

Greater Cincinnati Youth Football Conference CYFCL Bylaws

Article I – Name

- 1.0 The name of this organization shall be the Greater Cincinnati Youth Football League; hereinafter, referred to as the “GCYFL”.

Article II – Mission & Vision

2.0 GCYFL Mission Statement

The mission of the Greater Cincinnati Youth Football League (GCYFL) is to introduce the game of football to youth of all ages and skill levels with the purpose of providing the opportunity for each player to develop to their highest potential. The GCYFL strives to maintain an environment that embodies the core values of integrity, leadership, perseverance, respect and teamwork while enhancing self-esteem, promoting self-confidence and cultivating a lifelong passion for the game of football.

GCYFL Vision

The Greater Cincinnati Youth Football League has been established to provide youth in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas with a league that is structured with multiple divisions to give players of different ages and skill levels a positive, competitive playing experience.

Article III – Organization

- 3.0 An “Organization” is hereby defined as an independent youth football organization, which, upon satisfying the provisions and requirements of these bylaws, is accepted by the GCYFL for affiliation and participation.
- 3.1 Except as provided in Article XI, an Organization must be solely comprised of student athletes (players) who reside within the official residential boundaries of its High School District or attend a school whose building is located within the boundaries of the High School District.
- 3.2 An Organization, throughout its affiliation with the GCYFL, shall continue to satisfy and abide by all provisions of these bylaws, together with any Rules, Regulations, Policies, Orders or Procedures subsequently adopted and promulgated by the GCYFL.
- 3.3 An Organization, if found to be in violation Article 3.1, may be subject to Disciplinary Action including, but not limited to, Forfeit, Penalty, Sanction, Probation or Termination of its affiliation.
- 3.4 All Organizations who sign a letter of intent and provide a check for a \$500 membership fee, shall be considered an Inaugural Organization.
- 3.5 Any organization that is not an Inaugural Organization, must petition the Governing League for Organization status of the GCYFL. An organization will be granted Organization status with a 2/3 vote of all Organizations.
- 3.6 All organizations are required to supply a security deposit, which may be returned if an organization provides 12 months’ notice of their intent to leave the GCYFL.

Article IV – Governing Board & Organizational Representatives

- 4.0 A Governing Board; hereinafter, referred to as the “Board”, shall govern and have the final decision regarding all matters, without limitation, which shall include, Organization membership, all operations, rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the GCYFL, including their interpretation and that of these bylaws. All rulings and decisions of the Board shall be final.
- 4.1 Each GCYFL organization may appoint a representative to represent their interest within the GCYFL. Each Organizational Representative shall be appointed and empowered by his/her Organization to represent its’ interests and shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters that may come before the League. Organizational Representatives are to participate in open discussions, make suggestions to improve the GCYFL, and attend all meetings of the GCYFL.
- 4.2 Each Organization may appoint an Alternate Organizational Representative to attend meetings of the GCYFL, but such Alternate shall have no voting authority except in the absence of the Organization’s primary Organizational Representative.
- 4.3 Organizational Representatives, or their Alternates, shall be responsible for assuring all GCYFL news, rules, procedures or updates are distributed throughout their respective Organization organizations.

Article V – Board of Directors- Elections

- 5.0 A Board of Directors, hereinafter, referred to as the “Board” shall be elected by the Organizational Representatives to administer the needs of the GCYFL. Duties shall include scheduling and presiding over GCYFL meetings, preparing an agenda and recording the minutes of such meetings, distributing rules, procedures, updates or similar to the heads of the Organization organizations, administering the routine enforcement of these bylaws and any Rules or Regulations of the GCYFL, monitoring any GCYFL web site and other social media established by the GCYFL to communicate with the public.
- 5.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and three League Representative; hereinafter collectively referred to as “Board” or individually referred to as “Board Member.”
- 5.2 Organization Representatives shall nominate candidates for the Board of Directors in person at a meeting which takes place between the GCYFL Championship games and December 31.
- 5.3 The President shall appoint a Judge, Teller and Recorder. The Judge of the Election shall be responsible for the fair and accurate conduct of such election. The Teller will distribute and collect the ballots. The Recorder will count and record the ballots. The Judge, Teller and Recorder shall not be any person nominated for the Board or current member of the Board.
- 5.4 Voting will take place at the same meeting as nominations or at the very next meeting. When the count is completed, the Judge of the Election shall announce the results which shall be recorded by the Secretary. Should the election result in a tie vote being cast for any office, the Judge of the Election shall declare a second round of voting. In the event of a second tie the candidates affected shall decide, by lot, which one shall be declared elected, and the President shall declare them elected.
- 5.5 The term of the Board of Directors shall commence on January 1 and last two years, expiring on December 31. The term of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be two years.
- 5.6 The President, and Secretary will be voted in odd number years. The Vice-President and Treasurer will be voted in even number years.
- 5.7 The term of the At-Large League Representatives (3) shall commence on January 1 and last one year, expiring on December 31. The At-Large League Representatives will be voted on annually.

