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16.11.

Official Rules & Regulations

2025-2026 Season

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Fort Bend Youth Football League
Official Rules & Regulations

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Abbreviations used in this document:

FBYFL	*Fort Bend Youth Football League*
BOD	*Board of Directors*
EX BOD	*Executive Board of Directors*
EXD	*Executive Director*
AD	*Athletic Director*
CO	*Cheer Director*

FBYFL's mission is to *provide quality youth football and cheer programs for the community of Fort Bend County (and neighboring counties) which teach the "fundamentals of the sports," "good sportsmanship" and "teamwork," under adult supervision.*

LEAGUE MOTTO

"*We teach CHARACTER, promote INTEGRITY, and produce CHAMPIONS on and off the field*."

EXECUTIVE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

I. To coordinate and manage for the FBYFL:
   a. Insurance coverage
   b. Scheduling of referees
   c. Securing bids for trophies and awards for BOD's approval.
   d. Coordinate and facilitate Cheer Extravaganza & football Bowl games.
   e. System/platform in place for the registration and certification of participants as administrated by the Executive Board.

II. Conduct League meetings and enforce rules for the League

III. Make and maintain a solid financial status. The Executive Board will make recommendations on the budget and spending to the BOD for consideration. The Executive Board will have the authority to spend up to $2000.00 annually with no single expenditure over $750, unless time-sensitive or safety issues on items that may not appear in the league budget without BOD approval. All discretionary spending must be presented at the next BOD meeting.

IV. Investigate complaints and concerns regarding any franchise, participants, or volunteers and report back to the BOD for action/no-action.

V. Make recommendations to BOD for discussion of potential rules and /or actions. Such Executive recommendations and/or opinions should be made objectively and in a non-biased manner so as not to influence the BOD one way or another. The Executive Board has no voting rights unless there is a tie; in which case the Executive Director will cast the deciding vote. However, the Executive Board shall reserve the right to temporarily enjoin (stop, pause, or table) any vote or action taken by the BOD that is believed to NOT be in the best interest of FBYFL and hold it over for further discussion until the next FBYFL BOD meeting.

VI. To meet with and provide guidance to the BOD of weak and troubled franchises as well as potential new franchises. – This includes but is not limited to financial matters, organizational management, operations, and recruitment of competitive teams and/or the vetting of new franchises.

VII. The Executive Board consists of the Executive Members and the Executive Body. The following positions make up the Executive Body:
   A. Executive Director
   B. Executive Vice President
   C Athletic Director
   D. Cheer Director
   E. Secretary
   F. Treasurer

G. Assistant Athletic Director (**3**)
H. Assistant Cheer Director (2)
I. Communications Officer –1
J. Registration Officer-1
K. Parliamentarian - 1
L. USA Football/Safety Advisor – Appointed position- Appointed by the Ex. Director, and League Athletic Director.
M. Past President

VIII. The Athletic Director nor the Cheer Director shall hold a position on a franchise-level board. The League AD may not hold a coaching or AD position with a franchise. The Ex. Cheer Director may not have a franchise coaching position.

IX All members of the Executive Board shall be voted on every two years, except for the Legal Advisor and the USA Football/Safety Advisor. The elections of the Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Athletic Director, and Cheer Director shall take place at the last meeting of the season. The remainder of the positions shall be interviewed and voted on at a special meeting or the first meeting of the new board.

X. The Executive Board shall be voted in by the FBYFL BOD after they have been interviewed by the Ex. Director, Ex. VP, Cheer Director, and Athletic Director. Everyone who has been nominated for a position shall be interviewed. The FBYFL BOD will be given the names of those interviewed and any recommendations from the four (4) members of the Executive Board listed above.

XI For the elections: An election notice shall be sent out to all BOD members. Each position will be announced. Once the nominations have been closed, no other nominations shall be accepted. All nominees' names shall be sent to the FBYFL BOD at least one week before the meeting. The election shall take place at a special meeting or the next regularly scheduled board meeting. All open positions shall be voted on. To win a position on the Executive Board, the candidate must receive greater than 50% of the votes. If no one receives more than 50% of the votes, then the top two candidates with the most votes will go into a runoff election. The candidate with greater than 50% will be seated on the Executive Board.

XII. There are no term limits on the Executive Board positions.

XIII. If the Executive Director resigns, the Executive Vice-President shall step in until an election is held. In the event the Executive Director and Ex. VP resign, then the Athletic Director shall step in until an election takes place. In the event the League Athletic Director or League Cheer Director resigns, the BOD shall vote on one of the assistants (Athletic Director or Cheer Director) to finish the term of the Director. The resignations must be in writing or witnessed verbally and acknowledged.

XIV. The FBYFL Board of Directors consists of the Franchise Presidents. Franchise Presidents may allow other board members, such as the Vice President or Athletic Directors, to represent their franchise.

XV. The Legal Advisor may advise the Executive Board on all legal matters affecting the league and its franchises.

XVI. The USA Football and Safety Advisor shall advise the league on matters as it pertains to the league's relationship with USA Football, safety trends in football, and other issues. The Advisor shall consult with FBYFL before any major voting decisions with USA Football. This position has no authority to make decisions on behalf of FBYFL, nor is it a voting position. Since this is an appointed position, it does not require the BOD to vote on it every two years.

XVII The past president serves as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Ex. Board for one year after their term as president, advising the board and members, and is accountable to them as outlined in the FBYFL rules and regulations. The past president's primary function is to advise the board and its members.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND REQUIRMENTS-1

1.1. All franchises wishing to join FBYFL or be a part of FBYFL must meet the following requirements:
- 1.1.1. Must be a non-profit organization (501 3c) and registered with the Secretary of the state of Texas.
- 1.1.2. Must BE LOCATED WITHIN Fort Bend County or a neighboring (connecting) county.
- 1.1.3. All new franchisees must be approved by the FBYFL BOD and shall be vetted by the FBYFL Executive Board before being presented to the FBYFL BOD.
- 1.1.4. Must have a functioning board that consists of the following as a minimum:
  - 1.1.4.1. President
  - 1.1.4.2. Vice President
  - 1.1.4.3. Athletic Director – as defined in this section
  - 1.1.4.4. Cheer Director
  - 1.1.4.5. Secretary – (may be combined with another position
  - 1.1.4.6. Treasurer (may be combined with another position)

- 1.1.5. The franchise must have by-laws.
  - 1.1.5.1. The franchise by-laws must state how board members are elected or appointed and the terms of the board members.
  - 1.1.5.2. The franchise by-laws must not conflict with the by-laws of FBYFL.

1.2. If an existing franchise decides to expand, that second franchise must, at minimum, have an independent athletic director.

1.3. The expansion franchise's registration must be separate/independent of the existing franchise.
- 1.3.1. Registered participants of an expansion franchise must remain with the expansion franchise for a minimum of two years before being allowed to register with the existing franchise, in which the expansion franchise expanded from.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

1.4. Every franchise must have an Athletic Director.

1.5. The FBYFL AD and each franchise's Primary AD or designee shall be the overall authority on all coaching matters and shall have the authority and responsibility to conduct the athletic programs for their franchise in accordance with the franchise's by-laws. Neither the FBYFL AD nor any franchise AD can be a Head Coach or an assistant coach for a team.

1.6. The franchise AD has the authority to dismiss a coach from their position in accordance with franchise by-laws. The AD shall monitor and enforce the coach's rules of conduct. The franchise AD may discipline any coach in accordance with their franchise by-laws.

COACHES

1.7. Franchises shall have in their by-laws the selection process for Head Coaches

1.8. Elected or appointed officials may hold a head coaching position within a franchise, except those defined in this section.

1.9. A coach may not coach on more than two levels. Additionally, a coach may not hold the "Head Coach" title on more than one level.

1.9.1. Each level coached must be listed on the coach's badge. The franchise AD must notify the league AD if a coach is permitted to coach on multiple levels. If a franchise is found in violation of this rule, a $100.00 fine will be assessed to the franchise for each coach without a badge and/or for each coach with a badge that does not reflect the correct levels for which the coach is observed coaching.

1.10. Coaches must agree to comply with and abide by the following rules of conduct via electronic signature or online acknowledgment:

1.10.1. Coaches must always display good conduct in front of the participants, volunteers, and officials.

1.10.2. No coach shall ever grab, push, or hit any participant under their supervision.

1.10.3. No coach shall use any derogatory words or remarks toward any participant. The use of profanity is strictly always forbidden. The use of profanity in the presence of youth participants will result in a $100.00 fine.

1.10.4. No coach shall charge, badger, ridicule, or harass any Game Official or League Official, nor shall they allow any team member or team volunteer to do so. The head coach may, at any time, during or after a play, request information relative to some infraction as defined in the NCAA rules. Offenders are subject to ejection from the game as defined in the NCAA rules. The above actions will be considered conduct act 2 and will be disciplined as such.

1.10.5. Only the Head Coach, Athletic Director (s) or designated assistant coach (s) has the right to conference with the official as it relates to a call, during a time out, or at the official's discretion.

1.10.5.1. No coach or board member shall go to the field to break up scuffles between players.

1.10.5.2. No coach shall purposely teach any participant unethical practices or techniques.

1.10.5.3. Above all else, every coach must both teach and demonstrate good sportsmanship.

1.10.5.4. Coaches must organize each of their players on the 50-yard line after a game and everyone shall extend their right hand to the opposing team, only saying positive words of good sportsmanship, such as, "GOOD GAME. Coaches are not to redirect the opposing team's players during this process. Coaches found guilty of violating this rule will be sanctioned per section 14.

1.11. All coaches and trainers must be approved by the individual franchise's BOD or as specified in the franchise By-Laws.

1.12. Any coach that is deemed guilty of improper decorum and is ejected from the game, must be reported to the FBYFL's BOD by the franchise President. The coach will be subject to punishment and fines as outlined in section 14, rule 14.9, unsportsmanlike behavior. Failure to report a coach who violates this rule will result in $250.00 for the franchise.

