

Tri-County Youth Football League 2023 By-Laws

1. The official name of the league is the Tri-County Youth Football League (TCYFL).
2. There is no weight limit.
3. In the A-team Division a player cannot become (13) thirteen years of age before August 1st of current season year; oldest age 13; highest grade in current year 6th.

In the B-team Division a player can become (10) ten years of age on or before December 31st of current season year; oldest age 10; highest grade in current year 4th.

The C-team Division is part of the B-team Division. The following is only a guide to the age for these players. On the C-team a player can become 8 years of age on or before December 31st of the current season year; oldest age 8; both teams' coaches may agree to allow an older player.

4. Every player must be on the field in complete uniforms – Pants, Jerseys and Helmets. A mouthpiece and all types of pads are also required. Jerseys shall be Dark (Home) and Light (Away) unless the TCYFL makes an exception for an organization that doesn't have funding. Football shoes cannot have exposed metal from spikes, but sneakers are also allowed. The opposing coach may check shoes before or after a game, during halftime, or during a time-out providing he does not interfere with the game.
5. The size of the ball will be the Wilson TDJ for the A-team Division and the Wilson K2 for the B-team and C-team Divisions. All footballs used in the TCYFL must be leather. *Acceptable Game Ball model numbers: Wilson "TDJ" 1360 or 1321-GST; Wilson "K2" 1382 or 1322-GST. These balls may or may not display the "TDJ" or "K2" designation on the football but must include the model number.*
6. The League Assigner will assign Officials and there will be at least (4) four at all games. If only (3) three are present, the first game Head Coaches must mutually agree upon whether to play or reschedule the game.

The Home Team organization will pay each Official **\$50.00** for each game officiated. B-team game plus A-team game equals **\$100.00** per Official. Two (2) games with four (4) Officials will be **\$400.00** total paid. If less than four (4) Officials are present at any game, the Home Team should pay only the **\$50.00** per game per Official.

The League Assigner will schedule all Officials for playoff and championship games with approval of the TCYFL Officers. League Assigner's fee is **\$500.00**. The TCYFL will meet the first week in October to discuss Officials for playoffs. The TCYFL will have final approval of game Officials. The Championship game will have (5) five Officials.

7. To call off a game, the Home Team must call the opposing Head Coach (or any other name on the contact sheet), TCYFL Secretary, League Assigner, and the Crew Chief assigned to those games. The coach must tell the TCYFL Secretary the name of whom he contacted on the opposing team. The calls must be made (3) three hours before the first game time. The Home Team will make the choice of both the time and place of the makeup game with the approval of the opposing Head Coach. If the two teams cannot agree on the time to make up all the games, TCYFL Officers will then schedule the games within (2) two weeks of the postponement.

If a team arrives to play, and the opposing team does not show in one-half hour, the game is forfeited and the team will be fined accordingly.

The C-team's scrimmage will start at 12:00 pm, the B-team's game will start at 1:00 pm and the A-team's game will follow (5) five minutes after the B-team game. Night games will start at 3:00 pm for the C-team scrimmage, the B-team game will start at 4:00 pm and the A-team game will start (5) five minutes after the B-team game. (Note: It is up to the C-team Head Coaches if they want to play for the 1 hour or 30 minutes.) Teams changing the start times or order of games played must first have the mutual consent of the opposing Head Coach then must notify a TCYFL Officer, League Assigner, and the Crew Chief assigned to those games.

8. A copy of the Official Roster must be exchanged by the Head Coaches prior to the start of the game (permits the Head Coaches a moment to meet and encourages civility). It must be the Tri-County Youth Football League Official Roster. It must be the most up-to-date Roster with all approved changes. It must include the Head Coach signature.

A press box copy must be supplied to the announcer in numerical order before the game.

9. Coaches are not allowed passed the (25) twenty-five yard line during the A-team games. Two (2) coaches are permitted on the field during a time out.
10. A-team and B-team games will consist of (8) eight minute quarters. Every time out will consist of (2) two minutes. The clock will stop for change of possession and will not restart until the ball is snapped.
11. All fields will be marked-off according to PIAA rules prior to the start of the game. Home Teams will be fined (\$10) ten dollars if the field is not lined off accordingly. League Officials will make a decision as to whether or not the field is okay.

