

# ***ARKANSAS PREMIER YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE***

## **BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Amended by resolution of APYFL Members May 3, 2017 (Amendment added for Maumelle Jan 19, 2017)

### ***Article I – Name***

The name of this organization shall be Arkansas Premier Youth Football League (APYFL).

### ***Article II – Members***

The Members of the APYFL shall consist of one representative from each of the following schools having one vote each:

Greenbrier (Black Team & Blue Team)  
Vilonia (Gray Team & Red Team)  
Morrilton  
Maumelle  
Beebe

There shall be no more than ten Members (schools) of APYFL. Expansion is possible with league voted approval.

### ***Article III – Officers***

The Officers of the APYFL shall consist of:

- A. Commissioner
- B. Two Assistant Commissioners

### ***Article IV – Selection of Officers***

All Officers shall have a one-year term limit.

All Officers shall be nominated by secret ballot.

All Officers shall be voted on by secret ballot.

The Commissioner shall not be from the same school as the Assistant Commissioners.

The Assistant Commissioners shall not be from the same school as the Commissioner.

### ***Article V – Duties of Officers***

#### **Commissioner**

1. Commissioner is responsible for day-to-day operation of the APYFL.
2. Commissioner shall conduct the business meetings of the APYFL.
3. Commissioner shall maintain up to date financial records of the APYFL.
4. Commissioner shall ensure that Association Members and game officials adhere to the spirit of competition, rules of the game, and APYFL by-laws.

5. Commissioner shall keep the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the APYFL up to date.
6. Commissioner shall maintain game scheduling, member contact list, website, scores, league rosters and rankings.

#### **Assistant Commissioners**

1. Assistant Commissioners shall resume the duties of the Commissioner in the absence of the Commissioner.
2. Assistant Commissioners is responsible for day-to-day operation of the APYFL.
3. Assistant Commissioners shall ensure that Association Members and game officials adhere to the spirit of competition, rules of the game, and APYFL by-laws.

#### ***Article VI – Meetings***

Meetings shall be called as necessary to conduct business of the Association.

Officers or their assigned representatives are required to attend all meetings conducted by the Association.

#### ***Article VII – Dues/Financial***

APYFL dues shall be determined by APYFL Members and shall be paid annually by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Fees will be voted on by the members to cover costs of the league for each year.

APYFL shall provide up to \$500.00 to the Member hosting the Super Bowl in order to help with the cost of trophies which is to be provided to each grade participating. (3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>)

All teams shall participate in every game scheduled by APYFL. If a team does not participate, they must pay a penalty of \$250.00 to the **hosting** Member within 30 days from the date the game was scheduled. If the payment is not received within the allotted time, the Member will lose their membership in APYFL and will not be eligible to participate in the playoffs or Super Bowl.

Admission for each game is \$5.00 per adult and students are free.

~~Each member shall pay the designated fee to APYFL for the hiring of the Head Official services within 30 days from date requested. Members with two teams per grade shall pay double the set amount. The total yearly fee for the 2016 season is \$500 to be divided evenly by all of the teams in the league (i.e....\$500 split amongst 6 Members/8 teams would cost each member \$62.50 except for Vilonia and Greenbrier, they would each owe \$125).~~

All Coaches and their spouses will be allowed in all games without being charged providing they show proper passes when entering. Passes will be provided by APYFL. Directors will need to give a total head count to APYFL by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Costs for the passes will be paid for by the league dues.

#### ***Article VIII – Insurance***

Each Member of APYFL shall carry insurance for their school, with a minimum of \$100,000.00 medical and \$1,000,000.00 Director and Officer coverage.

Members are required to provide the League with proof of insurance by August 1<sup>st</sup> of every year.

## ***Article IX – By-Law Violations***

A Member of APYFL is considered in violation of League By-Laws if they do not pay the Head Official Dues within 30 days from date requested, League dues by May 1<sup>st</sup> or show proof of required insurance by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

First violation carries the possible penalty of being placed on probation for a minimum of one year. An emergency League meeting will be called to discuss the violation as well as the administered penalty.

Second violation carries the possibility of ejection from the League. An emergency League meeting will be called to discuss the violation as well as the administered penalty.

## ***Article X – Probation Regulations***

All new schools in the league shall be placed on probation for one year. At the end of the year probation, the Members of the League shall vote to extend probation for another year, add the new school as a Member or remove the new school from League.

A School or Member on probation shall not have any voting privileges, but can should attend all meeting and provide input on decisions.

A School or Member on probation shall not host any games outside of regular season.

A School or Member on probation shall be required to adhere to the League's By-Laws including membership dues.

A School or Member on probation shall be placed last in their division, shall play the first round of playoffs but shall not move forward after that game.