1.13. There is no limit to the number of coaches on a team. However, all sideline personnel shall be dressed in the franchise uniform and must be wearing an FBYFL badge. ***Only coaches approved for the level of competition may be on the sidelines during a game.***

1.14. Coaches must attend any required training made available by FBYFL to enhance his/her knowledge. All coaches and ADs will complete an FBYFL-approved coaching class no later than 14 days before practice begins. Any late additions are required to have the FBYFL-approved coaching certifications to take the field for practice. Failure to send the required members shall result in a $100.00 fine per person not in attendance.

1.15. All coaches aged 13 and up are required to do a volunteer application and take the FBYFL approved training.

1.16. The participation of any person who has not gone through the FBYFL's required background check, coaches' certification, and proper release process from any other franchise's obligations shall be deemed as an ineligible participant.

1.17. For any coach or volunteer found to be participating without the proper credentials, the franchise that the coach or volunteer represents will be fined $250.00 per individual in violation. and their head coach and the ineligible participant shall be suspended for a minimum of 4 (four) weeks and 4 (four) games. If the violation occurs during a game, the game will be forfeited.

1.18. If a coach wants to transfer to another franchise (other than the franchise that he/she most recently coached with), the coach must request a release from the Athletic Director and/or President of the franchise the coach most recently coached with using the FBYFL coach release form. The franchisee who receives the request for release will have thirty (30) days to agree to or deny the release. The coach will automatically be released if no response is provided within the thirty (30) day review period. In the event the release is denied, the coach will have fourteen (14) days to appeal the decision to the FBYFL Athletic Director. The FBYFL Athletic Director will then form a five (5) member appeals committee to be led by the FBYFL Athletic Director to hear the appeal and determine if the coach shall be released through a majority vote. The decision of the appeals committee shall be considered the final decision for the coach's release. The five (5) member committee will consist of FBYFL executive board members who ae not affiliated with either franchise involved in the coach release request.

1.18.1. Unless a formal release is granted by the previous franchise or through the appeals process, a coach must sit out one (1) complete football season and cannot hold any coaching or board positions at a different franchise.

1.18.2. Senior coaches are free to move franchise after the final game of the season unless they have a financial obligation to satisfy their previous franchise, or they are listed as a coach on another level.

1.18.3. Any coach released from their duties during or after the season will not require a release in accordance with this rule.

1.19. Coaches will not be able to transfer franchises after the FBYFL's first official day of practice.

PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY/ TRANSFER PLAYERS - 2

2.1 No FBYFL player may participate in any other football program, which includes but is not limited to select football and school programs while participating in FBYFL. Tryouts for selecting football or competition cheer are allowed until their first FBYFL-sanctioned practice and after the participant's season concludes once their team has been eliminated.

2.2 A violation of this regulation will result in the mandatory suspension of the individual from further playing in FBYFL for the remainder of the current season.

2.3 All participants must be enrolled in school or homeschooled.

2.4 Home school participants (new) will be classified by age and provide documentation of the next year's course level to evidence that not more than one (1) class will be above the 6th-grade level to be eligible to participate in FBYFL activities. In addition, home school students must provide documentation of their most recently completed semester grade level and/or course levels for the previous school year to evidence that they were not in a grade higher than the 5th grade, nor did they take more than one (1) class above the 6th-grade level the previous school semester.

2.5 Participants must be in the 6th grade and under, ranging in age from 5 years to 12 years old as of 11:59 p.m., September 1st of the current year. The only exception to this rule is an eleven-year-old in the 7th grade. The eleven-year-old must be eleven on Sept. 1.

2.6 Participants are eligible to play as seniors for only one year as a sixth grader and one year as a seventh grader. This includes players transferring from another league. No seventh grader participating in FBYFL may participate in their school's football program. If they do, that participant is considered as an ineligible player and shall be treated accordingly under FBYFL by-laws (namely Section 2.4) if they are observed participating in FBYFL competitions.

2.7 For 7th graders to compete in FBYFL, they must meet the following requirements: 1 be a returning player to the franchise they are registered with, and 2. be 11 years old on Sept. 1st. To be classified as a returning player, the player must have played (completed a full season in FBYFL the previous season).

NOTE: Upon any player's return from sitting out a season, they MUST advance to the natural playing level that they would have been in if they had not sat out for one FBYFL season.

2.8 Participant eligibility is also subject to age and weight limitations as defined under Team Structure as specified in section 4.

2.9 Participation of ineligible participants (as herein defined) in any game shall result in automatic game forfeiture. *The FBYFL BOD shall impose additional penalties. Possible sanctions include expulsion or suspension of any franchise Coach, AD, President, or other responsible parties.

2.10 Applicants who previously participated with an FBYFL team and wish to transfer to another FBYFL team may do so after the returning player registration and FBYFL quiet period have ended. The applicant must be free and clear of any financial and equipment obligations owed to the previous franchise. All system holds shall only be removed by the holding team.

2.11 The EX-BOD will pull a financial list for the team from the approved registration system for each player that shows a balance. Teams may also submit a list of participants with financial obligations that will be combined with the list from the official software. The financial list must be submitted by December 15th. The participants will be required to resolve their outstanding debts and equipment holds before registering.

2.12 All participants who submit an online application to play with any franchise based upon misinformation shall be permitted to file a written appeal to the FBYFL BOD. Any registered volunteer found guilty of spreading misinformation or derogatory information about a franchise will be subject to penalties, as outlined in section 14. This is considered unsportsmanlike behavior and will be sanctioned as such. The evidence to support the unsportsmanlike behavior must be substantiated and cannot be hearsay of any kind.

2.13 Online registrations are binding documents upon a parent's signature. Transfers are not allowed. The only exceptional circumstances that will be considered by the FBYFL BOD are those appealed under section 2.6 and appeals for players who have "relocated greater than 20 miles from their previous registered team's practice field."

2.14 Absent of a written agreement of the involved franchise Presidents, League notification, and approval, no transfers will be allowed after the final rosters are submitted.

REGISTRATION - 3

3.1 It shall be the responsibility of each franchise to hold registration(s) in their area to enlist participants for their football and cheer teams.

3.1.1 All participants must be registered on the (FBYFL) official registration portal. * No other registration software or application will be acknowledged by the league.

3.2 Teams shall hold a returning player registration starting January 1st. New participants and transfer participants may begin to register on Feb.1st

3.3 FBYFL will host open registration starting Feb. 1st for all new and transfer participants.

3.3.1 ***Returning Player Defined*:** A returning player is defined as a player who was listed on the final roster for the previous season.

3.4 Each franchise shall define registration policies, including returning status and legacy status in their bylaws.

3.4.1 Registration guidelines for each franchise shall be published on their website and the FBYFL website, clearly defining their registration process.

3.5 All new registrants shall provide proof of birth date. The following may be used to satisfy this requirement: an original Birth Certificate, a valid Passport, military ID, state-issued ID, or other certified court records. Proof of birth date must be saved in the participant's profile and be reviewable at any time by members of the Executive Board or any franchise representative.

3.6 All new football registrants, except for flag and freshmen MUST have a copy of their "*final Report Card or other League approved forms of grade-level verification from the previous/current school year*" (grades may be blacked out) showing the grade that the applicant will be in during August/September of the current year. The report card or other approved form of verification must be presented at the league certification and saved online.

3.7 The FBYFL certification shall be held to ensure that all players meet the age, weight, and grade requirements. The FBYFL certification is required for all levels.

3.7.1 FBYFL Certification must be done on a balanced scale by the FBYFL officials at a time and location designated by the FBYFL Athletic Director.

3.7.2 The FBYFL Athletic Director must be present at each scale during the league weigh-in.

3.7.3 There will be two official FBYFL certifications conducted. The first certification will be determined by the FBYFL Ex. BOD. The second league certification will be held the week after the second regular season game; The date and time to be scheduled by the League Athletic Director.

3.8 Any participant not certified during the first FBYFL scheduled certification will not be allowed to play until cleared by the second FBYFL certification. These participants must be certified at the second FBYFL certification. There will be no other FBYFL certifications during the season except for participants identified in the SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES below or in the case that a team does not have the minimum number of players.

3.9 ***SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:*** The FBYFL EX-BOD has the authority to make a "*special exception to the FBYFL certification*" based upon acceptance and approval of a franchise's written presentation of special circumstances. Written expressions should be sent via e-mail to the FBYFL EXD, AD, and Secretary, indicating the circumstances limiting the participant from attending the official certification. *Special circumstances will be limited to occurrences involving death or travel outside of the country.

3.9.1 A special FBYFL certification will be done with two FBYFL EX BOD and two FBYFL BOD Members present who are not affiliated with the participants being weighed.

3.9.2 For certification purposes, every franchise will maintain team registration books- inclusive of a final roster.

3.9.3 Any Franchise whose records are not in order at the assigned date and time of the FBYFL certification will forfeit their assigned time and be moved to the end of the day.

3.9.4 Any franchise failing to be certified on the designated date will be fined $1000.00 and will not be allowed to be certified until the second FBYFL certification.

3.9.5 No child may be certified if they do not have the required information in the system, age verification, grade verification (new players only), and a photograph.

3.9.5.1 A new player is defined as any player who is new to FBYFL and/or not listed on the previous year's final roster.

3.9.6 Participants shall be certified by a signed franchise spreadsheet and approval in the league's registration system. The FBYFL EX-BOD and BOD members who review the registration documents and witness the validation of the weight MUST initial and date the franchise spreadsheet for certification.

3.9.7 For electronic weigh-in, the League Athletic Director or designee shall approve participants in the system

3.10 Any disputes regarding a player's eligibility must be provided via e-mail to the FBYFL EXD, AD, and Secretary. The FBYFL Executive Director and Athletic Director will investigate the matter and report their findings at the next FBYFL BOD Meeting. If a participant meets the age, weight, and grade requirements at the FBYFL certification, they are eligible for the season.

