes for the upcoming competitive season. However, it is essential to adhere to specific guidelines regarding the timing of such training sessions. In this context, it is stipulated that pre-season training shall not be permitted until after March 15th. This timeline allows for a more structured approach to training and building skills in a safe and effective manner in accordance with any regulatory additions to bylaws for the season.
- e. Book check dates will be scheduled bi-weekly, ensuring that each session occurs every two weeks. The final book check will take place seven (7) days before the scheduled Carnival date, allowing for adequate preparation and organization.
 - i. It is mandatory for each team's President or Vice-President to be present with their teams' Contract certification.
 - ii. These books will contain the contract to verify the player's birthdate, grade and picture.
- f. On the day of Carnival player's cards will be utilized to ensure only certified players participate in addition to meeting weight restrictions.
 - i. There will be only three (3) dates for book check.

1. To ensure the personal safety of all minors participating in the GOD-YFL, it is imperative that all personal information regarding any minor, including names, phone numbers, and addresses, remains strictly confidential. This confidentiality is crucial in protecting the privacy and safety of the minors involved. Any individuals associated with GOD-YFL are expressly prohibited from releasing or disclosing any information pertaining to any minor unless they have received explicit authorization from the team President. This policy is designed to uphold the highest standards of safety and trust within the organization, ensuring that all participants can engage in activities without fear of their personal information being compromised. Violations of this policy will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action to maintain the integrity of the program and the safety of its participants.
 2. Failure to follow the above expectations results in a \$300 fine and inability to participate in any GOD-YFL the Carnival event for current season.
 3. GOD-YFL coaches and board members volunteers must acknowledge the critical issue of sexual predators existing within or near our communities. To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, it is imperative that comprehensive background checks are conducted for every coach and board member volunteer listed on each team's roster. These background checks must be submitted to the Secretary at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Carnival event. This proactive measure is essential in fostering a secure environment for all involved and demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding our community.
- g. No more than forty-five (45) players and not less than sixteen (16) players shall be certified on a team roster.
 - i. Each individual team can limit their roster to not exceed forty-five (45) players on their roster.
 - ii. Any team with less than sixteen (16) certified players will not be permitted to form.
 - h. A minimum of fourteen (14) players per team must be dressed and ready to play at the start of each regular season game.

- i. If the team fails to dress the minimum number, it will forfeit the game to its opponent and will pay the official's fees for the forfeited game. Any team that must forfeit two (2) consecutive games because of insufficient players (defined as players without the intention of suiting up) shall be disbanded.
- ii. If Teams forfeit is due to medical reasons (flu outbreak, widespread medical outbreak) then should be allowed to stay with proper evidence. Proper evidence would be a doctor's note with medical note only to be shared with the board and then Shred)
- iii. If a team makes the playoffs, they must have a minimum of eleven (11) players dressed and eligible to play, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- iv. During the playoffs if both teams do NOT have 11 players, they both forfeit, and do not move on.
- v. All team binders containing player certification packets will be stamped by the Executive Board and another team, no later than the third book check of the season. This process is crucial to ensure that all certifications are verified and documented appropriately. Additionally, it is important to note that this stamping must occur at least seven (7) days prior to the Carnival event, allowing sufficient time for any necessary adjustments or corrections to be made. Adhering to this timeline is essential for maintaining compliance and ensuring that all players are certified in a timely manner.

1. NO EXCEPTIONS

- i. Participants shall be considered ineligible if there are any missing or incomplete documents.
 - i. NSID certified ID
 - ii. CURRENT PHOTO
 - iii. GOD-YFL PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT
 - iv. GOD-YFL WAIVER SIGNED AND DATED
 - v. BIRTH CERTIFICATE
 - vi. PROOF OF SCHOOL (DEMOGRAPHICS PAGE PREFERRED)
 - vii. PROOF OF MEDICAL INSURANCE

1. NO EXCEPTIONS

- j. No new players can be added to any team roster after 3rd book check.
 - i. NO EXCEPTIONS
- k. No team is permitted to run a "taxi squad" or allow a player to be on more than one team.

- l. A player is not to be moved, shared or loaned from one team and sent to play on another.
- m. Once a player has passed book check and certified to a team, he/she cannot play for another team in GOD-YFL.
 - i. NO EXCEPTIONS
- n. Should there be a natural disaster or poor air quality and the games for that weekend need to be cancelled, the games will not be rescheduled.
 - i. We will proceed to the following weeks game schedule. Unless a Bye week or Dead week is available.

Points will be calculated as:

- a. Time-outs – Three (3) time-outs for Pee Wee, Junior and Senior levels shall be allowed by each team per half.
 - i. Time-outs due to injury or equipment problems will be called by officials and not charged to a team.
- b. Punts for the Pee Wee Division are as follows: They must be declared to the officials and the opposing team.
 - i. Kicking Team will have ball placed 35 yards down from end zone.
 - ii. Substitution - Unlimited substitution during all games shall be permitted.
 - iii. Scoring a touchdown shall score six (6) points.
 - iv. A safety shall score two (2) points
- c. The point after touchdown (by run or pass), with the ball placed at the 2-yard line shall be one (1) point.
- d. The point after touchdown (by run or pass), with the ball placed at the 5-yard line shall be two (2) points.
 - i. Visiting team may use their game ball.
 - ii. Game ball will be used for offensive play only.
- e. Pee Wees and Juniors are required to use a Pee Wee sized ball; Seniors are to use a Junior sized ball.
- f. Play shall be held on a 100-yard standard field. Unless deemed impossible due to field issued by school district or jurisdiction.
- g. Goal posts set on the back line of the end zone.
- h. The sideline area shall consist of ten (10) yards minimum from the playing field sidelines and end zones. A physical barrier shall be erected to mark this area, i.e. track, flags, lines, etc.
- i. The bench area shall be between the 25-yard lines on each side of the field.

- j. This area shall be reserved for players, coaches and authorized team personnel only.
 - i. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- k. Cheerleading area shall be kept at least Five (5) yards from playing field
- l. A cheerleading area shall be reserved for all cheer squads on each sideline.
- m. Overtime rules-First Overtime shall be conducted, with play beginning from the 20-yard line for ALL LEVELS. Second and Final Overtime shall be conducted from the 10-yard line for ALL LEVELS.
 - i. If no score after 2nd OT during regular season, the game will declare a tie.
 - ii. Post Season games shall be conducted as listed above; any games going into three or more overtimes will be conducted from the 10-yard line until there is a winner.
- n. Scouting at regularly scheduled, GOD-YFL games with the use of video tape, filming, or written reports is permitted.
- o. Scouting a team practice of any type is strictly prohibited.
- p. Any team found guilty by the GOD-YFL Board of violating scouting rules will be ineligible for post-season play.
- q. 5th Quarter - When opposing Junior or Senior teams have twenty-four (24) or more players on a roster, 5th Quarter games are mandatory and required to be played thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled game.
 - i. Notification of roster size must be submitted to opposing President ~~made~~ on the Monday before scheduled game, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours of scheduled game.
 - ii. The 5th Quarter must start ten (10) minutes following the conclusion of the proceeding regular game.
 - iii. The each side of the ball with a running clock.
 - iv. Coaches on each team will be responsible for officiating a 5th Quarter game.
- r. LEAGUE STANDINGS
 - i. The league standings and playoff seeding shall be determined by best overall standings during, and at the end of league play. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker shall be determined as follows:
 - ii. #1 - Head-to-Head competition in regular season
 - iii. #2 - Points scored against (Defensive points allowed)
 - iv. #3 – Coin Flip

Section 7 –Weighmaster

- a. *A Weighmaster shall be the President or Vice President of each organization.*
- b. Each team will provide one Weigh Master at the time of weigh-in.
- c. Weigh Masters “DO NOT!” have the authority to disqualify players for no mouthpiece, straps, or chewed up mouthpieces, worn out cleats, etc.
- d. Teams weighing in will be done on the same scale provided by the home team. A ten pound (10 lb.) pound check weight shall be available to prove the scales accuracy.
- e. Any player that arrives after the coin toss, may request a weigh in through their President, during halftime to be eligible at the kickoff of the 3rd quarter. This is subject to the approval of and at the discretion of the opposing teams’ President and Head Coach for that player’s division. If approved they will be weighed in by both teams *weighmasters*.

