

# Western Pennsylvania Youth Football League

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BYLAWS

*REVISED February 2026*



## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the **Western Pennsylvania Youth Football League** d/b/a Washington/Greene Youth Football League, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the **WPYFL**, is comprised of the following organizations: Bentworth, Bethlehem Center, Bobtown, Brownsville, California, Carmichaels, Charleroi, Frazier, Jefferson Morgan, Monessen, Ringgold, South Allegheny, Union Finley, Uniontown, Washington, Waynesburg, and West Greene.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

1. To foster and encourage youths to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, teamwork, ethics, scholarship and physical fitness through the means of athletic competition.
2. To assure fair and equal consideration of all participation where playing ability is concerned without regard to race, creed or national origin, color or sex. To conduct programs that provide for maximum participation by all youth involved.
3. To solicit and encourage active participation of adults, as well as encouraging good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, cheerleaders, coaches and officials at every game, practice and event.
4. To promote safety and well-being first with proper coaching and supervision.
5. To acquaint participants with the fundamentals of football.

6. To solicit, accept, receive and hold title to any and all funds and property, real and personal, wheresoever situated, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, devise or other-wise, either absolutely or in trust for any of its stated purposes, to invest and reinvest and to manage, disburse and handle such funds and property, real or personal and to hold, expend and distribute the same in accordance with the purposes of the League.
7. No substantial part of the activities of the League shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the League shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing and distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
8. No part of the net earnings of the League shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its directors, officers, or other private person, except that the League shall be authorized the power to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.
9. Notwithstanding any other provisions set forth herein, the League shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by:
  - a. A corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent
  - b. Federal tax laws.A corporation, contributions to which are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.
10. Upon the dissolution of the League, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making

provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the League, and distribute all assets of the League

exclusively for the purposes of the League in such manner, or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an organization, or organizations described in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

11. To conduct affairs of the League so that no distinction shall be made as to race, color, creed, sex, age or handicap with regard to membership, employment, professional staff or delivery of services.

## **ARTICLE III – GOVERNING BODY**

### **Section 3.1 - WPYFL League Director**

1. The WPYFL League Director shall be appointed by the Board of Representatives.
2. The League Director's term of office shall be for 2 years, and the Director may hold the office for an unlimited number of terms.
3. The League Director may be removed from office when it is determined by a 75% vote of the Board of Representatives that it would be in the best interest of the WPYFL to remove such individual.

### **Section 3.2 - WPYFL Treasurer**

1. The WPYFL Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Representatives.
2. The Treasurer's term of office shall be for two (2) years, and the Treasurer may hold the office for an unlimited number of terms.
3. The WPYFL Treasurer is a non-voting position.
4. The Treasurer may be removed from office when it is determined by a two-thirds vote of the individual members of the Board of Representatives present at any meeting at which a quorum is present that it would be in the best interest of the WPYFL to remove such individual.

### **Section 3.3 – WPYFL Executive Board**

1. There shall be an Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the following:
  - Secretary
  - Social Media Director
  - Representatives from each classification (at least 2 representatives from each)
2. Representatives will be selected to the Executive Board by the League Director based on nominations made at a reorganizational meeting.
3. Executive Board members shall be approved by a vote of the WPYFL Board of Representatives according to *Article V, Section 5.14* of the WPYFL Bylaws.
4. Executive Board members will serve a one (1) year term.
5. There is no restriction on re-appointment/re-election to Executive Board members serving multiple terms.
6. Any member of the Executive Board may be removed from his/her position when it is determined by 75% of the individual members of the Board of Representatives present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, that it would be in the best interest of the WPYFL to remove said individual.

### **Section 3. 4– WPYFL Board of Representatives**

1. There shall be a Board of Representatives comprised of two Representatives from each of the participating organizations.
2. Said Representatives will be elected to the WPYFL Board of Representatives by each organization according to its own procedures prior to the annual reorganization meeting.

3. The Board of Representatives will serve a term of one (1) year, January through December, at the discretion of each representative's organization.

4. There is no restriction on re-election/re-appointment to consecutive terms.

5. Any member of the Board of Representatives may be removed from office when it is determined by two-thirds of the individual members of the Board of Representatives present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, it would be in the best interest of the WPYFL to remove such an individual.

### **Section 3.5 - WPYFL Finance Committee**

1. The WPYFL Finance Committee consists of one representative from each organization.

2. Committee members can be ad-hoc and are not required to be members of the Board of Representatives.

3. Finance Committee members have no voting privileges.

4. A Finance Committee member may be removed from office when it is determined by a two-thirds of the individual members of the Board of Representatives present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, that it would be in the best interest of the WPYFL to remove such individual.

### **Section 3.6 – Resignations**

The League Director, Treasurer, any member of the Board of Representatives, or Finance Committee may resign at any given time by giving such effect to the Board of Representatives and/or the League Director.

### **Section 3.7 – Vacancies**

Vacancies shall be filled as follows:

1. Board of Representatives vacancies shall be filled by another member of said organization whose previous member created the vacancy. The vacancy shall be filled per the organization's policy.

2. Vacancies with either the League Director or Treasurer shall be filled according to *Article IV*,

**Section 4.3(4)** of these Bylaws.

**Section 3.8 - Legal Counsel**

The Board of Representatives shall obtain legal counsel from the membership or outside counsel on a voluntary basis. Legal counsel will provide legal advice but may not be a member of the board.

