S.L.Y.F.O.

These are the By-Laws of the St. Louis Youth Football Organization, herein known as SLYFO.

**Article I**

Philosophy of St. Louis Youth Football Organization

**I.A** Objective:

The objective of the SLYFO is to create positive opportunity for the youth of the St. Louis community to learn the game of football and the fundamental life principles it provides in a fun and safe environment.

**I.B** SLYFO Mission Statement:

The goal of the SLYFO is to develop and instill in the youth of our community, the principles of hard work, responsibility, sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect for the individual through the teaching of the game of football in a positive environment. We believe the growth of the individual youth athlete in our community shall be enhanced through the spirit of competition, the teaching of discipline, and pride in teamwork. We will accomplish these goals by providing a program of the highest standard and seeking out coaches and other volunteers willing to exemplify these ideals.

**I.C** Scholastic Statement:

It is the expectation of the SLYFO that each individual athlete maintains passing grades in the classroom setting. SLYFO will support individual parent decisions to pull youth from practices or games due to academic concerns.

**Article II**

The Organization

**II.A** Board of Directors:

**II.A.1** The board of directors shall consist of at minimum a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and cheer director. Additional board members could include fundraising coordinator, trustee, etc. at the discretion of the current sitting board. Each member of the board has an equal individual vote. Board Members must attend at least 50% of meetings or they may be eligible for a motion to be brought to remove them from the board. In order for any vote to be passed 70% of board members must cast a vote, preferably in person, but an online/virtual vote is acceptable.

**II.A.1.a** Board President:

The board president shall be responsible for finding coaches, volunteers, facilities, conduct of home games, and to ensure that there is a board member present at all home games.

**II.A.1.b** Board Vice President:

The board VP shall act as an assistant to the President in all matters, including the oversight of home games in the absence of the President.

**II.A.1.c** Board Treasurer:

The board treasurer shall be responsible for all record keeping in regard to any and all funds donated, raised through fundraisers, and all purchases made and approved by the board.

**II.A.1.d** Board Secretary:

The board secretary will be responsible for all record keeping at board meetings, reading previous meeting minutes, the progression of the board meeting, keeping the written record of all board meetings, maintaining the SLYFO Website and Registration needs.

**II.A.1.e** Field and Equipment Manager (This may be a shared task with all board members):

The Field and Equipment Manager will be responsible for inspecting all SLYFO equipment for cleanliness and visual damage, keeping an inventory of all SLYFO equipment owned, overseeing the issuing of equipment to athletes, and overseeing the return of equipment to the SLYFO.

The Field and Equipment Manager is also the person the Head coach of any team will turn in a requisition form to if any player’s equipment gets damaged through the course of the season.

The Field and Equipment Manager will be in charge of making sure the field is set up and torn down for home games.

**II.A.2** Team Parent:

Each team will have at least one parent designated as the Team Parent as a liaison for the parents to bring any concerns to. The Team Parent will then be the one to bring the issue to the attention of either the coach or a Board Member.

The Team Parent will also be in charge of any handouts, announcements, etc. that the coach has for the parents, as well as organizing team donations as requested and fundraising activities to assist the board as needed.

**II.A.3** Coaches:

SLYFO Coaches will be made up of volunteers. The Head Coach may or may not be a parent of one of the athletes on the team.

All coaches are expected to know the rules of the MSHAA as well as specific rules set forth by the Jack Pine League for their grade.

The President of SLYFO will put forth his nomination for Head Coach of each grade. The nominees will then need to have a background check on file with the St. Louis School Superintendent’s office, a copy of which will be kept on file with the SLYFO. After the background check is passed, board members will choose to vote the coach in or out by a majority vote, either verbally or by secret ballot if the board so decides.

Each Head Coach will then choose his own Assistant Coaches. Assistant coaches will be sent to the Athletic Director’s office for a background check.

All coaches associated with the SLYFO will act in a manner of the highest standards with respect for the individual, respect for the community, and respect for the game of football.

All coaches will be expected to adhere to the concussion rules as set forth by the MSHAA. See MSHAA rulebook, appendix H.

