

Texoma Youth Football League

By-Laws & Rules of Play

Document Version: 8.0

Date: November 2, 2020

Amendment History

Document Version #	Approval Date	Modified By	Section, Page(s)and Text Revised
V 1.0	June 2003		Initial creation of document
V 2.0	July 25, 2005		
V 3.0	August 8, 2007		Multiple Updates including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to team size • Cutoff date for registration • Extra point values • Coaches Suspension • Added 2005 & 2006 Super Bowl champions
V 3.1	August 28, 2007	Dan Sims	Corrected Extra Point (#7) and Overtime (#8) sections
V 3.2	August 23, 2008	Dan Sims	Multiple Updates including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-laws, Bullet #9 -Change to team size • Increase Official's pay \$5.00 per game • By-laws, Bullet #12 – Changes to how teams are formed. • Added “TYFL is a grade pure league” to the first sentence of the by-laws.
V 3.3	August 7, 2009	July 13, 2009	Multiple Updates including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-laws, Bullet #21 – Added • Running Back weight limit has been updated. • Rules of Play, Bullet #4 – updated time per quarter • Rules of Play, Bullet #6 – added sentence regarding when “on field” coaching must stop.
V 4.0	July 23, 2012	Clint Pennington-VP Chris Hickson- President	Multiple Updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playoff structure • Coaches per team • Game balls allowed • Updated history
V 5.0	September 22, 2015	Chris Hickson - President James Johnson III - VP	Multiple Updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws • Coaches Badges • Executive Board • 1st/2nd punt • Playing Time • Game balls • Forfeiting games • Security • Updated History

Amendment History (cont.)

V 6.0	April 26, 2017	Chris Hickson - President James Johnson III – VP Denny Mathis- Head Referee	Multiple Updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws – 13,14,15 (player eligibility) • Playoff Structure • Mercy Rule – i, ii • Updated League History
V 7.0	September 5, 2019	Chris Hickson - President James Johnson III – VP Denny Mathis- Head Referee	Multiple Updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws – 6 Coaches/Personnel • Bylaws – 7 Ejections • Bylaws – 9 Entry Fees • Bylaws – 10 Referees pay • Bylaws – 15 Weight Limits/Weigh-Ins • Game Play – 10 “A” Gap Rule • Game Play – 11 Ten Second Runoff Rule • Game Play – 12 Horse Collar Tackle • Game Play – 13 Blind-side Block • Game Play – 14 Targeting • Updated League History
V 8.0	November 2, 2020	James Johnson III – President Valerie Whitehill – VP Denny Mathis – Head Referee	Multiple Updates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws – 1 League Fees • Bylaws – 7 Ejections • Game Play – 4 Game Play Time • Game Play – 8 OT Rules • Game Play – 10 Offensive Tackle to Tackle Rule • Forfeiture of Games • Security at games • Updated League History

Table of Contents

LEAGUE BYLAWS & RULES OF PLAY PGS 5-9

AGE LIMITS & WEIGHT LIMITS..... PG 9-10

GAME PLAY RULES..... PGS 10-12

FORFIET OF GAMES..... PG 13

SECURITY PG 13

LEAGUE HISTORY PG 13-14

League Bylaws & Rules of Play

This league is designed as a competitive instructional league based on the rules of football as dictated by the UIL in the State of Texas; TYFL is a grade pure league as well as a mixed team league. This league is designed for all K-6th graders from the respective member towns of this league.

Bylaws

1. There is a treasury for the league. Each town will pay an annual league fee of \$500.00 and new towns/teams entering the league will pay a \$750 fee and \$500 each year after that. Each town will fund its programs individually through fund raising, sponsors, and retention of all gate and concession proceeds (for the game(s) it may host).
2. Each member town will have one recognized voting member by the board. This voting member will also list with the secretary an alternate. Any new member towns will be admitted (voted in individually) in the TYFL by a vote of existing voting members. The TYFL will only recognize the Head Coach(s) appointed by the voting member of that town. The TYFL will only recognize the league approved Youth or Sports Association from each town. Each voting member should sign in with the Secretary at the beginning of a board meeting; voting members for each town are recorded in the TYFL minutes.
3. There will be an Executive Board consisting of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Head Referee and Advisor. These offices will be voted on each year at the first meeting after the season has been completed. Duties of each office are as follows.
 - a. ***President***
 - i. Organize & plan 3 meetings per year
 - ii. To elect officers & review rules/by-laws
 - iii. Finalize rules and vote in new member towns
 - iv. Set schedules.
 - v. Coordinate weigh-ins before each team's first game.
 - vi. Primary contact for the league with Referees.
 - vii. Handout the post season trophy to the Champion and runner-up (will be responsible for collecting donations for the Super Bowl Trophy & Runner Up trophy for each age division).
 - b. ***Vice President***
 - i. Verify with each towns High School Athletic Director the season schedule and confirm the date(s) their town will be hosting.
 - ii. Assist the President