Section 8 – Coaches

- a. *A Head Coach must be at least 21 years of age. The Head Coach will bear the overall responsibility for his/her actions and those of his assistants, players and parents. While participating at GOD-YFL Events.*
- b. Head Coaches must have completed heads up training certification for the current year.
- c. All Coaches must require proof of age.
- d. Assistant coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. (No more than two (2) ball/water boy, under the age of eighteen (18) are allowed per team on the sideline and are not considered coaches.)
- e. In the absence of trained medical personnel (paramedic, physician, specially trained volunteer), one of the coaches on each team must hold a valid Red Cross card or equivalent. The card holder must be present before the game can start.
 - i. In this occurrence, a fine for hosting team shall be \$500. Must be paid 72 hours prior to next scheduled game.
- f. Approval of coaches will be at the discretion of each local Team Organization. All head coaches, assistant coaches and team staff must have a GOD-YFL approved background check completed.
 - 1. Any applicant found to have been convicted of a sexual or physical crime or related charge shall be barred from coaching in the GOD-YFL.
- g. A Coach’s badge shall only be issued to individuals who are listed on the official GOD-YFL roster as documented coaches/board member(s).

Individuals not appearing on the official roster shall not be eligible to receive a badge.

- h. Maximum of 7 coaches per level allowed.
- i. Each organization rostering more than one hundred and twenty-five participants (125) is allowed thirty-five badges (35), any organization rostering a total of one hundred and twenty-four (124) participants and below are allowed thirty badges (30).
- j. Coaches from the GOD-YFL affiliated teams shall not conduct official practices any time outside of pre-season camps, regular practice during the regular season or post season, with any player(s) affiliated with their GOD-YFL team. Coaches that violate the above will have coaching privilege revoked for (1) season.
- k. All coaches who are not in compliance with the GOD-YFL bylaws, general rules, playing rules, and standards set forth by the GOD-YFL Board (such as documented altered practice or game restrictions) will be removed as a coach due to their negligence.

Section 9 – Coaches' Conduct

- a. *Coaches shall not possess or use any alcoholic beverages or tobacco of any kind while attending any GOD-YFL sanctioned events.*
- b. Coaches shall refrain from criticizing players in the presence of spectators. Constructive feedback shall be delivered privately or in a team setting where it serves the collective benefit of all players.
- c. Coaches shall accept the decisions of game officials on the field as final and made to the best of the officials' ability. Coaches are expected to model respectful conduct, recognizing that their actions serve as an example for players.
- d. Coaches shall not engage in verbal criticism or use gestures directed toward opposing players, coaches, or spectators. All interactions shall reflect respect and sportsmanship at all times.
- e. Coaches shall emphasize that good athletes strive to be good students.
- f. Coaches shall strive to make every football activity serve as a training ground for life, and the basis for good mental and physical health.
- g. Coaches shall emphasize that winning the game is the result of teamwork.
- h. Coaches shall refrain from using abusive or profane language and will be strictly enforced by GOD-YFL.

- i. Coaches shall refrain from “piling it on” as the phrase is used when a team gets a commanding lead and desires to raise the score as high as it can. In these instances, every effort shall be made to let every player play. Points for do not determine playoff seedings.
- j. Coaches shall refrain from conducting recruitment from out of area/programs via social media, text, phone call, or email. Ensure that all communications reflect the integrity and standards of GOD-YFL and will be strictly enforced by GOD-YFL.
- k. Coaches shall not permit any ineligible player to participate in a game under any circumstance.
- l. Coaches shall not permit or encourage “sweating down” tactics or dietary supplements for a player.
- m. Coaches shall not deliberately incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
- n. Coaches shall remove any player from a game or practice if there is any doubt concerning the player’s health, including but not limited to signs of injury. The player shall not return to participation until a full medical evaluation has been completed. In cases where a concussion is suspected, the player shall be prohibited from returning to practice or gameplay until written clearance is obtained from a licensed medical doctor and submitted to the team President.
- o. Coaches shall uphold all the rules and regulations of the GOD-YFL.
- p. Head Coaches shall bear final responsibility for all their actions, their assistants, players and parents.
- q. A minor infraction during a game or event incurs a penalty of \$300, in addition to the immediate ejection or removal of the individual from the game. The individual must vacate the game or event premises without delay. The specific minor infractions that may lead to this penalty include, but are not limited to, unsportsmanlike conduct, excessive arguing with officials, and any behavior deemed disruptive to the event. It is imperative that all participants adhere to the established rules to maintain a fair and enjoyable environment for everyone involved. A minor infraction are as follows, but not limited to:
 - 1. *Coaches who possess or use any alcoholic beverages or tobacco of any kind during any GOD-YFL game/event.*
 - 2. Coaches' vulgar language towards players, spectators, officials or opponents during any GOD-YFL game/event(s).

3. Coaches, Board Members and participants are the only individuals allowed on the sideline when game is in progress at any GOD-YFL game/event(s).
4. A major infraction within the team structure will result in a financial penalty of \$500. Additionally, coaches who are found to be in violation of the established guidelines will face the revocation of their coaching privileges for a duration of one season. This policy is implemented to ensure accountability and maintain the integrity of the coaching staff and the team as a whole. It is imperative that all coaches adhere to the rules to foster a positive and compliant environment for the athletes. A major infraction are as follows, but not limited to:
5. Coaches involved in any physical altercation at any GOD-YFL game/event(s).
6. Coaches conducting recruitment from out of area/programs via social media, text, phone call, or email. Ensure that all communications reflect the integrity and standards of GOD-YFL.
7. Coaches from the GOD-YFL affiliated teams conducting official practices any time outside of pre-season camps, regular practice during the regular season or post season, with any player(s) affiliated with their GOD-YFL team.
8. Coaches shall not permit any ineligible player to participate in a game under any circumstance.
9. Coaches shall not permit a player to participate without weigh-in process in any game under any circumstance.
10. Coaches must obtain a coaches' badge (GOD-YFL issued) and cleared background check on file to be on sideline of any GOD-YFL game/event.
11. Head Coach shall be the only coach in communication with the officials. All other coaches will refrain from communicating with game officials.
12. Coaches/Teams in full gear prior to 1st week of official GOD-YFL practice.
13. GOD-YFL maintains the authority to bypass standard disciplinary procedures in instances where a violation is identified. This policy is designed to ensure that immediate and appropriate actions can be taken to address serious

infractions without the delays that may accompany traditional disciplinary steps. Such discretion allows for a more efficient response to violations that may pose risks to the organization or its members. The decision to skip disciplinary steps will be made judiciously, taking into account the severity of the violation and the potential impact on the community. This approach underscores the commitment of GOD-YFL to uphold standards of conduct while also prioritizing the safety and integrity of its environment.

14. The GOD-YFL Board Members hold the ultimate authority regarding all disciplinary matters involving Parents, Coaches, and Players. Their decisions are final and must be adhered to by all parties involved. This structure ensures that there is a clear chain of command and accountability within the organization, fostering a respectful and orderly environment for all participants. It is essential for everyone associated with the league to understand that the Board's rulings are not subject to appeal, thereby maintaining the integrity of the disciplinary process.

Conduct & Discipline

The purpose of this Article is to establish clear standards for conduct, discipline, and enforcement to ensure the safety of all participants and the integrity of league operations.

All penalties outlined herein are mandatory and shall only be modified through the formal appeal process.

