

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

ARTICLE I: TEAM DESCRIPTIONS

SECTION A: SENIOR TEAMS:

The Senior Teams will be composed of players which conform to the eligibility requirements specified in the S.W.B.L. Rules. Senior team members may consist of 5th or 6th grade boys and/or girls and cannot exceed age 13 before Aug. 1st.

SECTION B: MAJOR TEAMS:

The Major Teams will be composed of players which conform to the eligibility requirements specified in the S.W.B.L. Rules. Major team members may consist of 4th and 5th grade boys and/or girls and cannot exceed age 12 before Aug. 1st.

SECTION C: JUNIOR TEAMS:

The Junior Teams will be composed of players which conform to the eligibility requirements specified in the S.W.B.L. Rules. Junior team members may only consist of 3rd and/or 4th grade boys and/or girls and cannot exceed age 11 before Aug. 1st.

SECTION D: MINOR TEAMS:

The Minor Teams will be composed of players which conform to the eligibility requirements specified in the S.W.B.L. Rules. Minor team members may only consist of “eligible 2nd grade”, 3rd grade boys and/or girls and cannot exceed age 10 before Aug. 1st.

SECTION E: MINI & MICRO TEAMS (OPTIONAL):

The Mini Teams will be composed of players which conform to the eligibility requirements specified in the S.W.B.L. Rules. Mini team members may consist of “eligible 1st grade”, 2nd grade boys and/or girls and cannot exceed age 9 before Aug. 1st.

The Micro Teams will be composed of players which conform to the eligibility requirements specified in the S.W.B.L. Rules. Mini team members may only consist of “eligible 1st grade”, boys and/or girls and cannot exceed age 8 before Aug. 1st.

NOTE: Kids will play in the grade they are in UNLESS they are older than the age restriction.

ARTICLE II: S.W.B.L. RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION A: INSURANCE:

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

All S.W.B.L. teams must carry their own liability insurance. Only teams who comply with the S.W.B.L. Constitution By-Laws, Rules, and insurance policies will be eligible to compete in the league. No Medical Insurance will be provided by the S.W.B.L. An insurance policy for each team must be turned into the league secretary at the April meeting.

SECTION B: DIVISIONS:

The Executive Board will determine Division every two years.

SECTION C: RULES:

The S.W.B.L. will provide uniform playing rules to be complied with by each category of S.W.B.L. teams.

SECTION D: FORMS:

The S.W.B.L. will provide JOT registration/release forms for all participants. If the registration/release forms are not received by the S.W.B.L. Board by July meeting, that child will be considered ineligible for scheduled league events to include but not limited to practice, games, etc. Forms will be handed out at the June meeting and returned by the July meeting.

SECTION E: OFFICIALS:

The S.W.B.L. The Executive Board will contract for officials for all S.W.B.L. games.

SECTION F: REGULAR SEASON:

1. The S.W.B.L. will provide scheduled games for each of its member teams. Final game schedule handed out by S.W.B.L. June Meeting. Regular season games can only be replaced by a S.W.B.L. team unless approved by the Executive Board.

2. The S.W.B.L. is made up of 2 divisions: North and South. Teams will play 8 regular season games.

SECTION G: PLAYOFFS:

1. The S.W.B.L. The Executive Board will designate the League Champions, Division Champions, and runners-up for the Senior, Major, Junior, Minor, Mini and Micro Teams in the S.W.B.L.

2. League Champion designations will be based on a Championship Game of Division Champions

a. The Playoff games will be played on the weekend immediately following the last regular season games.

b. There will be two brackets (Gold and Silver) for playoffs. The Gold Bracket will consist of the teams ranked 1st through 4th. The Silver Bracket will consist of the teams ranked 5th through 8th. The Silver Bracket Super Bowl will be played at a site determined by points the Gold Bracket Super Bowl will be played at Welcome Stadium.

c. The top organization from the North Division and the top organization from the South Division with the largest combined points of the Senior, Major, Junior, Minor, and Mini teams will have first chance at hosting the Championship game for the Silver Bracket or playoff games.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

d. The hosting organization shall pay no fee to the league for hosting the championship games. They are responsible for payment of referees and may keep all net profits for their own organization.

