

Appalachian Youth Football

By-Laws

2014

CONSTITUTION

The name of this organization shall be Appalachian Youth Football League Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as "The League".

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the AYFLI organization is to promote youth football among the youth of Northeast Alabama. A youth, for the purpose of competing in this association, is a person who qualifies under the age restrictions hereinafter defined. An amateur, for the same purpose, shall be one who competes solely for the pleasure and benefits he/she derives there from; and who does not make his/her living playing football or receive any portion of his/her income from said source. We (the coaches, parents, players, and fans) support a purposeful and meaningful program for our youth.

ARTICLE 1: GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1. PROCEDURES

1. The government and general affairs of the league shall be committed to its Board and head coaches.
2. In affairs of the league, each head coach will have one vote in matters of government of the league. The President will have one tie-breaking vote in matters of general operation.
3. The Board will consist of four (4) officers: (1) President, (2) Vice-President, (3) Secretary and (4) Treasurer.
4. Head Coaches will have the authority to approve or disapprove any new head coach. The Board will also have authority to approve or disapprove all head coaches and assistant coaches of all teams.
5. The Board will have authority to review any charges brought by a head coach against another coach, team member, team, parent or fan, for conduct that would not be in the best interest of Appalachian Youth Football.
6. Any changes in the rules set forth in these by-laws will have to be made by the Board and head coaches with 100% participation. Majority rules.

6. All officers will be made up of A Team head coaches in the league.
7. No coach may hold an officer's position until he has served at least one year as an A Team head coach and be in good standing with the league.

SECTION 2. OFFICERS/DUTIES

1. *PRESIDENT*- Shall preside at all meetings and act as official representative of this association at all times. He shall call meetings and appoint committees for the betterment of the association. He shall supervise and employ all personnel needed in the operation of this association. If a problem pertains to the President's program, then the Vice-President will call the meeting. He shall be empowered to appoint the following standing committees to act when necessary, and the board of head coaches shall approve such committees.
 - a. *MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE*: The committee shall provide a systematic way of increasing membership in the league. It shall urge associations to enroll teams at the earliest date possible of the current year.
 - b. *PLAYOFF COMMITTEE*: This committee shall be responsible for setting up host fields, scheduling games, and handling all gate responsibilities.
 - c. *TROPHY COMMITTEE*: This committee shall present three (3) bids to the board of head coaches and make recommendations as to which bid to accept. The board of head coaches will make the final decision.
2. *VICE-PRESIDENT*: Shall serve as President should the President be unable to fulfill his duties.
3. *SECRETARY*: Shall keep and maintain a complete and permanent record of all the minutes of all meetings of the league. Required reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Shall keep the scores and keep up-to-date standings of the league.
4. *TREASURER*: Shall be responsible for receiving all monies of the league and deposit the funds IN the league's official bank account. He will also pay all bills by check and all checks must be signed by at least two (2) of the four (4) officers. He will furnish a financial report at each meeting.

5. *COACHES*: Each head coach will be required by the league to serve a term of not less than three (3) years, or three (3) seasons of play. Head Coaches will remain in their prospective position until they decide to resign, or if it is proven that he has done harm to a player(s). Head coaches cannot be forced out of their positions by new and incoming association members. After a period of three years a single representative from the affiliated association may come before the board and petition that the head coach be removed from his position. Upon hearing from the representative and the affiliated coach, the board will then vote to remove the coach or to allow the coach to remain. Head coaches shall call in the scores of his A, B and C *HOME* games to the Secretary and/or the President. If any coach misses two (2) consecutive meetings he can be dismissed from the league. If a coach is absent for a meeting he will be fined \$25.00. These fees may be waived at the discretion of the other head coaches according to circumstances.

SECTION 3. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Roll call; reading and approval of minutes of the last meeting, financial reports, committee reports; discussion of old business introduction; new business, adjournment.
2. A quorum shall consist of 75% at regular scheduled meetings. If a special meeting is called, each organization must be given a twenty-four (24) hour notice.

SECTION 4. MEETINGS

1. The President of the league will schedule all meetings pertaining to any business of the league.
2. Meetings will be held at least once per week during the regular playing season and once each month during the off-season if necessary.
3. Each organization shall have a head coach present at every meeting. However, an alternate representative will be accepted on a non-regular basis.