**Section 3.9 - Liability**

The League Director, Treasurer, the Executive Board, and individual members of the Board of Representatives, committee members, or any other persons involved with the WPYFL shall not have personal liability for any injuries and or altercations during events. All other personal actions, non-actions, votes, or other activities taken by the Board of Representatives in its capacity as the governing body of the WPYFL are liable.

## **ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 4.1 – Duties of the League Director Shall Include, but Not Limited To (delegation of activities is allowed):**

1. Overall responsibility for the administration and performance of the Organization's mission
2. Insuring the WPYFL is functioning in accordance with these Bylaws.
3. Schedule all meetings of the WPYFL.
4. Presiding officer at all meetings
5. Be an ex-officio member of all committees
6. Act as a liaison between the WPYFL, participating organizations, and the school districts they represent.
7. Develop an annual schedule of games, including playoff bracket

8. Schedule officials for all sites
9. Provide a standard registration form
10. Ensure all football and cheerleading coaches have completed the required clearances and Certifications
11. Make decisions on issues and/or concerns deemed in the best interest of the WPYFL, not expressly covered by the WPYFL By-Laws or WPYFL Rules and Regulations.

**Section 4.2 – Duties of the Treasurer Shall Include but Not Be Limited To:**

1. Maintain custody of all funds; keep a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures.
2. Maintain books of accounts and records.
3. Keep full and accurate account of all assets and liabilities.
4. Make disbursements in accordance with the approved budget, as authorized by the Board of Representatives
5. Maintain a record of income and expenses and submit annually as may be requested.
6. Treasurer is required to hand out treasurer's reports on a monthly basis; each league treasurer will maintain a copy for their records.

**Section 4.3 – Duties of the Secretary Shall Include But Not Be Limited To:**

1. Schedule all meetings of the WPYFL
2. Maintain the WPYFL League Master Contact List
3. Maintain the WPYFL yearly Season Calendar
4. Email monitoring and response
5. News scripts and Public Relations, as needed
6. Create, update, and file all standard Season forms
7. Other administrative duties as assigned by the WPYFL Director

**Section 4.4 – Duties of the Social Media Director Shall Include But Not Be Limited To:**

1. Run all website, social media, and Gamechanger duties
2. Ensure scoring on website and Gamechanger is accurate and standings
3. Other social media duties as assigned by the WPYFL Director

**Section 4.5 – Duties of the Executive Board Shall Include but Not Be Limited To:**

1. Carry out the mission of the WPYFL.
2. Serve as an advisory board to the League Director and the Board of Representatives.
3. Conduct the vetting process for any new potential members requesting admission into the  
WPYFL.
4. Develop an annual schedule of games, including playoff bracket for the Director sign off
5. Review the WPYFL Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations annually.
6. The Executive Board shall have no voting rights on league matters.

**Section 4.6 – Duties of the Board of Representatives Shall Include but Not Be Limited To:**

1. Enforce the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the WPYFL
2. Establishment and revision, as needed, of the Rules and Regulations of the WPYFL
3. Vote on all WPYFL matters covered by these Bylaws
4. Appointment of League Administrators (League Director and Treasurer)
5. Review/approve any team application to join the league.
6. Authorize expenditures of the WPYFL
7. Determine annual hosting due rates
8. Review/rule on any questions presented concerning player eligibility. All requests should  
be presented prior to participating in any practice. After the presentation of information, a secret ballot  
vote will determine eligibility.
9. Review and resolve all issues brought to the league by any party, including, but not limited to,  
coaches, parents, officials, players, and school districts.

10. Review/rule on any infractions regarding the Code of Conduct Policy.
11. Rule/Act on any matters not otherwise specified in the Bylaws contained here within.
12. Enforce social media and media outreach laws

**Section 4.7 - Duties of the Finance Committee Shall Include, But Not Be Limited To:**

Assisting the treasurer with the establishment and revision, as needed, of the financial processes, procedures and reporting to the League Director and Board of Representatives.

## **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

**Section 5.1 – Reorganizational Meeting**

The reorganizational meeting of the Board of Representatives shall be held annually at a time and date determined by the League Director. The reorganizational meeting will take place no later than April 15th of the year of the upcoming season.

**Section 5.2 – Rules Interpretation Meeting**

Prior to the start of the season, all head coaches will attend the mandatory rules meeting. During this meeting the Head Coaches will turn in:

1. Team rosters Meeting will occur in mid - August at a date and time determined by the League Director.

**Section 5.3 – In-Season Meetings**

Meetings during the season shall occur on an as-needed basis. The League Director, no later than Monday of the previous week's games, submits to the Board of Representatives a report of the previous week's contests.

**Section 5.4 – Special Meetings**

1. Special meetings may be called by the League Director, upon the request of any three members of

the Board of Representatives, or upon request of the majority of the Board of Representatives.

Notice must be given to all members of the Board of Representatives, and a quorum must be present to conduct business.

2. Special meetings regarding eligibility issues and/or Code of Conduct issues must take place before the next scheduled game involving the coach, player, and /or parent in question. In order to expedite the issue in a timely manner, the Board of Representatives may participate via electronic means (i.e., Skype, webcam, e-mail, or conference call).

#### **Section 5.5 – Meeting Notices**

At least seven days' notice, written or oral, of all meetings of the Board shall be given to each member of the Board of Representatives specifying the place, day, and hour thereof. With the exception of an unforeseen event.