3.11 It is the responsibility of each franchise to ensure that all their players meet the FBYFL's age, weight, and grade requirements. Any participant found not to meet these requirements will be suspended, and the team will forfeit all games in which that participant played. The team, coaches, and franchise may be subject to additional penalties and/or fines by FBYFL BOD.

3.12 Late registrations may be held until the Sunday following the second regularly scheduled week of games and weigh-in. All rosters will be frozen and submitted to the FBYFL at the next scheduled regular meeting.

3.13 No registration of new participants will be allowed after the second week of the season unless a team has less than the minimum number of 22 players on their roster. If a team has less than 22 players, they may continue to register players until the 22nd player is added to the roster, at which time the roster is frozen. Once a team roster falls below 22, then the roster is re-opened to allow the franchise to bring the roster back to the minimum number. No players shall be added to the roster after the 4th week of regular-season games.

3.14 A $100 fine will be imposed on any franchise that does not submit the final roster by the above deadline (see 3.11 for the deadline).

3.15 The league AD will provide to each franchise copies of all frozen rosters including jersey numbers after the 3rd game of the season.

3.16 Each Franchise President and AD will have the right and privilege to request any online registration documents of any other franchise related to a participant's eligibility only at any time. Failure of the franchise to provide such registration documents on any player in question before the next scheduled game will result in a $50 fine per player that was questioned. The player will not be eligible until his verification documents are provided to the FBYFL BOD.

TEAM STRUCTURE - 4

4.1 Each FBYFL franchise will have five football teams and a cheer program to be considered a viable franchise and to participate in during the football season. Those teams are:

- 4.1.1 Flag (refer to Flag Football section for specific rules)
- 4.1.2 Freshman
- 4.1.3 Sophomore
- 4.1.4 Junior
- 4.1.5 Senior

4.2 Each team will consist of a minimum of 22 tackle players and 15 flag players. The FBYFL Board of Directors may waive this rule to bolster franchises upon their petition of the Board. Section 16.15 provides the minimum requirements for the number of kids that are required per level for viability and safety determinations.

4.3 Any team that does not meet the viability requirements may petition the board to request special circumstances of playing with fewer players or with fewer than the 5 levels, however, five (5) levels are required for the franchise to play. The petition must be accepted by the board with 2/3 votes. Once the petition is accepted, the franchise will make its presentation to the BOD. The special circumstances will require 2/3 votes in the affirmative. If a team is granted permission to continue with fewer than 5 levels, the team will be required to pay a $500.00 fine per game forfeited to the opposing team at away games. The fine must be paid prior to the start of the game being forfeited.

4.4 Players shall be assigned by age and grade. Age will be verified with birth certificates, passports, state IDs, military IDs, or court-approved records. The grade level shall be verified with a progress report, a printout of school records from a school online system, or end-of-year report cards. Categories are defined below:

4.5 All ages are as of 11:59 pm, September 1st of the current year.

4.5.1 Players weighing less than the FBYFL minimum weight of 50 pounds MUST have a waiver on file with the parent/legal guardians' signature" approval to play tackle football in FBYFL. Parents need to acknowledge that they understand that their child does not meet the minimum weight requirement and the risk.

4.5.1.1 FBYFL Ex. Board shall verify that the minimum weight waiver has been placed in the participant's profile before the final certification by the FBYFL AD.

4.6 Weight restrictions: The minimum acceptable dress for weigh-in is "barefoot & lightweight shorts.

4.6.1 There is no clothing allowance at the weigh-in

4.7 Freshman: Ages 7 and 8-year-old weigh a minimum of 50 pounds and a maximum non-lineman weight of 120 pounds.

4.7.1 Participants weighing over 120 pounds shall be designated as linemen. See 4.12 for the lineman description.

4.8 Sophomore: Ages 9 and 10-year-olds Weight: maximum non-lineman 140 pounds.

4.8.1 Participants weighing over 140 pounds shall be designated as linemen. See for 4.12 lineman descriptions.

4.9 Junior: Ages 10 and 11-year-olds Weight: maximum non-lineman 160 pounds.

4.9.1 Participants weighing over 160 pounds shall be designated as linemen. See 4.12 for lineman descriptions.

4.10 Senior: Ages 11 and 12-year-olds Weight: maximum non-lineman 180 pounds.

4.10.1 Participants weighing over 180 pounds shall be designated as linemen.

4.10.2 For a 12-year-old to be eligible to play a second year at the Senior level, they must have played for the same franchise as they did the previous year and show verification that they are not repeating the 6th grade.

4.11 Players designated as linemen due to being over the weight limits described above are only allowed to line up and play on the offensive and defensive line of scrimmage.

4.11.1 On offense, they must be played either at the center position or at a position on the offensive line that is no farther than three linemen position outside of the center.

4.11.2 On defense, they must be played inside the last defensive player on the line of scrimmage or no farther than outside shade splitting the last player on the opposing offensive line of scrimmage. in a 3 or 4-point stance.

4.11.3 They cannot carry or receive the ball, except when recovering a fumble or returning an interception.

4.11.4 They can play special teams on the kick-off return team on the front line and the kickoff team as a kicker only.

4.11.5 They must have an FBYFL-issued sticker on their helmet. Once classified as a lineman, the participant may not be reclassified, even if they fall below the weight.

4.11.6 The following penalty will apply if a lineman runs a play out of position and the opposing team notifies the officials and the violating team of the issue:

4.11.7 First offense in a game: A 15-yard penalty and an automatic first down will be assessed in favor of the offense if the violating team is on defense. A 15-yard penalty and a loss of downs will be assessed in favor of the defense if the violating team is on offense.

4.11.8 2nd offense in a game: The head coach for the violating team will be ejected from the game. If a third occurrence happens during the same game, the designated head coach shall be suspended, and the organization shall receive a $500.00 fine. The ejections rules defined by FBYFL in section 16 shall be enforced.

4.11.9 There will be no appeals to this rule.

4.12 An FBYFL player may only play for 2 years at the freshmen level if they meet the age of 8, grade, and weight requirements. After that, players must move up to the next level of play each year. Players who are new to the league will be assigned to a level based on age and grade requirements.

4.13 To the extent that is not in conflict with the above, ALL 1st, 2nd, & 3rd-grade players shall play at the freshmen level; 4th graders shall play at the sophomore level; 5th graders shall play at the junior Level; 6th and 7th graders shall play at the senior level.

***Note: A player may play for two years as a senior. Note: 7th graders must be no older than 11 years old on Sept 1st and meet the requirements of a returning player to the franchise that they played with in the previous years.**

4.14 As stated previously, no player may play for more than two years as a senior or a 6th grader. As stated above, no player shall be allowed to fail any grade as a senior to gain additional playing years in FBYFL.

4.15 All teams participating as a franchise in the FBYFL MUST BE LOCATED WITHIN Fort Bend County or a neighboring/connecting counties. . All new franchisees must be approved by the FBYFL BOD. All new franchises shall be vetted by the FBYFL Executive Board before presenting them to the BYFL BOD.

EQUIPMENT - 5

5.1 Player safety shall not be compromised in the purchase of equipment.

5.2 Equipment and uniforms shall be the property of each franchise and will conform to NCAA regulations.

5.3 Helmets will include a facemask with a double bar. A single bar or tubular faceguards are prohibited.

5.4 Eye shields must be clear, not tinted, and made from molded or rigid material. Eyeglasses and goggles also must be clear and not tinted. A player(s) is permitted to participate in games wearing tinted eyeglasses or goggles if the player has been approved by the League Athletic Director. The approval from the AD allows for his/her participation in wearing tinted eyeglasses or goggles. No player will be allowed to compete in a game wearing a visor in violation of this rule.

5.5 Helmets must be evaluated annually and reconditioned every 2 years after the recommended time frame from the manufacturer or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. *Note: Painting helmets will void most manufacturers' warranties. As part of a team viability meeting, each franchise must show proof that they have reconditioned their helmets if new helmets were not purchased.

5.6 Flag Helmets shall be worn during practice and all games. *Helmets must be available to the players five minutes before the start of a game. If a player does not have a helmet, they are not allowed to participate in the game.

5.7 All football participants should wear appropriate athletic equipment.

5.8 Metal cleats are prohibited. Participants found wearing metal cleats will not be allowed to compete in games and a $100 fine will be assessed per occurrence.

5.9 Mouthpieces must always be worn by football participants during both practices and games.

5.10 All franchise uniforms must be submitted to the league for approval no later than the last scheduled league meeting in May.

5.10.1 A new franchise admitted to FBYFL cannot duplicate an existing franchise's name, logo, or primary team colors without the prior formal approval of a 2/3 vote from the FBYFL BOD.

5.11 The standardized game ball will be the Wilson- GST-TDJ in all junior and senior games. Freshman and sophomore divisions will use the Wilson-GST-K2 football during their games. Game balls can be leather or synthetic. Games balls must be fully inflated. *Failure to use the league-required football will result in a $100.00 fine and the incorrect football must be replaced immediately with a compliant football. *Failure to use the proper flags will result in a $100.00 fine and forfeiture of the game. All flags must be Velcro. See flag rules for flag requirements.

5.12 Each team is responsible for providing their game ball.

5.13 Any changes in player jersey numbers must be reported to the opposing franchise prior to the start of the game. If a jersey change is necessitated during the game, it must be reported immediately to the opposing team. Any temporary or permanent number changes must be reported at the next FBYFL meeting. Violation of this rule will be subject to a $100.00 for each occurrence.

5.14 Any participant who fails to wear the proper equipment as outlined in FBYFL, UIL, or NCAA rules will be deemed ineligible and will not be allowed to participate in the game until the equipment has been removed or replaced.