Fields must also have goal posts and working timers/scoreboards.

12. **PRACTICE SESSIONS will start NO EARLIER THAN the last Monday in the month of July.**

13. At the announced TCYFL Registration Meeting, all teams will turn in (20) twenty copies of their Tri-County Youth Football League Official Roster in alphabetic order by the player last name - note: the B-team players and C-team players must be listed on the same roster. All Rosters must be turned in at the Registration Meeting or a \$50 fine will be imposed.

All teams will also turn in at that same Registration Meeting an official Tri-County Youth Football League Registration Form for every player on their roster. This form must be complete and signed by both the parent/guardian and Head Coach. Fines may occur if the submitted Registration Form is incomplete/missing signatures.

Stapled to each Registration Form must be a copy of the player's birth certificate or date-of-birth verification. Acceptable proof of age/date-of-birth include: birth certificate, physician document (more than just a bill), government document, and baptismal certificate.

Teams must report at the Registration Meeting if there are any Registration Forms without a birth certificate copy attached. A \$10 fine will be imposed per non-reported missing birth certificate.

There will be a 1 week grace period to submit any missing birth certificate copies reported at the Registration Meeting. If the birth certificate copies are not received by the end of the 1 week grace period, a \$50 fine will be imposed and the player(s) may not play until the TCYFL Secretary receives the birth certificate copies.

All submitted documents will be accompanied by the \$125 League Entry Fee at the Registration Meeting.

Players who were listed on a roster ANY previous year cannot switch to a different team unless they are released from the previous team or move into that area.

Non-roster players may be added up to (14) days after the Registration Meeting by providing the necessary completed/signed Registration Forms, and birth certificate copies to the TCYFL Secretary. NO players can be added unless there is an accompanying birth certificate – there is no grace period for these players. Players who appear on another team's roster cannot be added. The team must also provide an updated Official Roster to include the addition.

If there are any other changes to the Official Roster, the team must notify the TCYFL Secretary prior to the start of the 2nd regular season game. An updated Official Roster must also be submitted to the TCYFL Secretary.

Roster registration will be closed (14) days after the Registration Meeting. Any exceptions to the closed roster will be voted on by the TCYFL body prior to the end of the regular season.

NO additional players will be permitted after the end of the 4th weekend games.

14. Under an agreement (prior to the game), if both coaches agree on matters that arise and the game is played, NO protest will be allowed. If a protest is made, any TCYFL Officer MUST be notified by phone and the protest MUST be in writing explaining the situation that led to the protest. This must be submitted to the TCYFL Officer notified within 48 hours. A (\$10.00) ten dollar protest fee must accompany the letter. The money will be returned to the team if the protest is upheld. If denied, the (\$10.00) ten dollars will automatically revert to the TCYFL and the protest withdrawn. Any agreement prior to the game must be signed by BOTH coaches with each coach getting a copy and the TCYFL Officer receiving a copy.
15. FINAL SCORES must be reported by a person listed on the Contact List from ALL HOME TEAMS to the TCYFL Secretary by the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. via phone (570-622-6509) or e-mail (jcbudwash@gmail.com). Failure to report scores will constitute a (\$25.00) twenty-five dollar fine.
16. Once a player is elevated to the A-team level he/she cannot return to the B-team level at anytime. The TCYFL must be notified of all such moves and the TCYFL must notify all teams that have not played the team who elevated the player(s).
17. Officials may call off a game due to inclement weather conditions which will result in danger to the children prior to the start of the game. The game will be rescheduled to start from the beginning, at a later date. If a game is postponed, the game resumes where left off. A game can be called complete if both coaches agree. Both team's coaches must call the TCYFL Secretary with the quarter, time, score, yard line, down and yard to go.

18. All games on the schedule will count for each team's overall record. The League will be divided into (4) four divisions: West Division, North Division, South Division, and East Division. The teams in those divisions are:

<u>WEST</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Ashland	Frackville	Blue Mountain	Jim Thorpe
Minersville	Hazleton	Pine Grove	Lehighton
Mt. Carmel	Mahanoy	Pottsville	Panther Valley
Shamokin	Shenandoah	St. Clair	Tamaqua
		Schuylkill Haven	

Each team will play (8) regular season games over a (9) week season. For the West, North, and East Divisions, this will include playing the other (3) three teams in their Division plus (5) five out-of-division teams. For the South Division, this will include playing the other (4) four teams in the Division plus (4) four out-of-division teams.