#### **Section 5.6 – Meeting Business**

Any business may be transacted at any regular or special meetings of the Board of Representatives or Committee meeting, with or without reference to such notice of such meeting, except as otherwise provided herein or by law.

#### **Section 5.7 – Electronic Meeting**

In the event of exigent circumstances or when any member of the Board of Representatives reasonably believes that time is of the essence, the Board of Representatives may transact business and vote on motions utilizing electronic mail as the mode of voting. When electronic voting is used, all motions and individual votes shall be compiled and communicated to all members of the Board of Directors. The votes shall then be printed for inclusion in the "Book of Minutes."

**Section 5.8 – Quorum**

The presence at any meeting of 75% of Board Representatives then in office shall constitute a quorum and, unless otherwise required by these By-laws or by law, the acts of 75% of the Representatives at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be considered the acts of the Board of Representatives.

**Section 5.9 – Proxies**

At all meetings of the Board of Representatives, each Representative may vote in person or by proxy. All proxies shall be in writing and filed with the League Director. Every proxy shall be revocable and shall automatically cease on conveyance by the Representative of his or her Lot. A Representative may not revoke a proxy except by actual notice of revocation to the person presiding over a meeting. A proxy is void if it is not dated or purports to be revocable without notice. A proxy terminates one year after its date unless it specifies a shorter term.

**Section 5.10 – Action by Written Consent**

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Representatives, or any committee provided for herein, or created pursuant to authority contained in these Bylaws, may be taken without a meeting, if consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all members of the Board of Representatives or such committee.

**Section 5.11 – Meeting Attendance**

All members of the Board of Representatives and committee members should make every attempt to attend every WPYFL meeting.

**Section 5.12 - Order of Business for All WPYFL Meetings:**

1. Call to Order
2. Reading and Approval of Minutes

3. Treasurers Report (if applicable)
4. Committee Report (if applicable)
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

#### **Section 5.14 - Voting Procedure**

1. For any motion to be acted upon a quorum, as stipulated in *Article V, Section 5.8* of these Bylaws, must be present.
2. Each organization will have one vote on any matters/motions brought before the Board of Representatives.
3. Motions must have receive 75% or greater total of votes cast to pass.

## **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 6.1 – Creation of a Committee**

There shall be such standing or temporary committees as the Board of Representatives may from time to time creates. Each committee shall consist of at least three persons of whom at least one may be a member of the Board of Representatives. Committee chairpersons shall be selected by the Board of Representatives. Each committee member shall hold office at the discretion of the Board of Representatives. All committee member positions shall be non-voting positions.

#### **Section 6.2 - Authority**

Each committee created by the Board of Representatives shall have the authority delegated to it by the Board of Representatives provided that no committee shall have the authority to WPLYFL or submit to the Board of Representatives, any action requiring their approval, to adopt, amend, or repeal these Bylaws,

fill vacancies on the Board of Representatives, amend or repeal any resolution of the Board of Representatives or take any action with respect to matters committed by these Bylaws or a resolution of the Board of Representatives to another committee.

### **Section 6.3 – Meetings**

Regular meetings of any committee may be held at such times and places as such committee may from time to time fix by resolution. Special meetings of any committee may be called by any member thereof upon not less than one day's notice stating the place, date and hour of the meeting.

### **Section 6.4 – Quorum**

A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of such committee, and the acts of majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of such committee.

## **ARTICLE VII – FINANCIAL POLICIES**

### **Section 7.1 - Revenue**

All revenue collected from admission fees, donations to the WPYFL, and any WPYFL fundraising shall be deposited in the WPYFL treasury.

### **Section 7.2 - Admission Fee and Gate Policies**

The admission fee for all WPYFL events will be set annually by the Board of Representatives.

1. A "Home Game Due" will be paid to the WPYFL for every regular season game a WPYFL team hosts.

The rate will be determined annually, subject to league expenditures. Funds can be returned in the following manner:

A. Check payable to the WPYFL and mailed to the league treasurer.

B. Proper Documentation must accompany all funds.

**Section 7.3 - Insurance**

The WPYFL provides secondary medical and liability insurance to all league officers, all registered adult coaches, players, cheerleaders, and spectators involved in or attending any WPYFL-sponsored event. The league insurance is renewed annually by the WPYFL.

**Section 7.4 – Annual Fundraiser**

All WPYFL organizations are required to participate in the annual WPYFL fundraiser. All organizations will be financially responsible for their total allotment of tickets (the allotment of tickets will be divided equally among all organizations) Any organization that fails to submit a check to the WPYFL equal to their total allotment of tickets will be subject to the organization being put back into a probationary period and voting rights removed until the balance is paid.

**Section 7.5 - Signature and Endorsement of Checks**

Checks, drafts, and other negotiable instruments shall be signed or endorsed on behalf of the WPYFL by the League Director and Treasurer.

**Section 7.6 – Execution of Contracts**

Contracts and other agreements shall be executed on behalf of the WPYFL by the League Director. In addition, the Board of Representatives may, from time to time, authorize other members of the Board of Representatives to execute any contract or agreement on behalf of the WPYFL, and such authorization may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 7.7 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the WPYFL shall be on a calendar-year basis, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Section 7.8 - Audits**

At the conclusion of each season, an audit shall be conducted by the league officers no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, and a report was made at the annual reorganization meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII – CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

### **Section 8.1 - Designation**

1. A conflict of interest exists with respect to a given matter if a member of the Board or any committee of the Board of Representatives, or a staff member has a financial or fiduciary interest in another organization, business, or individual that would be affected by any action of the Board of Representatives, committee, or staff person.