- c. **Secretary**
 - i. Keep meeting notes
 - ii. Maintain bylaws and rules documents
 - iii. Email announcements and notices to members and
 - iv. Keep record of the season standings.
 - d. **Treasurer**
 - i. Will oversee and maintain the TYFL checkbook and all bank statements shall be mailed to the Treasurer and President directly.
 - ii. Maintain a day-to-day record of all financial transactions pertaining to TYFL funds and accounts.
 - iii. Keep and maintain all TYFL financial records.
 - iv. Oversee all banking functions and communications, electronic or otherwise with the aid of the President.
 - v. Collect and deposit all income funds for the TYFL.
 - vi. Shall assist in purchasing and ordering items for TYFL.
 - e. **Head Referee**
 - i. Scheduling refs for all fields during the TYFL season.
 - ii. Other duties as assigned by President.
 - f. **Advisor**
 - i. Assist TYFL Executive Board in all league matters.
4. Commissioner or head coach must turn in an excel spreadsheet with each player's name and game jersey number prior to the weigh-ins.
 5. Coaches are the only authorized personnel to be on the sideline during play. Each team's coaches will be identifiable by "like," coaching shirts.
 6. Coaches on sidelines per team consists of:
 - a. 5/6th grade teams are allowed up to 5 coaches/personnel*
 - b. 3/4th grade teams are allowed up to 5 coaches/personnel*
 - c. 1/2nd grade teams are allowed up to 7 coaches/personnel*
 - d. Cheer squads are allowed up to 2 coaches/personnel*

*Personnel includes but not limited to water boys/girls, trainers, team moms, commissioners, etc. Anyone on the sideline during game play must have a TYFL issued badge.

7. Any coach or coaches and player or players being removed from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to the following suspensions:
 - a. 1st offense - 1 game suspension
 - b. 2nd offense - 5 game suspension
 - c. 3rd offense - lifetime ban.

The suspension will begin the game after the ejection occurs. If a coach or player is removed from a game, late in the season, playoffs or Super Bowl, then their suspension could roll over into the following season.

A player removed from a game for Targeting will only be removed for that game only, per UIL rules.

Any coach or player removed from a game must be reported to the league so this can be monitored.

8. Host sites will report scores of each game to the President and/or Vice President within 24 hours of the last game.
9. Host sites will collect & keep gate fees and concessions earned for hosting that day.
 - a. Gate Fees: \$5 for all adults, \$2 for all students and all children (not of school age) are free. An \$8-day pass for adults will be offered at all sites.
 - b. Coaches and Cheer coaches are issued badges and therefore will not be charged unless they do not present their TYFL Coaches Badge.
 - c. The Referees, players, and cheerleaders in uniform are the only one's admitted with no charge.
 - d. Concession fees are determined by each host site
10. TYFL Referees will consist of:
 - a. 1st – 4th Grade
 - i. 4 referees at each game, 3 on the field and 1 on the clock
 - b. 5th – 6th Grade
 - i. 5 referees at each game, 4 on the field and 1 on the clock.
 - c. Payment
 - i. It will be the responsibility of the host site to pay each referee \$60 cash for each game worked. Payment will be made at the conclusion of games.
 - d. Referees will be furnished all concessions.
11. Each member town will supply an Insurance Certificate to a member of the Executive Board by August 1st each year.
12. The host site will arrange for singing/playing of the national anthem before every game.
13. **The player must play for the TYFL town where they go to school.** If a player does not go to a school in a TYFL town; then a letter **must** be written to the TYFL Board where a decision will be made **by** the TYFL Board if the player is eligible to participate in the given town and/or where the player should actually play. The TYFL Board will make the decision based on the player's address to the closest TYFL town. The player will need verifiable proof of residence (utility bill, school, bank record, etc.) **There will be no "Grandfather Clause".**

All towns must present preliminary roster and an advertisement for open signups (town's local paper) by July 1st each year to the Secretary. TYFL is not a select Football league. Teams will consist of a maximum roster of 34 players. Any town with more than 34 players may split teams as defined below by the first day of UIL practice.