3. Determination of Playing Teams shall be based on points awarded as follows:

a. 3 points for each division win

b. 1.5 point for each division tie

c. ½ point for each league overtime loss

d. 0 for each non-overtime loss

4. Any association, as a whole, may opt out of the points and playoff prior to the June S.W.B.L. meeting. This action must be by resolution of the association. A certified copy must be delivered to the S.W.B.L. secretary prior to the June S.W.B.L. meeting. Any association not opting out and not playing a playoff game shall pay a \$300 fine.

5. Tie breakers for Hosting shall be the same as current tiebreakers.

6. No point(s) will be given if any fines are unpaid to the S.W.B.L. or monies owed to any other S.W.B.L. organization. All fines from previous years must be paid that month. If not paid by then, that team will lose points for that month.

7. Most points decide Play-Off teams. Ties in a division will be decided by the following:

a. Head-to-Head results

b. Most division points

c. Fewest points scored allowed in division

d. Fewest points scored allowed overall

e. Most points scored in division (max 30 points per game)

f. Most points scored overall (max 30 points per game)

8. Playoffs will be comprised of the top 8 teams in each division. There will be two brackets a Gold and a Silver. Gold will be teams ranked 1-4, Silver will be teams ranked 5-8. Round 1 will be paired 4 vs 1, 3 vs 2 in each division (Example: #1 in the North will play #4 in the North). Round 1 winners will meet in Round 2 for Division Championship. Winners from Round 2 will advance to the Championship Game.

9. Playoff game times may be adjusted to allow time for travel for organizations that may have multiple teams in the playoffs however venue change for seeded teams will NOT. Games will start at the time listed, not early.

10. Playoff games should be played on the hosting organizations high school field if at all possible.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

11. During playoff games, the higher seed will be the home team and sit on the home side, lower seed will be the visiting team and will sit on the visitor's side. If the host team of the playoff game is the seed, then they must conform to the seeding set forth by the S.W.B.L.

SECTION H: SUPER BOWL:

1. The S.W.B.L. will recognize the League Champion of the Senior, Major, Junior, Minor, **Mini and Micro** teams.

2. Payment for trophies comes from the S.W.B.L League

ARTICLE III: MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES SECTION

SECTION A: FORMS:

1. League fees of \$400 must be turned in at the May Meeting. If not received at the May meeting, teams will forfeit the season and be fined \$250 which will be handled by the executive board.

2. Coaches' Concussion certificate must be turned in at weigh-ins. The SWBL Executive Board may audit these records at any time. Failure to have or maintain these forms can result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and fines.

3. League Representatives of S.W.B.L. teams are responsible to obtain JOT FORM releases of liability from parents or guardians for the S.W.B.L. and their organization from the participants by the June meeting.

4. All organizations are responsible to ensure each player participating in the S.W.B.L. has undergone and passed a medical examination that must be signed by a medical professional prior to playing in an S.W.B.L. scheduled game. If not, a fine of \$100 per player will be charged to that team and will be suspended until physicals are completed.

5. **All coaches sign a memorandum understanding saying they understand the rules and regulations of the SWBL. This record will be kept on file within each organization. The SWBL Executive Board may review this file at any time. Any organization found in violation in not maintaining this file may be disciplined and or fined.**

SECTION B: LEAGUE MEETINGS:

1. All league members are responsible to send representatives to all league meetings. Members missing a meeting will be fined. The fine for missing meetings will be \$75.00 for the first offense and \$150.00, and possible suspension for the second offense. All fines must be paid by the next board meeting.

2. As stated in the league constitution by-laws, a team absent 3 meetings in one year will be subject to probation and/or suspension and forfeits their right to vote on league matters.

