

BREVARD COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL

AND CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION

TACKLE FOOTBALL

RULES & REGULATIONS

2009

BREVARD COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

ASSOCIATION TACKLE RULES & REGULATIONS

1. TEAMS

- 1.1 Teams are divided into divisions according to the list below. The age of the player for the season is the age of that player on August 1st of that season. A member club must have a Bantam team before it has two Pee Wee Teams.

DIVISION	MAXIMUM AGE	MAXIMUM WEIGHT
FLAG	7	N/A
FLAG PLAYDOWN	N/A	N/A
ROOKIE	8	100
ROOKIE PLAYDOWN	N/A	N/A
MIGHTY-MITE	9	105
MIGHTY-MITE PLAYDOWN	10	85
PEE-WEE	10	115
PEE-WEE PLAYDOWN	11	95
BANTAM	11	130
BANTAM PLAYDOWN	12	110
JUNIOR	12	155
JUNIOR PLAYDOWN	13	Max for skilled position
SENIOR	14	175
SENIOR PLAYDOWN	15*	Max for skilled position

*Senior player must not turn 16 on or before December 1st.

- 1.2 To be qualified for league play a team must start the season with a minimum of 18 players unless approved by the BOD on an individual team basis. Additional players may be added to the official roster to maintain a 24 man official roster in accordance with By-Law #16 (Registration).
- 1.3 A team must have 14 players present at weigh in **1/2** hour before the scheduled game time unless opposing Club and League officials have been notified 24 hours before game time. If circumstances warrant, the game may be postponed or rescheduled. It is the responsibility of the home club member president to contact the BCYFCA President.
- 1.4 Players may not play or have been placed on the roster for any other organized tackle team during the playing season. Once the BCYFCA regular season begins, the player must not be on an official roster for any other organized football team. If so, he or she is disqualified from BCYFCA for the remainder of the season and any BCYFCA games that he or she might have appeared on the official roster will cause their team to forfeit these

games.

- 1.5 No BCYFCA team may participate in games with any other organizations that are not members of the BCYFCA during the League season, unless approved by the BOD. The BOD must approve games outside of the official schedule, such as bowl games, before the completion of the BCYFCA Super Bowl Games.
- 1.6 The maximum numbers of teams allowed, per Member Organization, in Tackle Football shall be seven (7). Additional teams will require the approval of the majority of the BCYFCA Board of Directors.

2. PLAY RULE

- 2.1 Each individual BCYFCA member club shall have a play rule for the regular season. It shall be written and enforced within the individual member club with these minimum guidelines:
 - 2.1.1. Each player shall play a minimum of 4 plays per game. Participation on special team plays count toward the minimum play rule with the exception of PAT kick and field goal tries in the Rookie and Mighty Mite Divisions where there is no rush.
 - 2.1.2 If a player does not play a minimum of 4 plays during a game, he/she shall play a minimum of 8 plays the next scheduled game.
 - 2.1.3 Disciplinary action of a player may supersede the play rule and will be at the discretion of the coach and individual member club president. However, the parent/guardian must be notified prior to the game when such disciplinary action is occurs.
 - 2.1.4 Any attempt to circumvent the play rule will be handled by the BCYFCA President and Executive Board. Violation of the minimum play rule a second time for the same player will result in the suspension of the Head Coach.
 - 2.1.5 The minimum play rule does not apply in Playoff or Super Bowl games, although member clubs may adopt a minimum play rule to include playoffs or Super Bowl.

3. WEIGH-INS

- 3.1 **All children will be weighed in and identified heavyweights will be marked at Jamboree given a 5-pound option for Jamboree only.** All tackle football players shall weigh in at least 1/2 hour before their scheduled game time. **A player not making weight during weigh-in have option to be marked as unlimited weight, move up a division, or get card punched and not play.** There are no early weigh-ins for any players. NO exceptions. A player not making weight during weigh-ins will have his ID card marked accordingly.
- 3.2 An official roster and laminated ID cards must be used at weigh-ins. Both must be typed except for children that are added after roster verification who may be written in.
- 3.3 One pound will be given across the board at every field for scale for both home team and away team.

3.4 One pound will be given every week, to include off weeks, following the 1st game of the season.

3.5 Unlimited player are defined as players that have not made their respected age groups weight limit. See Added Section 22 for Unlimited player rules.

