

Mountain Valley Youth Football League, Inc.



By-Laws & Policies

2016

Last Updated 7/10/2016

DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

DATE APPROVED	TYPE	SECTION #	PROPOSAL ID	PROGRAM	BREIF DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
03/06/2016	By-Law and Polices	Various	LL-001-2016	Linganore	<p>The purpose of the proposal is to provide consistency throughout the by-laws and policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change all references from MVYFL, Mountain Valley Youth Football, Inc, etc after Article I to “League”. Article I specifies the name of the organization as “League” therefore all references to the organization after Article I should be labeled as such. • Change all references from Team Organization, Program, member teams, etc. to “League Member” after Article III. In order to accomplish this, Article III – The League, Item 1 will need to be changed as referenced below.

03/06/2016	By-Laws	ARTICLE VI – SCHEDULES	LL-002-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to update the schedule formulation based on how it is currently being built.
03/06/2016	By-Laws	ARTICLE VII – GAMES	LL-003-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to add the gate fee amount for post-season play and the Bowl Series weekend. These gate fees are not currently defined in the by-laws and policies.
03/06/2016	Policy	C.O. LEAGUE POLICY	LL-004-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to add officials for the Mini-Pony level and to clean up the last sentence of this item 1. Should this proposal be approved, F.O MINI-PONY, ITEM D will need to be updated.
03/06/2016	Policy	C.O. LEAGUE POLICY	LL-005-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to better define the game day order.
03/06/2016	Policy	D.O. WEIGH-IN POLICY	LL-006-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to change street address to full address. Not all League Members put the full address in the roster.
03/06/2016	Policy	D.O. WEIGH-IN POLICY	LL-007-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to better define the weight chart and include Red-Stripe weights.

03/06/2016	Policy	E.O. PLAYOFF POLICY	LL-008-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to provide flexibility to the playoff weigh-in start time, remove the reference to previous year's super bowl weigh-in, and to reference the weight chart in D.O. 14.
03/06/2016	Policy	E.O. PLAYOFF POLICY	LL-009-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to remove the 19pt rule for playoffs.
03/06/2016	Policy	E.O. PLAYOFF POLICY, SUPERBOWL	LL-010-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to remove the 19pt rule for the Superbowl.
03/06/2016	Policy	F.O. MINI PONY POLICY	LL-011-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to reference the weight as defined in the weight chart.
03/06/2016	Policy	G.O. DIVISION II	LL-012-2016	Linganore	Remove the ability for scheduling of Division II games since all games are accounted for with the current schedule format.
03/06/2016	Policy	C.O. LEAGUE POLICY	LL-014-2016	Linganore	The purpose of this proposal is to remove redundant language. Article IV, Item 6 already covers the probation period for new League Members. Therefore C.O., Item 11 should be removed.

03/06/2016	By-Laws	ARTICLE VI – SCHEDULE	SCHED-001-2016	Scheduling Sub-Committee	To add an item to Article VI – Schedules outlining how the Mountain and Valley Divisions are to be re-evaluated in order to keep balanced divisions for the MVYFL.
03/06/2016	By-Laws	ARTICLE VII – GAMES	N/A	Catoctin	Removing duplicated language for game suspensions and including 2 game suspensions for coaches and 1 game suspensions for players in NFHS rules

03/06/2016	Various	Various	N/A	Bylaws/Policy sub-committed	<p>Removed duplicate language already in NFHS document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article VIII – Equipment, item 1 referencing cleats • Article VIII – Equipment, item 3 referencing uniform color • C.O. League Policy, Item 2 referencing Kansas city tie breaker • C.O. League Policy, Item 8 referencing chain crew • C.O. League Policy item 14, referencing substitution rule • C.O. League Policy, Item 9 reference game quarters • C.O. League Policy, Item 13 referencing 30 point rule
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BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - LEAGUE NAME

1. The official name of this organization is the Mountain Valley Youth Football League, Inc. (the "League").

ARTICLE II - LEAGUE PURPOSE & GOALS

1. The purpose of the League is to engage exclusively in activities in furtherance of charitable, educational, and other purposes described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any corresponding provision of any future Internal Revenue Law.
2. The goals of the League are as follows:
 - a. To promote and organize a Youth Football Program on a basis where good sportsmanship and fair play will be practiced at all times
 - b. To consider the health, welfare, and ability of each individual participant
 - c. To draw teams from any area approved by the Board of Directors of the League
 - d. To Teach youngsters, through playing experience, the fundamentals of football; while at the same time, acting as a feeder system to each programs public secondary schools as defined by annually approved draw areas.

ARTICLE III - THE LEAGUE

1. The League will be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of one Director appointed by and for each League Member, with an alternate for each Director. New Directors will be appointed each year and will commence office at the first official meeting of each calendar year. A list of current Directors and Alternates will be appended to the By-Laws.
2. Executive Board Members of the League will be elected by the Board of Directors and will be chosen from said Board. Executive Board Members will consist of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer positions may be separated offices if needed. Election of Executive Board Members will be held at the first meeting each year, and the current listing will be appended to the By-Laws
3. In the event that a Director of an organization resigns his position as a Board Member, the League may retain the individual as a League Executive Board Member and said individual will be eligible for re-election as an Executive Board Member of the League.
4. The League will conduct three (3) "OFFICIAL MEETINGS" each year; the first to be on the Sunday prior to NFL's Superbowl, the second in the first week of March, and the third in the second week of July. Other "called official meetings" can be held at the discretion of the President, subject to written or oral notice sufficiently in advance thereof, to each Director.
5. Executive Board Members and coaches of member teams may attend meetings of the League at any time. However, only the Directors/Alternates can conduct business for the League, with voting rights. A proxy can serve, subject to the written authority by the Director named as approved.
6. A quorum for meetings of the League will consist of a simple majority of the League Directors or Alternates that attend said meeting.
7. The League will conduct itself under Robert's Rules of Order in any circumstance not explicitly covered by the By-Laws.
8. League registration fees are due at the March League meeting.