All coaches will be responsible for setting up their own practice session and dates. However, practice will be limited to:

* Four (4) days per week
* Three (3) hours per practice
* One (1) practice per day, except 7th & 8th grade may hold two-a-day practices for the first fourteen calendar days, limited to two hours per practice.
* There will be no mandatory Saturday or Sunday practices.
* The head coach may decide to shorten outdoor practice length on a per-day basis due to darkness or adverse weather conditions.
* The Head coach will suspend/cancel practice in the event of lightning. There is no interpretation on this issue. Lightning is lightning. Practice may be postponed until the next available day as long as the above practice limitations are not exceeded.
  + In the event of a coach being ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, or any instance where the coach is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, or otherwise intentionally and aggressively contacting an official shall be suspended for at least one contest following the day of the incident.
  + If it is the last contest of the year the coach will be suspended for at least one contest the following season.

**Article III**

Income and Expenses:

**III.A** The prices for participating in the SLYFO are to be outlined on registration forms each year prior to sign up.

Registration fees are due prior to suit up and youth will not receive uniforms until all fees are paid.

**III.B** Fundraising:

**III.B.1** The board may choose to put forth a mandatory fundraiser to raise funds for operating costs, i.e. concession supplies, new equipment, etc.

**III.B.2** Any and all other fundraisers, whether individual or team oriented, must be presented in writing to the board members for approval.

**III.B.2.a** Any use of the SLYFO name, or variations thereof, must have Board approval in writing or legal action may be taken.

**III.B.2.b** All funds from approved fundraisers will be payable to the SLYFO Treasurer upon completion of the fundraiser.

**III.B.2.c** Any equipment to be purchased from funds raised specifically for the purpose of purchasing said equipment will be approved at the time the fundraiser is presented to the Board for approval.

**III.B.2.d** A member of the Board will purchase the equipment after the funds have been counted and deposited by the SLYFO Treasurer.

**III.B.3** All purchases for SYLYFO over $200, with the exception of the purchase of goods to stock the concessions stand, require vote and approval from the board.

**III.B.4** A Profit & Loss statement will be available to the public at the end of the current year upon request.

**Article IV**

Equipment:

**IV.A** SLYFO equipment:

**IV.A.1** The SLYFO shall provide each athlete with the following equipment:

* + - * Football helmet.
      * Shoulder pads
      * Football Pants
      * Game and Practice Jersey (7th/8th Grade football will keep their game jersey after the completion of their 8th grade season)

**IV.A.2** All SYLFO equipment will be returned in good condition to SLYFO at the end of the season. Any equipment not returned will be the financial responsibility of the athlete’s parents. Individual equipment costs will be provided at suit up.

**IV.A.3** The athlete shall be responsible for supplying their own:

* + - * Football shoes.
      * Football socks.
      * Any undergarments required by the athlete, i.e. athletic supporter, girdle, etc.
      * Mouth guards.

**IV.A.4** All equipment must meet NOCSAE standards. Any equipment not meeting these standards will not be allowed for use by the athlete.

**Article V**

Medical treatment:

**V.A** If medical treatment is needed for an athlete in case of injury at practice or a game it will be carried out according to the medical release form on file, except in cases of emergency care when the parent is not available. In the event of such an occurrence the best and quickest medical treatment will be sought.

**V.B** A medical release form will be on file with the SLYFO as well as a copy on file in the coach’s folder.

**V.C** Concussion policy

**V.C.1** In accordance with Michigan Public Act 343 of 2012 all, coaches and volunteers on the field will be required to provide SLYFO with a Certificate of Completion for the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC’s) free online concussion training course.

**V.C.2** In accordance with Michigan Public Act 343 of 2012 all parents will be required to sign an affidavit stating that they have received the required concussion awareness literature. This is available on the SLYFO website.

**V.C.2.a** In accordance Michigan Public Act 343 of 2012 the SLYFO will keep a record of the Affidavit until that student-athlete reaches the age of 18.

**V.D.** Using the CDC’s guidelines for concussion treatment any student athlete suspected of a concussion will be immediately pulled from competition and will be required to have a Medical Clearance to Return to Play filed with the SLYFO.

**V.D.1** This Medical Clearance to Return to Play will be kept on file with the SLYFO until the student-athlete reaches the age of 18.

**V.E. Injury Policy**

**V.E.1.** In the event of an injury whether during or away from the sport the following steps must be taken before the Student Athlete will be allowed to return to play/practice:

Step 1. The parent of the athlete must contact the coach or a board member to inform them of any medical condition that will not allow that athlete to practice/play with the team. This includes any condition which will not allow the athlete to perform on a full **or** limited basis.