4. ID CARDS

4.1 Each tackle football player, cheerleader, and flag player are required to have a laminated identification card with a recent picture to be certified by his or her BCYFCA Member Club Tackle Agent or President. Certification is to be given only after age verification by an original birth certificate issued by a governmental agency or religious organization. A copy of the certification is to be maintained by the member club Player Agent. The laminated ID card is to be kept by the player's head coach along with a copy of the official roster for use at weigh-ins. All ID cards must be completed and certified. All ID card information must match the official roster. Any incorrect information such as wrong jersey numbers or wrong player's picture will be grounds for player ineligibility. Any tampering with cards in any attempt to circumvent the spirit of this rule shall result in immediate suspension of the coach and forfeiture of the game or games involved.

4.2 The ID cards for players who do not make weight will have the option to be marked as unlimited weight player or will have their ID cards punched for that week and not play. The member organizations are to report all instances of players whose cards have been punched to the BCYFCA President. A list of players who have not made weight or shown up for a ball game will be distributed by fax or email within 48 hours; then distributed to all league presidents and player agents weekly. Heavies are designated by rooster verification the only exception is new signups.

4.3 Player ID cards are to be presented in the same order as the official roster lineup. (Play downs first in ascending uniform number order, remaining players in ascending number order). Each card shall be separately laminated and presented.

4.4 Each tackle football team shall be required to have a laminated identification card with photograph for each and every coach, trainer or parent assistant with a maximum of 8 per team. The laminated photo identification cards shall be present at all times on the sideline during the tackle team's contest. Failure to have a laminated photo identification card while on the sideline is grounds for immediate removal from the coaching box and/or sideline. Elected league officials, chain gang and press personnel are excluded from this rule.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP

5.1 The winner of each division shall be considered the BCYFCA County Champion for that division.

5.2 The winner of a division shall be the team with the best win/lost percentage(games won divided by games played) in a regular season games, as scheduled by BCYFCA. Games that have been forfeited shall be counted with equal weight in the calculation of the win/lost percentage as if the game had been played. Games that have been cancelled by the

BCYFCA shall be counted in the calculation of the win/lost percentage as if they had never been scheduled.

- 5.3 If, at the end of the regular season, two teams within a division are tied for the county championship, then the team with the best win/lost percentage in regular season games between the tied teams shall be the County Champion. If the two teams have identical head to head win/lost percentages or did not play in the regular season, the winner of a Championship game of regulation length played between the two tied teams shall be the County Champion.
- 5.4 If, at the end of the regular season, 3 or more teams are tied for the county championship, then the tied team that has defeated all of the other tied teams during the regular season shall be the County Champion. (Note head to head records will not be considered unless a tied team has defeated all of the other tied teams, then the winner of a half game, single elimination playoff among the tied teams shall be the County Champion). Seeding in this tie breaking playoff will be determined randomly (e.g., by lot) in the presence of representatives of the leagues that are tied and the BCYFCA.
- 5.5 All tie breaking games shall be played at locations and times determined by the BCYFCA Executive Board.
- 5.6 The County Champions will receive \$125.00 plus a County Championship Trophy. The Superbowl Champions will receive \$125.00 plus a Superbowl Championship Trophy.

6. PLAY-OFFS

- 6.1 A maximum of **eight (8)** teams will qualify for the playoffs from each tackle division, being determined by the eight teams with the best regular season record. The team with the best record being the one (1) seed continuing through to the **eighth (8)** seed.
- 6.2 The playoff system will be set as follows:

First round playoff games will be hosted by three (3) member organizations from the South Area, and three (3) member organizations from the North Area. Each year the upper and lower divisions will rotate North to South and South to North.

First Round:

1st Seed plays 8th Seed, 2nd Seed plays 7th Seed, 3rd Seed plays 6th Seed; 4th Seed plays 5th Seed.

Second Round:

Seed 1 plays the lowest Seed.

Seed 2 plays the other team

Winners from the Second Round games advance to the Super Bowl.

- 6.3 The second round playoff games will be hosted by the higher seeded team in each round.
- 6.4 If for any reason the home team is unable to accommodate games for reason (such as lack of referees, time, field availability, etc.) the BCYFCA Board of Directors reserves the right to adjust the sites.

