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2010

WHITFIELD COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

I. Purpose

The Whitfield County Youth Football Program is organized to provide a wholesome recreational activity for the youth of Whitfield County. The program is designed for the following purposes:

1. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
2. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of football.
3. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character.
3. To teach good attitudes and discipline.

II. Organizational Structure

A. Governing Authority

1. The governing body of this league will be composed of one representative from each community forming an Executive Committee with the W.C.R.D. Athletic Director as Chairman.
2. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Recreation Department and the Executive Committee.

B. Governing Rules

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Football League will be governed by the current rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School Association, with the exception of the local league rules, which supersede any rule in the current edition of the National Federation of State High School Association.
2. The League Rules will be developed by the Executive Committee and the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

C. Coaching Requirements

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.

2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of football.
3. A coach should never use profanity, drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use tobacco during any activity with players.
4. A coach must never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
5. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child has fun and learns the fundamentals while participating.
6. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings or have an approved coach present.
7. A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player (especially the weaker players) interested and participating throughout the season.
8. ***Each team shall have a Head Coach and may have a maximum of three (3) Assistant Coaches .Only players and coaches allowed on sidelines.***
9. ***Head Coaches must be certified by NYSCA. (www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinics/)***

III. League Rules and Regulations

A. Rules not mentioned in the League Rules are found in the National Federation of State High School Associations Football Rule Book or the current GRPA Manual.

B. The age division shall be as follows:

Bantam Division	Ages 7-8
Mite Division	Ages 9-10
Midget Division	Ages 11-12
Cut off date prior to September 1st.	

Seventh graders may participate as long as they are proper age and are not currently on the middle school team.

1. Adopted August 12, 2009 PLAYERS MOVING UP IN AGE DIVISIONS:
WHITFIELD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION FOOTBALL PROGRAM CONSIST OF THREE DIVISIONS: BANTAM AGE 7 & 8; MITE AGE 9 & 10 AND MIDGET AGE 11 & 12. AGE CUTOFF DATE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS IS AGE PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR. A PARTICIPANT THAT HAS NOT REACHED THE AGE OF 7 YEARS BY SEPTEMBER 1ST OF THE CURRENT YEAR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE W.C.R.D. FOOTBALL PROGRAM.

A LEGAL AGED PLAYER PARTICIPATING IN THE W.C.R.D. FOOTBALL PROGRAM MAY “PLAY UP” BEYOND THEIR AGE GROUP BUT MAY BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A WAVIER SIGNED BY THE PARENT ON FILE WITH W.C.R.D.

C. Team rosters shall consist of no more than 30 players per team. Once a roster is submitted to the Recreation Department it becomes official. An official roster cannot be revised unless permission is granted by the Recreation Department.

D. The playing field shall be 100 yards in length for 11-12, and 80 yards for 7-8 & 9-10. Kick-offs will be from the 30 yard line in 9-10 division, and the 40 yard line in 11-12 division. There will be no kick-offs in the 7-8 division. The ball will be placed on the 20 yard line to begin offense.

E. All players must play 4 plays in each half of every game. Any coach that does not comply with this rule will be subject to forfeit the game. Any coach that violates this rule a second time will be dismissed from the program. A coach may hold a player out of a game for disciplinary reasons if announced to the opposing coach before the game.

F. Any player to receive a snap, hand-off or pass from scrimmage or any designed play must not weigh more than 100 pounds in Bantam, 125 pounds in Mite, nor 150 pounds in Midget Divisions. Maximum weight players (players not eligible to run the ball must play on the line, tackle to tackle) and must be in a three or four point stance. (Does not apply to players of less weight). Participants must be weighed before their first game and weight will be recorded on the team roster. **If protested, the player must be brought to W.C.R.D. and weighed. A player must weigh within a five (5) pound variance of the actual weight prior to their first game of the initial weight. (Penalty) Forfeit! and Head Coach must sit out next game.**

G. The 7-8 Bantam Division defensively will not be allowed to line up over the center. As a result of this rule there will be no quarterback sneaks. The quarterback must be led by a Running Back if running up the middle. The quarterback may run outside the guards. Penalty(s): same as illegal formation.