Definitions

Verbal Misconduct: Use of profanity, yelling, taunting, or disrespectful language toward any participant, official, or spectator.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Behavior that disrupts the event, including arguing, gestures, or refusal to follow instructions.

Spitting : Any intentional act of spitting toward or on another individual.

Aggressive Behavior: Threats, intimidation, or hostile actions, including charging or confronting another individual.

Physical Altercation (Fighting): Any non-incidental physical contact outside of normal gameplay.

Assault: Any initiation of non-incidental physical contact in a confrontational situation, including but not limited to: Pushing or shoving to initiate contact, punching or striking, charging into contact, tackling outside of play, leaving the sideline or spectator area to initiate contact. *Assault shall be determined by actions, not claimed intent.*

Self-Defense: Reasonable force used solely to prevent immediate harm, provided: the individual did not initiate contact; and the force ceases once the threat has ended.

Authority of Officials

Game officials shall have full authority during all events.

All ejections are final for the event and must be complied with immediately.

Ejection & Removal from Premises

Any individual ejected or suspended must immediately leave the premises.

“Premises” includes any area where the individual can: observe the event, communicate with participants, Influence the outcome.

Ejected or suspended individuals shall not communicate directly or indirectly with team personnel by any means, including: verbal communication, electronic communication, signals or gestures, third-party relays

Failure to Leave the Premises

Shall result in Immediate stoppage of the event, immediate game forfeiture, additional two game suspension

Return to the premises during suspension

Shall result in automatic season suspension, possible team forfeiture

Automatic Ejection Penalties

Player: One game suspension

Coach: One game suspension

Parent/Spectator: One game suspension

Verbal Misconduct

Ejection & one game suspension

Verbal abuse directed at a game official: Ejection & two game suspension

Spitting

Ejection & two game suspension

If directed at an individual, the act shall be classified as assault.

Aggressive Behavior

Ejection & two game suspension

Assault

Ejection, suspension for the remainder of the season including playoffs

No reduction of assault penalties shall be permitted.

Escalation Participants

Any individual who joins an altercation and engages in physical contact: ejection & five game suspension

Leaving the Sideline

Entering the field during or immediately after an altercation constitutes participation and will result in a five game suspension.

Each organization is responsible for the conduct of all players, coaches, and spectators.

If three or more individuals from one team are involved in an altercation, game forfeiture will take effect

Evidence and Enforcement

A written referee incident report is required within twenty-four hours.

Evidence hierarchy: Video evidence, referee report, witness statements

Witness Requirements

Minimum two individuals that are not from the same household.

Written statements required.

If evidence conflicts the referee report shall prevail.

All suspensions begin with the next scheduled event and may not be delayed.

Repeat Offenses

Second offense at Aggressive Behavior level or higher will result in additional two game suspension

Conduct Appeals Process

Appeals must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours.

Appeals must be decided within seventy-two (72) hours.

Requirements

Video evidence or Two (2) witness statements.

Appeal Voting

Majority required.

Quorum required.

Involved or conflicted parties must abstain from voting.

Penalties remain in effect during appeal.

Frivolous appeals may result in additional discipline.

No penalties may exceed those defined in this Article.

Equal Enforcement

All discipline shall be applied based on actions and not team affiliation.

Suspended Personnel

Suspended individuals are prohibited from all games, practices and team activities

Suspended individuals shall not communicate with team personnel, act in any capacity, including parent or volunteer or act in any capacity, including parent or volunteer

Section 10 – Players

a. Registration:

- i. Each player must have parental consent from a parent or legal guardian indicated by signature on the player's contract.
- ii. Each player must have medical certification from an examining physician stating that the player is physically fit to play tackle football/cheer.
 1. If a player is injured in practice or a game and sees a physician, that player shall not be allowed to resume practice until a medical clearance in writing is provided from the treating physician. It is mandatory that all such injuries be reported to the executive secretary before that team's next game and that the original signed release accompany the player's contract. A mandatory incident report must be completed and turned into GOD-YFL, no later than 48 hours of occurrence.
 2. Proof of Grade: Proof of grade will be verified through the school record from the player's school they will be attending in the fall (original of birth certificate for K-5th graders and original birth certificate for 6th graders), a current player's picture is required to be attached to the player's certification card. The verified school record will stay with the player's packet for the entire playing season.
 3. Academics should always be encouraged. Playing football should not take precedence over school.
 4. Sign-up fees will be at the discretion of each team's board.

b. Certification of players:

- i. A GOD-YFL Board Member and one (1) Executive Board Member will verify identity of all players during book check.
- ii. Players may not participate in any game until they are certified. Certification is that process whereby all teams in the league conduct

a book check with and are approved by one (1) Executive Board member league stamp and one (1) other league team stamp.

- iii. If a player is certified, and is then found to have a falsified contract, then the President, Head Coach, the Weighmaster, and the parents of said player shall be asked to come before the GOD-YFL for a possible disciplinary hearing.
- iv. No member of the GOD-YFL Board, including Executive Board Members, Presidents, and Vice Presidents, is permitted to certify the player contracts of their own team during the book check process. This policy is in place to ensure impartiality and fairness in the certification process, preventing any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from self-certification. By enforcing this rule, the integrity of the certification process is upheld, and all teams are held to the same standards without favoritism or bias. It is essential for maintaining trust among all participants and stakeholders involved in the league.

2. Section 11 – Mandatory Game Day Player Verification

- a. Any violations of the "Mandatory Game Day Player Verification" process will be subject to automatic forfeiture of the game, the violation imposed and suspension of all post-season game.
- b. An official roster/binder will be handed in at weigh-in to the opposing Weighmaster. This roster/binder will have a certified player's card with jersey number and all the mandatory documents. A player's jersey number does not have to be position specific; however, the jersey number on player's uniform must match what's on the player roster.
- c. Player verification times shall be at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled game time. However, late arrivals *may be* verified during half-time, at opposing team's discretion.
- d. Players are not permitted to change out of their game day jersey after the weigh-in.
- e. Coaches have no decision-making authority regarding player verifications or regarding the eligibility of players.
- f. The player verification will continue during playoffs and championship games. Their certification from the regular season will remain intact for the playoffs and championship. Players will still go through the process of verification via player photo and school documents.

Section 12 – *Practices*

- a. *Except for an approved GOD-YFL Passing League, pre-season practice may not begin earlier than MARCH 1st, 2025, in accordance with climate and other factors determined by the GOD-YFL in establishing a common starting date for all teams within its jurisdiction.*
- b. The first week of official practice (last Monday of July) shall be devoted entirely and exclusively to 10 hour acclimation/ conditioning, without the use of pads. Only helmets may be issued the first week. Full pads and contact are allowed at the start of the second week of practice, however before full contact drills are started each of the players must have 10 hour acclimation/ conditioning.
 - i. Players who join a team after the first week must still comply with the requirements set forth in section b. and cannot have contact until they have the 10 hour acclimation/conditioning period.
- c. Warm weather precautions: Teams must guard against serious problems, which in extreme high school, college and professional conditions occasionally result in death. The training regimen of any team practicing in high heat and/or humidity will adhere to the following:
 - i. Limit or eliminate laps entirely and not assign laps for disciplinary reasons only.
 - ii. Schedule practices for early evening when the sun is low in the sky.
 - iii. Cancellation due to extreme weather conditions are solely made by GOD-YFL teams, as an individual preference.
 - iv. Do not ignore signs of heat exhaustion.
 - v. Within each hour of practice, there should be a minimum of three (3), ten (10)-minute water breaks.
 - vi. Provide Calif. AB1 - Team Declaration of Compliance to GOD-YFL and post on team website.
- d. Prohibited from practice:
 - i. Use of “bull ring” or any other drill where the player may be subject to a hit from a direction they cannot see will not be allowed. Half ring or other practice drills of this nature may be used where the player has at least peripheral vision and can anticipate a hit.
 - ii. Any sled or dummy that employs a spring loaded or mechanical principle that “shoots” out part of the apparatus to stimulate the movement or impact of an imagined opponent.
 - iii. Oklahoma’s are no longer consider a viable drill by GOD-YFL and should not be used to train any player in GOD-YFL.