OFFSEASON - 6

6.1 Offseason shall be defined as the day after the Super Bowl until the FIRST day of league-sanctioned practice. During the offseason, franchises may conduct football camps (see 6.5) and off-season conditioning activities (see 6.3).

6.2 Franchises are prohibited from conducting team practices during the off-season, except as allowed by rule 7.1. Teams are allowed to develop an approved off-season program. See below for the definition of off-season activities. Any franchise that is determined by a 2/3 vote of the FBYFL BOD to have conducted team practices during the offseason shall not be eligible to compete in the upcoming FBYFL season at the discretion of the FBYFL BOD and shall comply with any other different penalty assessed by the FBYFL BOD to become eligible as decided during the FBYFL BOD 2/3 voting period.

6.3 Offseason conditioning shall be defined as:

6.3.1 Sessions shall include only speed, strength, and conditioning instructions and exercises, such as physical education activities and calisthenics,

6.3.2 Sports-specific skill instructions are allowed when focused on specific position skill training with a player or an appropriate group of players.

6.3.3 Sports-specific equipment (balls, dummies, spacer dummies, sleds, contact equipment) may be used during training as appropriate for the specific position skill(s) being taught to a player or appropriate group of players.

6.3.4 Off-season sessions may be no more than 3 per week, not to exceed 90 minutes per day.

6.3.5 Conditioning sessions may be franchise-specific or team-specific but must be listed on the team's website.

Note – A football camp consists of football lecturing, teaching, drills, and conditioning.

6.4 The sponsoring franchise must have an open registration before conducting the camp.

6.5 Football Camps are relegated to a total of:

6.5.1 Each franchise is allowed to conduct a 10-day spring and 10-day summer camp. The camp may be singular or consecutive not to exceed 2 hours per session. The weekend preceding the first scheduled day of league-sanctioned practice is considered "**Dead Weekend.**"

Note: "Dead Weekend" is when FBYFL coaches cannot have any "hands-on" football instructions, coaching, or conditioning with FBYFL participants.

6.5.2 Spring Camps will be from March 1st to May 31st. Summer camps will be from June 1st until the Friday before the first day of league-sanctioned practice. The weekend prior to the first day of practice is designated as "Dead Weekend".

6.5.3 No player-to-player contact to the ground is permissible during football camps.

6.5.4 Football Camps must be approved via e-mail by the AD at least 5 days prior to the camp being held.

6.5.5 Football Camps must be open to everyone and posted on the FBYFL and franchise website.

6.5.6 No "try-outs "* team that holds a try-out will be assessed penalties.

6.6 ***Definition of Tryout/*** 1) Try-out – A test or evaluation session with a player or groups of players advertised and/or administered for the sole intentional purpose of ascertaining the qualifications of applicants to fill certain positions for an athletic team.

PRACTICE – 7

7.1 A practice session is defined as an occasion approved by FBYFL when players from multiple positions on either side of the ball and one or more coaches assemble for a scrimmage, team instructions covering plays and schemes, and or lecture, not including purely social activities or specific position skills training as permitted under rule 6.3.2

7.2 Practice for the FBYFL Fall football season may begin on the date set by the FBYFL BOD.

7.3 In seasons that experience a "bye week," the team affected by the "bye" will be allowed to have four practices for that week.

7.4 The first week of the season, there must be five days of practice for conditioning and acclimation to equipment. The second week you may practice no more than five days. In the third and fourth weeks of the season, there may be no more than four days of practice per week. Starting the fifth week, practice will be limited to no more than three days per week.

7.4.1 The first five practices for all players will be for conditioning only. Day one, two and three will be helmets only with shorts. Day four and five will consist of helmets, shoulder pads and shorts.

7.4.2 Pads may be worn on the sixth day.

7.5 No practice is to exceed two hours on any given day.

7.6 If a scheduled practice is canceled or suspended due to inclement weather, the franchise A.D. or President will notify the League AD and post in the AD formal communication group to provide a scheduled make-up date.

7.7 Each franchise will set its own rules governing player participation in games when they have missed practices.

7.8 Games or scrimmages of any nature with teams not chartered by the FBYFL will not be allowed, except with a majority vote of the FBYFL BOD.

7.9 Practices or scrimmages between a team more than one level higher than the lowest team are prohibited.

7.10 No scrimmages with other leagues or franchises are allowed after the first regularly scheduled game.

7.11 During league sanctioned scrimmages, no more than three coaches are allowed on the field per team.

7.12 A practice week will be defined as Sunday – Saturday except during Bowl Game Week, which will be Monday-Sunday.

MINIMUM PLAY RULE – 8

8. All players must participate in a minimum number of offensive and/or defensive downs in each game that they play. For the purpose of the minimum play rule, a play is to be counted for each kick-off and point after attempt and each time the ball is hiked, and a down is counted, even though a penalty may be called after the ball is hiked and the down repeated. If a penalty is called before the ball is hiked, the down and/or play is not counted.

***NOTE: Punts on the freshman and sophomore Levels DO NOT COUNT as a play for minimum play rule purposes.**

8.1.1 Freshman and sophomore levels have a minimum number of plays set at 10.

8.1.2 Junior and senior levels have a minimum number of plays set at 12.

8.1.3. Request for special circumstances must be submitted in writing by the parent to the League Athletic Director. The player will have a reduced number of plays (1/2) for that level. Once approved by the League Athletic Director, the monitor sheet shall be marked out, for the additional plays beyond the required number.

8.2 If a player is tardy to the game, the following rules apply:

8.2.1 Notify the opposing team upon the player's arrival and if the player will be participating in the game.

8.2.2 The coach can elect not to play the player.

8.2.2 If the coach elects to play the player, then the player must play the minimum number of plays according to the minimum play rule.

8.3 All minimum plays required as per the minimum play rule shall be completed by the end of the regulation period for each game and before any overtime periods are commenced.

8.4 The minimum play rule is suspended for a player when that player becomes ill, injured, or is ejected from the game. Illnesses, injuries, and/or ejections that result in a player's removal from the game must be reported to the opposing team's franchise AD and team monitors immediately and recorded on the monitor sheet.

8.5 The penalties for violation of the minimum play rule are the following: *First violation* - forfeiture of the game and suspension of the head coach for the next week of practice and the next scheduled game. The forfeiture score will be 28-0. *The second violation* (in the same season) will result in a forfeiture of the game and two weeks of practice and a two-game suspension for the head coach. The forfeiture score will be 28-0. *There is no appeal for the above penalties for violating the minimum play rule.

8.5.1 A suspended coach may not be on the sideline for the level that they coach or send plays in from the stands. A coach who holds a dual role as a board member and is suspended is not permitted on the sideline. A full season suspension will be assessed to a suspended coach if he/she is caught coaching from the sidelines or stands while serving a suspension.

8.6 Monitoring shall be accomplished on the FBYFL-approved monitoring forms. Monitor forms must be filled out in ascending numeric jersey order.

8.7 Any player not playing for any reason or being injured in the game must be reported to the opposing team's head coach and team monitors. Players injured during the game and players not playing in the game may remain on the sideline with their shoulder pads removed. All players who are not playing or are injured MUST have a written explanation on the monitor sheets.

8.8 All games shall be monitored regardless of the weather conditions.

8.9 Each franchise will assign two monitors per game who will have the sole responsibility of recording the number of plays for each player. No game shall start without monitors in place. The two monitors and two franchise board members' signatures certify that all players have completed the required number of plays. **If a team does not meet the minimum play requirements, the opposing board member should not sign the monitor sheet.** Failure to monitor or provide monitors will result in the forfeiture of the game. Monitors must be on the field when the officials blow the whistle at the start of the game. If there are no monitors five minutes after the officials call for the game, the game will be forfeited by the team without monitors.

8.10 At the next FBYFL meeting, each franchise will turn in the FBYFL AD and copies of all monitoring forms from the previous week's games. All monitor sheets and referee sheets must be turned in no later than 5:00 pm, on the day of the meeting if the team was not present at the meeting. Upon request from the President, Vice President, or AD, the League AD is obligated to provide the monitor sheets for any franchise and weeks requested.

8.10.1 Failure to submit monitoring forms by 5:00 pm the Sunday following the game will result in forfeiture of the teams involved, with the win going to the team's opponent. If both opponents fail to turn in monitoring forms, both teams will receive forfeits.

SEASON PLAY AND GAME OPERATIONS - 9

9.1 Scheduling the regular season play shall be the responsibility of the FBYFL League Athletic Director. The schedule will be created annually and the FBYFL League Athletic Director will advise the BOD on the basis or method on which the schedule was created, i.e, description of method for random and/or manual inputs to create the schedule. The schedule shall be voted on by FBYFL BOD.

9.2 Each team shall play eight regular-season games.

9.3. The home franchise is responsible for having the field marked (lined), yard line markers, and a visibly operating clock (barring unforeseen situations), providing a press box for the announcer, providing down markers and personnel to operate the down markers, and sideline barriers for crowd control. *Sideline barriers must be able to separate the fans from the players on the sidelines. Acceptable sideline barriers include chains and fencing,

9.3.1 A franchise that fails to meet the obligations without "good cause" shall be fined $100.

9.4 Home teams shall make all essential (i.e., benches, water, etc.) items equally available to both teams. Home teams may utilize non-essential items unilaterally (i.e., headsets, coolers, etc.).

9.5 Unless approved by the league AD, the starting times for the games are as follows.

8:00 A.M. Flag
9:30 A.M. Freshman
11:00 A.M Sophomore
1:00 P.M. Junior
3:00 P.M. Senior

9.5.1 When games are delayed due to the playing times of the previous game, games shall start no later than 15 minutes after the end of the proceeding game.

9.6 A game will not start unless each team has two monitors on the field, a chain gang is in place, and a clock operator is ready to go. Failure to have these individuals in place within 10 minutes of the official call for the game will result in forfeiture of the game by the team that is not able to provide the required volunteers.