7. RULES

- 7.1 Unless otherwise specified in these rules, game rules shall be in accordance with Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Rules. There will be no protest of an official's ruling.
- 7.2 All proposed rule changes will be voted on by the BCYFCA Board of Directors. Proposed changes to rules are to be circulated by the Secretary to all BCYFCA member clubs, via their Board of Directors member, two weeks prior to the BOD meeting, at which the proposed rule changes is/are to be made.
- 7.3 When the ball is snapped 5 or more yards the defense cannot engage the center until he can protect himself.

8. FACILITIES

- 8.1 Each member club shall provide a safe, suitable playing field. Fields will be 40 yards wide by 100 yards long, consisting of an 80-yard playing field and two 10 yard end zones. Each field will have two goal posts, one at each end zone, a working scoreboard with a clock and lights for night games. Each field shall be appropriately marked in white lines including hash marks.
- 8.2 Each field shall have a coach's box from the 25-yard line to the 25-yard line and two yards back.

9. FOOTBALL SIZE

- 9.1 Official Ball sizes are: Pee Wee; Junior- 9 1/2" X 8 3/4"; Youth—11" X 6 1/2"
- 9.2 The Rookie, Mighty Mite, and Pee Wee teams have the option of using the Pee Wee or larger size football. Bantam and Junior teams have the option of using the junior or larger size football. Senior teams have the option of using the Youth or larger size football
- 9.3 All balls must be leather or composite balls only. No rubber balls are allowed.

10. SCORING

- 10.1 A touchdown is six points. The try for an extra point if completed shall be one point for run or pass. Two points are awarded for successful kick after a touchdown. A field goal is three points.

11. KICK-OFF

- 11.1 Pee Wee through Senior kick-off will be from the 30-yard line unless penalties have been assessed.
- 11.2 Touchbacks will result in the ball being placed on the offensive team 15 yard line
- 11.3 Safeties will result in the kicking team kicking from their own 15-yard line.
- 11.4 The offense shall have 30 seconds to commence play. Rookie and Mighty Mite 22.1
- 11.5 Free kick shall not be kicked out of bounds.

A –C see high school Rules

12. TIES

- 12.1 All ties at the end of regulation play will be decided by “Kansas City Tie Breaker”. Team Captains will flip a coin to see who gets the ball first, the ball will be placed on the ten-(10) yard line, each team will have four (4) downs to score.

13. COACHES

- 13.1 Coaching areas are restricted to between the twenty-five yard lines.
- 13.2 Only persons with laminated photo identification cards are permitted on the sidelines between the 25-yard lines. Enforcement of the sideline limitation shall be as follows:
 - a. At any point during a contest, the game officials, league official(s) or opposing head coach may call for an official time out if more than eight (8) authorized adults are in the side line box. The game official shall request presentation of the eight (8) laminated photo ID cards. Unauthorized persons will have one (1) minute to leave the box. If a side line violation (unauthorized persons on side line) occurs, the official shall impose a 5 yard delay of game penalty.
 - b. If unauthorized persons do not leave within the one minute period, the official shall give the team an additional one minute warning period and impose an additional 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
 - c. Failure of all unauthorized persons to leave the sideline box after both one-minute warnings will result in the immediate forfeiture of the contest.
- 13.3 All coaches will be on a volunteer (unpaid) basis. No one coaching a team etc. in the BCYFCA will be compensated in any monetary way.
- 13.4 All head coaches will be given a copy of the BCYFCA Bylaws and Tackle Football Rules & Guidelines by their member club president. They will also be strongly advised to attend a BCYFCA coaches’ clinic.

14. PRACTICE

- 14.1 Pre-Season practices shall not begin before July 1st.

14.2 The first three days practice shall be for conditioning only. No helmets.

14.3 Practices shall be a maximum of eight (8) hours per week when school is in session.

14.4 Practices are closed. No coach, player, parent, team support or board member shall observe, film, videotape, photo or otherwise record the practice of an opposing league without opposing league expressed consent.

15. GAME TIMES

15.1 Game times during the week shall be at the discretion of the County President, with every consideration of age and travel time.

15.2 All tackle divisions shall play ten (10) minute quarters.

15.3 All tackle football half times are ten minutes.

16. SCALES

16.1 The Host Site shall provide a balance type medical scale for weigh-ins.

16.2 Every scale shall have a whole puncher attached to it and it shall be mandatory for it to be used at all weigh-ins.

17. UNIFORMS

17.1 It shall be the responsibility of the home team to arrange for acceptable contrasting uniforms.

18. POINT SPREAD

18.1 If a team is ahead by twenty-eight (28) points in the second half, the referee shall instruct the clock operator to use a running clock for the remainder of the game. Once started the running clock can only be stopped for injury of a player, the end of a period, or at the discretion of the referee. Losing team time out stops the clock.