- iv. There is no CUT-BLOCKING or CHOP-BLOCKING within GOD-YFL.
This rule will be strictly enforced. Any team found using this technique on video evidence will be fined \$500.00 by the GOD-YFL and the head coach will be suspended for one week.
- v. Teams are allowed ten (10) hours per week of pre-season practice, two (2) hours per day, and five (5) days per week for the first three (3) weeks. Beginning on the new school year, practice is limited to six (6) hours per week. No practice shall end later than 8:30 p.m. Practice is not allowed on Saturdays or Sundays.
- e. Each team is allowed a controlled team scrimmage. Teams are required to participate in the GOD-YFL carnival before the start of the season. Ice chests will NOT be allowed at the Carnival (except for one (1) team ice chests, which must be carried in by the Head Coach). During the Carnival, the following rules will be followed:
 - i. Coaches will be permitted on the field.
 - ii. Time-outs may be taken between plays to allow coaches to critique and instruct players, however, the time will not stop.
 - iii. Game score is not kept and is not the primary goal.
 - iv. No official game time is kept.
 - v. Game play will be twenty (20) continuous minutes with a ten (10)-minute break afterwards.
 - vi. Each team will be on Offense for ten (10) minutes and Defense for ten (10) Minutes
 - vii. We will be playing half field and come back to the starting point after a score or turnover.
 - viii. There will NOT be first downs like high school rules, needing to move the chains.

Section 13 – Games

- a. *Regulation 4-quarter games with game officials, game clock and score. The outcome of non-league games does not count in team standings or toward any play-off qualification. Pee-wee, Junior and Senior level does require CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) officials.*
- b. The Secretary shall provide each team President with a complete schedule of games.
- c. Each home team will submit game day score on Monday.com. The game scores are to be submitted the same evening the game was played and no

later than 10:00 p.m. A \$50.00 fine will be assessed for scores not submitted onto Monday.com. Every team President can review and appeal any discrepancy.

- d. Playoff and championship schedules are to be decided by a team's bracket each year by the GOD-YFL board. If a TEAM has two or more teams in the championship game, game times must allow for the members of the teams to attend both games. Game times will be set by the GOD-YFL if not settled otherwise. TIE BREAKERS: Head-to-head, common opponents, coin flip. Please note: "Points For" or "Points Against" will NOT be used to determine a playoff seeding, no loss teams will always seed higher than any 1-loss team regardless of the number of games played.
- e. All Playoff and Championship Games for each division will be played at a site that will have a visible scoreboard. Location of Championship is selected by The Board Members and must be as Neutral as practical.
- f. The President or Vice President from each team must be present at all Playoffs/Championship Games, from the commencement to the conclusion of all events. These individuals will be present to deter conflict of interest; will serve as third parties if any conflicts arise.
 - i. President/Vice President not present for Playoffs/Championship games will forfeit their team profit share for the season.
 - ii. NO EXPECTATION!
- g. Games ending in a tie at the end of regulation shall be played off to achieve a win-loss status. GOD-YFL tie breaker rules will be followed (ten (10)-yard line rule).
 - i. No ties will be allowed to stand.
- h. All rules apply beginning with practices and ending with post-season playoffs and Championship game. No team, on its own, can arrange a game. All games, regardless of type, must be arranged through and with the sanction of the GOD-YFL board. The first regular season game shall not take place earlier than July 20th, regardless of climate. Any exceptions to play a game is at the discretion of the GOD-YFL board. (Exhibition, Pre-Season, Regular Season, Playoffs, or Championship games).
- i. The following items shall be worn by all players beginning with the first day of contact:
 - i. Helmet – only helmets displaying a current “Seal of Certification” shall be worn.
 - ii. Each team must provide proof of current helmet certification upon request by the GOD-YFL.

- iii. Shoulder Pads
- iv. Pants with belts
- v. Hip, Kidney and Butt pads
- vi. Thigh pads
- vii. Knee pads
- viii. Jerseys – Each Head Coach will be responsible for notifying the opposing Head Coach of any jersey problem no less than forty-eight (48) hours before a scheduled game.
- ix. Mouth Guard
- x. Football cleats and socks.
- xi. Eyeglasses, when needed, shall be shatter-proof glass or contact lenses.
- xii. Face shields are allowed but must be clear only.

1. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

j. K. Zero Tolerance Policy:

- i. No Assistant Coach is allowed on the field unless the play has stopped for an official player injury and any coach and the player's parents can tend to the injured player.
- ii. Any coach or parent who is on the actual playing field (during scheduled game) will be immediately ejected from game and venue. Fine of \$500 will be imposed.
- iii. Should an altercation on the field break out between players, all the assistant coaches are to remain on the sidelines and keep the parents and additional players off the playing field. However, only the HEAD Coach and or President/VP will be allowed to go onto the field to retrieve HIS/HER player. Only HIS/HER player and in NO way should the opposing coaches speak to or contact any of the opposing players, coaches or parents. Officials will have final rule of which team is a fault and eject who is involved.
 - 1. The player's/coaches' first ejection will end up in a week-long suspension along with \$300 fine and a second ejection will be a season ending suspension and \$500 fine for the team deemed at fault.

k. Basic Playing Rules:

- i. Unless stated otherwise by the GOD-YFL board, games are played under CIF rules.
- ii. Teams scouting is allowed at games. Use of films for future scouting is allowed.

- iii. The use of any electronic devices are not allowed by player during game.
- iv. The home team will be responsible for the presence of a game trainer/medic at each game. In the absence of trainer/medic, the minimal safety requirement shall be the presence of one individual associated with the home teams who is qualified in first aid and holds a current Red Cross/Multi-media card or equivalent. An additional person must know the location of the nearest public telephone or cell phone and have previously memorized the phone number to the nearest ambulance service or rescue squad.

- 1. Home team without a trainer/medic is fined \$500, which goes towards profit share.

l. Officials:

- i. GOD-YFL board shall arrange for the presence of at least four (4) qualified officials at each scheduled game.
- ii. Payment of the officials is the responsibility of the home team.
- iii. The Commissioner for the officials shall be provided a copy of the GOD-YFL rules.

m. Game Ball:

- i. Each team may use any legal ball of its choice during a game.
- ii. Pee-Wee Division will use a peewee size ball compatible to that age group.
- iii. Junior Division will use a peewee size ball compatible to that age group.
- iv. Senior Division will use a JR size ball.

n. Playing Field:

- i. The home team is responsible for the preparation of the playing field and all requirements for a game and is responsible for providing water to both teams.
- ii. Unless previously approved by the GOD-YFL board, the standard 100 x 53 1/3 yard playing field is authorized for all divisions.
- iii. The fields shall be equipped and marked in accordance with high school standards.
- iv. The bench area is reserved for rostered personnel and game trainer/medic. The sideline area is reserved for the chain crew. The general vicinity of the playing field shall be clear except for the presence of ambulance and law enforcement.