SECTION 5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1. These Articles of Constitution and By-laws may be added to or amended by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the head coaches present at any general meeting and will become effective immediately. Amendments shall be made to the Constitution and By-laws of the league only at regular meetings. A 75% quorum must be present.
2. All proposed amendments must be written and presented to the head coaches of the league at one meeting, then voted on during the next regular meeting.
3. Any elected officer(s) can be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the head coaches of the league.

ARTICLE II- RULES AND REGULATIONS

All rules and regulations shall be the same as those used in high school football in the State of Alabama except the length of quarters. *A-team* quarters will be 10 minutes; *B & C-Team* quarters will be 8 minutes each. During 20-minute halftimes, each team will have 10 minutes each to conduct their program. During the playoffs, halftime performances by both teams will be allowed. The 10-minute time limit for each team will be strictly enforced.

SECTION 1.COMPOSITION OF DIVISIONS (ages and weights)

1. *A-TEAM:* Eligible players ages 10, 11 and 12 years old in the sixth grade or below.

Any child whose 13th birth date is before August 1st of a given year is not eligible to participate. Players must weigh 130 pounds or less to be eligible to advance (run) the football. The exception to this rule is on a defensive fumble recovery or interception. In either case, the defensive player may advance the ball, but cannot lateral/ handoff the ball to another defensive player that does not meet the body weight requirement. Finally, a player who is over the 130-pound body weight limit will be considered an overweight player. Overweight players shall line up from tackle to tackle on the offensive side of the ball, the penalty for playing an overweight player in a position other than tackle to tackle, will result in a forfeit of the game in which the overweight player is played.

2. *B- TEAM:* Players that are 8 and 9 years old and cannot be 10 years old before August 1st of a given year. Players must weigh 110 pounds or less to be eligible to advance (run) the football. The exception to this rule is on a defensive fumble recovery or interception. In either case, the defensive player may advance the ball, but cannot lateral/handoff the ball to another defensive player that does not meet the body weight requirement. Finally, a player who is over the 110-pound body weight limit will be considered an overweight player. Overweight players shall line up from tackle to tackle on the offensive side of the ball, the penalty for playing an overweight player in a position other than tackle to tackle, will result in a forfeit of the game in which the overweight player is played.

3. *C-TEAM:* Players that are 5, 6, and 7 years old. 5 year olds must be in kindergarten or above in order to be eligible to participate. Players cannot be 8 years old before August 1st of a given year. Players must weigh 90 pounds or less to be eligible to advance (run) the football. The exception to this rule is on a defensive fumble recovery or interception. In either case, the defensive player may advance the ball, but cannot lateral/handoff the ball to another defensive player that does not meet the body weight requirement. Finally, a player who is over the 90-pound body weight limit will be considered an overweight player. Overweight players shall line up from tackle to tackle on the offensive side of the ball, the penalty for playing an overweight player in a position other than tackle to tackle, will result in a forfeit of the game in which the overweight player is played.

4. Kickers or punters that are over the weight limits cannot advance (run) the ball or throw passes on a kicking situation. If a kicker (over the weight limit) mishandles the ball, he cannot advance (run) the ball, but must fall on it. However, another player who is under the weight limit can advance (run) the ball. If the ball is snapped to an up man (blocking back) and he meets the weight requirements, he may advance (run) the ball.

SECTION 2. PARTICIPATION

1. All players must have headgear, shoulder pads, pants and proper pads in pants, jersey and mouthpiece. No player can play barefoot. Removable and/or screw on cleats shall be allowed.

2. No team may start a game with less than 11 players and no games can be postponed without the consent of both coaches. If a team does not have 11 players at game time, this constitutes a forfeit.

3. Each team will play a schedule as set by the league each year.

4. In order to participate in Appalachian Youth Football League, it is not mandatory to field a C-team. No organization will be excluded from play as long as an A & B-team can be formed. C-team players can be moved up to B-team. The A-team must be filled first.