## ***Article XI – Player Eligibility***

Each Member shall try to have an equal number of teams in each grade. (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)

A player is not permitted to play down in a lower grade.

- ***Exception to this rule:*** *If there is a concern for the safety of a player, due to lack of size or another issue that could pose as a safety risk, the director may present case to the league for the player to play down.*

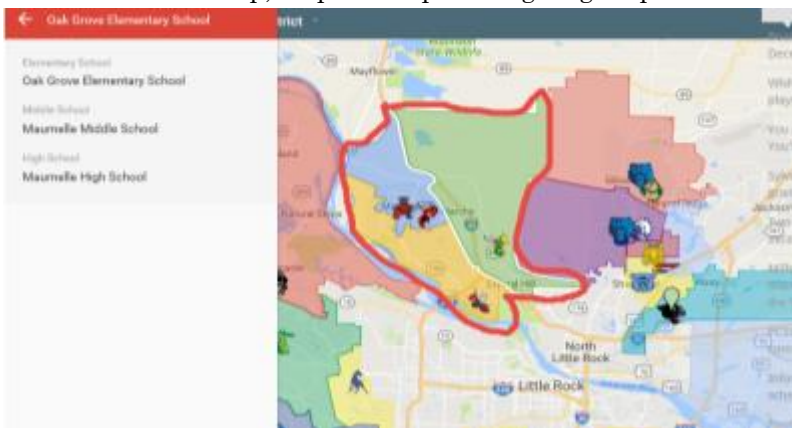
A player may not play up for another team once the season has started without the League Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner(s) and opposing school Director's approval. If they all do not agree to allow the player to play up, the player cannot play up.

Participants shall play for the Member that he/she is presently attending school at unless the Directors from each school and the League Commissioner agree to a transfer. If a participant lives within a school district that does not offer football, he/she may play for their school/town of choice.

***Player Eligibility Rule will be amended for Maumelle team's 3-6 grades beginning in the 2017 season.***

1. All players, which includes the 15 players agreed upon by the board on Jan. 16, 2017 (see attached player list) that were listed on a team's rosters for the 2016 season will be eligible to come back and play with that same team in 2017 regardless of the players address or school affiliation, as long as they meet the grade and age requirements set forth in the league by-laws. (This would be for all teams in the league not just Maumelle). All players, which includes the 15 players on list attached, that played in 2016 would be grandfathered in for the 2017 season as long as they were listed on the team's roster. This should help all Maumelle teams for the 2017 season.
2. If a new player is added to one of their teams moving forward in 2017 the player would be required to live in the area or attend an elementary school in the area set forth by the Pulaski County Special School District for Maumelle High School (Maumelle School Zone). All kids living in the area set forth for Maumelle High School (Maumelle School Zone), that meet the age and grade requirements set for the by the APYFL By-laws, regardless of the elementary school they attend, are eligible to play. If a player lives outside the area set forth for Maumelle High School (Maumelle School Zone) and does not attend an elementary school in the area set forth for Maumelle High School (Maumelle School Zone) he/she would not be eligible to play for a Maumelle team. Home School and Charter School Kids living or attending an elementary school within these boundaries would be allowed to play as long as they reside or attend an elementary school in the above mentioned area.

(See interactive map, <https://www.pcssd.org/blog/map>)



3. If a Maumelle team has less than 15 players signed up before the start of the season and needs to add a player to get to 15 players, each player added would have to be voted on and approved by the board of directors for the league.

A player shall be eligible to play in his grade if he/she meets the following age requirements during season:

**Season** - *defined in its entirety as from the first practice through to November 15<sup>th</sup>.*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade player must be under the age of 10 for the entire season
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade player must be under the age of 11 for the entire season
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade player must be under the age of 12 for the entire season
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade player must be under the age of 13 for the entire season

A player shall be ineligible to play if he/she turns 13 years old during season. Exception to this rule must be brought forth to the APYFL by the director of that school and must be voted on by league members. All votes for APYFL are majority rules. All votes are final.

A player that is above the grade/age limit requirement has the opportunity to play up a grade up to the age of 12 as long as the guidelines set forth are followed in above paragraphs 3 & 4 under Article XI-Player Eligibility.

Before any player repeats playing any grade except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, it must be brought to the board by that schools' director for approval of the league by a vote. League members will vote, majority rules. Commissioner will have the final vote in the event of a tie.