SECTION C: GAME DAY:

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

1. It is the home team's responsibility to ensure that playing fields are ready for S.W.B.L. games as specified in the Playing Rules. If the game field is not ready on game day, which includes having the chain gang, there will be a delay of game set forth by the referee. The only exception is an Act of Nature.
2. All team representatives are responsible to call in scores, or to report scores by email or text by 9:00pm on Sunday night to the Vice President.
3. Failure to report scores will be \$75.00 for the first offense, and \$150.00 and possible suspension for the second offense.

SECTION D: DONATIONS AT REGULAR SEASON GAMES:

1. Entrance to all games will be \$8 per person or \$15.00 per family (CAPPED at 4 Adults) and \$4 for Senior Citizens. Executive Board Members are free to enter all games.
2. Brookville and Piqua are the exceptions as they are not allowed to require gate fees, however, donations are strongly encouraged.

SECTION E: RUNNING CLOCK: When a team obtains a 30-point advantage in the 2nd half, the clock shall become continuous, stopping only on time outs, injuries, official's timeouts, and the end of the period. Upon mutual agreement coaches may opt to have the clock run continuously during the 1st half. Remaining quarters shall remain at 10 minutes for the remainder of the game, according to OHSAA, unless mutually agreed upon by head coaches to reduce the length of the quarters. Once clock starts to run it will not stop except for the reasons provided above, even if the score drops below a 30-point lead.

ARTICLE IV: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

SECTION A: BOUNDARIES:

Team boundaries shall be Member High School Districts, or an adjoining High School District not offering ANY Pee Wee Football program. All players from an adjoining High School District not offering any Pee Wee Football program **MUST** be approved by the Executive Board. Players **MUST** meet the boundary requirements at time of registration.

1. No team may register a player from another S.W.B.L. District. Exception shall be granted if the other S.W.B.L. team releases the player in writing. The release letter must be submitted to the Executive Board.
2. If a released player goes back to the original district, the current district must release them back. a. Example: If "District A" releases a player to play for "District B" and that player wants to go back to "District A" the following season, "District B" must release them back. A letter must be submitted to the Executive Board.
3. A player from an adjoining High School District not offering any Pee Wee Football **CAN NOT** be released to another district. a. Example: If "District A" receives a player from an adjoining school district, that player **CAN NOT** be released to another S.W.B.L. district.
4. All teams **MUST** register 75% of their players from within their own district.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

5. Any outside S.W.B.L. District player registered in district by any S.W.B.L. District will be considered in District for all consecutive subsequent years.

SECTION B: PLAYER RESIDENCY

1. A player who moves, may finish the season with a team regardless of residence provided he or she:

- a. Met the residency and enrollment requirements within the team's district at the time of registration.
- b. Met the team's requirements through the first scheduled conference game.
- c. Continues to meet the team's requirements regarding practice, etc., through the season.

2. Late player registration can go through the season, but player cannot run the ball and must comply with rules of conditioning. S.W.B.L. Board must have the original S.W.B.L. form in hand. The player must have 5 days acclimation and cannot run the ball after weigh ins.

SECTION C: AGE LIMITS

Players must be in the 1st thru 6th grades to be eligible to play. Any 1st grader who will be 6 years old before August 1st, is eligible to play on the 2nd grade team. Any 6th grader who will be 13 years old before August 1st, is ineligible to play.

SECTION D: WEIGHT LIMITS FOR OFFENSIVE BALL CARRIERS

1. The S.W.B.L. will determine the site for weigh-ins. The scale will be set to the prescribed weight before any players step onto the scale. The scale must be state certified and not digital.

2. Weight will be without equipment but at a minimum undergarment **MUST** be worn.

3. At the time of weigh in all players will sign their name. A record will be kept by both S.W.B.L. and team. Each Member Team will have an authorized person present at each weigh in to sign off the official weigh-in sheets. This sign-off will be **FINAL**, no appeals will be considered by the Executive Board thereafter.

- a. At the time of weigh in all players must have jersey numbers. Player's numbers must be recorded on the weigh-in sheets, if number is not on sheet with child's name, a \$100 fine for each player will be applied to that organization, and player will be ineligible to weigh in. Player's **FULL** name, first and last, must be signed on weigh-in sheet at time of weigh-in.
- b. A player is only permitted to attend **ONE** weigh-in and will be allowed to step on the scale one time.