H. Defensive lineman must be in 3 or 4 point stance, any player tackle to tackle is considered a lineman on the line of scrimmage. Linebackers (tackle to tackle) must be off the line of scrimmage, depth must be back of furthest lineman position, and penalty is same as a defense being off-side.

I. The Crack Back Block is illegal in ALL DIVISIONS of play within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage. (Penalty 10 yards)

1. The Crack Back Block shall be defined as a block by a Flanker, Wide Receiver or Offensive player in motion that returns in the opposite direction that the ball carrier is going and performs a block on a defensive player within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage.
2. The Crack Back Block is also defined as a block made on an inside defender against the flow of the play. (Example) Offensive team places Wide Receiver 10 yards off heel of Right End or sends player in motion to right. After ball is snapped and with the offense flowing to the right, Wide Receiver or player that was initially in motion, reverses direction and comes back to perform unexpected block on defensive player (Usually the Defensive End or Linebacker)
3. (Penalty) "All-But-One" Enforcement principle: Penalty from Basic Spot, except if foul occurs behind the Basic Spot, in which case the Penalty is administered from the spot of the foul. (Penalty 10 yards)

J. The offensive team must verbally state their intention of punting before leaving their huddle. After a verbal declaration of punting, the clock will stop until the change of possession. Mite Division Punts will be a dead ball kick; all defensive players will take a knee during the kick except for one defensive punt receiver. The ball will be spotted where receiver catches or controls the ball. There will be no punts in the 7-8 division, the ball will be marked 20 yards from the line of scrimmage or half the distance from inside the 20 yard line by the referee. The ball cannot be spotted deeper than the ten-yard line. All punts must be long snapped formation. Delay of game can be called even though punts are dead ball. Midget 11-12 punts will become live once the official whistles in that the punter has control of the snapped football which at that moment making punts returnable or giving the opportunity for a block punt. No fake punts allowed? (Failure to comply is a 5 yard penalty)

K. Each quarter will be eight minutes in length. The official time will be kept by the referee who shall give a 2 minute warning before the half and the end of the game. Half-time will consist of 8 minutes.

L. Each team shall be awarded 3 time outs per half.

M. Touchdowns will count as (6) six points and extra points will be (1) one point for running it in and (2) two points for passing it in. Teams may kick for extra points (except for Bantam 7-8 Division) and will count as (2) two points. The snapper will be at the goal line, and the holders will be at the (5) yard line. There will be no rush. The defense must take a knee on the extra point try. No field goal attempts!!

N. **MERCY RULE:** If in the second half a team gains a 21-point lead the clock will run continuously for the balance of the game except after touchdowns ,during timeouts, injuries, and scores. If the losing team gets within seven (7) points the clock will return to regulation.

O. All coaches are required to stay within the boundaries of the coaching box with one exception – for Bantam and Mite Divisions one coach is allowed in the huddle of the offensive and defensive team. For Midget Division coaches are not allowed on the field except for time outs. There shall be no more than 4 coaches in the bench area of each team. The team sideline box extends from 30 yard line to 30 yard line. All coaches should wear the same color shirts.

P. The time allowed snapping the ball after it has been declared ready for play is 40 seconds in Bantam and Mite League, and 30 seconds in Midget League.

Q. All kickoffs out-of-bounds will be placed on the 30 yard line or at the point of out-of-bounds which ever is greater. If the receiving team fumbles the kickoff out-of-bounds the ball will be placed at that point.

R. Penalties are 5 yards for minor infractions, and 10 yards for major infractions.

S. In the event of a tie ball game at the end of regulation. Each team will have (4) four downs starting at the 20 yd line to either score or the team with the most yards advanced to the goal as close as possible. The official will flip a coin to see who will have control of the ball first. The team that goes first if they do not score the yard marker will mark the spot of the last run then the other team will get the opportunity. After (1) one series of (4) four downs for each team, if the score is still tied, the game will be recorded as a tie.

T. Coaches that are on the field cannot talk to players after the offensive huddle is broken.

Penalty: After the first warning is 5 yards.