9.6.1 Automatic forfeiture is assessed if a team fails to take the field within 10 minutes after the official calls for the game, considering the above start times. The 10-minute countdown will be displayed on the field's operating clock for both franchises to view.

9.7 Any team forfeiting a game will have a score assessed of 28–0 at the time of the forfeiture.

9.8 All games will be played under the supervision of TSAO-certified officials.

*****NOTE: A Liaison of Officials and an Official Scheduler will be assigned by the EX-BOD annually to schedule Officials for games and manage problems/concerns with Officials as they arise with the assistance of the EX-BOD.. A schedule of the fields each crew is refereeing at each week shall be made available to the FBYFL BOD before game day. Subject to change due to availability,***

9.9 All franchises must pay the league-approved referee fees, which shall be determined annually by FBYFL BOD.

9.10 Any player who is ejected from a game by a game official for any reason must be recorded **on the** front or back of the monitor sheet and the referee form and reported by his franchise to the FBYFL BOD. The player will be suspended in accordance with NCAA rules. See Section 14 below regarding further provisions for the handling of players subject to suspensions and fines. A player entering the game after half-time is still required to meet the minimum play requirements outlined in section 8 Minimum Play Requirements.

9.11 Any Coach who is penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct or ejected from a game by a game official for any reason must be recorded on the front or back of the monitor sheet, the referee form, and reported by his franchise to the FBYFL BOD. See section 14 for penalties associated with ejection from a game.

9.12 For fields that do not have a track, from the 25-yard line to the 25-yard line (coaches' box), the sideline must be free of all non-football personnel.

9.13 Scores of all games will be recorded by each club on their respective monitor forms and communicated to their designated league official at their field or placed in the league social media account (GroupMe) at the end of each game.

9.14 The decision to suspend or cancel games due to hazardous weather, field, or other conditions shall be made in advance of the game by the FBYFL Athletic Director. In all other circumstances, the decision will be made by the Athletic Directors of both franchises in conjunction with the senior game official. Rescheduling such games will be made by the FBYFL League AD.

9.15 The official, head coach, or franchise president may make a game protest. The basis for the protest must be in writing on the reverse of the game's monitor form and signed by the person protesting immediately following the game. The franchise president must sign all protests. Written comments from the game officials should be solicited in the event of a game protest and included with the monitor form. Intention to protest must be made before submission of the game monitor forms to the FBYFL League Athletic Director. All protests shall be ruled on by the FBYFL Athletic Directors and the FBYFL Assistant Athletic Directors. All ties will be decided by the FBYFL Executive Director or Executive Vice President.

9.15a No game protest will be allowed based on an official's call.

9.16 Down markers will be operated on the home team sideline. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a $100 fine and immediate placement of the chain gang on the correct sideline.

9.17 Any personnel who are on the field of play need to be 13 years of age or older.

9.18 Personnel working the monitor sheets WILL NOT, during the game, relay any information back to his or her side of the field by verbal comment and or signal concerning the play calling or they will be replaced. Personnel from the opposing team, except for the monitor, should not be on the field checking the opposing team's monitor sheets. Monitors must leave the field of play upon completion of monitoring duties. Monitors and sideline personnel are not allowed to use cell phones or earbuds during the game. They are not allowed to touch the players or give instructions to the players. Monitors must always remain on the field, except during half-time. Monitors should not go to the sidelines for any reason. Monitors are not allowed in the huddle. The coach, franchise AD, or designated Board Member may approach the monitor for information regarding the number of participants for their team only. Any monitor violating this rule will be removed immediately from the field and suspended from volunteering for one (1) game. Habitual offenders will be suspended from monitoring and other on-the-field duties indefinitely.

NOTE: Any franchise found in violation of this rule will be assessed as a $100 fine per violation.

9.19 All parental complaints regarding any aspect of a franchise's football activities or events need to be addressed IN WRITING at the franchise level first. If unresolved, then a written complaint will be submitted to **the Executive Director** for review and consideration. Parental complaints must be scheduled and added to the league agenda for parents to be heard at the league meeting.

9.20 If a game is called due to weather and one or more plays in the 4th quarter have occurred, the game shall be declared as a complete game. The team with the most points will be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the game will be recorded as such. Notwithstanding, in the event both teams agree to finish the game, then the league Athletic Director can agree to allow the continued completion of the game at a later date. The game will be rescheduled by the League AD. FBYFL does allow for games to be made up on any day of the week, including Sunday.

9.21 The home franchise is responsible for providing the following professionals at all league-sanctioned events except for the League-Sanctioned Scrimmage. This cost may be divided by both teams. 1) A licensed EMT 2) Two (2) Licensed Peace Officers. They must wear their professional attire and be visible to both franchises. For teams who have a Licensed Peace Officer traveling with them, the home team's Licensed Peace Officers will be the primary authority for the facility.

*Failure to provide an EMT and/or the required security at any league-sanctioned event will result in a $500 fine per violation to the home franchise. Fines are payable to the FBYFL.

9.21.1 At League-sanctioned scrimmages, the home team is only required to have an EMT available. Security is recommended but optional.

9.22 The Freshman and sophomore teams may have one coach on the field for the first 3 games. The coach shall not hinder or slow play in any manner and shall be at least five yards behind the last player in the formation when the ball is snapped. Between plays on the field, the coach may assist players in proper formation and may request a team time-out. Once the offense breaks the huddle, the coaches must move to their position five yards behind the last player in the formation and CANNOT physically adjust players. coaching. Violations of this rule will result in a delay of game penalty and loss of down. The Flag team may have one coach on the field all season. In no circumstance can a coach be on or near the opposing team's sideline. If a coach is asked to move away from the sideline and refuses to move, the coach will be removed from the field.

9.23 In the event of an "unbalanced schedule" wherein one team is eligible to have a coach on the field, then BOTH teams will be allowed to have a coach on the field.

9.24 No game shall start before the regularly scheduled game times without approval by both franchise ADs unless directed by the FBYFL league Athletic Director.

9.25 The home team is responsible for having the TASO referees complete the referee form. The form must be turned into the league AD at the next Sunday league meeting. If there is a conflict between the referee form and the monitor sheet, the referee form will control. If no referee form is turned into the league AD by a franchise by 5 pm on the day of the league meeting, a fine of $100.00 shall be assessed.

GAME RULES - 10

10.1 The playing rules for the FBYFL shall be the same as those of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and University Interscholastic League (UIL) NCAA exceptions, except for the additions, deletions, or modifications specifically enumerated in this section.

10.2 Total playing time:

Flag: Refer to Flag Rules.

Freshmen: 32 minutes, 8-minute quarters.

Sophomores: 32 minutes, 8-minute quarters.

Juniors: 40 minutes, 10-minute quarters.

Seniors: 40 minutes, 10-minute quarters.

10.2.1 The play clock rule from NCAA and/or UIL will be used.

10.3 Half-time intermission will be 10 minutes. Exceptions that lengthen intermission may be made by the home team franchise president or the FBYFL league AD to accommodate special activities. The home team will notify the visiting team of any such special activities prior to the game.

10.4 The Point after Touchdown (PAT) awards will be 1 point for a successful running play, 2 points for a forward pass caught in the end zone, and 3 points for a successful PAT kick. Rushing is allowed on field goals and extra-point kicks on all tackle levels.

10.5 Punting Rules:

10.5.1 Punting rules for freshmen and sophomore levels (only): A coach must declare a punt attempt; no fakes. There is no rush and no return. The ball must be snapped from the center to the kicker a minimum of 3 yards back. Then the punter must remain in the tackle box. A muff in the end zone is an automatic safety. If the ball is muffed outside of the end zone, the ball may be picked up and kicked. Once the coach declares a punt attempt the clock stops and the punt MUST be attempted. Failure to attempt a punt will result in a 15-yard penalty and a change of possession. After the kick, the ball is declared dead once controlled or if the ball is touched and moved forward, it will be considered dead at the place where the ball was touched.

10.5.2 Punting rules for junior and senior levels (only): NCAA rules apply. Exception- no rushing over the snapper.

10.6 During injury time-outs, water personnel may provide players with water. Coaches are allowed to bring the team to the numbers. All players on the field must take a knee away from the injured player**.**

Note: Coaches should not touch or pick up an injured child until the child has been evaluated by an EMT or healthcare professional.

10.7 The NCAA Torn Jersey rule does not apply.

10.8 A continuous clock will start in the 2nd quarter when a team is ahead by 42 points, in the 3rd quarter when a team is ahead by 35 points, and in the 4th quarter when the score difference is 28 points. During a continuous clock, the clock will only be stopped for an official's timeout.

10.8.1 Due to the 10/12-play rule, no continuous clock is allowed in the 1st quarter.

10.8.2 Once a continuous clock is in effect, the minimum-play rule will no longer be in effect. The continuous clock and the elimination of the minimum-play requirement will remain in effect for the remainder of the game, regardless of the score.

10.9 The ranking of teams within each level (Flag, FR, SO, JR, SR) will be as follows:

10.9.1 A team receives 1 point for each win and ½ point for each tie to determine league standings. The total number of win & tie points will then be divided by the total number of games played to determine the winning percentage. Teams will then be ranked in numerical order from first to last.

10.10 No team shall intentionally forfeit a game. Any intentional forfeit shall result in forfeiture of all remaining games for the level committing the intentional forfeit and a $500.00 fine assessed to the franchise. Any game forfeited less than 72 hours before game time without the league AD approval will be considered an intentional forfeit.

10.10a Intentional forfeiture does not include suspension of the game because of mutual agreement of Franchise Officials or suspension as a result of a reduction of eligible participants or for safety reasons. However, intentional forfeiture shall specifically include any voluntary action on the part of a head coach or franchise official to pull the team off the field because of dissatisfaction with an official's call or other actions.