2. A member shall be construed to have a financial interest in an organization, business, or individual from which he or she derives an income, and to have a fiduciary interest in an organization, business, or individual for which he or she performs in the capacity of a Trustee or Director. The following are examples of financial and fiduciary interest, but are not intended to be all-inclusive.

### **Section 8.2 - Limitation on Action**

No member of the Board of Representatives, any of its committees, or staff members shall act upon or decide any matter with respect to which he or she has a conflict of interest.

### **Section 8.3 - Resolving Conflicts of Interest**

1. A member of the Board of Representatives or any of its committees who believes that he or she has a conflict of interest with respect to any matter shall be announced to the body, the existence of the conflict of interest prior to the beginning of any discussion on the matter, and shall abstain from such a discussion and from voting on the matter.

2. A member of the Board of Representatives or of any of its committees who believes that another member of the body who has a conflict of interest may so advise the President/chair, who shall decide whether a conflict of interest exists, subject to an appeal, which shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members of that body present and entitled to vote, excluding the member whose interest is in question, and any other members who have already been disqualified by reason of a conflict of interest.

3. In the event a conflict of interest is later determined to have existed at the time of a final vote and the body has authorized action on any given transaction or matter which is still pending and uncompleted, a challenge to the validity of that transaction may be made in the forum in which the conflict of interest first rose by a board member or a member of any committee or any staff member and the challenge shall be resolved in the following manner:

A. The President/chair of the appropriate forum shall decide if a conflict of interest existed at the time of the final vote authorizing the transaction or action subject to an appeal which shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members present and entitled to vote, excluding any member whose interest is in question and any other members who have already been disqualified by reason of a conflict of interest.

B. Where a conflict of interest is found to have existed, the Board of Representatives shall review the transaction or action taken on the basis of the facts and circumstances as they existed at the time of the challenged vote and either ratify or void the transaction or action taken, by majority vote, excluding any member whose interest is in question and any other members who have already been disqualified by reason of a conflict of interest; provided however, that such review shall be unnecessary if the challenged vote was carried by more than a majority of the body voting, excluding those members having a conflict of interest.

**ARTICLE IX - FIDELITY BONDS INSURANCE**

**INDEMNIFICATION OF TRUSTEES, OFFICERS AND OTHER**

**PERSONS**

**Section 9.1 - Liability Insurance**

Liability insurance may be secured covering the board, officers, employees and agents as the Board of Representatives shall designate in amounts determined and approved by the Board of Representatives.

**Section 9.2 - Indemnification**

1. This League shall, to the full extent permitted by the Not For Profit Corporation Code and the Directors Liability Act and any other laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as amended from time to time, pay the expenses incurred by an officer, board member, employee, or agent in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding brought by any third party or brought by or in the right of the League in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the League.

2. This League shall to the full extent permitted by the Not For Profit Corporation Code and the Directors Liability Act and any other laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended from time to time, indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the League) by reason of the fact that he/she is or was a representative of another League partnership or joint venture against judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he/she acted in good faith and in a matter he/she

reasonably believes to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the League, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not of itself create a presumption that the[13] person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he/she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the League, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his/her conduct was unlawful.

3. This League shall to the full extent permitted by the Directors Liability Act of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended from time to time, indemnify a member of the Board of Representatives for monetary damage including judgments and amounts paid in settlement for any action taken or any failure to take any action, whether or not the indemnified liability arises or arose from any threatened, pending or complete action by or in the right of the League unless the board member has breached or failed to perform the duties of his/her office and the breach constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness; provided that indemnification will not be provided for any responsibility or liability under a criminal statute or for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, state or federal law.

4. The indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to this Article shall, unless otherwise provided when authorized or ratified, continue as to a person who has ceased to be a board member, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.

5. Unless ordered by a court, any indemnification under Sections 2 and 3 shall be made by the League only upon the determination that indemnification is proper in the circumstances presented. Such determination of indemnification shall be made by disinterested members of the Board of

Representatives.

6. Indemnification shall not be made under Sections 2 and 3, where the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim has been determined by a court to have constituted misconduct or recklessness.

## **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION**

### **Section 10.1 – Dissolution**

The League may dissolve by resolution of the Board of Representatives by a vote of not less than a majority of the members of the Board. The manner of dissolution shall be as required by the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the law of the United States and the official acts of the Board. Upon dissolution, the assets of the League shall be distributed as hereinbefore provided in the Purpose of the League.

## **ARTICLE XI – BYLAW REVISIONS**

**Section 11.1** – The Board of Representatives will review and establish, by April 15th of each year, the Bylaws of the WPYFL. Any changes, additions and/or deletions are subject to the approval of the Board of Representatives.

**Section 11.2** – These Bylaws may be amended and/or revised at any regular or special meeting of the WPYFL by a majority vote of the Board of Representatives.

**Section 11.3** – All members of the Board of Representatives must be notified at least twenty (20) days in advance of any meeting at which amendments and/or revisions are to be voted upon as to the specific[14] amendments and/or revisions. This is to ensure that each organization has to send its representative to the meeting at which any amendments and/or revisions to the Bylaws will be voted upon.