- v. The home team shall provide a three-man chain crew. Restrictions to NO cell phone usage and chains will remain on home sidelines.
 - vi. The cleaning of the bench area and bleachers is every spectators' responsibility. Every spectator should not leave visible trash behind. With evidence, visiting team can be charged with a cleaning fine of \$100.
- o. Senior Division shall play eight (8)-minute quarters.
- p. Junior Division shall play eight (8)-minute quarters.
- q. Pee-Wee Division shall play eight (8)-minute quarters.
- r. Intermission:
 - i. 2 minutes at the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters.
 - ii. 15 minutes at the end of the 2nd quarter.
 - iii. 20 minutes between games.
- s. A team shall be permitted no more than three (3) time-outs per half.
- t. Scoring Value:
 - i. Touchdown = six (6) points
 - ii. PAT at three (3)-yard line (run or pass) = one (1) points
 - iii. PAT at five (5)-yard line (run or pass) = two (2) points
- u. Players:
 - i. Free substitution rules are always in effect with all teams.
 - ii. The eligibility of a player may be challenged as noted earlier herein.
 - iii. Coaches should use extreme discretion once a player is removed because of injury before he/she can resume the game. If there is a possibility of a concussion, then the player will sit out for the remainder of the game and will have to follow the return to games steps listed in the USA Football Heads Up Program Criteria.
- v. The Rules of the National Federation are repeated:
 - i. Spearing and Butt blocking will not be tolerated.
 - ii. Spearing is deliberately and maliciously driving the helmet into a player who is down or who is held so he is going down, or whose forward progress is stopped or obviously out of the play. It is a disqualifying personal foul.
 - iii. Butt-blocking is defined as a blow with the facemask, frontal area, or top of the helmet as the primary point of contact, driven directly into an opponent. The technique is considered dangerous to both the blocker and the opponent carries a 15-yard penalty.
 - iv. Any GOD-YFL coach found to be teaching such techniques shall be subject to dismissal from the GOD-YFL.

w. Game Administration:

- i. Regular Season Admission fees shall be \$8.00 for adults, veterans/seniors/k-12th graders are \$6.00 and children 4 years and younger are free.
 - ii. Admission fees for Carnival shall be \$6.00 for adults, veterans/seniors/k-12th graders are \$6.00 and children 5 years and younger are free.
 - iii. GOD-YFL will issue coaches badge with their picture on it, only after attendance of clinic, cleared background check and Coaches Code of Conduct/Contract on file.
 - iv. A coach's badge does not hold a plus one entry.
 - v. These badges will have the coach's picture, Name, Division, and Team. The coach's badge must present to enter any GOD-YFL events facility without a fee.
 - vi. A coach's badge is only valid through the GOD-YFL issued. No team is allowed to issue their own badge.
 1. NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - vii. The maximum coach's badge for each team will be 7 per level.
 - viii. The league may issue additional passes to team board members as needed, but not exceeding 15 total.
 - ix. Anyone, regardless of position, that does not show a valid league badge is expected to pay for admission.
 - x. Each team must provide a game administrator for all home games.
 - xi. The administrator shall be the contact person for the game officials should there be any problems regarding the game.
 - xii. The game administrator shall identify himself/herself as such, before the start of the game, to the head official and the opposing coach.
 - xiii. No Outside Food or Drinks will be permitted at the games.
- x. Lopsided Scores/Intentionally Run-Up Score:
- i. Any game in which a team has led over the other team by 35 points or more at any point can be considered a game with a lopsided score. At this point, the coach that has the lead shall take necessary measures to refrain from adding to his point total unless the other team scores. This can be done by playing the second-string players on both offense and defense.
 - ii. Intentionally run-up scores are the result of conscious and a deliberate effort by the winning team to amass as many points as possible while denying the opponents and continuing to play the

starters on offense or defense or both, even though the other team is hopelessly behind.

- iii. The Head Coach of the losing team may ask the GOD-YFL to investigate if he feels the score was deliberately run-up by the opposing coach. This request must be made no later than noon of the day after the game was played. Video Evidence will be required at that time.
- iv. Before declaring an intentional run-up score, coaches should be aware that there could be circumstances that make a difference between a lopsided and an intentionally run-up score.
- v. If after a preliminary investigation the GOD-YFL determines that further action may be warranted, a meeting will be called and will include but not limited to:
 - 1. One or Both Head Coaches will be required to attend.
 - 2. Key witnesses may be allowed to participate with prior approval of the GOD-YFL.
 - 3. Game film will be used as evidence by the GOD-YFL.
 - 4. GOD-YFL will make the final determination as to whether the final score was lopsided or an intentionally run-up score.

Section 14 – Police Powers and General Provisions

a. Hearings

- i. Each team has authority over adults and juveniles connected with their teams and can settle disputes between individuals as well as imposed disciplinary action against any individual involved with or acting in the capacity of the GOD-YFL for violation of these by-laws. All matters detrimental to the integrity of the GOD-YFL will be brought to the attention of the GOD-YFL.
- ii. GOD-YFL has authority over all its members (Adult & Juveniles), local boards, when said group and/or individual is in violation of any of these by-laws.
- iii. If a participating team has a dispute within itself, the GOD-YFL Board Members can rule to allow a 72-hour period for said team to resolve their problem via their own board. Written documentation detailing the matter and the outcome will be provided to the GOD-YFL Board Members who will determine if the GOD-YFL Board Members will

need to review the case. In all such cases, the GOD-YFL Board Members has the authority to call witnesses as needed.

b. Mandated Disciplinary Action – Adult Offenses

- i. The GOD-YFL Board Members has the authority to review all matters pertaining to Rules Violations including ethical and moral issues. GOD-YFL has the authority to penalize the coaches and spectators.
- ii. Team President/Vice President will bear the overall responsibility for the conduct of the players, coaches and spectators. The actions of the team President/Vice-President during an incident such as preventive measures, attempts to de-escalate the situation, will assist the GOD-YFL Board Members to determine appropriate action taken on said team members.
- iii. The GOD-YFL executive board has the right to invoke a season-ending suspension if the spectator or coach that have had two (2) game ejections throughout the entire season.

c. Mandated Disciplinary Action – Juvenile Offense:

- i. The GOD-YFL Board Members has the authority to suspend any player ejected from a game for any type of unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespectful behavior to players, coaches, and/or league officials for one week of practice and one (1) game.
- ii. Repeated offenses could result in suspension for the remainder of the season.
 1. Note: It is the responsibility of an ejected player's President/Vice-President to report said ejection to the GOD-YFL board via email: support@godyfl.com, no later than 10:00 a.m. following the day of the game in which the suspension took place.

d. Mandatory Duties:

- i. All Presidents of a home game will enter final scores on Monday.com, no later than 10:00 p.m. the day of the game.
- ii. Each participating team representative must be present at all GOD-YFL meetings; however only Team President/Vice-President can cast a vote.
- iii. From time to time, mandatory meetings will require the presence of the Cheer Directors and the Cheer board.
- iv. No attendance to meetings results in a fine of \$150.00.
 1. NO EXCEPTIONS.

2. The \$150.00 attendance fine will now be allocated to the reserves in the GOD-YFL account.
- e. Parents/Next of Kin:
 - i. Effective from the start of the season, all Parent/Guardian of each participating player/cheerleader will be required to sign a “Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct” contract.
 - ii. The contract will include language advising the parents regarding the code of conduct expectations by the GOD-YFL and results of failing to follow such expectations.
 - iii. Failure to sign such a contract will be grounds to deny a player/cheerleader participation in the GOD-YFL.

Section 15 – Pee wee Division

- a. There will be mandatory four (4) qualified officials at each Pee Wee Division game.
- b. Inappropriate behavior from coaches, players, or fans toward any Pee-Wee Official may result in adverse action against that person, including the Head Coach and the team. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!
 - i. Official’s judgment calls are final.
 - ii. Pee-wees will play for four (4), eight (8)-minute quarters.
 1. Rules and Regulations:
 - a. The Pee wee Division will be governed by GOD-YFL rules and regulations.
 - b. Pee wee grades are Kindergarten through 2nd grade, with 120 lb. weight restrictions. (86 lb. X-Man)
 - c. Birthdates will follow the same as GOD-YFL rules.
 - d. The roster will have a maximum of forty-five (45) players, and a minimum of fourteen (14) players.
 - e. Players that are not playing will be on the sideline.
 2. Game Format:
 - a. All regular season pee wee games will be played using regular CIF game playing rules with a few exceptions.
 - b. No Kickoffs, each possession will start from the 25-yard line.
 - c. GOD-YFL does NOT have a must play rule.
 - d. A coin flip called by the visiting team will be used to determine who gets the ball first.