The Maximum weights of any player in the backfield are as follows:

- A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is 100.0 lbs
  - B. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is 110.0 lbs
  - C. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is 120.0 lbs
  - D. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade is 130.0 lbs
1. The offensive end may be above the weight limit but may only receive a pass provided the pass is thrown down field.
  2. No player over the weight limit shall carry the ball at any time unless it is caught on a forward pass thrown down field, is intercepted, is received on kick-off, or picks up a fumbled ball.
  3. All players playing in the backfield must be recognized by the opposing team 30 minutes prior to the start of their game.
  4. A list of all players that may be in the back field must be given to the opposing team 30 minutes prior to the start of their game. The list must contain the players name, jersey number and weight.
  5. Mandatory weigh in for all players playing in the backfield 30 mins prior to the scheduled game time. Late players arriving for game will weigh in at the half. Late players will not carry the football until weighed at the half. Weigh in must be on a concrete surface. Coaches have the option to not observe weigh ins. The weigh ins will be observed by the home venue director.
  6. Players are to be weighed in their t-shirt, football pants with pads and socks. (No helmet, shoulder pads, shoes or jersey are required)
  7. A 15-yard penalty for misconduct will be assigned to any team that plays a player who is not on the list of backs given to the opposing team before the game begins. In addition, the team will play the entire game but the penalty will result in a forfeit.

8. Player Rosters for each grade must be turned into the APYFL commissioner by the Jamboree of each season. Additional players that need to be added to the rosters following the Jamboree must be submitted to the League officers for approval. Rosters should include the following information: name, age, grade, jersey number and weight. Rosters will be shared with all teams.

### ***Article XII – Coaches Eligibility/ Regulations***

All coaches must read and sign the APYFL Code of Ethics.

It is the responsibility of the Members to collect and turn into the Commissioner all signed copies of the APYFL Code of Ethics for their coaches.

It is the responsibility of the Members to perform and keep record of a background checks on all coaches.

Only two coaches are allowed on the field during a game. The coaches shall retreat a minimum of 10 yards from the line of scrimmage or 1 yard deeper than the deepest player.

On field coach is not allowed to talk to any players once the line is set. Once the ball is snapped talking is allowed. A coach talking before the line is set will result as a warning for 1<sup>st</sup> offense. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will result in a 5-yard penalty shall be assigned for delay of game. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense will result in a 15-yard penalty and unsportsmanlike conduct. The unsportsmanlike conduct rule goes in effect at this time.

### ***Article XIII – Practice Policy***

No Member shall allow any team to practice in full pads before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

APYFL is not responsible for the governing of the Members practices and actions outside of the rules and regulations stated. All Members are solely responsible for the safety and welfare of each of its participants.

### ***Article XIV – Officials***

Each Member shall have four officials per game that are a part of the designated officials chosen by APYFL.

Each Member is responsible for the payment of each official.

### ***Article XV – Game Rules and Regulations***

Each team will be provided three time-outs per half that may not be carried over.

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade will have 30 seconds to run a play after the ball is “set for play”.  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have 35 seconds to run a play after the ball is “set for play”.

All tied games will be decided by the High School overtime rules with the exception that they may choose to go for one point or two points throughout all the overtime periods. Each team will be given the ball on the 10-yard line with a new set of downs.

The Sportsmanship Rule starts in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter after the opposing team has a lead of 24 points or more and will not stop for the remainder of the game unless a timeout is called.

After a team scores a touchdown, they have the following three options to attempt extra points:

Option 1: The ball will be placed on the 2.5-yard line; the scoring team may run an offensive play. The play may result in one point. The ball may not be kicked.

Option 2: The ball will be placed on the 5-yard line; the scoring team may run an offensive play. The play may result in two points. The ball may not be kicked.

Option 3: The ball will be kicked from the 10-yard line with a player holding the ball. The ball will be snapped. The line of scrimmage will be on the 2.5-yard line. The offensive and defensive line may not cross the line of scrimmage or make any contact with the opposing team during the play. The defense may vertically jump to block the kick but cannot jump forwards. The play starts when the kicker moves forward to kick the ball. No fakes are allowed. Penalties during the attempt will be administered as a live ball penalty and it may be declined or enforced during the kickoff. The play may result in one point.

Whenever a team chooses to punt, they must inform the officials. When the ball is punted, it shall be moved 30 yards down field from the previous spot. If the ball is within the 30-yard line, the ball shall be placed half the distance to the goal line from its previous spot. Actual punting of the ball is prohibited.

The games shall consist of four quarters.

- A. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will have 8 minute quarters
- B. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have 9 minute quarters

The official size ball for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade shall be equivalent to a 2000K football; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade shall be equivalent to a Wilson TDJ football.

The time clock shall be run by according to High School rules by an official. Each school shall have a time clock available for the coaches and fans to view. The clock shall run after the ball is “set for play”.

No team shall have more than 30 players.

Minimal team size is 15 players.