- a. Team Breakdown structure:
 - i. Grade pure
 - ii. Combination
 - iii. Draft
 - iv. Discretion of local league

14. Players cannot be added to a team (*Player Eligibility must be met*) after **Week 4**. Any additions to a team after weigh-ins must go through the TYFL Board to verify eligibility. If a player is playing for a team and is not on the TYFL official roster; then that team will forfeit all games for the given season.

If a player meets all eligibility requirements and signs up after the specified last date to weigh in; then the player will be ineligible to be a ball carrier and/or line up skill position – those positions are as follows: (**Quarterback, Running Back, Tight End or Wide Receiver**) for the duration of the current season.

15. Weight Limits / Weigh-Ins

Weight limits for offensive players who can line up in a skilled position (Quarterback, Running Back, Tight End or Wide Receiver) to be given the football are:

Grade Divisions	Weight Max for ball carriers
1st	90 lbs.
2nd	90 lbs.
3rd	110 lbs.
4th	110 lbs.
5th	130 lbs.
6th	130 lbs.

The only exception to the weight limit rule will be a defensive player who recovers a turnover. Any weight restricted defensive player who recovers a turnover can return the turnover without the whistle being blown dead. If a defensive or offensive player attempts to lateral the ball to an ineligible ball carrier the play will be blown dead by the referees at the point of the lateral/handoff. All players that are eligible to be given the football to run (under the weight limit) must have a TYFL logo sticker placed on the back of the helmet by an independent person at weigh-ins.

Weigh-ins will occur at a central location, date/time/location will be communicated to all coaches at least (7) days prior to the event. All players will be weighed using the same scale. All players eligible to carry the ball will have a “TYFL/Year” sticker affixed to their helmet (**Every player must have a helmet at weigh in**). All teams/players will be required to attend; any player that does not have a “TYFL/Year” sticker affixed to their helmet will be ineligible to line up in a skilled position to be given the football – those positions are as follows: (**Quarterback, Running Back, Tight End or Wide Receiver**).

All players must provide a report card or letter from the school as proof that they attend that school and are in the grade that they are signed up to play for. Each player will need to provide this information at the designated weigh-in for their town.

Any player that does not provide this information will be deemed ineligible for the given season. Any team found to have an ineligible player on their team will forfeit **ALL** games for the given season. The head coach of that town will be replaced before the next game; if that head coach is the towns voting member he will also be replaced.

Players cannot change between teams after weigh-ins (example: a 5th grade player on the VA 5th/6th team at the time of weigh-ins; the player cannot move to the VA 5th team.) Once a player is on a team after weigh ins; then that roster is considered frozen and those players must remain on that team for the entire season including playoffs.

16. The TYFL has a no jewelry policy for all players.
17. The Super Bowl host town will be awarded by a draw from the hat. If the host town has a grass field; then an artificial turf field will be drawn as back up in the case of inclement weather.
18. Full Pad Practice (helmets & shoulder pads) may begin each year with the beginning of UIL two-a-days.
19. Tie breakers to determine season standings (for the purpose of bracket position & playoff eligibility) will be as follows:
 - a. Overall Divisional Record
 - b. Head to Head competition
 - c. Points Allowed (Points allowed will be determined by points allowed
 - i. against the tied teams
 - ii. Then against like opponents
 - d. Coin Toss
 - e. In the case of a season ending with an unequal number of games played, then tie breaker would be the least number of losses.

20. **Playoff Structure:** (Single elimination – for scheduling and site reasons)
- a. 4 teams – The top 4 teams from each TYFL division will be eligible for playoffs; however, if there are 8 or more teams in a division then the division will be split into Division I and Division II (only the top 8 teams are eligible if there are more than 8 teams in a division). The top 4 teams will be considered Division I and the bottom 4 teams will be considered Division II.
21. For games that teams have the same color jersey, TYFL will determine jersey colors during the offseason meeting. If a team shows up in the wrong color jersey, the game will be declared a forfeit and the team in the wrong color jersey will be deemed the loser. The score will be recorded 7 – 0.