- e. There will be four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
 - f. There will be a two (2)-minute break between quarters.
- 3. Field Length and Possession:
 - a. Games will be played on a one hundred (100)-yard field in length and 53.3 yards in width.
 - b. Play will start on the twenty-five (25)-yard line.
- 4. Penalties, Referees, and Chain Gang:
 - a. Referees will be used and provided by the home team for games (at least four (4) CIF Officials).
 - b. The home team will provide three (3) people to run the chains and marker, on the home team side.
 - c. Penalties will be assessed during all games.
 - d. A warning is expected to be given for non-dangerous penalties (offsides, illegal rushing, holding) as much as possible, but not required.)
 - e. Coaches must accept the decisions of the game official on the field as being fair and the best of said official's ability.
 - f. Remember regular season is an instructional time for teaching football; we want the kids to play, learn, and have fun. Remember regardless of the scoring outcome all teams are winners.
- 5. Coaches on the Field:
 - a. No Coaches will be allowed on the field while play is in progress.
 - b. One coach per team will be allowed on the field prior to the snap. A delay of game penalty will be called if this rule is violated.
 - c. Only the HEAD COACH will be allowed to discuss issues with the REFEREES during game time.
- 6. Game Clock:
 - a. Clock will stop for an injury.
 - b. There will be three (3)-time outs per half.
 - c. There will be a ten (10)-minute half time.
 - d. The game clock will be kept by the referee if no scoreboard is available.
- 7. Scoring and Special Teams:

- a. There will only be punting for special teams playing during regular and post season play.
 - b. On 4th down, the offensive team may declare a punt. No snap or live play will occur. Upon declaration, the ball will be advanced 25 yards from the line of scrimmage and possession will be awarded to the opposing team at that spot.
 - c. Scoring values will be used in post season, play offs and championship games.
 - d. Touchdown six (6) points.
 - e. Point after touchdown from the three (3) yards line (run or pass) one (1) point.
 - f. Point after touchdown from the five (5)-yard line (run or pass) two (2) points.
8. Defensive Line:
- a. "X" man is required to start lined up head up or inside the tackles and required to start in a minimum 3 point stance.
 - b. No defensive linemen over the center.
 - c. All defensive down linemen cannot line up in the A-Gap. Line backer must be three (3)yards off the line of scrimmage, if blitzing the A-Gap.
9. Offensive Formations and rules:
- a. "X" man is required to lineup in a 3 point stance tackle to tackle.
 - b. Any offensive formation may be used that adheres to CIF rules.
 - c. All teams participating in the peewee Division will adhere to no chop block technique or crab crawl or any variation where a block is below the knees.

Section 16 – Social Media Policy

- a. GOD-YFL *and Cheer understands social media networks are a way of life today. However, GOD-YFL WILL NOT* condone negative comments or actions aimed towards our organization/our affiliates/players/coaches/officials/parents or volunteers on ANY social media network or site (example: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)

- b. GOD-YFL prides itself in teaching young athletes the proper way of playing the game and making their experience in GOD-YFL as memorable as possible.
- c. The following rules will be implemented and enforced.
- d. DISCIPLINARY:
 - i. 1st offense- Warning (Notated in writing.)
 - ii. 2nd offense-1-game Suspension, and further action if deemed necessary by the GOD-YFL Board.
 - iii. 3rd offense- 1- Season Suspension minimum with possible Expulsion if deemed necessary by the GOD-YFL Board.
 - iv. ** GOD-YFL reserves the right to skip disciplinary steps when a violation occurs**
 - v. NOTE that the GOD-YFL Board Members has final say on all disciplinary issues with the Parents, Coaches and Players.

Section 17 – Insurance

- a. The GOD-YFL shall provide approved accident, excess medical and liability with the following minimum limits as league insurance:
 - i. \$100,000 Medical
 - ii. \$5,000,000 General Liability
 - iii. \$1,000,000 Sexual Abuse/Molestation Liability
 - iv. Excess Liability Directors and Officers Coverage
- b. All liability waivers shall be kept on file for 3 (three) years.
- c. The GOD-YFL will name team sites as additional insured per request.

Section 18 – Home Team Responsibility

- a. The home team shall be responsible for:
 - i. Field conditions
 - ii. Marking and lining of field.
 - iii. Yard & Down markers.
 - iv. Drinking water for all participants including dispensing containers and ice.
 - v. Payment of game officials during half-time, in final game of the day.
- b. The home team shall retain all gate and concessions receipts.

Section 19 - Gate Fees & Entry

- a. All teams in the GOD-YFL shall follow the league set standard when hosting a GOD-YFL sponsored home game; Shall charge admission as follows;
 - i. Adults 18 and over \$8.00
 - ii. K-12th, Seniors and Veterans \$5.00
 - iii. Children 4 and under FREE
- b. Shall provide and host a snack bar/vendor.
- c. No outside food or drinks shall be allowed at GOD-YFL games except 1 coffee drink per person before 10am.
- d. Team snacks and drinks shall be allowed but must be brought in by the Team Rep.
 - i. Snack are defined as a Package of Snack 4 ounces and under.
 - ii. Drink is defined as anything under 12OZ and preferably healthy.
 - iii. Fruit is allowed for participants ONLY.
- e. ALL OVERSIZED BAGS AND DIAPER BAGS ARE SUBJECT TO GET CHECKED.
- f. Trash left behind by Visiting Teams' sideline will be subject to \$200.00 fine and discipline from the GOD-YFL.
 - i. Photos/videos are to be taken and emailed with attached complaints within 24 hours of game day.
- g. ALL trash must be removed, by the users, from the area.

Section 20 – Scheduling

- a. The Executive Board Shall have the responsibility for establishing and implementing a live lottery schedule for the current post-season schedule. This process will be held during a Board meeting no later than in May of current season.

Season Format

- 1. The GOD YFL regular season shall consist of 8 games per team. Each team will participate in 4 home games and 4 away games during the regular season.

Opponent Matchups

- 1. Each team will play 8 different opponents per season.
- 2. No team shall play the same opponent more than once during the same regular season.

Home and Away Balance

- a. Home and away games must alternate week to week whenever possible (e.g., Home, Away, Home, Away).
- b. If perfect alternation is not feasible due to venue or scheduling constraints, a team may have no more than two consecutive home or away games.

Scheduling Process

- a. The official schedule shall be generated using an automated logic system or scheduling tool (e.g., ChatGPT or other approved scheduling software).
- b. The following logic must be strictly adhered to:
 - i. No duplicate matchups
 - ii. 4 home / 4 away balance
 - iii. Alternating home/away sequence whenever possible. (After year one (1)).

Transparency and Finalization

- a. A total of one draft schedule will be simulated and presented live to the board.
 - i. This schedule is final for the current season and will not be subject to further changes.
 - ii. If home team is unable to host for any reason, the hosting opportunity will be granted to the away team.
 - 1. Game(s) shall only be subject to replacement or rescheduling in the event that a member team formally withdraws from the league during the current season, and such changes must be approved by a majority vote of the board members.
- b. All game start times shall be at 9/11/1 unless Home Team submits the time change prior to the starting of the scheduling of the season OR if scheduling MUST be changed because school home field unavailable and is out of the control of the home team.
- c. Game times starting at 3/5/7 will be subject to availability of officials.
- d. Team Playing the GOD-YFL will be asked to reserve GOD-YFL events but will bear no financial burden for these events (i.e. Carnival, Playoffs, championship game)

Section 21 – *Postponements and Cancellations*

- a. In inclement weather or poor air quality, the home team shall decide no later than twenty-four (24) prior to kickoff time of the first game whether a scheduled game shall be postponed.
- b. The visiting team must be notified at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
- c. The game officials must be notified at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance, if a game is to be postponed.
- d. All league games will follow R.O.A.R. air quality index. A game will be rescheduled or cancelled when R.O.A.R. reaches level 5 OR a standalone AQI of 140 or greater at the home game site.
- e. In the event of illness involving several players or other emergencies, resulting in team's inability to field a full roster of 11 or more players, a team may petition the GOD-YFL.
- f. Postponed games will be rescheduled by the GOD-YFL, when practical.
- g. Games called by the presiding **Officials** at half time or any time thereafter due to inclement weather or other valid reasons shall constitute a full GOD-YFL game. The team with the highest score at that time shall be declared the winner of the game.
- h. Games called by the presiding **Officials** prior to halftime do not constitute a full GOD-YFL game and must be replayed as a new game. All scores and time from the previous game is considered void.