5. Once a player is put on a team roster, he must play on that team. He will not be allowed to move up and down. A player on a lower team may move up, but only in an emergency. If a team has less than 15 players, this is considered an emergency and players may be moved up to fill that team. The opposing coach and the league must be notified. This must not happen on a weekly basis and will be monitored by the league.

6. Once a player starts the season with a team and he moves to another area and attends a different school, he can complete the season with the original team as long as half the games have been completed for that season. If half the games have not been played, the player is ineligible to play-for the remainder of the season. He will become eligible to play the following season in his new area. Hardship cases will be considered.

7. All releases pertaining to player eligibility must be approved by a vote of the Board. The coach can grant no releases from the area where the player resides. No releases are to be granted unless it is a hardship.

8. When players attend Etowah Middle, Rainbow Middle, Gadsden Middle, or Emma Sansom Middle, the elementary school they attended will determine where they play youth football unless they attended an elementary school that is not a feeder to that middle school.

9. If a player is late arriving to a game, he cannot play in the game until the Third Quarter.

If he arrives after halftime, he cannot play in that game. The opposing coach at halftime must approve all late arrivals.

10. The policy of the league is to have a mandatory roster check before each game.

This includes the C-Team, B-Team and A-Team. If a coach foregoes the roster check, he forfeits his rights to protest based on player eligibility or participation.

11. All Teams will be responsible for providing UNIFORMED security at each home game, regardless, for regular season or playoff games.

12. All coaches will adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy.

13. All coaches will show Good Sportsmanship at all times.

14. Coaches using profanity at any time will be reported to the League President by the game officials and will be dealt with immediately.

15. Head coaches are responsible for all actions on their sideline and stands. In the event of unruly fans or coaches, head coaches are to immediately contact security and have fans or coaches removed from the stadium, any head coach not doing so, will be deemed in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

16. All coaches will be respectful of all referees, and all referees will be respectful to all coaches. Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action for coaches and referees.

SECTION 3. PROTESTS

1. All complaints must be filed in writing to the President of the Board of coaches. This must be done within 72 hours of the occurrence of the complaint. If the complaint pertains to the President's organization, it will go to the next officer, i.e. Vice-President.
2. The President will call a meeting of head coaches to discuss the complaint. This meeting will be called within 72 hours after the President receives his written copy of the complaint.
3. The coach making the complaint will be requested to submit a written copy of the complaint to the head coach of the team against whom the complaint is being filed.
4. Each program involved will leave the room while the complaint is being discussed.
5. The remaining members of the league will hear the written complaint. It will be discussed based on grounds of clarity and supporting evidence as presented by both parties involved.
6. A general vote will be taken. A 75% vote of members of the organization present represents a majority quorum. All decisions are final.
7. If a team is suspended from the league, they forfeit all league dues that have been paid.
8. All disagreements will be settled among the Board of Head Coaches. If there is a problem, a complaint can be filed. The head coaches will vote and all decisions are final.

SECTION 4. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

1. If the Board finds a team in violation of rules, the first violation could result in forfeiture of games and the association and coaches could be placed on probation.
2. If a team has two violations it could be dismissed from Appalachian Youth Football League and the coach permanently dismissed from the league.

SECTION 5. COOLERS AND FOOD

No coolers or food and drinks will be allowed through the gates at any games. The only exception is for team water coolers.

SECTION 6. GATE PASSES

Gate passes must be presented at the gate in order to enter games free of charge. AYFLI will determine a set number of passes each year. Passes from other teams not participating in the game will be allowed.

SECTION 7. CHEERLEADING

AYFL will not sponsor a cheerleading competition. The individual associations will handle all decisions pertaining to cheerleaders.

SECTION 8. KICKING GAME:

1. There will be no kick-offs in A, B or C team, all offensive returns will begin on their 35 yard line. Exception will be for teams trailing in the fourth quarter will be allowed to attempt on-side kicks.
3. Teams receiving kicks after a safety will begin at midfield.
4. Teams will have the option of physically punting the football or advancing the ball 30 yards. The ball will not be moved inside the opponents' 20 yard line, unless punted physically.
5. A and B team, a kicked extra point will result in 2 points. A run or pass will result in 1 point. B team only, there will be no rush on a kicked extra point attempt, a mishandled or muffed snap will result in the kick being no good. C team, a kicked or *forward pass* will result in 2 points. A run will result in 1 point.
6. All field goals kicked successfully will result in 3 points.