## **ARTICLE XII – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 12.1** – New organizations may be added to the WPYFL upon receiving a 75% vote of the Board of Representatives. Any organization wishing to join the WPYFL must submit interest to the League Director by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming season. Any organization that requests to join the WPYFL must meet with the Board of Representatives before a vote to accept said organization can occur.

**Section 12.2** - New organizations applying for admission will not be permitted to have any players who played for the organization in previous seasons, but live outside of the organizations school district, to have “grandfathered” eligibility into the WPYFL.

**Section 12.3** - Any organization requesting to be admitted to the WPYFL is required play their home games at either their respective high school stadium or a gated facility where an admission gate is present and spectator admission fees can be collected/controlled.

**Section 12.4** - Upon Acceptance, the new team shall be placed on probation for two (2) years. At the conclusion of the organization’s first season, a vote by the standing Board of Representatives will determine said team’s standing as a continued probationary member for the second season. At the conclusion of the organization’s second season, a vote by the standing Board of Representatives will determine said team’s acceptance for full voting, permanent member of the WPYFL.

**Section 12.5** – During the probationary period, the new team will have no formal vote concerning the league business.

- 2 years probation, no voting rights

- New Team or Returning Team Fee owed, precalculated rate based on their rosters for insurance purposes

**Section 12.6** - Any organization found guilty of misconduct detrimental to the league by a 75% vote of the Board of Representative will be subject to probation and loss of voting privileges for a period of one year. The probationary period will end one year from the date of the vote and no other infractions have occurred during the probationary period.

**Section 12.7** - Any organization's membership in the WPYFL can be terminated for just cause by a 75% vote of the permanent organizations with voting privileges. The organization in question will not be permitted to vote.

**Section 12.8**– Associate Members

1. Any organization who wishes to compete in the WPYFL that is unable to field at least one (1) team in each division may be admitted to the WPYFL on a probationary period. After the probationary period, two (2) years, if said organization is voted by the WPYFL Board of Representatives to become a full voting member said organization will be considered an associate member until such[15] time said organization can field at least (1) team in each division.

2. An associate member will have no voting privileges but will have an equal share of the revenue share proportional to the number of teams they are able to field.

3. At any time said organization is able to field at least (1) team in each division said organization's membership status will automatically change from associate member to full voting member.

## **ARTICLE XIV - DIVISIONS / TEAMS / ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 14.1 - Divisions**

1. **Division I (A Team)** – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade division. *Any child who turns 13 prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year will be ineligible to play in the WPYFL.*

*Weights: Weight Limit to be able to run the ball (skilled players) (120lbs)*

2. **Division II (B Team)** – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade division. *Any child who turns 11 prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season must move up to Division I.*

*Weights: Weight Limit to be able to run the ball (skilled players) (100lbs)*

3. **Division III (C Team)** – K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade division. *Any child who turns 8 prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season must move up to Division II. There is no minimum age requirement to play in Division III, but must be in kindergarten (based on the players' kindergarten registration birth date guidelines. Exceptions can be made based on D3 roster numbers, but must be formally requested to the WPYFL League Director for review.*

*Weights: Weight Limit to be able to run the ball (skilled players) (75lbs)*

### **Section 14.2 - Teams**

1. Each organization is encouraged to field a minimum of one (1) team at each division.
2. There shall be no set maximum players per squad per Division.
3. Organizations, at their sole discretion, may voluntarily field multiple teams and can split those teams at any number of players.
  - A. Organizations are required to inform the WPYFL by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming season as to the number of teams they will be registering in each division.
  - B. Any organization that fields multiple teams in a division is encouraged to field the same number of multiple teams in all divisions.

- C. Organizations with multiple teams in a division will submit separate rosters for each team, those rosters will remain in effect for the entire season and players will only be eligible for the team they are rostered on.
- D. Organizations that field multiple teams in a division are expected to ensure that players are distributed by weight, size and ability as equally as possible as not to create a team that is not perceived as being stronger than the other.
- E. Any organization fielding multiple teams in a division must structure the teams where at least 40% of the team is comprised of players representing each grade level.
- F. If an individual organization wishes to field multiple teams in a division, said organization will not be permitted to create “grade level” only teams.

### **Section 14.3 – Eligible Participants in the WPYFL**

1. Only those children who reside in School Districts that are represented in the WPYFL are eligible to participate in the WPYFL. All participants **MUST** play for the organization associated with/representing the school district they are enrolled in.

A. Any child who attends a private or parochial school and resides in one of the participating organization’s school districts is eligible to participate in the WPYFL. The child must play for the organization **whose school district their residence is located**. Exceptions can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on the discretion of the WPYFL Board of Representatives; final decisions will be based on the safety and well-being of the child(ren) involved.

2. Multiple Organizations within a Single School District

A. If there are two or more organizations located within a single school district that participate in the WPYFL and those organizations are divided by school(s), players must play for the school/organization which they attend or attended (for players in middle school).

B. If there are two or more separate organizations located within a single school district that participate in the WPYFL and use a boundary line to separate the organizations, the players must play for the organization whose boundary the primary residence is located.

C. Exemptions to these rules may be granted for extenuating circumstances by agreement of the two head coaches and organizations regarding the player(s) involved. A written, signed copy (by both organizations involved) of any agreement must be given to the League Director. Any agreement must be approved by a 75% vote of the Board of Representatives

3. Any player who moves to a different school district, whether the new school district is or is not a member of the WPYFL, after week one (1) of the regular season may complete the season with the team they were originally registered. The organization must notify the WPYFL league director in writing of a player who moves prior to the next scheduled contest.