10.11 Regular season game results shall be determined by the NCAA Tiebreaker rules, not to exceed two attempts per team. The first set of downs in overtime will start on the 25-yard line, and the second set of downs will be on the 10-yard line. The order shall be determined by a coin flip prior to the first overtime possession. If a second overtime is required, the order will flip. No coin toss for the second overtime. If the score is still tied at the end of two overtime periods, the score will be recorded as a tie.

10.11a Each team will be granted one timeout per overtime session.

10.12 No team may spike the ball consecutively. If a team spikes the ball 2 times in a row (consecutively), the team will be assessed a $1000 fine.

PLAYOFFS-11

11.1 Prior to the first game of the playoffs, each opposing team will check the opponent's books.

11.2 The official FBYFL Champion for each team level classification shall be that team that wins the FBYFL Super Bowl after advancing in the league playoffs. FBYFL will sponsor a Lone Star Bowl for the 3rd and 4th-place teams.

11.3 Playoff structure will be presented by the FBYFL Athletic Director, with the following guidelines:

11.3.1 Playoff brackets and the decision to assign a "BYE" week for any top-seeded team(s) will be determined by the FBYFL BOD based on the number of teams in the FBYFL.

11.3.2 In an "unbalanced schedule," when two teams are tied at the end of the regular season and have the same winning percentage, the tie-breaker will be determined by a coin flip.

11.3.3 If two or more teams are tied in all categories, a coin toss will be used to determine the team to advance to the playoff and/or position.

11.3.4 Teams will be seeded for the Super Bowl and Lone Star Bowl and placed in an appropriate playoff bracket system annually as determined by the FBYFL BOD. BOD utilizes the tie-breaking rules listed below.

1) Winning Percentage

2) Head-to-Head competition in the regular season; Note: * If 3 or more teams are tied, the teams will be placed in seeding order by points allowed, except if one team has defeated all the teams included in the tie, then that team will be placed in the highest seed available, or if two teams have both defeated a team in the 3 way tie then the team who was beat shall be placed in the lowest seeded position and the seeding of the two other teams shall be determined by fewest points allowed. Otherwise, the rest of the teams in the tiebreaker will be placed by the fewest points allowed.

3) Fewest points allowed against the team in the regular season

4) Coin Toss

11.4 No playoff game can end in a tie. If at the end of any playoff game, the teams are tied, the NCAA Tiebreaker Rule shall apply. For the first set of downs, the ball will be placed on the 25-yard line. If at the end of the first set of downs, the score is still tied, each successive set of downs will start on the 10-yard line until a winner is determined. After each overtime, the teams will flip the order.

11.5 During the Bowl competitions, the monitor sheets will be checked by league officials for "minimum play adherence."

115.1 If the "winning team" fails to meet the minimum play requirements, the team will forfeit the game, and the opponent will be declared the winner.

11.5.2 If the "losing team" fails to meet the minimum play requirements, the Franchise will be fined $100, and the head coach of that level will be suspended for the next season's first game and practice week.

11.5.3 If both teams fail to meet the minimum play requirement, both franchises will be fined $250, the head coaches for that level shall be suspended for the first game of the next season, and the team with the most points will be declared the winner.

11.6 All Bowl game participants will be allowed four days of practice during the week of the bowl games. Monday –Sunday.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS - 12

12.1 Appropriate awards may be given to the participants by their franchise.

12.2 Each participant in the FBYFL Bowl games will receive appropriate awards as determined by the FBYFL BOD.

12.3 Cheer awards will be distributed at an "Annual Cheer Event."

12.4 The FBYFL Franchise member fees will cover the cost of these awards.

INSURANCE AND DUES - 13

13.1 It shall be the responsibility of the FBYFL BOD to secure Accident Insurance and a Director's Policy each year. This coverage will be adequate for the anticipated needs of the FBYFL member franchises.

13.2 All participants must be enrolled in the insurance program adopted by the FBYFL unless the FBYFL Executive Board provides a specially written waiver of this provision due to a franchise providing proof of an adequate insurance policy that has been purchased by the franchise.

13.3 No player may participate in any game or practice until insurance coverage is effective for that participant.

13.4 Insurance payments must be paid to FBYFL before the first scheduled practice. Insurance payments are due in June. Failure to make payment will result in the Franchise not being allowed to practice.

13.4.1 Final rosters are due no later than the 2nd week of September.

13.5 The FBYFL BOD will establish member franchise fees annually that are payable in full by the Sunday following the 1st regular-season game played.

13.6 Teams who fail to pay insurance or league dues on time are not allowed to play until the league fee and/or insurance dues have been paid. Any team that does not pay its league dues within one month of the due date will be expelled from the FBYFL.

13.7 Any team who wishes to sit out a season must be reinstated by the BOD. The franchise must show viability to the FBYFL Executive Board before its presentation to the FBYFL BOD. To be reinstated, a franchise must receive a majority vote by the FBYFL BOD.

PENALTIES/FINES/SUSPENSION OR DISCHARGE/ DEPORTATION - 14

14.1 All violations must be reported in writing to the FBYFL Executive Director and AD for investigation and ruling under FBYFL Rules and Regulations.

14.2 Any violation of the rules that results in a fine or suspension in accordance with the rules is not appealable.

14.3 If a member, parent, or participant of any franchise violates the general rules of the league, the person or franchise shall be subject to suspensions and fines as described below.

14.3.1 Any member of a franchise that intentionally violates any general rule that is not outlined below will be subject to a fine up to $500.00 and a minimum of a one-week, one-game suspension, as assessed by the Executive Director or the FBYFL Athletic Director.

14.4 Fines must be paid in full within 30 days of the assessment. Failure to pay the fine after 30 days will result in the franchise not being allowed to play any games until the fine has been paid. The franchise will be suspended from voting on any subject during the FBYFL BOD meetings until the fine has been paid.

14.4.1 If a franchise has a fine that is carried over to the next calendar year, the franchise will be given until February 1st to pay the fine. After the February 1st deadline, if the fine has not been paid, the franchise will be suspended from FBYFL, and the franchise will no longer be recognized by FBYFL as a member franchise of FBYFL. In addition, all participants, including coaches, will be free to join other franchises without the requirement of a release of any kind.

14.5 If a franchise suspends or expels a parent, coach, or franchise official, it is the franchise's responsibility to allow the affected individual due process at the franchise level. The affected individual may appeal to the Executive Board. If the Executive Board determines that due process was not given, the Ex-Director may place the individual on the agenda to be heard at the next scheduled BOD meeting. The affected individual shall remain suspended while the issue is being reviewed. It is up to the Executive Board to determine if the appeal shall be heard by the BOD. **In the case of a mandatory suspension, which is outlined in the FBYFL rules and regulations, there is no appeal process.**

14.6 The BOD for each Franchise will review any complaints lodged against any coach or fan and will have the authority to remove any coach at any time by a 2/3 vote.

14.7 No fan, coach, or board member of a franchise shall confront or berate an official during or following a game. The franchise AD or president shall address all complaints regarding referee calls or other matters via the FBYFL Referee Evaluation form at the next appropriate league meeting. See below for the penalty for such behavior.

14.8 Players found by the FBYFL rules guilty of serious unsportsmanlike behavior or other inappropriate behavior as determined by the Executive Director and Athletic Director will be sanctioned. Such sanctions may include but are not limited to suspensions, fines, and expulsion.

14.8.1 The following shall constitute "serious unsportsmanlike" behavior:
Conduct Act 1 - Ejection from the game by the officials.
Conduct Act 2 - Two or more unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in the same season or confronting or berating an official in a threatening manner.
Conduct Act 3 - Charging, threatening, or fighting a participant, volunteer, parent, official, or coach at any FBYFL-sanctioned event.

14.8.2 For players found guilty of the above, the following penalties will be applied.
For Conduct Act 1 and/or Conduct Act 2:
1st occurrence: 1 game suspension shall be assessed to the offending player.
2nd occurrence: 2-game suspension.

14.8.3 Player - Conduct Act 3 - The player will be suspended for 4 games.

14.8.4 Players found guilty of Conduct Act 1 or 2 may practice but will be suspended for the next game, including playoffs. For participants ejected in a game, the suspension is as follows: If the participant is ejected in the 1st half of the game, the player shall be suspended for the 1st half of the next game played. If the participant is ejected in the 2nd half, the participant shall be suspended for the entire next scheduled game played. If the player is suspended during a playoff game, and their team is eliminated from playoffs during the loss, the player must sit out the first game of the next season. There is no appeal to this suspension. The player is required to meet the minimum play requirements as outlined in section 8 if playing in a game after being suspended.

14.9 Coaches, franchise officials, and volunteers found by the FBYFL rules guilty of serious unsportsmanlike behavior or other inappropriate behavior as determined by the Executive Director and Athletic Director will be sanctioned. Such sanctions may include but are not limited to suspensions, fines, and expulsion.

14.9.1 The following shall constitute "serious unsportsmanlike" behavior:
Conduct Act 1 - Ejection from the game by the officials, cursing at a game official, violating any rules in the previous sections, or any other unsportsmanlike behavior.
Conduct Act 2 - Two or more unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in the same season or confronting or berating an official, parent, board members, or other coaches, or addressing those same parties in a threatening manner.
Conduct Act 3 - Charging, threatening, or fighting a participant, volunteer, parent, official, or coach at any FBYFL-sanctioned event. ***Any Coach found to have purposely taught or promoted any unethical or unsportsmanlike practices or techniques demonstrated by a player.***
These conducts are defined in the NCAA Football Rule Books.

14.9.2 For anyone found guilty of the above, the following penalties will be applied.
Conduct Act 1 and/or Conduct Act 2: 1st occurrence: 1 game & 1 week's practice suspension shall be assessed to the offending Coach. For the 2nd occurrence: 2 games & 2 weeks' suspension.

14.9.3 For Conduct Act 3 - *First* offense $500.00 fine and two (2) week/game suspension. The second occurrence will result in a $500.00 fine and 4 weeks' suspension. A 3rd occurrence within 2 years will result in an indefinite suspension. If you are suspended indefinitely, you must sit out two (2) years before you may apply to be reinstated.