18.2 Once the running clock has been started, the winning team cannot pass the ball. If the winning team fails to abide by this rule, each violation will be a loss of down.

18.3 Once the running clock has started, there will be no onside kicks at kickoff.

18.4 Once the running clock has started, the winning team defense cannot advance a turnover. The ball will be blown dead immediately and the winning team offense will takeover from this point.

18.5 An investigation will take place if a game ends with a score differential of 39 points or more. If it is determined that the Head Coach intentionally ran up the score, he will be

suspended for one game at the discretion of the BCYFCA Board.

19. COLORS

19.1 The BCYFCA BOD must approve uniform color changes.

20. EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

- 20.1 Equipment must be purchased from a certified manufacturer. Helmets must be re-certified no less than every three (3) years. Every helmet must have a stamp with the re-certification date on the inside earflap.
- 20.2 No plastic or rubberized clothing will be permitted for use by any athlete for the purpose of weight loss. Anyone suspected of using such techniques must be reported to the area tackle football agent who then must report his findings to either the County President or Vice-President for potential discipline by the Executive Board of BCYFCA. It is the responsibility of the league presidents to enforce this rule within their respective leagues.
- 20.3 Each league must submit documentation helmet certification by August 1st every year.

21. ROOKIE

- 21.1 The offense shall have **forty seconds** to commence play.
- 21.2 One offensive coach and one defensive coach may be on the field to provide field instructions until the offensive breaks the huddle. **After 4th week coaches are to come off the field.** Upon the break of the offensive huddle both the offensive and defensive coach must move twenty (20) yards from the line of scrimmage. Instruction stops when the huddle is broken. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a coaches warning, second offense the team will lose the coach from the field for the rest of the day. Only applies to one side of the ball, unless the other coach has committed the same infraction.
- 21.3 No instructional aids shall be allowed within the confines of the playing field, except during time-outs.
- 21.4 If the offense declares a free kick **(no longer applied to mighty mites)** (punt, extra point, or field goal) neither team may cross the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. There are no fake kicks. The kicking team is required to drop kick the ball on punts and place kick the ball on extra points or field goals. Ten (10) seconds are allowed between the snap of the ball and the kick.
- 21.5 The receiving team may advance the punted ball to the line of scrimmage from which the ball was punted. The ball remains in play while it is inbounds until it stops moving on it's own or the kicking team touches it without being touched by the receiving team. The ball becomes live when touched by the receiving team and if it is fumbled or muffed either team may recover it. The kicking team may not advance a recovered fumble or muff. Fair

catches are allowed. A kicked ball that fails to pass the line of scrimmage is dead where the ball hits the ground. The practice of advancing the ball twenty (20) yards in lieu of punting is not allowed in the tackle divisions.

21.6 Kick off for the Rookies will be from the forty (40) yard line.

22. Unlimited Weight Rules

22.1 Unlimited player rules are defined as players that have not made their respected age groups weight limit.

- a. Players will be marked with a yellow/green neon strip across the length of the helmet
- b. Players will only be allowed to play on offense and defense as defined below.

22.2 Unlimited players cannot be moved off the unlimited list once they are marked. Should be initiated by **H** and should be **a copy no originals**.

22.3 Unlimited player positions on offense:

- A. Left tackle
- B. Left guard
- C. Center
- D. Right Guard
- E. Right tackle

22.4 Unlimited player position on defense

- A. Any position on the line as long as they are between the outside to outside shoulders of the offensive tackles.
- B. Players must be in a 3 or 4 point stance. (No standing up in 2 point stance) This applies in areas, offense and defense.

22.5 Unlimited players can only play on the following special teams;

- A. Extra point and field goals. (Defensive players are allowed on these teams also)
- No unlimited players to be on kick-off, Kick return, punt or punt return. Line to Line, Tackle to tackle only.

22.6 Penalty for abusing the unlimited rules;

If players are caught outside any of the above aforementioned positions, a 10 yard Unsportsmanlike penalty will be called. If a player or another player continues to play Outside required position, the coach will be flagged for an unsportsmanlike penalty.

If it is a second offense for the same player he will be removed from the game. If a third Penalty is thrown, the head coach will be removed from the game.