ARTICLE III- OFFICIAL PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. PAPERWORK

1. All A-team head coaches will meet at a designated place determined by the coaches committee for a roster check. This will be at the same time as weigh-in. All paperwork must be completed and presented at this time. The date will be prior to the scheduled first game.

2. All coaches will prepare a team roster, which shall consist of the following in this format, (see example below):

<u>Jersey #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School</u>
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Each coach shall bring enough copies of his A, Band C team rosters (13) to the weigh-in to furnish one for all other coaches and one for the league.

3. Individual player's paperwork will consist of the following:
- League application form
 - Current picture (preferably close up in game jersey)
 - Physical exam certified by a doctor that the player is physically able to play
 - League release form, signed by Head Coach of each team
 - Copy of the player's birth certificate

If a player is unable to produce a copy of his birth certificate, it shall be the responsibility of the coach to request the coaches committee to check the age of the player. If any player's eligibility is challenged, it is up to the head coach of the accused team to prove otherwise.

4. Each team is required to get school verification forms from each of the schools that players attend. The principal or other school official, certifying that the students attend that school, must sign the school verification forms. In the future, because of the Privacy Act, schools may require a parent's signature and statement allowing the school to release this information.

5. All roster sheets shall be typed in a neat and orderly format.

6. The league will fine any team that comes to roster check with improper paperwork, improper roster sheets, or missing paperwork, \$25.00 per article. Each player has 5 articles that must be complete.

7. League Fees: League fees for AYFLI are \$300.00 per association. This money is used for gate passes, trophies, playoff expenses, etc. Fees are due by Weigh-In.

SECTION 2. WEIGH-IN

1. Weigh-in site and date will be determined by the league.

2. Weigh-ins will be videotaped and the league secretary will keep tapes for that season.

3. Each player will get no more than two weighs. After the first try, the player must step down off the scales, remove any clothing he wishes, and weigh again.

4. Players not making the running back weight limits will be recorded and published to all head coaches. If a player does not show up at weigh-in, said player will be considered overweight regardless of the players' size. This does not mean that players will be exempt from weigh-in, as each player is to attend weigh-in. But a player will be allowed to participate if they had to miss weigh-in. Paperwork for a player missing weigh-in must be complete, or risk the chance of becoming ineligible to participate.

5. Each team's book containing all players' paperwork must be available at weigh-in. 13 copies of the completed roster sheets must also be available. Example roster on last page.

6. There will be a \$25 fine per article assessed for each missing or incorrect piece of paperwork. If corrections are made before the end of the day of weigh-in, fines will be dropped.

7. There will be a \$100 fee assessed to a team if the coach or coach's representative is not present at the weigh-in. The Board must be informed if a coach is aware that he will not be present.

SECTION 3. PLAYOFFS

One-division format

1. The team finishing the season with the best won/lost record shall be declared the winner of regular season play. This shall apply for *A, B, and C Teams*. The regular season *A- Team* champion will have the choice of hosting the first or second round of playoffs. The second round will be the league championships and consolations. The second place *A- Team* for the regular season will have the option of hosting the playoff round that the champion opts not to host.
2. Playoffs will consist of the top four teams with the best won/lost records.
3. The team finishing in first place will play the fourth place team and the second place team will play the third place team. This applies to *A, Band C Teams*.
4. Playoffs will begin the first Saturday available immediately following the end of the regular season or after tie breaker games have been played.

Two-Division Format

1. There will be a Silver Division Champion and a Black Division Champion.
2. The top team in each division with the best division record will be declared division champion. The top four teams in each division will compete in the playoffs.
3. The division champion will have the option of hosting the 1st round or 2nd round of playoffs for each division.
4. The first round of playoffs will be played as follows: The division champion will play the fourth place and the second place will play the third place.
5. The division championship will be held the following week at two locations.
6. The above rules apply for A, B, and C Teams.

***Tiebreaker rules: Use current A.H.S.A.A. tiebreakers rules, excluding points allowed/scored. A coin toss will not determine whether a team makes the playoffs or not. Teams that are tied will have to play their way into the playoffs.