4. **MICRO** and **MINI TEAMS**: Any offensive ball carrier must weigh no more than **80 pounds** for the weigh-in at the beginning of the season.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

5. MINOR TEAM: Any offensive ball carrier must weigh no more than **95 pounds** for the weigh-in at the beginning of the season.
6. JUNIOR TEAM: Any offensive ball carrier must weigh no more than **110 pounds** for the weigh-in at the beginning of the season.
7. MAJOR TEAM: Any offensive ball carrier must weigh no more than **125 pounds** for the weigh-in at the beginning of the season.
8. SENIOR TEAM: Any offensive ball carrier must weigh no more than **145 pounds** for the weigh-in at the beginning of the season.
9. OFFENSIVE BACKS: All offensive backs must weigh within the weight limit regardless of if they carry the ball or not.
10. **Players lined up as receivers that do not make the prescribed weight MUST receive a forward pass. Forward pass must be beyond the line of scrimmage. Passes beyond the line of scrimmage are not restricted by weight. Such player will not be allowed to be in the offensive backfield.**
11. Fumble, interceptions, and muffs are also not restricted by weight. Plays designed by the offense to take advantage of this such as the Annexation of Puerto Rico are not allowed.
12. Protesting an ineligible player in the backfield will be covered under protest.

SECTION E: NOTICES

1. The age, grade and weight limit will be strictly enforced. Each team is responsible to see that their players are eligible, and if a player is found not to be eligible, the team responsible will forfeit all previous games the player was in the offensive backfield and will be subject to disciplinary action. The head coach will be suspended for the current game (if applicable) as well as three games after (NO practice or games). A \$200 fine will also be charged to the organization.
2. The S.W.B.L. may conduct random audits of any member team's player's eligibility records such as: Birth Certificates, Medical Release Forms, etc. Such audits may be initiated by the S.W.B.L. Executive Board or an S.W.B.L. Member who believes that an infraction of eligibility rules has occurred. Proof of eligibility rests with the player's member team or sponsor organization.

SECTION F: PLAY TIME LIMITS

1. A player may not play more than six (6) quarters per day. The six quarters must be in consecutive games. A player cannot start in another team division. A player playing in another team division cannot be a ball carrier. One play counts as a quarter. Overtime is an extension of the 4th quarter, not a separate quarter.
2. If moving rosters for playoffs, rosters must be submitted by the Tuesday before the playoffs to the secretary. Rosters must be at playoffs. No adding any players past Tuesday.
 - a. Players may only be added to a team's roster to make a total of 15 players on that team. If there are already 15 players on that team, players from other divisions cannot be added.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

- b. Players added to the roster CAN NOT run the football.
 - c. Players added to the roster must be from a lower division team.
 - d. Roster must be shared with the league as a whole.
3. There will be NO movement of players every week.

ARTICLE V: EQUIPMENT

SECTION A: PLAYING BALL STANDARDS

The S.W.B.L. game ball will be a league approved ball. Senior and Major Teams shall use composite junior size football. Junior and Minor Teams shall use composite Pee Wee size football. Switching of footballs will be permitted.

SECTION B: UNIFORM STANDARDS

1. The S.W.B.L. will not establish player equipment standards with the exception of shoes to be worn (helmets, etc. covered under National Federal Rules). The S.W.B.L. encourages all member teams to provide the highest quality of player equipment that the member teams can afford. The safety of the players is the utmost concern of the S.W.B.L. and as such discourages the use of substandard or inferior quality player equipment.
2. Players may wear football shoes. Only rubber or molded plastic cleats/spikes football shoes may be worn by players participating in S.W.B.L. games. Cleats/Spikes containing metal of any kind will not be permitted. Players may not wear street shoes while participating in an S.W.B.L. game. Soccer shoes may be worn if they meet the above descriptions.