U. Home team will furnish two people to work the chains during each game and the visiting team will furnish one person.

V. No participant or spectator of the Whitfield County Recreation Department should be on school property before 30 minutes prior to a scheduled activity unless a school function offers sufficient reason for being present. Neither the Recreation Department nor the Whitfield County Schools will assume any liability for accident or injury when this rule is violated.

W. If a two-team tie exists for first or second place or for a spot in the Youth Bowl Championship, the tiebreaker will be the winner of the regular season game. If a three team tie exist and all three teams defeated each other, a play-off will be held. Each contest will consist of two five-minute periods, followed by the 10 yard line procedure if the contest is tied. A coin toss will determine which team does not participate in the first play-off procedure. The winner of the first play-off procedure will compete in a second contest using the same rules against the remaining team.

X. Games will be schedule with Dalton Parks & Recreation in the 11/12 Division.

IV. Eligibility Requirement

A. Participants must attend school in the Whitfield County School System or be a resident of Whitfield County.

B. Participants must play in the Whitfield County Elementary School district in which they live or attend school. If a community does not have a team, the participant may go to the next nearest elementary school community within the same middle school district. The participant must return to their elementary school community when a team exists.

C. Any Whitfield County resident living and going to school outside of the Whitfield County Elementary School Boundaries may choose any community to participate in the Whitfield County Recreation Program. Once this community is selected, the participant must stay in that community for all sports in the youth program. If the participant moves to a Whitfield County Elementary School District he/she must participate in that community.

D. Each participants name must be on a roster and a copy of birth certificate must be on file.

E. A registration card (Green Card) with parental permission signature, assuming responsibilities and granting permission must be on file with roster.

F. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department, in order to be eligible to participate.

G. If a participant changes residence to a new Whitfield County Elementary School District and does not change schools; the participant may participate in either community, but can only change communities once. The same rule will apply if the participant changes Whitfield County Elementary Schools but does not change residence.

H. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.

V. Game Postponement

A. For Inclement Weather - Games canceled because of inclement weather will be announced on all local radio station (WYYU 104.5 FM) and on the rainout and cancellation hotline 706-281-2588.

B. Postponement for Other Purposes

1. Any schedule conflict should be brought to the attention of the Recreation Department before season schedules are complete. It is the responsibility of each coach to check with the school involved to attain scheduling conflicts.

2. **Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.**

VI. Conduct

A. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. Offenders are subject to ejection from the game or the program.

B. There shall be no smoking, or use of tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages permitted.

C. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for their teams and fans conduct.

D. Any coach or player ejected from a game for abusive language or conduct will not participate in the next game that team plays. Any coach or player ejected a second time will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the season and may be banned for a calendar year.

VII. Equipment Requirements

A. Each child is required to furnish his mouthpiece and playing shoes (only rubber cleated shoes or tennis shoes will be allowed).

B. The official should warn a player for the first mouthpiece violation and call it to the coach's attention. The next violation will result in a 5 yard penalty.

C. The Bantam 7-8 Division will use the K2 ball. Mite 9-10 Divisions and Midget 11-12 Divisions will use the TDJ ball.

VIII. Activities

A. There will be three activities allowed per week including games and practices, plus one activity on Saturday. No workouts will be allowed on Wednesday nights or Sundays. Practices should be limited to 1 1/2 hours and be finished by 9:00 p.m.

B. Practice sessions shall not be scheduled on PTA or Open House night.

C. No scrimmages will be allowed with teams outside the Whitfield Recreation program during the season schedule.

IX. Awards

- A. Each individual player on the regular season champion and runner-up teams will receive an award.
- B. A revolving Team Trophy will be given each year to the Youth Bowl Champ to be kept for one year.

X. Youth Bowl Championship

- A. The top six teams in each age Division will compete in different levels of end of season championship play. Places Fifth (#5) & Sixth (#6) will play for the Silver Bowl Championship. Places Third (#3) and Forth (#4) will play for the Gold Bowl Championship. Places First (#1) and Second (#2) will play for the Youth Bowl Championship.