ARTICLE IV - TEAMS

1. Each League Member is to be named and fully identified using the official roster of the League as presented by the Secretary yearly.
2. Each League Member will submit, in writing, to the Executive Board their exact draw area and/or guidelines for player draw areas at the January league meeting. If there is no change to the previous year's approved draw area, no discussion or vote is necessary unless the draw area in question has been granted special expanded feeder school access in the event of a League Member with declining roster participation. If an approved draw area for any or all League Members are not in possession of the league Secretary, and/or published on the League website, a draw area must be presented and approved at the January League meeting by 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors. Each change to an existing draw area will require annual League approval of 2/3 majority vote by the Board of Directors.
3. Any player exceptions will need to be submitted to the League for approval and must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors no later than the third "Official League Meeting" held in the second week of July. A player exception will be considered any player not living in or not scheduled to attend public/private school within the applicable League Member's approved draw area. All approved player exceptions will be documented on an official League exceptions form to be kept by the League Secretary and published on the League website to ensure an ongoing record of granted exceptions. Exceptions for individual players are ongoing once granted but not mandatory if a player wishes to return to their League Member draw area as defined above.
4. Admission of a new Member into the League will require a positive vote by all Directors but one (1) in attendance.
5. If a League Member can field only two teams, of the 3 competitive levels, (Pony, JV& Varsity), the association is given a 1 year exemption. The following year the League Member in question must field all 3 competitive levels.
6. Membership in the League requires registration with the League at the official March meeting of the current year. The registration fee required for that year is refundable only at the option of the League by a majority vote by the Board of Directors. Any new Member

requesting entry into the League will be placed under a probationary period, which will be determined by the Board of Directors of the League for a period no less than one (1) year and not to exceed three (3) years upon acceptance into the League.

7. A League Member's membership may be revoked by 2/3 of the Directors' votes at any time during the 12 month calendar period.
8. League Member(s) may be given consideration to return to the League (one year, two years, etc.) by 2/3 of the Directors' votes. However, the team will be placed on a probationary period no less than one (1) year and not to exceed two (2) years.

ARTICLE V - PLAYERS

1. Players in the League shall not be more than ten (10) years old for participation on the beginner's team (pony), twelve (12) years old for the Junior Varsity, and fourteen (14) years old for the Varsity and 14 year olds must be entering the 8th grade. Age is determined as of September 1st of the current season. (If birth date falls on September 1st the player is the older).
2. If a 12 year old 8th grader wants to play back at the JV level, he must weigh 105 lbs or less.
3. Age must be verified to the League by a valid birth certificate, school board records, baptism certificate, state issued ID cards and green cards. Any questionable age verification documents must be presented before the Board of Directors at the League meeting prior to roster verification by Directors.
4. Players entering the 9th grade or higher are ineligible for participation in the League.
5. A player may move up from a lower level team to a higher-level team (example: Pony to JV), but may not move from a higher-level team to a lower level team. There are no exceptions to this rule.
6. Mini pony players will be rostered distinctly in the same manner as players are rostered for pony, JV, and Varsity.

ARTICLE VI - SCHEDULES

1. Each League Member will play an official schedule for the season. Starting and ending dates (weekends) will be the same for all member teams. The League schedule will be determined in the following manner:
 - a. A schedule will be determined based on the number of League Members
 - b. The schedule will developed based on a preset schedule (e.g. 1 v 5, 2 v 12, etc)
 - c. Each League Member will be randomly assigned a number and applied to the preset schedule
 - d. Games will be played on a "home to home basis" where possible
 - e. Game day order will be based on program size (reference Policy C.O. 3)
 - f. The League Secretary (or designee) will distribute the official League schedule to each League Member and to the League officials as soon as possible
2. The home League Member may, at its discretion, schedule "weekend" games on Friday evenings (after 5:00), Saturday, or Sunday. If the opposing League Member does not agree and mutual consent cannot be reached between teams; the Executive Board will then make the start time decision.
3. All League Members must complete all regular scheduled games as assigned. In the event League Member teams do not play regular scheduled games those games will be recorded as a lost to both teams in the League standing.
4. An open weekend will be declared in the schedule yearly prior to scheduled playoffs. This weekend is for the purpose for League Members to make up any game not able to be rescheduled during the regular season play due to weather or unforeseen situations. All regular season play must be completed by all League Members by the Sunday of this declared open weekend.
5. League Members will be divided into two (2) Divisions; Mountain Division and Valley Division for scheduling purposes. The current Division listing will be appended to the By-Laws. Each year, League Member's overall win/loss records inclusive of Varsity, JV D1, and Pony D1 for the past two (2) regular seasons will be reviewed at the January meeting. Re-seeding the divisions will require a 2/3 majority vote by the Board of Directors. Should re-seeding be approved at the January meeting, Division placement will be in a serpentine format with the 1st seed going to the Mountain Division, 2nd/3rd going to the Valley Division, 4th/5th going to the Mountain Division, and so on.