Age Groups

The league is designed for:

Age Divisions	Eligible ages by Sept 1	Weight Max. for oldest age
1 st & 2 nd Grade	6, 7, 8	NA
3 rd & 4 th Grade	7, 8, 9, & 10	NA
5 th & 6 th Grade	9, 10, 11, & 12	NA

Game Play Rules

TYFL will use the rules of the UIL in Texas to officiate all contests. The only variations from the UIL rule book regarding TYFL play are:

1. Kickoffs will be placed at the 40-yard line (All divisions), unless a penalty is assessed, the assessment of penalty yardage shall begin from the 40-yard line as well.
2. No player may advance a kickoff that exceeds the weight limit for being able to line up in a skilled position (*See Bylaws Section 15*). The play will be blown dead, if the football is caught by a player without the approved weigh-in sticker for that year.
3. **Rules for Punting**
 - a. 5th & 6th grade divisions will be live as in UIL rules.

- b. 3rd/4th grade divisions – when a team elects to punt the referee will be notified by the offensive coach. The referee will then tell all of the players to remain motionless until the ball strikes the punter's foot. Live play begins when the punter strikes the football with his foot. This action must take place behind the offensive linemen on the line of scrimmage. The punter cannot punt the ball unless he is between the tackles, and the ball must go past the defensive line to be ruled a muff/turnover. The punt will follow all rules for a punt once the ball strikes the punter's foot.
- c. 1st/2nd grade division – A mark-off of 25 yards will occur if a coach elects to punt the ball on 4th down, if the kicking team is outside of the 50-yard line (if team is in their own territory). If the team is inside of the 50-yard line (in the opponent's territory) they must run a play to attempt to achieve the 1st down.

4. Game Play Time

Each game will be 8 minutes per quarter with 4 quarters per game.

- a. Half times are 8 minutes but may be adjusted to maintain the schedule.
- b. **Mercy Rule:**
 - i. If a team gets ahead of another team by 20* or more points, the referees will begin a continuous clock. If the lead takes place in the 1st half of game play; then the continuous clock will begin at the start of the 2nd half kickoff. If the losing team brings the score back to under a 20-point margin; then the game clock will revert back to a normal running clock.
**(During Playoffs & Super Bowl the running clock will be enforced after a lead of 25 points.)*
 - ii. During the continuous clock period, **timeouts will be granted at the Referee's discretion.** Any timeouts taken during the continuous clock period that are granted – will have a normal time out period; **however,** the clock will start at the referee's signal.

5. Player Playing Time

- a. The TYFL does not have set playing time rules for players on any level. It is up to each town/team to set their own playing time rules and regulations if any.

6. Coaches on the field

- a. 3rd & 4th grade divisions will be allowed to have 1 coach on the field.
- b. 1st & 2nd grade divisions will be allowed to have 2 coaches on the field.
 - i. **After leaving the huddle the offensive coach must be 5 yards deeper than the deepest player. The defensive coach will be 5 yards deeper than any player or referee.**

- ii. Coaches must make every effort to stay out of the play. Any interference by a coach once play has begun will be considered unsportsmanlike and a referee may flag the coach's team (15 yd penalty). **OR** If the referee deems the action as interference, his judgment of where the ball will be placed (blown dead) is his interpretation and his alone.
 - 1. For example: If a defensive coach runs into an offensive receiver on a pass play and the referee believes the ball would have been caught then it is the referee's judgment on appropriate placement of the ball. If the receiver was behind the deepest defensive back, the referee may decide that a touchdown was possible and award the offensive team a touchdown. If a coach inadvertently makes contact with a player during a play and according to the referee's judgment it did not benefit the infracting team then the play stands.
- iii. Once the center becomes set over the ball, all verbal coaching from coach(s) on the field must cease. If not, an unsportsmanlike conduct will be called by the referee (15yd penalty).

7. Extra Point conversions

- a. 1st - 2nd Grade division
 - i. Run = 1 point
 - ii. Pass = 2 points
- b. 3rd - 6th Grade divisions
 - i. Kick = 1 point
 - ii. Run/Pass = 2 points

8. In the event the game ends in a tie after regulation play, there will be overtime as follows:

- a. Each team will start a possession beginning from the opponent's 25-yard line. If a first down is made the possession will continue.
- b. If neither team scores the referee will determine which team gained the most total yardage (positive & negative yardage are used).**
***SUPER BOWL ONLY – If neither team scores or the game is still tied at the end of the 1st OT. Then the ball will be placed at the 10-yard line and then most positive or least negative yards will determine the winner if no team scores.*
- c. The team with the most positive or least negative yardage is the winner.
- d. If the game ends in regulation in a 0-0 tie and no one scores in overtime, the winner will be determined by yardage. The loser of the game will be assessed 6 points ("Points Allowed") in the standings.
- e. If a game ends in a tie other than 0-0 and each team scores in overtime repeat the overtime process until a winner is determined.
- f. If a game ends in a tie other than 0-0 and an overtime period is played in which neither team scores the winner will be determined by most total yardage (positive & negative yardage are used).