14.9.4 Conduct Act 3 determinations may be appealed by a 2/3 vote. The appeal, if allowed as approved by meeting the required voting threshold, will be heard at a special called meeting consisting of 2 franchise presidents who are not affiliated with the franchise involved in the incident under review, 2 impartial committee representatives not associated with FBYFL in the current season, and 2 Executive Board members. The appeals process and committee will be led by the Executive Director or Ex. AD. The offender will have 3 working days from the day the penalty was imposed to request an appeals meeting. The offender will remain suspended until the appeal has been heard and a final decision has been made. The league AD or Executive director will present the circumstances as to why the penalty and fine were assessed. The offender will state why the penalty or fine should be overturned. The offender must receive a 2/3 vote from the appeals committee for the penalty and/or fine to be overturned.

14.9.5 For franchise board members, volunteers, and fans who commit Contact Act 1 and or Conduct Act 2 the following applies: the first offense is a one-game suspension. For the second offense, there will be a 2-game suspension and a $50.00 fine. If a parent or fan commits a conduct act 1 or 2 more than two times, they will be removed from any FBYFL activities for the remainder of the season.

14.10 In the event a situation occurs, the Executive Director or Athletic Director shall investigate the event and provide the FBYFL BOD with an update on what the investigation revealed at a regularly scheduled or special-called meeting, as appropriate. If they determine that the coach or volunteer committed a Conduct Act 3, they shall immediately assess the suspension and fine as outlined above. The Executive Director or Athletic Director will announce the penalty at the next scheduled meeting. The coach or volunteer will remain suspended unless the suspension is overturned by appeal. Rule 14.9.4 outlines the appeals process that will be implemented if a coach, volunteer, or parent follows the appropriate steps to seek a formal appeal. Any parent that commits to conduct Act 3 will be immediately removed from the facility. Franchises shall be responsible for assessing penalties. FBYFL has the right to ban parents from FBYFL events if deemed necessary due to bad behavior.

14.11 Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct (ULC) within a franchise will not be tolerated. Each franchise is expected to encourage sportsmanlike conduct and resolve any problems in a timely manner. Franchises that receive five or more unsportsmanlike conduct penalties (including coaches and players) in a season will be brought before the FBYFL BOD. A $50 fine shall be accessed to the franchise per occurrence where more than five player unsportsmanlike penalties have been recorded, and a $100 fine will be accessed to the franchise for the coaching staff where an excess of three or more unsportsmanlike penalties have been recorded. All unsportsmanlike penalties must be reported to the league's Athletic Director at the next scheduled league meeting.

NOTE: All franchisees are responsible for having their board members sign the FBYFL and/or Franchise Code of Conduct.

14.12 The franchise President, Vice President, or AD will give fan warnings to the involved party. The franchise will receive a 1st warning for the infraction; upon a 2nd infraction, the franchise will be asked to remove the offending fans from the facility. Fans are also subject to ejection from the game, following NCAA rules. If a franchise fails to take any action, the franchise will be fined $500.00.

14.13 If the conduct of a participant, coach, or other volunteer is so egregious that the FBYFL BOD determines that the person(s) may be suspended or banned from participating or volunteering in FBYFL, that person may be suspended or banned with a motion and a 2/3 vote. Once a person has been banned, they must sit out for at least 2 years before they may apply to be reinstated. To be reinstated, they must receive a 2/3 vote.

14.14 Fans are not permitted on the football field during or immediately after the game. Any unauthorized person who goes on the field during or immediately after the game will be charged a $100.00 fine.

14.15 Franchise officials are responsible for the deportment of their supporters. Alcoholic beverages and profanity or abusive language in the stands or parking lots must not be tolerated. However, if franchise board members cannot control their supporters, Public Law Enforcement Officers will be called in.

14.16 Teams found guilty of holding tryouts, as described in rule 6.5f, shall be fined $1,000.

GAME OFFICIALS - 15

15.1 All game officials are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the TASO Code of Conduct.

15.2 No game shall begin without the expressed consent of the Athletic Director of both teams when there are fewer than three officials in attendance.

15.2.1 If only two referees show up for a game, the Athletic directors of both teams must agree to play the game with the two referees. If there is no agreement, then the game will be rescheduled by the league's Athletic Director.

15.3 Game officials' rate of pay will be voted on annually. Game officials will be reviewed and graded by the BOD. This review will be communicated to the Head Official by the league's Athletic Director

15.4 Every referee must attend an FBYFL orientation with the FBYFL Executive Board. This meeting will consist of a rule clinic and a presentation of the expectations of FBYFL. Referees will also be required to attend a mechanics clinic consisting of calling an FBYFL scrimmage and discussing the mechanics of their calls.

15.5 Every referee officiating in FBYFL must submit a picture to the FBYFL Athletic Director. The League Athletic Director will put together a League Officials book, which will be available for review by the FBYFL BOD.

MISCELLANEOUS - 16

16.1 The FBYFL Rules will remain in effect for two years and two football seasons. Rules may be reviewed and revised annually if needed.

***NOTE:** Current Effective Years are from January 31, 2025– December 2026

16.2 The FBYFL BOD will be empowered to waive any of the FBYFL Rules & Regulations by a 2/3 vote approval ONLY for health and safety reasons.

16.3 The FBYFL Executive Board will have discretionary authority over any subject not specifically or generally included in the FBYFL Rules & Regulations.

16.4 Should any of the FBYFL Rules & Regulations conflict with any Franchise BY-LAWS, the FBYFL rules should supersede the Franchise BY-LAWS.

16.5 The use of alcohol, tobacco, and vapor is prohibited on all school district properties. The use of alcohol, tobacco, and vapors in the presence of participants at any FBYFL event specifically held for the participants is strictly prohibited, except at events deemed as social events (ex. Parties, picnics, cookouts, fundraisers involving food, etc.).

16.6 Firearms are prohibited at any FBYFL-sanctioned functions, which include practice, games, cheer events, league meetings, and league family fun day/BBQ cook-offs. This is just a sample of league-sanctioned functions. Firearms are prohibited on school campuses. Although the law allows firearms at public parks, FBYFL prohibits firearms at FBYFL activities. All parents must agree to and sign the FBYFL Handgun Policy. If a parent fails to sign, then the child is not allowed to participate in FBYFL. Anyone found carrying a firearm at an FBYFL event will be removed from the premises immediately and expelled from FBYFL indefinitely. All civil service officers (on-duty or off-duty) must check in with the officer on duty at the event and are required to acknowledge if a handgun is present.

16.7 Any new franchise petitioning to join FBYFL must provide a $500 application fee, with $250 being non-refundable.

16.8 Votes can be conducted during scheduled or special BOD Meetings requiring a quorum of 2/3 of the BOD to be present. Votes are counted by the number of voting members present. Proxy votes are not recognized as valid votes.

16.9 A Franchise may be accepted or expelled from the FBYFL upon a 2/3 vote of the FBYFL BOD. The affected Franchise has the opportunity to present their case before the vote for being expelled.

16.10 Special meetings of the FBYFL BOD may only be requested for situations or information that was unknown to or that the FBYFL BOD was not made aware of at the time of any regularly scheduled meeting. Special meetings will not be called to discuss and/or vote on information or a situation that was readily known about at the time of any regularly scheduled meeting preceding the request; however, this will not apply to situations where the new information is not presented in any regularly scheduled meeting.

16.11 **Weather Advisory Alert:** All practices, scrimmages and games will be monitored for cancellation when inclement weather conditions are present or forecasted that meet the following criteria:
- Heat exceeds temperature thresholds provided under UIL Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) heat safety guidelines for outdoor practices and games
- Temperatures lower than 31 degrees, or as otherwise provided under UIL guidelines
- Tropical storms/Hurricanes
- Snowstorms

16.11.1 Games may be stopped due to weather. When there is lightning in the area, FBYFL follows the following policy regarding lightning.

- Use of lightning meter: If your lightning strikes are within 6 miles, all activities shall be suspended, and everyone should seek shelter.
- Flash to Bang Policy: If the time between seeing the lightning flash and hearing the associated thunder is 30 seconds or less, all activities should be suspended, and everyone should seek safety.
- Resume play: Activities can only be resumed 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. If lightning returns within the 30-minute countdown, the time (30 minutes) must be reset.

16.12 Franchises need to be reviewed annually. Viability meetings shall be held no later than the 1st of May. Viability may be held in February or March to address any team that forfeited games in the previous season due to low numbers. Team numbers shall be reviewed by the Executive Board every month starting in June and weekly starting in July. Each franchise needs to follow criteria set forth by the FBYFL EX BOD.

16.13 Each franchise is subject to criteria of viability. Proof of viability needs to be turned in to the EX-BOD. Meetings will be scheduled from January 1st – May 31st with any team with a new board or showing signs of viability issues. Appointments will be scheduled via e-mail correspondence. The following are the required documents for proof of viability.

- Franchise's Board of Directors Structure
- Franchises' By-Laws
- Submission of the Franchise's financial standings and viability (Must submit last 3 bank statements, and a statement that consists of the top 3 vendors and any outstanding bills)
- Review of the Franchise's Tax-Exempt Status
- Mission and Goal of the Franchise
- Review, assist, and discuss the upcoming season's Cheer and Football plans for improvement
- Submission of a list of players with outstanding liabilities to the Franchise
- Any other areas of concern or improvement that may require assistance as necessary
- Franchises with outstanding bills greater than 6 months will be deemed not viable and not allowed to vote until the debt has been resolved.

16.14 4Any team that does not meet the viability requirements may petition the board to request special circumstances of playing with fewer players or with fewer than 5 levels, however, a franchise will not be allowed to participate with fewer than 4 levels.