ARTICLE VII - GAMES

1. National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules will be used by the League with the exception of variations adopted by the League and listed in these By-Laws.
2. A League Member who has the ability to charge admission/donation at its home games, must post the price of admission at their admission gate. The League shall establish the exact amount charged/donated for all organizations. This is subject to change yearly and must be approved by 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors. The approved gate admission/donation charge is \$1 per person or \$3 per family during the regular season. And \$3 per person or \$5 per family during the post season and the Bowl Series weekend. (Person is defined as any age).
3. Ties count as $\frac{1}{2}$ game and entered into the League standings as such.
4. The annual League championship for the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Pony will be decided at the conclusion of the regular season by a playoff format to be decided annually by the member Directors at the third official League meeting of the year (July).
5. One coach may attend his huddle on the field during a charged time out or any number of coaches may attend a sideline conference during a charged time out.
6. In the event of two (2) League Members are not able to resolve rescheduling of postponed games, the Executive Board will schedule the games and the League will pay for the officials. The League will receive the proceeds of the gate. Games postponed because of any reason must be played by the open weekend as designated on the League schedule as considered as the end of regular season.

ARTICLE VIII - EQUIPMENT

1. At the first official League meeting each year, (January), an official football will be selected by the Board of Directors. Two (2) suitable "official footballs" must be provided by each game by the home team.

ARTICLE IX - VIOLATIONS

1. The Board of Directors will decide a charge of violation of the League By-Laws. The League Member making the complaint will be called the "applicant" and the League Member(s) in alleged violation will be called the "respondent". The applicant will make the charge of the By-Laws violation to the President in writing with a copy to the respondent and a copy to the Secretary. A charge of violation of the League By-Laws may be brought at any time during the calendar year in which the violation is alleged to have occurred.

The Board of Directors will receive input from the applicant, respondent, and the League Ethics Director (including input from the appropriate "Officials Association") to assist in the review of the alleged violation. A League "Violations Form" will be added to the Directors Page of the League website in order for the League Board of Directors to track repeat violations. The penalties are as follows:

I. Program Violations

FIRST OFFENSE - Warning accompanied with a fine no less than \$100.00 and not to exceed \$ 500.00

SECOND OFFENSE - The League Member will forfeit all games in which the violation occurred and / or a fine no less than \$750.00 and not to exceed \$1,500.00.

THIRD OFFENSE - The League Member in violation will be suspended from the playoffs for the current or next scheduled season and / or a fine no less the \$1,000.00 and not to exceed \$5,000.00.

II. Coaches Violations and/or Ejections

FIRST OFFENSE - Warning accompanied with a suspension for the next two (2) League scheduled games to include playoffs or Super Bowl and / or a fine not exceed \$50.00. If violation occurs at or near end of the season in which the violation occurred the suspension will be extended to League scheduled games of the next season.

SECOND OFFENSE - Suspension for the remaining scheduled League games for the season and / or a fine not to exceed \$ 100.00.

THIRD OFFENSE - Review by League Ethics Director for possible League violation. If in review a charge of violation is deemed appropriate the League Executive Board will provide the charge of violation as the "applicant".

III. Players Violations and/or Ejections

FIRST OFFENSE - Warning accompanied with a suspension of the next one (1) League scheduled game to include playoffs or Super Bowl. If violation occurs at or near end of the season in which the violation occurred the suspension will be extended to League scheduled games of the next season.

SECOND OFFENSE - Review by League Ethics Director for possible Player or League Member violation. If in review a "Player" violation is deemed appropriate a minimum suspension of the next two (2) League scheduled games to include playoffs and Super Bowl or a season ending suspension will be assessed as determined by the League Board of Directors. If in review a charge of violation is deemed appropriate to the League Member, the League Executive Board will provide the charge of violation as the "applicant".

2. Protests, including but not limited to violation of the League game rules of play set forth in Article VII, section 1 of the League By-Laws, will be decided by the Directors. The League Member making the complaint will be the "applicant" and the League Member(s) in alleged violation will be the "respondent". The applicant will make the protest to the President in writing with a copy to the respondent and League Secretary within five (5) days after the alleged violation. The five (5) day requirement will be determined by direct delivery to the President or by the postmark if mailed. Penalties will be the same as set forth in Article IX, section 1.
3. For a charge of violation of the League By-Laws or a protest, if the President cannot serve, the complaint will go to the Vice President and Secretary and then the Treasurer, or if Vice President cannot serve all correspondence will be mailed or hand delivered to the Secretary and then the Treasurer. Executive Board Members cannot serve if their teams are a party to either a charge of violating the By-Laws or a protest.
4. A \$100 fee will accompany either type of complaint. The \$100 fee will be refunded if the complaint is upheld. The Executive Board will promptly call a hearing with the interested parties required to attend as well as Directors or Alternates, and present evidence covering the issue in question if the Executive Board so chooses. A written decision will be given

without delay and such decision is final. The decision will be maintained in the League Secretary's meeting notes. The Executive Board on a question will select an impartial party subject to approval of the involved League Member, if there is a tie vote. No involved League Member can participate as a voting member on either type of violation issue.

5. For forfeiture of a home game: a hearing by the League and if there were no extenuating circumstances a penalty of \$50 will be assessed the forfeiting team and this money will go into the League treasury. For forfeiture of an away game: a hearing will be held to determine extenuating circumstances and if there are not extenuating circumstances, a penalty will be assessed the forfeiting League Member in the amount of \$1500. The \$1500 will be given to the host League Member to replace lost revenue. Any team assessed a forfeiture penalty must pay the host League Member the amount of \$1500 before their next League Member's participation in any further League games. If penalty occurs near the end of the season the host League Member must be paid before the last scheduled game of the season.
6. A record is kept by the Secretary of the League for violations that have accrued for each League Member. These violations will carry on with the League Member for a period of five (5) years. After the fifth (5th) year, that violation(s) will drop off the record for that League Member. Any violation will be registered on League books by the Secretary the following year. Violations will be expunged from League books after 5 full calendar years.

