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2011 (REVISED 8/26/11)

## 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.
4. To teach good attitudes and discipline.

### II. Organizational Structure

#### A. Governing Authority

1. The governing body of this league will be composed of one (1) Community Leader or representative from each community forming a rules making body with the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Department ( W.C.R.D.)

2. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Recreation Department with the assistance from Community Leaders.

#### 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 and governed by 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/](http://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 1<sup>ST</sup> OF CURRENT YEAR. A PARTICIPANT THAT HAS NOT REACHED THE AGE OF 7 YEARS BY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 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” ONE (1) YEAR BEYOND THEIR AGE AND MUST BE APPROVED BY W.C.R.D.**

C. Team rosters shall consist of no more than 20 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. Short Handed Rule: A team can start and/or finish a game with 10 players. The opposing team must play one player short also when necessary. If a team cannot field 10 players the game will be considered a forfeit and the teams will play a scrimmage game with an equal number of players if possible.**

E. 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 midfield which is the 40 yard line in 9-10 division, and the 50 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.

F. All players must play four (4) plays in each half of every game. Offense and/or Defense. These plays must be live scrimmage plays and may not be punt and/or kick off situations. A 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.

G. 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.**

H. 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 unless they are in the "SHOTGUN POSITION"(Instead of the Quarterback receiving the snap with his hands directly under the center, he stands farther behind the line of scrimmage. At least two (2) yards and receives the direct snap). The quarterback may run outside the guards. Penalty(s): same as illegal formation.

I. 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.

J. 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): 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)

K. 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 9/10 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 25 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. Delay of game can be called even though punts are dead ball. In Midget 11-12 division the defense must have seven men on the line of scrimmage and two players who cannot be more than 5 yards off the line of scrimmage. All punts must be long snap formations and play will become live once the official whistles in that the punter has control of the snapped football which at that time makes punts returnable or gives the defense the opportunity to block the punt. No fake punts allowed? (Failure to comply is a 5 yard penalty)

L. Each quarter will be a twelve (12) minute running clock in length, with the last two (2) minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter being run by regulation start and stop time. Half time will consist of six (6) minutes. If a team is ahead by twenty-one (21) points the clock will continue to run the last two (2) minutes of the game.

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

N. *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. Mite and Midget divisions may kick for extra points but Bantam division may not. Kicks 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 can raise hands and try to block extra point kick or field goal attempt.*

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 20 yards from where it is kicked 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 for 7/8's and 9/10/ division and 5,10, and 15 yards for 11/12 division.

*S. In the event of a tie game at the end of regulation time, the official shall conduct a coin flip. The winner of the coin flip shall have the option of playing defense or offense. Ball will be placed on the ten (10) yard line for each team to have a four (4) down series to attempt to score. If neither team scores, the team that makes the deepest penetration will receive one (1) point and be declared the winner. Only one overtime period will be played.*

T. In the 7/8 and 9/10 divisions: Offensive and/or Defensive coaches may receive **two (2) alignment requests** from the head official, which must be announced before speaking to a player after the huddle is broken.

U. Home team will furnish three (3) people to work the chains during each game and the home team will sit on the same side as the chain gang crew.

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.

#### **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.

J. The Bantam 7-8 Division will use the K2 ball. Mite 9-10 Divisions will use the TDJ ball or any junior size football and Midget 12/u Division will use Wilson TDY or other youth size.

## **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. If there is only one league in an age division. At the conclusion of the regular season the number three team will play the number four team for the Silver Bowl Championship. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team will play the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team for the Gold Bowl Championship.

B. If there are two leagues in an age division. At the conclusion of the regular season the number two teams in each league will play for the Silver Bowl Championship and the two number one teams will play for the Gold Bowl Championship.