SECTION C: FIELD EQUIPMENT

Game equipment such as 10-yard chains, down markers, and qualified personnel to operate them will be furnished by the home team for all S.W.B.L. games. Qualified personnel are people over the age of 13 or a qualified adult to run chain gang. A fine of \$200 will be given to any Member Team that does not have a chain gang. The home team is to report to the board if there is an issue.

ARTICLE VI: PLAYING FIELDS

SECTION A: FIELD DIMENSIONS

S.W.B.L. games will be played on regulation fields measuring 120 yards by 53 1/3 yards

SECTION B: FIELD MARKINGS

1. Yard indicators every 10 yards (minimum).
2. Lined or painted lines at right angles with the sideline and the entire width of the playing field every 5 yards.
3. The end zone will be clearly marked by any safe device, which may include but not limited to:

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

- a. Flags at goal line
- b. Diagonal striping of the end zone
- c. Goal post
- d. Other means which appropriately identify the end zone
- e. Current required sideline markings to field

SECTION C: FACILITIES

Member teams are encouraged to provide appropriate spectator facilities such as a parking area, concession stands, seating, and restrooms at their home sites.

ARTICLE VII: PLAYING RULES

SECTION A: PRE-SEASON

1. The first day of conditioning and the first day of contact shall be set by the S.W.B.L. Executive Board.
2. Conditioning: First 5 days of practice will be conditioning only, no contact. Helmets and/or pads may be worn at this time. Contact to be defined as any deliberate physical contact between a player and any other player, coach, or playing equipment except for hand-held dummies held by coaches. A \$1000 fine and possible forfeiture of games at the discretion of the Executive Board will also be charged to any organization that fails to comply.

SECTION B: INCLEMENT/EXTREME WEATHER

The purpose for these details is to provide a guideline to all Team Members who are responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning or other extreme conditions. **THESE ARE MINIMUM STANDARDS. THIS IS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOME FIELD** and game officials. Additional information on specific policies for facilities is available via the state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service. These rules will not supersede school, local, state, federal or other laws or policies as they relate to weather safety at specific locations.

1. The home field director and local board will monitor local weather conditions before and during all events. All home fields will have the minimum criteria for suspension and resumption of play.
2. Once play has been suspended, all home sites will wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash/bang is witnessed, or thunder is heard, before resuming play.
3. If a game has finished the second quarter (at halftime or beginning of second half), it can be considered complete. If, after suspension, at least 30 minutes is available prior to the start of the next scheduled game, the game may resume.
 - a. No game will start later than 90 minutes after its original start time

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

- b. No game may start after 7:00 pm without both Member Teams and S.W.B.L. Executive Board approval. Home field director, home and visiting coaches all must agree on time extensions and contact the S.W.B.L. Executive Board as soon as schedule issues start (earlier in the day).
- 4. Weather delays may affect some games and not others during a scheduled day. If there are several weather delays, per above, suspended games may resume, complete or be canceled for that day.
- 5. Games suspended on Saturday MAY be moved to Sunday, Monday evening, Tuesday evening or Wednesday evening at the discretion of the home field director and agreement of both Team Members and head coaches. Home field director will advise on available scheduled time on Sunday, Monday evening, Tuesday evening or Wednesday evening.
- 6. When the heat index is above 104 degrees, all outside activity must stop. If the heat index is between 100-104 degrees, players must receive a 10-minute water break for every 30 minutes of practice.

SECTION C: GAME PLAY

The "OHSAA", as amended by these playing rules, will be the basic playing used by the S.W.B.L.