Example: Violation occurrence in October, 2013. Appropriate penalty assessed. Violation registered by March meeting 2014. Violation expunged from the League books by December, 2018.

ARTICLE X - CHANGES

To add, change, or delete any By-Law requires a positive vote by 2/3's majority of the League Board of Directors.

The League Secretary will annually distribute one copy of the current League By-Laws to the Directors of each League Member as amended at the League's third (3rd) "official League meeting" (July). In each calendar year, the By-Laws may not be amended, changed, deleted in any way after the third official meeting, (July). The Director's official By-Laws and Policies will stay as are until the March meeting of the following year.

POLICIES

C.O - LEAGUE POLICY

The following shall be policies of the League. These policies may be changed and appended by a majority vote of the League Directors prior to the July meeting.

1. Four (4) or Five (5) man officiating crews will be used to officiate Varsity, Jr. Varsity, Pony, and Mini-Pony games as negotiated yearly by the Officials Associations. Pony and Mini-Pony games may have less than four (4) officials. All officials must be members of recognized Officials Association. If payment is considered delinquent by the Officials Association at the time of playoff weigh-ins the League Member will not be eligible to participate in playoffs. Host League Members are responsible for the League Official's payment.
2. Results of the League games must be telephoned or emailed in by the host League Member to the League designated Director by 9:00 p.m. on the Sunday of the weekend in which the games are played. A fine of \$25 for each violation of this policy will be levied on the host League Member. Fines will be added to the League fees and are to be paid by no later than the first League meeting of the following year (January).
3. The registration fees will be \$100.00 per League Member.
4. The League will reimburse officers expenses incurred while carrying out League business.
5. League games shall be played in the following order
 - a. Full Schedule (both League Members fielding Division I and II teams): Pony Division II, Pony Division I, Mini-pony, JV Division II, JV Division I, and Varsity *
 - b. Division I Schedule (both League Members fielding Division I teams only): Pony Division I, JV Division I, and Varsity **

Day game schedules shall begin at 9am and conclude approximately 6 p.m. Evening game schedules shall begin at 12:30 p.m. and conclude approximately 9:30 p.m.

* = When a League Member cannot fill a full schedule but has more than a Division I schedule, the order of the full game schedule will be followed.

** = When a League Member fielding only Division I teams plays a League Member fielding both Division I and II, the game schedule will be filled in with Division II games (where possible): Pony Division II, JV Division II, Mini-pony, Pony Division I, JV Division I, and Varsity

6. K-2 Pony games. TDJ for Jr. Varsity games, and TDY for Varsity games are the official footballs. Home teams provide the balls.
7. Each League Member must have an official representative at each League meeting and at each weigh-in. A fine of \$25.00 for each violation of this policy will be levied on the offending association. Fines will be added to the League treasury and must be paid by the first official League meeting in January.
8. Any League Member desiring to do so, may conduct a camp. Conditioning camp will be limited to no more than five (5) days, which may or may not be consecutive. The camp should stress conditioning and basic football instruction. Each League Member has the option to use helmets only during this camp; the helmets are for protection only and no contact is allowed until practice begins four (4) weeks prior to the opening day as determined by the calendar. The official opening day will be determined by the League Board of Directors and put onto the "Calendar of Events" as distributed to each League Member yearly. The only exception to this will be participation in an organized spring session approved by the League.
9. The visiting League Member shall refrain from any sales or distribution of anything, which is in conflict with the concessions of the home League Member. This shall include, but not be limited to "Tailgate Parties," barbeques, and anything of any similar nature, especially where it is of an obvious and blatant nature. Each League Member Director shall be responsible for the notification of such restrictions to their own association and prior to and during the season.
10. All mini-pony games must be completed and all players, coaches, staff, must be off the field fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the designated time for the start of the Pony game.

D.O. - WEIGH-IN POLICY

The following is a policy of the League. This policy may be changed and appended by a majority vote of the League Board of Directors. Any policy changes for weight or age must be submitted in writing for presentation at the January meeting and be voted at the March meeting. No policies can be changed as of the July meeting.

1. Official weigh-ins will be conducted by the League Weight Committee which consists of League Member Directors and their Alternates. The Weigh-ins will be conducted at a central location as designated by the League at the official March meeting.

Initial weigh-ins will be conducted one week before the first League game scheduled per the "Calendar of Events." A supplemental weigh-in will occur per the "Calendar of Events" for those who exceed the weight limit at the initial weigh-in and for those who failed to attend initial weigh-ins.

Mid-season weigh-in will be conducted on week 5 of the League season. Week 1 is the first game weekend of the league season, so Week 5 would be the 5th weekend of the league season by definition. Only new players, players attempting to establish eligibility, or players attempting to remove their designation as a "red-striper" need to attend mid-season weigh-ins.

All League Members involved in the playoffs must weigh-in on the Saturday of the open weekend as designated by the League "Calendar of Events." Only those League Member teams involved in playoffs are needed to weigh-in. Time and date will be designated by League Calendar of Events. An auxiliary playoff weigh-in may be scheduled by the Board of Directors within 2 days prior to 2 days after the schedule playoff weigh-in date if deemed necessary.

2. The League Member Directors and Alternates will be responsible for setting the time and place in which weigh-ins will be conducted and are considered the Weight Committee. The Weight Committee members will weigh each player, verify jersey numbers, age, and "red-stripe" helmets of players and record weights on designated official League roster.
3. Each League Member is required to use the official League roster form as supplied by the League on the League website. Each roster must be completed by the first official League

weigh-in. Each roster must be typed in numerical sequence. Each player must be weighed in jersey number order. All players must bring their helmets to all weigh-ins.