9. **Game Balls:** Each team is responsible to have at least 2 game balls at each game. Game ball should be in game condition for use by your offense. The Wilson K2/GST or Big Game 1906 Pee Wee will be used for K-4th grade and the Wilson TDJ/GST or Big Game 1906 Junior will be used for the 5th & 6th grades. The footballs may be either leather or composite but must be a Wilson or Big Game brand football.
10. **Offensive Tackle to Tackle Rule:** In all divisions except 5th & 6th grade, NO Defensive Player can rush from a standing position unless they are outside of the offensive tackles or at least 3 yards away from the line of scrimmage. Any player lined up in between the offensive tackles must be in a 3- or 4-point stance. A five-yard penalty will be assessed for any player in violation of this rule.
11. **10-second Runoff Rule – (for 5th, 5th/6th & 6th grade ONLY)** Inside the last minute of either half (59 seconds or less), if there is a foul that stops the clock, such as a false start, defensive offside with contact, illegal forward pass, injury or helmet coming off, the opposing team will have the option of taking the penalty yardage and taking a 10 second runoff.

The fouling team can “buy” the time back by taking a timeout. If the offended team declines the penalty yardage, they lose the option of taking the 10-second runoff. If the foul occurs with less than 10-seconds remaining in the half or game, the foul could end the half or game.

Forfeit of Games

If a TYFL team forfeits a game during the regular season or Super Bowl; then a \$750 fine will be enforced, and that money will be given to the host town.

Security

Each TYFL host site is responsible for having a police officer present during all games while hosting. If an officer is not present during all games at a host site, that town may be subject to forfeiture of future hosting's.

League History

TYFL was founded in June 2003, by the towns of Bells, Blue Ridge, Celina, Melissa, Pottsboro, and S & S. The inaugural season was played with 3rd & 4th grade division only. TYFL has been designed for smaller market towns.

In November 2003, by a 5-0 vote Sherman was not accepted into the league.

2004 – The league expanded by adding 6 additional towns: Anna, Van Alstyne, Gunter, Howe, Whitewright, and Tom Bean. The league also began play with K-6th grade divisions.

2005 – Participating towns were Anna, Bells, Blue Ridge, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Pottsboro, S&S, Tom Bean, Van Alstyne and White Wright. (12)

2006 – Participating towns were Anna, Bells, Blue Ridge, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Pottsboro, S&S, Tom Bean, Van Alstyne and White Wright. (12)

2007 – Participating towns were Anna, Bells, Blue Ridge, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Pottsboro, S&S, Tom Bean, Van Alstyne and White Wright. (12)

2008 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Pottsboro Sanger and Van Alstyne. (8)

2009 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Sanger and Van Alstyne. (7)

2010 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Princeton, Sanger and Van Alstyne. (8)

In December 2010, by unanimous vote – Sherman was accepted into the TYFL for the 2011 season.

2011 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Sanger, Sherman, Tom Bean and Van Alstyne (8)

2012 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Gunter, Melissa, Sanger, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (8)

In May 2013, by unanimous vote – Denison and Little Elm was accepted into the TYFL for the 2013 season.

2013 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Gunter, Little Elm, Melissa, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (9)

2014 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Gunter, Little Elm, Melissa, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (9)

In March 2015, by unanimous vote – Princeton and Prosper was accepted into the TYFL for the 2015 season.

2015 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Gunter, Little Elm, Melissa, Princeton, Prosper, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (11)

2016 – Participating towns were Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Gunter, Little Elm, Melissa, Prosper, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (10)

2017– Participating towns are Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, McKinney, Melissa, Prosper, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (9)

In June 2018, by unanimous vote – Lake Dallas, The Colony, Little Elm & Denton were accepted in the TYFL for the 2018 season.

2018 – Participating towns are Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Denton, Lake Dallas, Little Elm, McKinney, Melissa, Prosper, Sherman, The Colony and Van Alstyne. (13)

2019 – Participating towns are Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Denton, Lake Dallas, Little Elm, McKinney, Melissa, Paris, Princeton, Prosper, Sherman, The Colony and Van Alstyne. (15)

In December 2019, by unanimous vote – Howe was accepted into the TYFL for the 2020 season.

2020 – Participating towns are Anna, Bonham, Celina, Denison, Denton, Howe, McKinney, Melissa, Paris, Princeton, Prosper, Sherman and Van Alstyne. (13)