- 1. SENIOR (6th grade) and MAJOR TEAMS (5th grade) will play the identical rules. JUNIOR (4th grade), MINOR TEAMS (3rd grade), and MINI TEAMS (2nd Grade) rule exceptions will be set forth in the following sections.
- 2. Each game date will include 2-5 games. If applicable, the Micro game, Mini game, the Minor game, then the Junior game, the Major game, and the Senior games (at the end of the preceding games). The starting time of all morning games will be 10:00am and all evening games will start at 4:00pm.
- 3. Changes to start times for games may be accomplished by mutual agreement of the head coaches of the organizations involved. The home team league rep is responsible for notifying the Executive Board of any time changes. Must give a 72-hour notice or forfeit game.
- 4. If a team is unable to host at the assigned date and time (or mutually agreed time & date), the visiting team shall have the option to host the game at the same time and date. If the original host team refuses to play at visitors on the assigned time and date, the original host team will forfeit.
- 5. The scheduled game officials must be notified of changes in starting times by the Executive Board Secretary. The home team will make such notification and must contact the Secretary.
- 6. Timing for Minor, Junior, Major and Senior Teams will be four timed ten (10) minute quarters with 3 timeouts per team per half. Timing is not running clock, but a timed clock under O.H.S.A.A. Fed. Rules (except IIIG). **SWBL EXCEPTION:** Timing will be a 30 second play clock for Minor, Junior, Major and Senior Teams following the Ready for Play Whistle (RFP). There will be a 10-minute half. Half time may be extended or reduced for Homecoming or special half-time show. Half-time MAY be reduced by mutual agreement with the coaches for extenuating circumstance (Game is behind, weather coming in, etc). It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that cheerleaders from BOTH sides at a minimum be allowed to perform.
- 7. For regular season games, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time, one overtime will be played as established by O.H.S.A.A. rules. Play will start at the 20-yard line when the clock starts. If after one

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

overtime the score is still tied, the game will end in a tie. Play-Off and Championship games will be played until a winner is declared.

8. Coaches are prohibited from being on the field during a game, with the exception of **Micro**, Mini, Minor and Junior teams. Mini teams may have two coaches. Minor and Junior Teams may have one coach on the field during play. These coaches **MUST** be well behaved and observe the depth restriction during live play.

a. MICO and MINI TEAMS: Two Coaches will be allowed on the field with their team on both the offense and defense. After giving out the play or signal, the coach must move to a position 15 yards behind their team. Coaches ARE NOT permitted to talk to or re-align players after the offensive back is under center or in a shotgun formation ready to begin their cadence. Coaching from that point must come from the sideline. Failure to abide by this rule will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. First offense – 5-yard penalty. Second offense – 10-yard penalty. Third offense – 15-yard penalty and replacement of the coach on the field. These penalty's will be treated as a live ball play. If a coach is replaced on the field, he may not return to the field for the duration of that game

b. JUNIOR AND MINOR TEAMS: One coach will be allowed on the field with his team on both the offense and defense. After giving out the play or signal, the coach must move to a position 15 yards behind their team. Coaches ARE NOT permitted to talk to or re-align players after the offensive back is under center or in a shotgun formation ready to begin their cadence. Coaching from that point must come from the sideline. Failure to abide by this rule will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. First offense – 5-yard penalty. Second offense – 10-yard penalty. Third offense – 15-yard penalty and replacement of the coach on the field. These penalty's will be treated as a live ball play. If a coach is replaced on the field, he may not return to the field for the duration of that game

9. KICKOFF: 100-yard field, the ball will be set on the 35-yard line. The play will begin at this point, and there will be no kickoff. Time will begin with the snap of the ball.

10. Following the score of a Safety, the ball will be set on the 50-yard line rather than the 35- yard line. The play will begin at this point. Time will begin with the snap of the ball.

11. PUNTING:

a. The ball is to be moved 25 yards on the punt. There will be no live punting in the Minor, Junior, or Major divisions. If a Senior team opts to punt, then there will be no limitations to where the ball will be placed at the end of the plays. Once a team opts to punt, they must punt for the entire remainder of the game. They cannot opt for a simulated punt for the remainder of the game. If a team opts to punt, the play shall be a live play, meaning both rushing of the punt and faking the punt are legal, however, all players on kicking team that line up in backfield including the punter must be of legal weight.

b. No punt shall put a team inside the 5-yard line. Simulated punts shall not put a team inside the 5-yard line.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

- c. The clock will stop on simulated punting downs **once a punt has been declared**. Ten seconds shall be run off the clock. The clock will resume with the snap of the ball in accordance with OHSAA rules.
- d. The try for kicking extra point after TD and/or field goal is legal but the kicker and all other players in the backfield must be of certified ball carrying weight. There shall be no rushing or fake attempts in the Junior or Major divisions.
- e. The Senior team may try for extra 2 points if kick is live, kicker and holder must make weight.