4. The roster will consist of name, full address (street, city, and zip - NO PO BOXES), school attending, date of birth, and jersey number, and grade entering of each player at the official weigh-in. If a player is added after the first weigh-in, use the MUYFL Electronic Weigh-In roster form as provided by the League to add players. An abbreviation key is required with-in Electronic Weigh-In roster form for all levels of play and all schools identified.

If a Varsity player is home schooled, verification from the home school provider (Board of Education) is needed on letterhead and must state the grade the player would be entering and school attending if such player were attending public school. This documentation must be attached to the Varsity roster and verified by League officials.

5. Roster changes must be made on the official League roster form and submitted by Directors at the official League weigh-ins. Changes and additions can only be made at the official League weigh-ins. Any deviation from this policy must be approved by the League Board of Directors.
6. Players will be weighed in assigned jersey number order. All participants (exception of flag), must bring their helmets to weigh-ins.
7. The League will maintain five (5) scales. Four (4) scales will be digital readout and one (1) will be a balance beam scale. All scales will be for the use of League only.
8. Each level will be assigned one (1) scale for weigh-ins. All players from all teams in their respective levels must make weight on the same scales. NO SWITCHING OF SCALES IS ALLOWED.
9. Any player over one (1) pound of his maximum weight, must weigh in on the official League balance beam scale.
10. The exact weight of each player [recorded in whole numbers (e.g. 125.9 lbs = 125 lbs)] will be recorded at the initial season weigh-in.
11. The Weight Committee (Directors/Alternates) will be assigned to review birth certificates and team rosters at the official first weigh-in. The Weight Committee members as designated must sign off on the rosters as they are completed and approved.

12. At mid-season no exact weights are record except for added, new players and no sweat down periods are allowed. Players are on and off scales.

13. The host League Member responsible for weigh-ins will be voted on at the second annual meeting in March. The team responsible for that years weigh-in will receive a payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus any additional expenses incurred to hold such weigh-in.

14. The following weight limits currently apply

LEVEL	AGE	INITIAL		MID-SEASON		PLAYOFF	
		REGULAR	RED STRIPE	REGULAR	RED STRIPE	REGULAR	RED STRIPE
MINI-PONY	8 or Less	85 lbs	86 - 105 lbs	90 lbs	91 - 110 lbs	N/A	N/A
PONY	9	110 lbs	111 - 130 lbs	115 lbs	116 - 135 lbs	120 lbs	121 - 140 lbs
	10	110 lbs	111 - 130 lbs	115 lbs	116 - 135 lbs	120 lbs	121 - 140 lbs
JR. VARSITY	11	125 lbs	126 - 145 lbs	130 lbs	131 - 150 lbs	135 lbs	136 - 155 lbs
	12	125 lbs	126 - 145 lbs	130 lbs	131 - 150 lbs	135 lbs	136 - 155 lbs
	12 (8 th grader)	105 lbs	N/A	110 lbs	N/A	115 lbs	N/A
VARSITY	13	150 lbs	UNLIMITED	155 lbs	UNLIMITED	160 lbs	UNLIMITED
	14 (8 th grader)	130 lbs	UNLIMITED	135 lbs	UNLIMITED	140 lbs	UNLIMITED

- 14 yr. old players must be in the 8th grade or less.
- For Mini-pony, Pony, and JV, any player over the initial or mid-season weigh-in limits not to exceed 20 pounds will be red striped in a manner which is visible to the officials.

** Exception: No JV 12yr. old 8th grader will be red stripe as long as they are not over 105 pounds.

- For Varsity any player over the initial or mid-season weigh-in limit will be red striped in a manner which is visible to the officials.
- Weigh-ins will be conducted the Saturday of the off week as designated by the League calendar at 7:00 a.m. at a designated facility for all teams involved in playoffs only. Any player that does not attend this weigh-in will not be allowed to finish the season. Each player will receive 5 pds., however a player cannot lose his stripe.

15. At supplemental weigh-ins Directors and/or Alternates must be present with the respective players with all paperwork in order. No player will be weighed in without the Director and/or Alternate present. The forms must be sign by the Director. If a coach accompanies the player, the coach must have written permission signed by the Director to give authority to weigh-in the player (s). If the above is not met, the player will be automatically ineligible.

E.O. - PLAYOFF POLICY

The following is a policy of the League. This policy may be changed and appended by a majority vote of Directors of the League. However, all changes are to be made before the July meeting of each year.

1. Playoff format:

- a. All League Members in playoffs must weigh-in Saturday of the open weekend starting at 9:00 a.m. or otherwise defined by the League "Calendar of Events". This is the only time that will be allowed for this weigh-in. Non-participation in the weigh-in disqualifies a player for the rest of the season. Only League Member teams participating in the playoffs are required to weigh-in. Reference weight limits in section D.O. 14. No player will lose his or her stripe at playoff weigh-ins. The date and place of the weigh-in takes at a designated facility as typed in the League "Calendar of Events".
- b. Playoff games will be conducted in the first and second weekends following the completion of the regular season. The host League Member will provide the balls. All proceeds of the gate go into the treasury to pay officials fees.
- c. First round: At the end of the regular season the top four (4) teams from each division will be seeded from one (1) to four (4) based on their regular season records; the team having the best record in the division being given the top seed. The top two (2) seeds from each division, two from Mountain Division and two from Valley Division, will be home teams in the first round of the playoffs. Teams will cross over into the opposing division and play as follows: one (1) vs. four (4) and two (2) vs. three (3). In the event there is a tie within a division, tie breakers will be determined in the first round by, in order: head to head record, division record, total wins against playoff teams, strength of victories (total wins of teams defeated by each team), coin flip. Teams will be reseeded following the first round.
- d. Second Round: First round playoff winners will be reseeded from one (1) to four (4) based on their regular season records, regardless of division. The team with the best record will be given the top seed. In the event of a tie, tie breakers will be determined in the second round by, in order: head to head record, division record,

total wins vs. playoff teams included in round one, strength of victories (total wins of teams defeated by each team), and coin flip. The teams will play as follows: one (1) vs. four (4) and two (2) vs. 3 (three). The top two (2) seeds will be the home teams. The winners will advance to the Super Bowl.