4. Hardship waivers regarding a player's eligibility to participate with an organization where the[18] player does not attend school will be heard on case by case basis. Any hardship request must be presented in writing to the league director and said organization must present its case for player "hardship to the Board of Directors. The "hardship" request can only be granted by a 75% vote of approval of the WPYFL Board of Representatives.

A. Any player who is granted a "hardship waiver" may continue to play for the organization until such time as the "hardship" no longer exists.

B. Any player who is granted a "hardship waiver" who quits or leaves the organization will not be granted any subsequent "hardship waivers"

5. A copy of each player's birth certificate must be maintained by each organization, transported to all game sites by the organization and be readily available upon request by the league director.

6. The WPYFL online registration, code of conduct and liability waiver agreement must be completed by the parent(s)/guardian(s), prior to player/cheerleader being eligible to participate in any WPYFL event.

#### **Section 14.4 - Ineligible Player**

1. An ineligible player is considered a player who is:

- A. Any player who is overage/underage for the respective division they participate in.
- B. Any player who plays under an assumed name.
- C. Any player who plays for one team but actually lives in the organizational boundaries of another member organization and said player did not have proper release.
- D. Any player who lives outside of any member organizations boundaries but plays for a member organization without proper permission.
- E. Any player who plays in another youth league. (*Any player that participates in the WPYFL is forbidden from participating in another youth football league.*)

2. Penalties for playing an ineligible player:

- A. Any player discovered to be ineligible will be disqualified from participating in any WPYFL contests for the remainder of the season.
- B. The team whom the player played for will forfeit any game that said player participated in.
- C. The Head Coach of the team who used the ineligible player will be permanently suspended from any coaching and/or on field position in the WPYFL.
- D. The organization will be ineligible to compete in the WPYFL playoffs in *ALL DIVISIONS* for the current season.
- E. The organization will be placed on probation for the remainder of the current season and the subsequent two seasons.

F. If the organization was a first year probationary member of the WPYFL said organization may be removed immediately from the league by a 75% vote of the permanent organizations with voting privileges.

G. The organization will also be penalized **\$1,000** in accordance with **Article XIII, Section 13.2(2)** of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XV – COACHES AND STAFF**

### **Section 15.1 – Clearances**

1. All football coaches, cheer coaches, team moms, and team photographers will be required to complete clearances as required by **Pennsylvania Act 153 of 2014**. Required clearances include Pennsylvania criminal history record (Act 34), Pennsylvania child abuse history record (Act 151) and the Federal Criminal History record (Act 114). In lieu of completing the Federal Criminal History (Act 114) the WPYFL will accept the WPYFL Volunteer Affidavit Form (must be completed annually).

2. Clearances must be updated every **five (5) years**.

3. Organizations are responsible for obtaining and tracking clearances for all individuals within their respective organization. A signed and notarized clearance compliance form listing all active coaches and team moms shall be submitted to the WPYFL annually. The WPYFL can request, from any organization, a copy of completed clearances for any individual. If the organization is unable to produce a record of completed clearances for the individual(s) in question the organization may be fined as outlined in **Article XIII, Sections 13.2(4)** of these Bylaws.

4. Furthermore, any organization who knowingly permits an individual to coach and/or volunteer without clearances or a clearance record which would preclude said individual from a volunteer position will be fined as outlined **Article XIII, Sections 13.2(4)** of these Bylaws.

Said organization will also be subject to probation and loss of voting privileges for a period of

one year. The probationary period will end one year from the date of the vote and no other infractions have occurred during the probationary period.

5. Any coaching candidate with a felony conviction may be permitted to coach after a review of the Federal Criminal History Record and vote of the WPYFL Board of Representatives. Any coaching candidate with a felony conviction related to children, or of a sexual or violate nature are precluded from any position with any member organization within the WPYFL.

### **Section 15.2 – Football Coach Certifications**

All football coaches will be required to complete the USA Football Level I Tackle Football Certification or Recertification test on an annual basis. All coaches listed on their organizations submitted coaching roster *MUST* be certified by the start of heat acclimation week or they will be removed from the coaching roster and be prohibited from coaching in the WPYFL for the current season.

### **Section 15.3 – Cheer Coach Certifications**

All cheer coaches will be required to complete the following certifications annually before being issued a field pass: Concussion Awareness Certification, Sudden Cardiac Death Certification and Heat Awareness Certification. Organizations are responsible for obtaining and tracking certifications for all coaches within their respective organization.

### **Section 15.4 – Football Coach, Cheer Coach and Team Mom Online Registration**

All football coaches, cheer coaches and Team Moms are required to complete the appropriate WPYFL online registration form before being issued a field pass. This includes any videographers/photographers that will be present and on the field for each league.

### **Section 15.5 – Head Coaches**

1. All WPYFL head coaches are required to, at a minimum, have a current American Heart Association Heart Saver and AED certification.

2. An individual must be 21 years of age by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season to be a head coach of any football or cheer team within a member organization of the WPYFL.

### **Section 15.6 – Field Access**

Only football and cheer coaches, team moms and team photographers who have completed the required clearances, certifications and online registration will be issued a field pass and have field access. Any football or cheer coach, team mom or team photographer who is on the field without having completed the required clearances, certifications and registration will be suspended from any on field activity for the remainder of the season.