12. **Only Micro, Mini, Minor and Junior teams may snap the ball sideways.**

13. Bantam (Micro and Mini) Specific Rules

a. Bantam Games will have 4 quarters with a TEN-MINUTE RUNNING CLOCK that will operate as follows:

The quarter or half will start once each team has 11-players on the field or at the referee's discretion. A Ready For Play (RFP) whistle will restart the clock.

Following the RFP whistle the offense will have 40-seconds to get the play off. Failure to do so will result in a delay of game penalty. (5-yards) the clock will NOT stop for delay of game penalties.

Clock will stop following a try after a score. Once teams have 11 each back on the field it will restart after the RFP whistle.

Clock will stop after a change of possession to include punts. Once teams have 11 each on the field clock will start on the RFP whistle.

Anytime a time out is called the clock will restart AFTER THE SNAP.

Official time will be kept on the field.

b. Bantam games will have an A gap restriction. The defense must line-up head-to-head with the guards in a three- or four-point stance. There will be NO quarterback sneaks permitted through the A gap. Line backers in the A gap must be AT LEAST 2 yards off the ball. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a 5-yard penalty and a replay of the down.

c. Three officials will be used for Bantam.

d. The S.W.B.L. game ball will be a league approved ball. The Micro and Mini Teams shall use composite or leather Pee Wee or K-2 sized football. Switching of footballs will be permitted.

SECTION D: OFFICIALS

1. Four licensed officials (3rd-6th) and **3 licensed officials** (1st and 2nd grade) should be present to officiate before a game is to start. If less than 4 officials are present (**3 for bantam**) the game must still be played, and the home team is to notify the S.W.B.L. as to why 4 officials were not present. The home team is responsible for paying officials. Each official will be **paid \$85.00 per game**.

2. **Three or** Four licensed OHSAA officials shall be used.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

SECTION E: SEASON GAME LIMITS

No team may play more than eleven regular games per year, plus 3 scrimmages. A scrimmage is a game that does not use a clock for time. More than one scrimmage may be played in a week, but all scrimmage games must end prior to the first scheduled game. A premier game is considered a scrimmage. Does not include post season plays.

SECTION F: SCOUTING

1. Scouting is governed by OHSAA.
2. No cameras, recording equipment, photographic equipment including cellphones, or communication equipment on the field of play. The field of play is in between the sidelines, back line, and end zone where the game is actually played out.

SECTION G: DRONES

Drones MAY be used IF PERMITTED by the HOME team game site. Drones may only be used over their own sidelines or the back of the endzone. They may NEVER be used over the opponent's sideline nor the field of play. The referee for the game may shut down drone activity if they deem it a distraction.

ARTICLE VIII: PROTEST

SECTION A: PROTESTING

1. The Head Coach will make a protest to the head official at the time of infraction with rule book in hand (except player eligibility), not at the end of game or at conference meetings.
2. Protest will be considered official only if they are submitted by email with photo or video evidence to the Executive Board no later than **72 HOURS** following the conclusion of the game at which such protest was made.
 - a. The S.W.B.L. President will be notified if the protest is by email.
 - b. The S.W.B.L. Board will rule on protest and the decision will be final.
3. A team may protest a player as to eligibility or certification.

4. **Protesting an ineligible player in the backfield. During the game** an opposing coach can alert the officials, officials will bring the coaches to midfield to verify the player. If the player is verified over ball carrying weight the coach allowing the player to run the ball or catch the ball behind the line will be ejected from the game and suspended for one full week with no contact with the team, a 15-yard penalty will also be assessed. If this isn't discovered till **after the game** the protesting team has 72 hours in which to protest with video evidence submitted to the SWBL Executive Board. Should the protest be upheld the team utilizing the over ball carrying weight player in the backfield to run or catch a ball will **FORFEIT** and the Head Coach will be suspended for 1 full week with no contact with the team.