- e. Host sites for playoffs: Each year host sites will be selected by designating a division (Pony, JV, or Varsity) as the “playoff host division”. This designation will rotate from Pony to JV to Varsity and repeat on an annual basis. The Pony Division will be utilized for the 2011 season. The top two (2) seeds in each division (Mountain and Valley) for the “playoff host division” will be given home-field advantage for the playoffs in the first round. The top two (2) seeds will be given home field advantage for the second round. For the two remaining divisions, the top two (2) seeds in each division for the first round and the top two (2) seeds in the second round will be given home field advantage if a home site is available based on the host sites dictated by the playoff host division. If a home site is not available, the game will be assigned to a neutral location by the Executive Board.

2. Determining Field

- a. In determining the field to be used, a Scoreboard clock and gate accommodations should be taken into consideration.

3. The Game

- a. The host team will provide the balls.
- b. The host team is responsible for providing chain crews for each game.
- c. Kansas City tie breaker system will be used to break ties for all levels. All tie breakers are to be run from the 10-yard line. The tie breakers will be continued at all levels until the tie is broken.
- d. The 19-pt rule specified in NFHS “Exceptions” appendices does not apply during playoff games.

4. Financial Obligations

- a. The host League Member will be responsible for the establishment of a gate for the purpose of admission/donations. From this gate the League will receive a set fee for the payment of referees, plus an additional fee up to \$300. Play-off hosts should be given a receipt for all money handed over to the League.
- b. The League Treasurer will be responsible for the payment of officials. The cost of the officials will be offset from gate receipts.
- c. The host League Member is responsible for any stadium cost/rental.
- d. The host League Member will receive all profits from concessions, program sales, or any other form of making revenue for their respective organization.
- e. No weigh-in.

5. Time/Kick-off

- a. The League Executive Board will determine the start time of each playoff site within reason, staggering times so the Executive Board Members may attend all games.
- b. Teams participating will have 10 minutes half time in which 4 minutes will be designated to their respective cheerleading or pom squads to perform. It is important that each team receive their respective 4 minutes.
- c. Games times must comply with the League By-Laws.
- d. No mini-pony contest may be scheduled.

SUPERBOWL:

1. Location

- a. Location will be determined by the alphabetical order of League Members so each Member has the chance to host the Superbowl. Upon designated year by alphabetical order the League Member is expected to host even if they have no teams participating. If a League Member wishes not to host the Superbowl, the next League Member in alphabetical order will host. The League Member denying to host will not be compensated. The alphabetical order will continue without interruption.
- b. In determining the field to use, it is necessary to have a Scoreboard, clock, and accommodations for a gate.

2. Game

- a. The League will provide game balls for each game. The winner of each game will retain possession of the game ball.
- b. The League will provide first and second place team trophies or plaques for each level. Presentation of trophies will be immediately following each contest.
- c. The host team is responsible for providing chain crews for each game. The chains will be kept on the home side of the field.
- d. The League will assume the responsibility of making sure 6 officials will be present for each game.
- e. The Kansas City tie breaking system will be used to break all ties at each level. All ties will need to be broken to declare a winner. All tie breakers will be ran from the 10 yard line.
- f. The 19-pt rule specified in NFHS "Exceptions" appendices do not apply.

3. Financial Obligations

- a. The host League Member is responsible for the establishment of a gate for the purpose of admission/donations. League will receive all proceeds from the gate.
- b. The League will be responsible for payment of officials, which are offset by gate receipts. All gate proceeds after payment of the officials will be reimbursed to the host team to assist in offsetting host site costs.
- c. All League Member teams participating in the Superbowl will receive \$100 per team.
- d. The host League Member will receive all profits from concessions, programs, or any other means of making profit for the day.

4. Weigh-in

- a. None

5. Game Schedule

- a. The start time will be set by the Executive Board.
- b. The date will be set by the Executive Board. The first consideration will be Saturday with keeping Sunday open as a rain date if needed.
- c. Teams will be permitted 10 minute half times. Each League Member will be allowed 4 minutes for half-time presentation from the cheerleading or pom squads. League Members must be very considerate of the 4 minutes.

6. Awards

- a. Division winners will be announced and awarded a team trophy or plaque. This will be for all levels.
- b. Awards will be presented at the opening of the Superbowl.

F.O. - MINI PONY POLICY

The following is the Mini-Pony policy and is to be followed by all coaching staff in the League. There is to be no differential changes from this policy.

A. Players

1. Age: 8 years old and younger.
2. Weight limit: refer to D.O. 14

B. Schedule

1. All scrimmages must be completed with coaches and players off the field 15 minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game.
2. Directors may feel free to arrange a scrimmage with another team if they have a bi-week.
3. Coaches are not allowed to arrange a scrimmage without the consent of their Director. All League business must be conducted between Directors only.