SECTION 4. GAME FORFEITURE

1. If a team should forfeit a game, at the start or before the start of the game, the AYFLI, could fine the said team up to \$250.00.
2. If a team should not finish a game, such as leaving the field before the final hom, the said team could be fined up to \$250.00 per team (*A, B, and C Teams*) by the AYFLI.

SECTION 5. OFFICIAL FOOTBALLS

1. A-Team: Wilson TDJ
2. B-Team: Wilson K-2 (or Any Composite balls of the same size)
3. C-Team: Wilson K-2
4. Any team guilty of playing with an illegal ball will be fined \$100.00 and the coach of the team is subject to dismissal. This includes tampering with official footballs also.

SECTION 6. TEAM SCHOOLS

1. Cherokee County - All Cherokee County area and Cherokee County schools
2. Gaston- Up Hwy. 411 to Cherokee County line, Appalachian Hwy to the bridge on Gaston side and to the Coosa River Bridge. Does not go west on Meighan Blvd
3. Glencoe -All Glencoe area and Glencoe School system and the triangle formed by US 431, W Air Depot Road and College Pkwy.
4. Hokes Bluff- All Hokes Bluff area and Hokes Bluff school system.
5. Jacksonville-All Jacksonville area and Jacksonville School System, except Jacksonville Christian Academy.
6. Mt. Rams- Mitchell, Highland, Floyd, and Emma Sansom Middle.
7. Piedmont - Piedmont City schools, Spring Garden, and White Plains from Piedmont through the Nance's Creek Community.
8. Pleasant Valley- All Pleasant Valley areas and Pleasant Valley schools system and Jacksonville Christian Academy.
9. Rainbow City- John Jones, and Rainbow Middle.
10. Southside- Southside, and Rainbow Middle.
11. Warriors - Duck Springs, Ivalee, Steele and Etowah Middle.
12. West End - West End school, Altoona and Walnut Grove area.
13. Ashville - All Ashville area and Ashville school system, Steele Elementary
14. Ragland - All Ragland area and Ragland school system.

NOTE: Players who attend private schools may play in the area where he lives.

SECTION 7. TEAM BASE COLORS

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| 1. Cherokee County | Purple and Black |
| 2. Gaston | Red, White and Black |
| 3. Glencoe | Black and Gold |
| 4. Hokes Bluff | Kelly Green, White and Silver |
| 5. Jacksonville | Navy and Old Gold |
| 6. Mt. Rams | Purple and Gold |
| 7. Piedmont | Blue and Gold |
| 8. Pleasant Valley | Red, White and Blue |
| 9. Rainbow City | Crimson (Maroon), Black and Silver |
| 10. Southside | Crimson (Maroon), Black and Silver |
| 11. Warriors | White, Teal and Orange |
| 12. West End | Red, White, Blue and Silver |
| 13. Ashville | Kelly Green and White |
| 14. Ragland | Purple |

NOTE: No team can change their base colors without the approval of the Board of Head Coaches.

SECTION 8. TEAM NAMES

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|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cherokee Co. | Ravens |
| 2. Gaston | Bulldogs |
| 3. Glencoe | Yellow Jackets |
| 4. Hokes Bluff | Eagles |
| 5. Jacksonville | Golden Eagles |
| 6. Mountain Rams | Rams |
| 7. Piedmont | Bulldogs |
| 8. Pleasant Valley | Raiders |
| 9. Rainbow City | Crimson Panthers |
| 10. Southside | Panthers |
| 11. Warriors | Warriors |
| 12. West End | Patriots |
| 13. Ashville | Bulldogs |
| 14. Ragland | Purple Devils |

SECTION 9. AYFL DIVISIONS

Black Division: Cherokee County, Piedmont, Mountain Rams, Rainbow City, Jacksonville, Southside, Hokes Bluff

Silver Division: Pleasant Valley, Ashville, Warriors, Glencoe, Gaston, West End, Ragland

TEAM ROSTER (TEAM NAME)

Note: Jersey numbers must be listed in *numerical order*.

It may be best not to use this format, as this is only to show the proper order of roster.

Jersey#	Name	Ag	Date of Birth	Grad	School