Step 2. The parent of the athlete must turn in to his/her coach a form from either the attending physician or his/her family doctor stating the nature of the medical condition and the expected return to play/practice date.

Step 3. The parent of the athlete must follow up with his/her coach after each appointment for treatment of the medical condition to keep his/her coach apprised of the progress of the athlete.

Step 4. Before the date of return of the athlete, the parent of the athlete must present their coach with a return to play form stating that they are fit to return to play/practice, which will be filled out by the same physician that filled out the initial medical forms.

**V.E.1.a** The athlete will not be allowed to return to play or practice until **ALL** medical forms have been turned in to their coach **AND** the coach has informed one of the board members of the ability to return to play. The board members will then make the decision to let the athlete return to play. A minimum of two board members must agree to allow the athlete return to play status.

**V.E.2.** The athlete will be allowed to attend practice or games **in street clothes**, but no physical participation will be allowed without steps 1 through 3 of **V.E.1** having been followed.

**Article VI**

Player eligibility:

**VI.A** Residence requirements:

**VI.A.1** Any athlete from the St. Louis School district will be eligible to participate in the SLYFO’s football program as long as they meet the age and grade requirements set forth in the Jack Pine League By-Laws, which is the governing body for the league in which SLYFO belongs.

**VI.A.2** Any athlete who lives outside the St. Louis School district will be allowed to participate in SLYFO’s football program, provided that the athlete’s home district does not have a football program available for the athlete’s age/grade group.

**VI.A.3** Any athlete who does not currently play for the SLYFO who lives in a district that has a football program for that athlete’s age/grade group will not be allowed to play for the SLYFO.

**VI.A.4** Any player who currently plays for the Saint Louis School district, but the athlete’s home district now has a football program available for the athlete’s age/grade group, will be grandfathered into the SLYFO, if that athlete so chooses.

**VI.B** Age and grade requirements:

**VI.B.1** The Jack Pine League sets the age and grade requirements for the league. These can be found in the handbook, available on the Jack Pine website.

**VI.C** Weight limits:

**VI.C.1** The SLYFO abides by the rules set forth in Jack Pine League By-Laws for weight restrictions on Backs and Ends. A Back or End position is defined as that of Quarterback, Running Back, Tight End, and Receiver. There is no weight limit for any other positions.

**VI.C.2** Each athlete will be required to weigh in at the designated time/place to be eligible to carry the ball.

**VI.D** Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

**VI.D.1** Any athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, or any athlete ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, or otherwise intentionally and aggressively contacting an official shall be suspended for at least one contest following the day of the incident.

**VI.D.2** Any athlete displaying unsportsmanlike conduct in an educational setting that results in suspension or expulsion will be subject to disciplinary action on the field as well up to and including ineligibility to play for a game or the remainder of the season.

**VI.E Bullying -** Bullying or other aggressive behavior towards a player, coach, board member, volunteer, parent, guest or other individual involved in any capacity with SLYFO, is strictly prohibited. The prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing gestures, comments, threats, or actions towards any individually previously listed, which cause or threaten bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of players, coaches, board members, parents and volunteers to provide a positive example of sportsmanship and behavior.

Parents/Legal Guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint broad to the board for investigation, as well as the results of the investigation.

After completing a thorough investigation, the SYFLO board will decide by majority vote the proper resolution based on the nature of bullying/aggressive behavior up to and including removal from the program for the remainder of the current season.

**Article VII**

Flag football.

**VII.A** SLYFO Mission Statement: It is the mission of the SLYFO’s Flag Football feeder program to teach young K-2 student-athletes the fun of the game of football while incorporating safe physical aspects and teamwork.

**VII.B** Flag football student-athletes will be exempt from the following:

Exemption #1 There shall be no residency requirement for the Flag Program

Exemption #2 There shall be no eligibility requirements for the Flag Program

**VII.C** Coaches will be required to comply with SLYFO coaching requirements.

**VII.C.1** Coaches will be supplied with the following equipment for the season:

* 2 footballs
* 15 flag sets
* orange marking cones.

**VII.D** As there is no governing body or league participation for the Flag Program the rules governing practices and games will be as follows:

**VII.D.1** Practices will be a minimum of two days per calendar week with a maximum of three days per calendar week.

**VII.D.1.a** All practices will be limited to a maximum of two hours per practice.