16.15 The petition must be accepted by the board with 2/3 votes. Once the petition is accepted, the franchise will make its presentation to the BOD. The special circumstances will require 2/3 votes in the affirmative. If a team is granted permission to continue with fewer than 5 levels, the team will be required to pay a $500.00 fine per game forfeited to the opposing team at away games. The fine must be paid before the start of the game being forfeited.

16.16 To be allowed to participate each season, a team must have the following numbers by the June meeting to move forward as an organization: Flag 10, Freshmen 16, Sophomores 12, Juniors 14, and Seniors 14.

16.17 For health and safety, a team will not be allowed to participate in the season without approval by the FBYFL BOD if the following numbers are not met by the Sunday before the first day of practice: Flag 15, Freshmen 19, Sophomores 16, Juniors 16, and Seniors 16. The BOD must vote to allow a team to compete for the season with less than 5 levels or below the numbers stated in this rule. Any team competing with less than 5 levels must have a minimum number of players in this rule.

16.18.1 Ineligibility to Vote on Viability Matters - A franchise will be ineligible to vote on viability matters if it fails to meet either of the following minimum player requirements: 82 football players present on the first official day of practice and 100 football players present at weigh-in. This ineligibility persists until the franchise meets the viability standards specified in Sections 16.16 and 16.17 at a subsequent checkpoint.

16.19 Sponsorship advertising is permissible with approval from the FBYFLs BOD, meaning the type of sponsorship and location of sponsorship on equipment. During the regular season, the visiting team cannot bring sponsorship banners or advertising trailers to home fields. Trailers should be parked away from the field after items are unloaded.

BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS - 17

17.1 Background checks will be completed for sexual crimes in nature on all individuals holding an official position in the FBYFL. Additional checks will be performed for criminal records as defined by FBYFL and the National Center for Safety Initiatives.

17.2 FBYFL may use a third-party service to conduct background checks. A pass/no pass system will be used for the approval of volunteers. The League Director and Vice President shall be involved in reviewing volunteers who are identified with a no pass in the system to determine such volunteer's eligibility to be approved or denied under the rules of this section 17, including if a requesting volunteer is eligible for an appeals hearing under section 17.9 below.

17.3 Each franchise will submit an official volunteer list to the FBYFL EX. Board by April 1st of each year. The Board of Directors should have background checks performed by March 1st of each year. As volunteers are added, each franchise is responsible for ensuring their volunteer has completed a background check through the FBYFL-sponsored background check before being allowed to perform any activities or duties with FBYFL and their franchise. Franchises are responsible for updating their volunteer list with all new volunteers and submitting them to the League Secretary. Franchises are responsible for reviewing the background checklist provided by the league to ensure that all volunteers have passed the FBYFL background check.

17.4 Anyone who has not passed a background check and/or is cleared or grandfathered in by the Executive Board through the appeals process may not participate in any activities involving FBYFL youth participants.

17.5 A background check for potential volunteers resulting in a pass background check by the Executive Board for those individuals (previously Grandfathered or Appealed in) will be considered "eligible" to participate and able to hold an official title within an FBYFL franchise, however, it is a franchise decision to allow an **"eligible"** person to participate.

17.6 A franchise cannot allow a volunteer to participate who has not met the requirements described above and is not deemed "**eligible."**

17.7 The background check company may perform rechecks periodically throughout the two years. Any new red light will disqualify someone from volunteering with a franchise and FBYFL.

17.8 **FBYFL BACKGROUND CRITERIA AS OUTLINED BY USA FOOTBALL AND NATIONAL CENTER FOR SAFETY INITIATIVES**

17.8.1 Conviction or pending charge of any felony violent crime.

17.8.2 Conviction or pending charges of any non-violent felony within the past 5 years.

17.8.3 Conviction, or pending charge, of any lesser crime involving force or threat of force against a person within the past ten (10) years, or more than one (1) regardless of the time since the offenses.

17.8.4 Conviction, or a pending charge, of any lesser crime of a sexual nature or classified as a sex offense including but not limited to "victimless" crimes of a sexual nature such as prostitution, pornography, indecent exposure; and crimes in which sexual relations is an element.

17.8.5 Conviction of a lesser crime involving controlled substances (not alcohol, marijuana, or paraphernalia) within the past ten (10) years,

17.8.6 Conviction or pending charges of any lesser crime involving cruelty to animals.

17.8.7 If you are registered as a sex offender.

17.8.8 Conviction, or a pending charge, of any lesser crime involving harm to a minor.

17.8.9 Conviction of any combination of two (2) or more offenses involving non-violent felonies, force, or threat of force against a person, or controlled substances (not including alcohol, marijuana, or paraphernalia) within the last 10 years.

17.9 A volunteer may appeal the decision of a background check if they meet the following criteria:

17.9.1 An Appeal may be submitted for non-violent felonies and misdemeanors.

17.9.2 An Appeal may not be submitted if the crime involves a child, is violent, or is sexual.

17.9.3 If a volunteer was approved under the 2016 Appeal process and is now non-compliant or becomes non-compliant (i.e., picks up a new criminal case or is suspended/expelled by FBYFL), they will not be allowed a 2nd Appeal opportunity.

17.9.4 Each Appeal will be assigned an anonymous number. Each person appealing will fill out a questionnaire dealing only with:
- ❖ Date of Crime
- ❖ Charges and circumstances surrounding the crime
- ❖ Disposition
- ❖ Time with FBYFL
- ❖ Any disciplinary action while with FBYFL

17.9.5 All the appeals will be submitted to the V.P. and Legal Liaison.

17.9.6 Appeals will be heard by a 5-person panel, or at a minimum 3 persons, if all 5 are not available, randomly selected from the 20-person pool that is approved by the BOD. One randomly selected president (who may not send a replacement) will be allowed to observe the appeals panel but will not be allowed to speak or participate in any manner.

17.9.7 **Deadlines**: Background checks for returning volunteers must be submitted by the first week of July. No appeals will be accepted for any background check submitted after the designated date.

17.9 .8 Background checks for new volunteers must be submitted by the 2nd week of practice. No appeals will be accepted for any background check submitted after the 2nd week of practice

18. ORDER FOR MEETING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18.1 FBYFL Board of Directors and Special Meetings will be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Below is the basic explanation of how the meetings are to be handled and conducted. FBYFL Rules can only be revised or altered as per rule 15.2.

18.2 Meetings will be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, as the fundamental rights of the FBYFL deliberative assembly require all questions to be thoroughly discussed before acting. They have the final say on everything; silence means consent.

GUIDELINES

- Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by being the first to stand when the person speaking has finished; state Mr./Madam Chairman (ED or designee). Raising your hand means nothing, and standing while another has the floor is out of order! Must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
- Debate cannot begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked, "Are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair then calls for a vote.
- Before the motion is stated by the Chair (The Question), members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if the mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second.
- The "immediately pending question" is the last question stated by the Chair. Motion/Resolution-Amendment-Motion to Postpone.
- The member moving the "Immediately pending question" is entitled to preference to the floor.
- No member can speak twice on the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous in language and department; avoid all personalities and never allude to others by name or to motives.
- The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations. When presented to the assembly and the question is stated, the debate begins, and changes occur.

THE RULES

- **POINT OF PRIVILEGE:** Pertains to noise, personal comfort, etc. – may interrupt only if necessary.
- **PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY:** Inquire as to the correct motion – to accomplish the desired result or raise a point of order.
- **POINT OF INFORMATION:** Generally, applies to information desired from the speaker: "I should like to ask the speaker a question".
- **ORDERS OF THE DAY(Agenda):** A call to adhere to the agenda (a deviation from the agenda requires suspending the Rules)
- **POINT OF ORDER:** Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made.
- **MAIN MOTION:** Brings new business (the next item on the agenda) before the assembly.
- **DIVIDE THE QUESTION:** Divides a motion into two or more separate motions (must be able to stand on their own)**.**
- **CONSIDER BY PARAGRAPH:** Adoption of the paper is held until all paragraphs are debated and amended and the entire paper is satisfactory; after all paragraphs are considered, the entire paper is then open to amendment, and paragraphs may be further mended. Any preamble cannot be considered until debate on the body of the paper has ceased.
- **AMEND:** Inserting or striking out words or paragraphs or substituting whole paragraphs or resolutions.
- **WITHDRAW/MODIFY MOTION:** This applies only after the question is stated; the mover can accept an amendment without obtaining the floor.
- **COMMIT/REFER/RECOMMIT TO COMMITTEE:** State the committee to receive the question or resolution. If no committee exists include the size of the committee desired and the method of selecting the members (election or appointment).
- **EXTEND DEBATE:** Applies only to the immediately pending question; extends until a certain time or for a certain period.
- **LIMIT DEBATE:** Closing debate at a certain time or limiting to a certain period.
- **POSTPONE TO A CERTAIN TIME:** State the time the motion or agenda item will be resumed.
- **OBJECT TO CONSIDERATION:** Objection must be stated before discussion or another motion is stated.
- **LAY ON THE TABLE:** Resumes consideration of item previously "laid on the table" – state the motion to take from the table.
- **RECONSIDER:** This can be made only by one on the prevailing side who has changed position or view.

- **POSTPONE INDEFINITELY:** Kills the question/resolution for this session – exception: the motion to reconsider can be made this session.
- **PREVIOUS QUESTION:** Closes debate if successful – may be moved to "Close Debate" if preferred.
- **INFORMAL CONSIDERATION:** Move that the assembly goes into "Committee of the Whole" – informal debate as to if in committee; this committee may limit the number or length of speeches or close debate by other means by a 2/3 vote. All votes, however, are formal.
- **APPEAL DECISION OF THE CHAIR:** Appeal for the assembly to decide – must be made before other business is resumed; NOT debatable if relates to decorum, violation of the rules, or order of business.
- **SUSPEND THE RULES:** Allows a violation of the assembly's own rules (except the Constitution); the object of the suspension
  must be specified