The (4) four Division Champions will be seeded 1-2-3-4 determined by the following criteria:

1. Overall Record
2. Head to Head Competition - only used if one team has defeated all other teams in the tie.
3. Record of defeated opponents
4. Overall Strength of Schedule
5. Division Record
6. Toss of coin if tie still exists

The next (4) four teams with the best records will play as Wildcard teams determined by the following criteria:

1. Overall Record
2. Head to Head Competition - only used if one team has defeated all other teams in the tie.
3. Record of defeated opponents
4. Overall Strength of Schedule
5. Division Record
6. Toss of coin if tie still exists

Criteria will reset to beginning after 3-way (or more) ties are broken.

During the playoffs the highest seeded team will always play the lowest seeded team up to the Championship game.

The playoff games and Championship games will begin at 12 pm when possible. The sites will be decided on availability of lights and teams involved.

The TCYFL Officers will work the gate and collect all admissions. The TCYFL will supply the game balls and pay the Officials.

19. Election of TCYFL Officers will take place at the January meeting.

20. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS is a (\$25.00) twenty five dollar fine. The fine will increase (\$25) twenty-five dollars for each consecutive meeting not attended.

- 1st meeting missed - \$25
- 2nd meeting in a row missed - \$50 + previous \$25 = \$75 total
- 3rd meeting in a row missed - \$75 + previous \$75 = \$150 total
- 4th meeting in a row missed - \$100 + previous \$150 = \$250 total

Late fine is (\$10.00) ten dollars (10 minutes after the scheduled meeting time). All out of season fines must be paid by the Registration Meeting and all fines assessed during the regular season must be paid by the January meeting.

21. The Tri-County Youth Football League will run on a (12) twelve month calendar year from date of acceptance of by-laws.

22. No games will end in a tie. Ties will be resolved by PIAA rules. When the Defensive Team gains possession of the ball, the down and series immediately ends for the Offensive Team.

23. All rules not covered in the B-team level By-Laws will be covered under the A-team By-Laws.

24. At the Registration Meeting all new PIAA Rules will be voted for TCYFL compliance.

25. Exhibitions/Scrimmage games are allowed during the season.

26. Changes to By-Laws can be made during the season with a 2/3 vote by members.

27. A coach who is ejected from a game, both as a coach or fan, must leave the field and will be fined (\$50.00) fifty dollars by the TCYFL. Any coach that is ejected from a game must sit out the next game. However, the coach may attend the game as a spectator – they must remain in the bleachers during the game and not attempt to coach in any way.

A person listed on the Contact List from the ejected coach's team must call a TCYFL Officer and the League Assigner to report ejection. This By-Law supersedes the PIAA Rule that the Head Coach is ejected and not the coach causing the situation.

Any player that is ejected from a game must sit out the next game. A person listed on the Contact List from the ejected player's team must call a TCYFL Officer and the League Assigner to report ejection.

The coach/player ejection must also be reported to the TCYFL Secretary by a person listed on the Contact List – Home Teams, report with the scores by Monday 9 am after the weekend games; Visiting Teams, report (without scores) by Monday 9 am after the weekend games. The TCYFL Secretary will then notify the next opposing team of the coach/player ejection and suspension.

Failure to report game ejections to the League Assigner and the TCYFL Secretary by Monday 9 am after the weekend games will result in a \$50 fine.

If the suspended player takes the field or the coach is on the sideline, the game will be forfeited. The coach will be fined an additional (\$100.00) one-hundred dollars by the TCYFL and will be required to sit out the next game. The player will be required to sit out the next game.

28. These By-Laws supersede any and all PIAA Rules, except all new rule changes adopted by the Tri-County Youth Football League.
29. Any PIAA Official listed as a coach on any Tri-County Youth Football League Official Roster is not permitted to officiate TCYFL games.
30. Video and audio recording device use will not be permitted at any TCYFL meetings. Any person using such devices will be asked to delete any recordings and leave immediately.
31. The rules and regulations are set forth and approved by the TCYFL at an Official TCYFL Meeting.