Section 22 – Participants' Required Equipment

- a. The following playing uniform and equipment is required for each player at all games:
 - i. NOCSAE approved helmet. Certified accordingly to manufacturer's recommendation.
 - ii. Jersey with numbers on the front and back.
 - iii. Football pants with (2) thigh, (2) knee, (1) tail and (2) hip pads.
 - iv. Shoulder pads.
 - v. **Football cleats** with or without molded rubber cleats or cross bars.
 - vi. All players must wear mouthpieces.
 - vii. Socks shall be worn by all players.
 - viii. Player numbers do not have to coincide with the position being played.
 - ix. Duplicate numbers are not allowed on a single team.
 - x. Eyeglasses, when worn, shall be of athletically approved construction with Non shattering glass (safety glass) or contact lens, clear in color.

- xi. Shields must be clear and not tinted in any way.
- xii. Shields must be properly attached to the helmet.
- xiii. A physician's note to wear the shield is not required.

Section 23 – *Conflict of interest policy*

- a. Disclosure
 - i. All Board members must disclose any potential conflicts of interest in writing prior to voting on matters in which they may have a personal or financial interest.
- b. Recusal
 - i. Board members with a disclosed conflict of interest shall abstain from both discussion and voting on the relevant matter.
- c. Documentation
 - i. All disclosures and recusal decisions shall be documented in the meeting minutes for transparency.

Section 24 – *Dissolution*

- a. In the event of dissolution, after payment of all liabilities, any remaining assets shall be distributed exclusively to one or more 501(c)(3) organizations dedicated to youth programs in a field other than youth football (i.e., not to another football league, youth football organization, or any nonprofit whose primary purpose is to promote youth football or similar competitive football activities), in accordance with IRS regulations.
- b. The Board shall determine the appropriate recipients of the assets in a manner consistent with the organization's charitable purposes and ensuring that the recipients do not compete in the same line of business as GOD-YFL.

Section 25- *Information Access Confidentiality*

- a. Transparency and Public Information
 - i. GOD-YFL is committed to transparency. Summaries of Board meetings, general financial summaries, and other non-sensitive organizational documents shall be made available to all Board members and, where applicable, to external stakeholders in compliance with applicable laws and privacy standards.
- b. Confidential Information
 - i. The following information is deemed confidential:

1. Detailed financial records and reports;
2. Internal email communications and other electronic records;
(c) Personnel matters and internal disciplinary actions.
3. Access to confidential information shall be limited to authorized personnel only.

c. League Email Access

- i. Authorized Access: Access to the League's email system shall be restricted to Board members, designated staff, and other individuals expressly authorized by the Board.
- ii. Usage Guidelines:
 1. All users must comply with established communication protocols. Confidential information must not be disseminated outside the authorized group.
- iii. Monitoring:
 1. The League reserves the right to periodically review email communications to ensure compliance with these policies, in accordance with applicable laws and privacy guidelines.

d. Financial Information Access

- i. 1 Restricted Access:
 1. Detailed financial records shall be available to all Board Members, any eligible President (i.e., the head of an organization that has maintained continuous membership in GOD-YFL, and designated financial personnel, unless otherwise directed by the Board.
 2. Financial Reporting: Summary financial information, including annual budgets and quarterly financial reports, shall be disseminated to all Board members and eligible presidents.
 3. Document Security: All financial records, whether in paper or electronic form, must be securely stored. Paper documents shall be maintained in a locked, access-controlled environment, and electronic documents must be protected via encryption and restricted user permissions.

e. Document Control and Auditing

- i. Record Retention:
 1. All official documents—including emails, financial records, and meeting minutes—shall be retained in a secure, centralized repository managed by the Secretary.
 2. Periodic Audits:

- a. The League shall conduct periodic audits of its financial records by establishing an internal audit committee. This committee shall consist of at least two Board members who are not directly responsible for day-to-day financial management and may include a volunteer accountant or financial professional from the community. The internal audit committee shall review the organization's financial statements, bank reconciliations, and supporting documentation at least annually and report its findings to the full Board Members.
- b. Incident Reporting:
 - i. Any breach of confidentiality or unauthorized access must be reported immediately to the Board for investigation and remedial action.

Section 26-Amendments

- a. This Operating Agreement may be amended by a majority vote of the Board Members.
- b. Any proposed amendment shall be subject to a minimum review period of thirty (30) days prior to the vote, to allow for adequate discussion and revision.

Section 30-New Team Entry Requirements

1. Eligibility Requirements:

- i. Any organization seeking entry into GOD-YFL must meet the criteria outlined below and complete the formal application process. Acceptance is subject to review and approval by the majority vote of the existing Board Members.
- ii. The applying organization must field a minimum of three (3) football teams—Peewee, Junior, and Senior divisions—for its season participation. *Cheer programs are optional and not required for league admission.*
- iii. The organization must be a registered nonprofit entity and operate under a formal structure with clearly designated leadership roles, including; a President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- iv. Each organization must provide documentation confirming access to appropriate practice and game fields, including any required permits, facility agreements, or written approvals with school districts, municipalities, or private entities. Organizations currently participating in the league shall retain priority use of practice and game facilities that they have historically utilized during the previous two seasons, provided they maintain valid agreements or permits for those facilities. New organizations entering the league must secure their own practice and game facilities and may not seek to displace, challenge, or interfere with facilities that are currently being used by existing member organizations. In the event of a facility dispute, the league board shall review the documentation provided by all parties and will recognize the priority rights of the incumbent organization that has maintained documented use of the facility during the prior two seasons.
- v. Any organization seeking entry into the league must demonstrate that it has established a viable player base prior to the start of the season. New incoming organizations must have a minimum of sixteen (16) registered players per division (Peewee, Junior, and Senior) no later than May 15 of the upcoming season. Verification of player registration must be provided to the league and may include documentation such as payment records, registration platform reports, or other verifiable proof that legitimate player registrations have taken place. Organizations that fail to meet the minimum registration requirement by May 15 may have their acceptance into the league denied. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that all participating organizations are capable of fielding competitive and sustainable teams for the upcoming season.
- vi. Organizations must provide documentation showing proof of equipment ownership or proof of purchase for equipment equal to at least one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the number of players registered on their rosters at the time of application to the league. Acceptable documentation may include equipment inventories, purchase receipts, vendor invoices, or other verifiable records confirming the equipment has been secured. At a minimum, the required equipment must include:
- Certified Youth Helmets
 - Shoulder pads

- Practice pants
- If an organization intends to use previously owned or used equipment, the league board reserves the right to physically inspect the equipment to verify that it is present, properly maintained, and safe for player use. Documentation verifying equipment readiness must be submitted to the league no later than May 30 of the upcoming season. Game uniforms are not required to be included in this documentation, as uniforms are typically ordered later in the process once player sizing has been finalized. This requirement is intended to ensure that all participating organizations are properly equipped to safely begin practices and operate their program without delays. Failure to provide documentation verifying equipment readiness may result in the organization's entry into the league being delayed or revoked at the discretion of the league board.
- i. All organizations seeking membership in GOD-YFL must submit an application fee of \$2,500 at the time of their official application to the league. This payment will be held by the league while the applying organization completes the league's entry requirements, including but not limited to player registration minimums, field access documentation, and equipment readiness. If the applying organization fails to meet the league's entry requirements, the \$2,500 application fee will be fully refunded no later than June 15 of the applicable season. If the organization successfully meets all entry requirements and is accepted into the league, the \$2,500 payment will automatically be applied as the organization's official league entry fee.
 1. Of the total amount, \$500 may be returned at the conclusion of each of the first two (2) seasons in which the organization remains in good standing, as determined by a majority vote of the Board.
 2. Payments returned to eligible organizations shall be made during the final board meeting of each respective year.
 3. In addition to the entry fee, all accepted organizations will be responsible for the standard annual league fee of \$500 per football team. *Cheer program fees do not apply if cheer is not offered.*