### **15.7 – EMS Requirements**

- A. All individual leagues are REQUIRED to have a dedicated EMS representative on-site for all games taking place on their home field.

EMS Requirements should be, at a minimum, as defined by the WPYFL:

- At a minimum, a licensed Quick Response Service with the PA Department of Health
  - This ensures the EMT has the necessary medical equipment, along with an AED
- Personnel must be at a minimum an EMT-B

AED Requirements – all individual leagues must have an AED available on-site during all practices and home games. If any league is found in violation of this requirement, the WPYFL Board will determine next steps.

### **15.8 – Security Requirements**

- A. All individual leagues are REQUIRED to have third-party security on-site for all games taking place on their home field.

Security can be:

- Constable
- Third-Party Security Firm
- Local Police

## **ARTICLE XVI – ROSTERS**

**Section 16.1** – Member organizations will submit a roster for each team seven (7) days prior to the Kickoff Classic. Rosters must be submitted using the WPYFL excel roster form and players must be listed in numerical order.

**Section 16.2** – Organizations may add players to their roster at any time during the season. The following stipulations will be in place for any player who is added to the roster after the season begins:

1. Must complete the heat acclimation process regardless of when the player is added to the roster.
2. Any organization that adds a player(s) must make the appropriate arrangements with the WPYFL to have the player(s) weighed.

## **ARTICLE XVII – PROTESTS**

**Section 17.1** – Protest of a Contest Based on Player Eligibility

1. Protest on eligibility of players will be submitted by the challenging coach within 24 hours to the League Director. The League Director will present the protest to the Board of Representatives at which time a recommendation will be made to the League Director by the Board of[21] Representatives and a decision concerning player eligibility will be made. If an ineligible player was used, it will be recorded that the team whose player(s) were ineligible lost any and all game(s) said player(s) participated in. Any other applicable penalties as outlined in **Article XIII, Section 13.2(2) and Article XIV, Section 14.5** of these Bylaws will be enforced.
2. If the protest involves a player that plays for an organization but is believed to attend school in another school district the following protocols will be used to determine eligibility:
  - A. Upon notification from the league director the organization for which the player participates will have 48 hours to submit a signed and dated letter from the principal from the school where the player participates stating he/she is currently enrolled in the school.

B. The organization will also have to request and submit a printed computer demographics sheet from the school.

C. If the information is not submitted to the league director within 48 hours the player will be considered ineligible and the organization will be subject to all fines and penalties as outlined in *Article XIII, Section 13.2(2) and Article XIV, Section 14.5* of these Bylaws

#### **Section 17.2 – Protests on Any Other Matters**

Protests on infractions of the WPYFL Bylaws and WPYFL Rules other than player eligibility must be submitted within 24 hours to the League Director, who will then submit it to the Board of Representatives for further review. Disposition of all matters will take place by a vote of the Board of Representatives before the next scheduled game. Game officials' judgment calls are not subject to protest.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **Section 18.1 – Conduct Policy**

1. In promoting the ethics, safety, and spirit of youth football, WPYFL has adopted this Code of Conduct policy in addition to the Coaches Code of Conduct agreement.
2. The Board of Representatives of the WPYFL has adopted this policy to eliminate all unacceptable behavior of Coaches, players, cheerleaders, and parents.
3. This Code of Conduct is binding upon all participants: Board Representatives, Coaches, Players, Cheerleaders, Parents, Volunteers and Spectators. Violations of this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action against any offender.

#### **Section 18.2 – Examples of Unacceptable Behaviors that Violate the Code of Conduct**

1. Examples of unacceptable behaviors by coaches, players, cheerleaders and/or parents and spectators include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- A. Badgering
- B. Threats
- C. Aggressive touching, grabbing, or contact with players,
- D. Use of foul and/or inappropriate language
- E. Consuming alcohol or tobacco at any practices or games,
- F. Use of social media in a manner which is detrimental to the WPYFL or affiliates within the WPYFL
- G. Any coach(s) and/or player(s) who is ejected from a game and/or displays unsportsmanlike conduct.

2. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but shall be limited to the following:

- A. Fighting
- B. Verbal abuse
- C. Bullying
- D. Dissent towards an official or opponent
- E. Racial or ethnic slurs
- F. Inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment
- G. Profanity
- H. Obscene gestures
- I. Flagrant and violent fouls
- J. Taunting
- K. Trash talk
- L. Cheating
- M. Throwing or abusing equipment
- N. Physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent
- O. Slandering the WPYFL, individual leagues, or individual players/cheerleaders
- P. Inappropriate posting or defamation of the WPYFL, individual leagues, individual players/cheerleaders, coaches, team moms, etc., on social media platforms and through news outreach

- The Officiating staff has the authority, given by the WPYFL, to enforce the Code of Conduct Policy and will be upheld by the WPYFL League Director based on the officiating staffs' decisions. Enforcement of punishment can be up to the removal of the game (ejection) and further security/police inclusion, if needed.

**Section 18.3** – Violations of the Code of Conduct Policy

1. If any Coach, player, cheerleader or parent or other member of the WPYFL exhibits unacceptable behavior and violates the Code of Conduct Policy, while at any league game or practice, the offender's unacceptable behavior shall be reported to the League Director in the form of a Written Letter of Complaint or e-mail within a 48 hour time period after the incident occurred.
2. Violations of the Code of Conduct Policy shall not expire on a calendar year basis and shall be cumulative during any individual's involvement with the WPYFL.