ARTICLE IX: FORFEITURES

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

1. Violation of player eligibility rules of the S.W.B.L. will automatically cause the forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player or players participated in.
2. Refusal to play a regular season conference scheduled division or inter-division game at the scheduled site on the scheduled date will result in forfeiture and a fine may be levied on the team.
3. If either team is more than 30 minutes late, the inconvenienced team may request the Executive Board for forfeiture. Teams may be later if agreed upon by both head coaches of the teams scheduled to play.
4. Violation of the S.W.B.L. Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, may result in forfeiture of all games, all previous games, single games, or selected games decided by the S.W.B.L. Executive Board.

ARTICLE X: COACH'S RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION A: EJECTION

1. Head Coaches are responsible for the sportsmanlike conduct of himself, his assistants, and his players. Unsportsmanlike conduct from coaches or players or conduct unbecoming of a coach will result in S.W.B.L. disciplinary action to be administered by the Executive Board.
2. Any coach or player ejected from a game shall serve a one-week game suspension. The coach/player under suspension may NOT be on the sidelines or have any participation in practice during that week and may NOT be on the sidelines or have any communications with the sidelines during the game.
3. A coach/player that receives a second ejection during a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season and must meet with the Executive Board (in case of a player, a legal guardian must also be present). The coach/player will remain under suspension even during the next season until this meeting takes place.
4. Any coach/player that is ejected for a third time during their career with the S.W.B.L. Pee Wee Football League, will receive a lifetime suspension from participation in the League.
5. All appeals of any suspensions must be made directly to an Executive Board member by the coach/player's local organization.
6. In the event an assistant coach gets ejected, the head coach **MAY** be ejected as well at the referee's discretion. The same suspension applies – 1 week for both coaches.

SECTION B:

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT Specified action for unsportsmanlike penalties is defined as follows:

1. Two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on a coach in a given season may result in a written reprimand from the conference, a written explanation to the S.W.B.L. by the coach and probationary status for the coach.
2. Two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on a coach in a given game will result in ejection of the coach.

SOUTHWESTERN BUCKEYE PEEWEE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

REVISED: 2025

3. Three unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on a coach in a given season may result in immediate suspension of the coach, and forfeiture of the game in which the penalty is called.
4. Ejections will be reported the day of game from both teams to the SWBL Executive Board President

ARTICLE XI: SUSPENSION

SECTION A: SUSPENSIONS

Suspension from S.W.B.L. activities may be invoked by the S.W.B.L. membership or the Executive Board on teams, head coaches, assistant coaches, or players as a result of violation of the S.W.B.L. Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules. The Executive Board will take the following action when teams, coaches or players are suspended from the S.W.B.L.:

1. Notify the team, coach or players sponsor organization of the action to include the reason and duration for the action.
2. Notify the individual involved.
3. Recommend a date, a time, and a place within two of the date of notification that an appeal to the action may be made.

ARTICLE XII: SPECIAL AMENDMENTS SECTION A: LEAVING ORGANIZATION

If a team decides to leave the organization, a notice of one year must be given. If an organization leaves prior to giving a one-year notice they will receive a 5-year ban.

SECTION B: ANNOUNCING GAMES

Announcing according to OHSA Rules.

SECTION C: MOTIONS / RULE CHANGES

No motions may be put forth or passed that changes rules in the middle of the season. The season is from the first official day of practice to the day of the Super Bowl.

SECTION D: SOUTH DAYTON

For Pee Wee Football players (grades 3-6) who are registered members of the following parishes are permitted to participate in SDK Football, regardless of whether they attend the school: St. Charles, St. Albert the Great, Incarnation, St. Henry, Our Lady of Good Hope, St. Mary of the Assumption, Ascension, and St. Francis of Assisi are now eligible to play. A player does not have to be a registered member of the Parish if they attend St. Albert the Great, St. Charles, Incarnation, Bishop Leibold, Ascension, St. Luke, Holy Angels, Richard Allen Schools, and Emerson Academy.