### ***Article XVI – Game Scheduling***

All games will be scheduled on Saturdays to last at least 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each Member is responsible for the start times at their school. It is recommended, but not required that each member choose one of the following schedules:

- Morning –
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 9:00 a.m.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 11:30 a.m.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1:00 p.m.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2:30 p.m.

- Afternoon
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 2:30 p.m.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 4:00 p.m.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 5:30 p.m.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 7:00 p.m.

There will be a season starting Jamboree to get all of the teams together and scrimmage. The format and start times of the Jamboree will be determined by the hosting team(s). The only scheduling requirement is the day of the week will be Saturday.

Teams will be seated in the playoffs according to their wins versus losses. Ties will be determined in the following criteria.

- A. Head to Head
- B. Non-Divisional Record (provided enough teams are participating to have 2 divisions)
- C. Coin Flip

The following (10 Team) example of a rotation will be used for the hosting teams:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. 1 - <b>Jamboree</b> (Vilonia Gray)       | 2 - <b>Jamboree</b> (Morrilton)        |
| B. 1 - <b>Playoff</b> (Maumelle)            | 2 - <b>Playoff</b> (Beebe)             |
| C. 1 - <b>Semi-Final</b> (Greenbrier Blue)  | 2 - <b>Semi-Final</b> (Vilonia Red)    |
| D. 1 - <b>Super Bowl</b> (Greenbrier Black) | 2 - <b>Not Hosting</b> ( <u>NONE</u> ) |

\*Each Member will move up the list and fall back to the bottom after hosting a Jamboree. The Super Bowl will move back and forth between sides each year.

Actual locations of the playoff games will be adjusted to accommodate hosting teams using rankings. The schedules for each playoff week will be set by a league meeting the Sunday before each round of the playoffs.

### ***Article XVII – Player, Coach, Parent, Member Discipline Policy***

Any violation of APYFL’s rules and regulations are subject to disciplinary actions including but not limited to: verbal warnings, probations, suspensions or expulsion defined as the following:

***Probation:*** see league bylaws

***Suspension:*** temporary ban from league activities, including coaching. If director or representative is suspended, he/she cannot vote in league meetings. Suspension can be a determined amount of time or games. It can be undetermined and lifted by unanimous vote only.

***Expulsion:*** to be permanently barred from the league, to be removed in a way that no return is allowed. This is the most serious punishment. Expulsion is warranted for violations including but not limited to: activities deemed inappropriate by members involving players, defying league conditions and/or policies or punishments.

Any director/representative knowingly acting in unethical manner shall be subject to one or more of the following suspension, forfeit of games or expulsion from the league. Examples listed below but not limited to the following:



- ❖ To allow a player to play on more than one team in a season. Be it in the league or another.
- ❖ To allow an ineligible player to play; without gaining approval first, or after finding out and not bringing to league attention
- ❖ To show an unsportsmanlike attitude towards opposing teams , coaches , players , one that results in scoring excessively in a manner that is unwarranted, case by case basis ,
- ❖ To allow a player to act inappropriately on the field; be it the sideline or the field of play. If activity is made known or it's repeated at more than one game.

Coaches and/or directors are subject to suspension if there is a reoccurring problem, i.e. fighting, cussing or similar behavior towards an opposing player or coach.

Ejection of a Coach or Player resulting in a game suspension will be defined as the following:

***Game Suspension*** meaning unable to be in attendance in the stadium or have any communication with coaches, players, or parents during the competition. The purpose is to completely suspend contact or influence over the club during the suspension.

- A coach ejected during a game will be ineligible to coach in the next game.
- A player ejected in the first half of a game will be ineligible to play for the remainder of that game, but eligible to play the next game. A player ejected in the second half of a game will be ineligible to play for the remainder of that game and ineligible to play the first half of the next game.
- When an ejection takes place the official will notify both benches of the ejection. The directors of each of the schools will be made aware of the ejection by the benches. The directors will notify the league commissioner as to the identity of the offending individual.
- The League commissioner will inform all directors by email or text of the situation. The director who has responsibility for the individual ejected will make certain the suspension is carried out. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the next game.
- Any ejections of a coach or player by an official for any reason during a game are final and are not subject to an appeal. On field penalties and rulings cannot be challenged or reversed except by the officials themselves.

In the event that a coach or player receives a second ejection in a season that coach or player will be suspended for the remainder of the season. A decision will then be made by the commissioner with advice and counsel from the assistant commissioners as to whether that person can continue to be a participant in the APYFL.

### ***Article XVIII – Amendments***

These By-Laws, Rules and Regulations may be amended or repealed as necessary by the Members of APYFL.

*Article XIX – Effective Date*

The By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the APYFL shall be in effect commencing with their adoption.