Any infraction of these by-laws or errors relating to the registration process may have a fine imposed. For infractions with no fine specified, fines will be determined by the TCYFL Officers.

32. At the discretion of the TCYFL Officers, any infraction that may result in the suspension of coaches or players (other than rule #28 game ejections) will be reviewed by the Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board will consist of the Executive Board plus (1) one coach chosen by the TCYFL President.

The TCYFL Officers reserve the right to immediately suspend coaches and/or players pending the Disciplinary Board's recommendation and the TCYFL body's vote.

Anyone accused of a suspendable infraction will be given a written and verbal notice to appear before the Disciplinary Board to answer and defend any allegations. Notices will be given within (10) ten days of the TCYFL Officers decision to convene a Disciplinary Board.

The Disciplinary Board will then make a recommendation within (10) ten days of meeting. The TCYFL body will vote at the next TCYFL meeting to either enforce the Disciplinary Board's recommendation or impose another penalty.

33. Coaches are role models for youth athletes. Coaches are the face of individual teams as well as TCYFL. Inappropriate behavior can result in fines by TCYFL Officers or further discipline under rule #32.

34. If after half-time there is a **30** point differential, the mercy rule will take effect according to PIAA rules.

35. All visors are permitted and may be tinted without requiring a doctor's prescription.

36. The chains must be located on the Home side of the field or the side where the Home team benches (players and coaches) are located.

B-team Tri-County Youth Football League 2023 By-Laws

1. A copy of a birth certificate or date-of-birth verification and the official Tri-County Youth Football League Registration Form will be turned in at the TCYFL Registration Meeting. Acceptable proof of age/date-of-birth include: birth certificate, physician document (more than just a bill), government document, and baptismal certificate.

On the B-team a player can become (10) ten years of age on or before December 31st of current season year; oldest age 10; highest grade in current year 4th.

On the C-team a player can become 8 years of age on or before December 31st of the current season year; oldest age 8; both teams' coaches may agree to allow an older player.

2. Games will consist of (4) four (8) eight minute quarters.
3. C-team scrimmages will consist of (4) four quarters with (7) seven minutes of offense, (7) seven minutes of defense, (7) seven minutes of offense and (7) seven minutes of defense with a running clock. If both teams agree they can actually play (2) two halves that consist of (30) thirty minutes of offense and (30) thirty minutes of defense. There will be no lining-up over the center and no players in the A gaps between the guard and the center.
4. Each team will have (3) three timeouts each half consisting of (2) two minutes each. Two (2) coaches are permitted on the field during a time out.
5. Players must remain in their standard defense for punts. During a punt the clock will stop until ball is punted. The punt return team can only have (2) two players deep for a return maximum. The punt return team must have inside linebackers at (5) five yards minimum and maximum and only (1) one outside linebacker outside ends. The punt team can have (1) one player split outside the end maximum. **NO RUSH ON PUNT!!** No players can move until the ball is kicked.
6. Once a player moves up to the A-team level he/she cannot come back down to the B-team level.

7. A maximum of (4) four minimum of (3) three linemen inside the tackle box. No blitzing over the center. All linebackers inside the tackle box must be (5) five yards back and must remain (5) five yards back until the ball is snapped. All linemen inside the tackle box (offensive and defensive) must be in a (3) three or (4) four point stance. Tackle box is defined as no farther than player's extended arm touching the next player's shoulder. Inside the 10-yard-line, none of these rules apply.

First offense is a warning. Second offense is an illegal formation 5 yard penalty.

8. Extra point after touchdown: run the ball or pass the ball will be worth (2) two points and kick will be worth (1) one point. NO RUSH ON KICK!!
9. Teams may not go beyond the (25) twenty-five yard line, except for (2) two coaches and (2) two players. If more than (2) two coaches and (2) two players, a penalty of unsportsmanlike conduct will be assessed for a 15-yard penalty.
10. No games will end in a tie. Ties will be resolved by PIAA rules. Kicking the extra points during the overtime is allowed with no rushing of the kicker.
11. Field goal attempts can be full rushed in a game and OT.