C. Scrimmages

1. These contests are controlled scrimmages and will be played under Article 7 of the League By-Laws.
2. There will be no score kept on the field, scoreboard, etc., or reported to the league for these scrimmages
3. Any violations from these policies can result in a League Member being brought under charges.

D. Officials / Referees:

1. Each League Member will identify an Official / Referee who will remain on the field, on the opposite side of their team's sideline. This individual may only officiate and not participate in the contest in any other capacity, such as coaching.
2. **For D1 only:** The host League Member will also identify a Field Director / Head Official. This individual will be responsible for:

- a. Controlling the scrimmage as a Head Referee
 - b. Managing the thirty (30) second play clock
3. Officiating will be consistent with the instructional level of the scrimmage. (There will be a separate document outlining areas of emphasis and expectations for officiating agreed upon by the Board of Directors and shared at each year's Referee's meeting).
4. The calls of the Officials will be considered non-disputable.
5. Participants (Coaches/Players/Fans) who have been determined to abuse these officials may be suspended for the subsequent scrimmage, repeat offenders may be suspended for the season. This determination will be based on the input of the Directors at the scrimmage and will immediately be reported to the League Executive Board.

E. Rules for D1 and D2:

1. Up to three (3) captains may be picked from each team and designated as captains for the coin toss. The coin toss is for determining who is offense or defense to start the contest. The visiting team will call the toss.
2. Host League Members will supply a clock keeper. The scrimmage will consist of a running clock, allowing for equal halves and a half-time, in the time allotted. There will be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes per half and a ten (10) minute half-time.
3. The ball will be placed on the forty (40) yard line to start the scrimmage.
4. There will be no kicking plays (no kickoffs, punts or field goal/extra points)
5. There will be no extra points following a touchdown.
6. The ball cannot be advanced on a turnover, the play will be blown dead.
7. A maximum of two (2) coaches per team will be allowed to participate only in the huddle. They must be ten (10) yards behind the line of scrimmage prior to the snap and during the play.

8. There is **NO** blitzing allowed on defense (anyone not on the line must remain 4 yards from the line of scrimmage until the ball is snapped).
9. All defensive linemen must line up "head up" on the offensive lineman located in the "tackle to tackle" area (as defined by League's Red-Stripe rules). Defensive linemen located in this defined region are not permitted to line up in the gap.
10. Defensively, a maximum of six (6) players are permitted on the line of scrimmage. A traditional three (3) to six (6) man front must be utilized.

F. Rules for D1 only:

1. The home team will be responsible for providing a chain gang.
2. Teams will have 30 seconds to call play monitored by the Head Official. Violating this rule will be penalized by loss of down only.
3. Offensively, down and distance format will be utilized.
4. Teams will alternate between ten (10) minutes of offense and defense. Time will be kept on the host field scoreboard.
5. Teams will have ten (10) minutes to run as many plays as possible using the four (4) down and ten (10) yard distance method typical of NFHS rules.
6. If a touchdown is scored, fumble recovered by the defensive team, interception, or a turnover on downs occurs the ball will return to the forty (40) yard line without a change of possession and a new set of four (4) downs and ten (10) yards distance will begin.
7. Change of possession will occur upon conclusion of allotted ten (10) minute scheduled time.

G. Rules for DII only:

1. Teams will alternate between ten (10) minutes of offense and defense.
2. Teams will have ten (10) minutes to run as many plays as possible.
3. If touchdown is scored or a turnover occurs, the ball will return to the 40 yard line, and play will continue until the ten (10) minutes has expired.

G.O. - DIVISION II

- A. Eligibility: League Members must field a Division I (D1) team before entering a Division II (D2) team at that level. In order to have a D2 team at any level, there must be at least 25 players on the team roster at that level. League Members are not required to field D2 teams. Each League Member should commit to play in D2 by June 1st .
1. D2 will be consistent with all D1 policies with the following exceptions:
 2. There will be no playoffs for D2. A Bowl Series, scheduled by the Executive Board, will be played during the open weekend at the end of the regular season.
 3. There will be no won/lost records kept
 4. There will be no over-time. Games will end in a tie.
- B. D2 and D1 players are to be placed on one official League roster by Division (Pony, JV, Varsity). Players will be allowed to move between D1 and D2 with the exception that no true D1 "First Team" player will be permitted to play in D2 games. A "First Team" player is defined as an offensive or defensive starter or a player that plays more than one quarter in a D1 game. An injury to a "First Team" player and/or the 19 point rule allow for exceptions to this policy.

APPENDICES

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 31th	1pm	League Meeting	Walkersville Fire Hall
March 6st	1pm	League Meeting	Walkersville Fire Hall
July 10th	1pm	League Meeting	Walkersville Fire Hall
July 16th		Practice Starts	
July 23th		Practice in pads	
August 13th	8am	Weigh-In Meeting	Urbana High School
	9am	Weigh-Ins	Urbana High School
	11am	Referee's Meeting	Urbana High School
	12pm	Mini Pony Rules Meeting	Urbana High School
August 27th	9am	Supplemental Weigh-Ins	Urbana High School
September 17th	8am	Mid-Season Weigh-Ins	Urbana High School
October 22nd	9am	Playoff Weigh-Ins	Urbana High School
October 22 nd /23rd	TBD	Division 2 Bowl Series	TBD
October 29th/30th	TBD	1st Round Playoff Series	Varsity Hosts
November 5th/6th	TBD	2nd Round Playoff Series	Varsity Hosts
November 12th	12pm	Superbowl	Spring Mills Hosts

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2016 NFHS RULE EXCEPTIONS

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules will be used by the league with the exception of variations adopted by the league as identified in this document.