**Section 18.4** – Procedures to Address Violations of the Code of Conduct Policy

1. The Board of Representatives will review the written complaint and will investigate all alleged infractions as listed in in *Article XVIII, Section 18.2 (1 & 2)* of these Bylaws, as well as any alleged infractions not specified in *Article XVIII, Section 18.2 (1 & 2)* of these Bylaws.
2. The members of the Board of Representatives will make the proper arrangements to hear from all parties involved in the alleged infraction.
3. All parties shall include, but shall not be limited to the following: Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Witness(es), Player(s), Cheerleader(s) and parent(s)/Guardians(s).
4. A discussion of the incident in full detail will take place with the Board of Representatives.
5. Based on the facts presented to the Board of Representatives, the Board of Representatives[23] (excluding member(s) with individual(s) that are involved) shall make a final ruling and determine if the behavior is found to be unacceptable (in the case of a tie vote, the League Director will cast the deciding vote).

6. If the Board of Representative's ruling determines that the individual(s) behavior was unacceptable, the individual(s) will be deemed to have violated the Code of Conduct Policy and will be reprimanded.

**7. ALL DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE FINAL.**

**Section 18.5 - Penalties for Violation of the Code of Conduct Policy**

1. The Board of Representatives of the WPYFL shall have the power to impose *ANY* disciplinary action(s) it deems necessary and appropriate for those who fail to abide by the Code of Conduct

2. Policy set forth by the WPYFL.

a. Punishment and/or reprimand for infractions could and will range from the following:

**First Offense** – Written Warning

**Second Offense** – Suspension from team's next scheduled contest

1. Infractions involving a coach(s), player(s) and/or cheerleader(s) said coaches, players(s) and cheerleader(s) may watch the game from the stands.
2. Infractions involving a parent(s), said parent(s) will be unable to attend the next scheduled contest.

C. Third Offense – Suspension for remainder of season

1.) Infractions involving a coach – prohibited from any WPYFL function for the remainder of the current season

2.) Infractions involving a player or cheerleader - no participation in any practices

and/or games for the remainder of the current season

3.) Infractions involving a parent – prohibited from any WPYFL function for the remainder of the current season

### **Section 18.6 – Ejections**

Any coach, player, cheerleader, parent or spectator – whether associated with any organization within WPYFL or not – who is ejected from a game is automatically suspended for that team’s next scheduled contest.

A. Ejection Appeal - the only ejection that may be appealed is an ejection of a player for a flagrant helmet-to-helmet targeting call. The appeal process will be same as outlined in *Article XVII, Section 17.2* of these Bylaws.

A second offense by the same individual(s) during the same season will result in the individual(s) immediate suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Section 18.7** - Any infraction or series of infractions deemed egregious enough by the Board of Representatives may result in permanent expulsion from participation and/or involvement in the WPYFL.

**Section 18.8** – The League Director, when time is of the essence, may take action as stipulated in *Article XVIII, Section 18.2 (1 & 2)* regarding any Code of Conduct infraction(s) after consulting the Board of Representatives.

### **Section 18.9 – League Property**

All league-owned property is to be returned in a timely manner (two weeks before the current season playoffs). This includes:

- League traveling trophies
- Field passes

If not returned, the individual league responsible will be subject to the organization being placed back into a probationary period and to the removal of voting rights until the league property is returned.

## **ARTICLE XIX – CHEERLEADING**

**Section 19.1** – The League Director, along with guidance from the Cheer Subcommittee, will coordinate all cheer activities, including any post-season and/or special activities, for the WPYFL.

**Section 19.2** – Each Cheerleading Squad activity is organized and conducted by an Advisor/Coach according to provisions provided by their own Bylaws and the WPYFL rules contained herein.

**Section 19.3** – All teams are encouraged to have cheerleading squads in all divisions.

**Section 19.4** – Battle of the Bows attendance for each WPYFL squad is encouraged and strongly recommended.

## **ARTICLE XX – PLAYOFFS AND SITES**

**Section 20.1** – The number of teams qualifying for the playoffs in their classification will be determined by the Board of Representatives based on the number of teams participating in each Classification. In the event of a tie between two (2) or more teams, the WPIAL tie-breaking procedure as described in the WPYFL Rules and Regulations will be used to determine playoff seeding and/or playoff participants.

**Section 20.2** - All playoff games will be played on both grass and turf fields, but final decisions are subject to change based on weather.

**Section 20.3** – Playoff sites will be determined on a rotational basis and then based on availability. Host teams will be given home-field advantage regardless of seeding.

## **ARTICLE XXI - SENIOR BOWL**

**Section 21.1** - The WPYFL will host Senior Bowl games at the conclusion of each season for all 6<sup>th</sup>-grade boys and 6<sup>th</sup>-grade cheerleaders graduating from the WPYFL.

**Section 21.2** - Each organization will be responsible for compiling a list of all football players and cheerleaders who will be participating in the Senior Bowl. This list must be turned into the League Director no later than September 1st of the current season.

**Section 21.3** - All Division I head coaches and assistant coaches are encouraged to coach in the Senior Bowl. Every team will have at least one coach on the Senior Bowl coaching staff. The head coach for each Senior Bowl team will be chosen after the Senior Bowl teams have been set.

**Section 21.4** - Teams will be selected based on the geographic location of organizations by the league director. Teams will also be chosen to ensure a competitive game.

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