- ii. The applying team must sign a statement acknowledging that it will comply with all GOD-YFL bylaws, operational policies, and codes of conduct.
- iii. New organizations shall not be permitted to enter the league with “grandfathered” players from outside their designated area. All player eligibility must comply with GOD-YFL residency and waiver policies. Any exceptions must be approved through the official league waiver process and are subject to review and vote by the Board.

b. Application Process:

- i. Submit a formal application to the GOD-YFL Secretary.
- ii. Include all required documentation: team structure, field access agreements, and the application fee.
- iii. Submit legal documentation supporting non-profit status, including but not limited to: Articles of Incorporation, IRS EIN confirmation letter, and organizational bylaws.
- iv. Attend a scheduled Board Meeting to present the organization and respond to questions that were predetermined and approved by a majority vote by the board.
- v. Await a formal vote and written notification of approval, denial, or deferral.

Section 31 – Profit Sharing

- a. GOD-YFL embodies the principle that collective effort leads to greater achievements. The league's operational framework is built on a profit-sharing model designed to incentivize collaboration among its member organizations. Each member organization that meets its commitments—specifically through fulfilling volunteer roles and engaging actively in league-sanctioned events—will be entitled to an equitable distribution of the net proceeds derived from each qualifying event. This approach not only promotes a sense of community and shared purpose but also underscores the importance of mutual accountability in driving the league's overall success. By aligning the interests of all members through this profit-sharing mechanism, GOD-YFL fosters an environment where collaboration is paramount, ensuring that every member organization contributes to and benefits from the league's achievements.
- b. Eligibility Requirements:

- i. Presidents/Vice-Presidents are to fulfill all assigned volunteer requirements for the events, it is essential to actively engage in every aspect of the sanctioned event. This includes attending all scheduled meetings, completing any necessary training sessions, and being present during the event itself.
 - ii. Presidents/Vice-Presidents are responsible for their volunteers to be prepared to assist in various tasks as needed, such as setting up the venue, book check compliance, providing support to participants, and ensuring that all event protocols are followed. Effective communication with event coordinators and fellow volunteers is crucial to ensure a smooth operation. Additionally, volunteers should be aware of their specific roles and responsibilities and be ready to adapt to any changes that may arise during the event. By fully participating in these required aspects, volunteers contribute significantly to the success of the event and enhance the overall experience for all involved.
 - iii. Presidents/Vice-Presidents are to maintain a 16 man roster throughout regular season.
 - iv. Team attendance at all GOD-YFL events are mandatory for every team in the league.
- c. Forfeiture and Redistribution:
 - i. Partial distributions will not be granted. This policy ensures that all eligible organizations receive an equitable share of resources.
 - ii. In the event that any share is forfeited, it shall be evenly redistributed among the remaining eligible organizations. This approach promotes fairness and maintains the integrity of the distribution process, ensuring that all participating organizations are treated equally and that no single entity is unduly advantaged or disadvantaged due to forfeitures. The redistribution mechanism is designed to uphold the principles of equity and transparency, fostering a collaborative environment among the organizations involved.
- d. Distribution and Oversight:
 - i. Profit shares will be calculated based on the net revenue generated from each GOD-YFL sanctioned event. This calculation will occur after all financial transactions related to the event have been reconciled, ensuring that all expenses are accounted for and that the financial standing is clear. The Treasurer is responsible for compiling a detailed summary report that outlines the financial performance of

the event, including total revenue, expenses, and the resulting profit. This report will be presented to the Board for review within 2 (two) weeks. The Board will then discuss the findings and must reach a majority consensus to approve the distribution of profit shares. Only after receiving this approval will the Treasurer proceed with the disbursement of the calculated profit shares to the Board Members in good standings, within 45 (forty-five) days. This process ensures transparency and accountability in the financial management of the organization, fostering trust among all parties involved.

Section 32 – Background Check Policy

- a. The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized and thorough screening process for all individuals who serve in any capacity involving direct or potential contact with youth participants. The goal is to ensure the safety, integrity, and trustworthiness of all representatives of the organization.
 - i. Individuals Subject to Background Checks
 1. Background checks are required for all individuals with direct, ongoing, or unsupervised contact with youth participants, including but not limited to:
 - a. Board Members
 - b. Officers
 - c. Coaches & Assistant Coaches
 - d. Any person with GOD-YFL badge
 - ii. Frequency of Background Checks
 1. Background checks must be renewed annually before the start of each new season.
 - iii. Scope of Background Check
 1. Identity verification
 2. National, state, and local criminal history search
 3. National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) search
 4. Child abuse registry check (where available)
 - iv. Automatic Disqualifications
 1. Individuals will be disqualified from participation for any of the following:
 - a. Conviction requiring registration on any state or federal sex offender registry

- b. Convictions involving crimes against children (abuse, neglect, exploitation)
- c. Felony convictions involving violence (e.g., assault, domestic violence, homicide) in the last 7 years.
- d. Felony drug trafficking or manufacturing convictions in the last 7 years.
- e. GOD-YFL Definition of Felony:
 - i. Felony-level crimes that were “plead down” or conviction of lesser level crimes due to acceptance of a plea bargain.
 - ii. Convictions for lesser level crimes that have been expunged from a record by successful completion of terms of probation.

v. Discretionary Disqualifications

1. The following offenses may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis:

- a. Repeated offenses or patterns of criminal behavior.
- b. Misdemeanors involving violence, weapons, or endangerment.
- c. Drug possession misdemeanors within the past five years.
- d. Theft or fraud offenses within the past five years.
- e. Any conviction raising concerns about the individual’s character or ability to safely work with youth.

vi. Under review/” Pre-Adverse Action” Period (Appeal Process)

1. Applicants are placed under review and into a pre-adverse action period if the background check comes back as a “review” status.
 - a. If the background check reveals any Criminal History or Other Incidents, GOD-YFL will be unable to offer a coaching position. Applicants will be informed in writing within 15 calendar days of receipt of the background check results. An applicant has 15 days to dispute the findings via written correspondence to the email.
 - b. All documentation supporting an applicant's position must be submitted directly to the GOD-YFL via email: support@godyfl.com) prior to the application deadline

listed above. All appeals are subject to final review and approval by the GOD-YFL Board.

vii. Denial of Coaching, Board Member and Volunteers Eligibility and Procedure:

1. Upon receipt of information that indicates that an applicant will be denied eligibility, an email notification will be sent to the applicant. If the applicant does not provide adequate legal documentation to dispute findings in the background screen the following steps will be taken:
 - a. The information will be deemed true and accurate.
 - b. The applicant will receive an email notification that their attempt to become a coach/member in GOD-YFL has been denied.
 - c. The corresponding GOD-YFL team will be sent a notification that the coaching applicant has not met the eligibility standards for participating as a coach/member for GOD-YFL or its affiliates.

viii. Confidentiality

1. All background check results shall be treated as confidential.
2. Access to results is limited to Executive Board Members.
3. Records shall be securely stored in accordance with privacy laws.

ix. Compliance with State Law

1. This policy shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws. In jurisdictions with additional requirements and mandated reporter training as required.

x. Required Training

- xi. All individuals who pass a background check and serve in a youth-facing role must complete an annual child abuse prevention and mandated reporter training course at Coaches' clinic.

Last revised 6/2/26