1. For points after touchdown, a run or pass will count one point (1) and a kick will count as two (2) points.
2. The League waives the numbering rule specified in the NFHS rules.
3. One new or acceptable like new football must be provided for each game by the home team. The ball size will be: K-2 for Mini-Pony and Pony games, TDJ for JV games, and the TDY for Varsity games. The ball make will be a leather Wilson or leather Wilson GST.
4. Only sneaker – tennis shoes or rubber – molded cleats will be permitted. Rubber – molded baseball cleats are disallowed. Rubber – molded (screw in) cleats may be no longer than ½ inch in length and no metal showing from wear. If metal is showing the cleats must be replaced immediately. **(Formerly in Article VIII – Equipment)**
5. The Kansas City tie breaking system will be used to break ties for the Varsity, Jr. Varsity, and Pony games of Division I only (there will be no tie breakers for Division II.) All tie breakers are to be run from the ten (10) yard line. The Pony games will be limited to one (1) tie breaker. If the Pony game is tied after one period, the game will remain a tie. Each team will receive 1/2 game win. Jr. Varsity games will remain tie if tied after two (2) tie breaker periods. Varsity games will be ran until the tie is broken. **(Formerly in C.O – League Policy)**
6. The chain crew must be provided by the home team and the chains will be run from the home side of the field **(Formerly in C.O – League Policy)**.
7. At any time during the second half of a game in which there is a 19 point lead (or greater), the leading team is required to remove a minimum of 6 starters from its offensive and defensive units. At any point during the second half the lead reduces below 19 points any and all restrictions on starters shall be lifted. Special teams units are specifically exempt from this policy. **(Formerly in C.O – League Policy)**. The substitution requirement for the 19 point rule does not apply during the playoffs.

8. Varsity games shall consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. Jr. Varsity and Pony games are four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. **(Formerly in C.O – League Policy)**
9. Once a team has a thirty (30) point advantage at the beginning or at any time in the second half the clock will only stop for team timeouts and official timeouts. Once this advantage falls below thirty (30) points, the clock will resume its normal function. **(Formerly in C.O – League Policy)**
10. The clock will start with ready for play signal for other than a free kick if the clock was stopped for an official's time out. The clock will start with the snap or when any free kick is touched other than first touching by the kicking team if the clock was stopped because: the ball goes out of bounds; the ball becomes dead behind the goal line; a team requests for a time out; a period ends; and/or a team attempts to consume time illegally; or a penalty for a delay of game foul is accepted. **(Formerly in C.O – League Policy)**
11. "Red-stripped" players:
 - a. Will have their helmets marked in such a manner that is clearly visible to the officials with tape. Tape must be clearly visible on the front and back of helmet.
 - b. Are restricted to a maximum of five lineman on each offense and defense. "Red-stripped" players may not line up outside of the offensive tackle positions on either offense or defense and must be in a down stance. A defensive "Red-stripped" lineman must be on his line of scrimmage, that being within one yard of his scrimmage line at the snap, as established in the NFHS rules and being either in a three or four point stance. In the event of an offensive unbalanced line, the defensive "Red-stripped" player on the weak side of the line may line up head up on the offensive end without penalty. (The only exception to a "Red-stripped" player not being in a three or four point stance on the line of scrimmage is to be the kicker on the extra point or field goal unit.)
 - c. On the offensive line may not be the "end" man on the line of scrimmage. (This "Red-stripped" offensive lineman must be "covered" by a non-"Red-stripped player" on the end of the line of scrimmage at all times.

- d. May not advance the ball in any manner. The ball becomes “Dead” and may not be advanced on a fumble recovery, interception, tipped pass, or blocked kick by a “Red-striped” player.
 - e. May not participate on the Kick-off or Kick-off return teams.
 - f. May participate on the extra point, field goal, punt, and punt return teams as a lineman as per the rules listed above.
 - g. May “kick” for the field goal and extra point teams. The “Red-striped” kicker may “not” pass the ball or advance the ball in any way on a bobbled or fumbled snap. On a “fumbled” snap, the ball becomes “dead” when the “Red-striped” kicker gains possession of the ball in any manner.
12. The penalty, if a play is run illegally based on the “Red-striped” rules in this document, will be assessed as a dead ball illegal participation infraction.
13. If a team has less than 11 players eligible to participate on the kick off, the football will be placed on the 35 yd. line for Varsity and JV, and at the 40 yd line for Pony.
14. For purposes of snapper protection, the snapper will be afforded protection anytime there is a player 5 yards or more behind the center with a knee on the ground and a player in position to kick the football. (No player is in position to take a hand to hand snap).
15. Once a team declares that they are taking a knee, and there is less than 2 minutes in either half; the defense will not be allowed to rush (penetrate the line of scrimmage in an aggressive manner). Failure to comply will result in a “Unsportsmanlike Conduct” penalty against the Head Coach. Once declaring to take a knee, the offensive unit will not attempt to advance the ball. Failure to comply will result in a “Unsportsmanlike Penalty” against the head coach.
16. The League waives the home/away uniform color requirements as specified in NFHS rules.
(Formerly in Article VIII – Equipment)
17. Any coach who is ejected from a game, will be ineligible to participate in the next two (2) scheduled League games. Any team member who is ejected from a game, will be ineligible to participate in the next one (1) scheduled League game. In the event the ejection occurs in the last game of the regular season, the suspension will be applied toward any subsequent

play-off game, superbowl or next regularly scheduled League games the following season.
Coaches may be subjected to additional penalties as determined by the Board of Directors.