- 5.8 If, for any reason, a Board Member is unable to fulfill his/her term, the respective Organization Representatives shall nominate and vote for a replacement person to serve as Board Member for the balance of the term.
- 5.9 If, by 2/3 majority vote of all Organizational Representatives to the league, a Board Member is determined to be unsuitable for office, a replacement Board Member shall be appointed, as provided in Article 5.7.
- 5.10 Whenever an existing Organizational Representative is either appointed or voted as a Board Member, a replacement Organizational Representative to the League shall be appointed by the Organization.

Article VI – Duties of Board of Directors

- 6.0 The purpose of the Board of Directors is to administer the needs of the GCYFL as directed by the Governing Board or any other need of the GCYFL not spoken to in these bylaws. Duties shall include scheduling and presiding over GCYFL meetings, preparing an agenda and recording the minutes of such meetings, distributing rules, procedures, updates or similar to the heads of the Organization organizations, administering the routine enforcement of these bylaws and any Rules or Regulations of the GCYFL, monitoring any GCYFL web site and social media platforms.
- 6.0.1 Any member running for a GCYFL Board position – President, Vice President, Treasure, Secretary, and League Representatives must have attended at minimum 50% of GCYFL meetings during the previous 12 months.
- 6.0.2 Any member running for a GCYFL Committee position – Rules and Competition, must have attended at minimum 25% of GCYFL meetings during the previous 12 months.

6.1 President

- 6.1.1 The President shall have charge and preside at all meetings of the GCYFL. It shall be his/her duty to open and close all meetings, regular and special.
- 6.1.2 The President shall act as representative of the GCYFL Organization to outside persons or organized bodies whenever necessary.
- 6.1.3 The President shall select a Chairperson and appoint the majority of members of all committees and Special Committees not otherwise provided for.
- 6.1.4 The President shall serve as the Chairman on the Competition Committee or appoint a designee. In the case of a designee, the President shall be the point of contact for the Committee.
- 6.1.5 The President shall have the empowerment to enforce all GCYFL rules subject to review by the Governing Board.
- 6.1.6 The President shall have custody of, and shall be responsible for all assets of the GCYFL; including but not limited to stamps, seals, etc.
- 6.1.7 The President shall be empowered to sign GCYFL checks.

6.2 Vice-President

- 6.2.1 The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President.

- 6.2.2 The Vice-President shall act as an aide to the President.
- 6.2.3 The Vice-President shall assume administrative duties of the GCYFL that are assigned to him/her by the President of GCYFL.
- 6.2.4 In the absence of the Secretary, the Vice-President shall, if he is not presiding over the meeting, record the Minutes and give said Minutes to the Secretary.
- 6.2.5 The Vice-President shall appoint the minority of all committees not otherwise provided for.
- 6.2.6 The Vice-President shall serve as the Chairman of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or appoint a designee. In the case of a designee, the Vice-President shall be the point of contact for the Committee.
- 6.2.7 The Vice-President shall be entirely responsible for overseeing the yearly weigh-in processes and locations. This includes securing locations, league stamps, office supplies, updating weigh-in paperwork, etc.
- 6.2.8 The Vice-President is responsible for notifying organizations, of any fine. The Vice-President will also be responsible for hearing appeals of fines or league punishments and investigating their validity.

6.3 Secretary

- 6.3.1 The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all the GCYFL meetings.
- 6.3.2 The Secretary shall provide the President with the order of business for each meeting.
- 6.3.3 The Secretary shall maintain an attendance register of all attendees at GCYFL meetings.
- 6.3.4 The Secretary shall record the exact wording of motion(s) pending before the GCYFL and the corresponding vote count.
- 6.3.5 The Secretary shall keep copies of the approved bylaws, general playing rules and any Amendments to the bylaws.
- 6.3.6 The Secretary shall assist in the transaction of business of the GCYFL.
- 6.3.7 The Secretary shall maintain all records of coaching certifications required to obtain a GCYFL coaching badge and issue badges to coaches who meet the required criteria.
- 6.3.8 The Secretary will maintain all rosters.
- 6.3.9 The Secretary shall maintain and oversee all social media accounts approved by the Governing Board, unless another Board member has agreed to manage social media.
- 6.3.10 The Secretary shall at the expiration of his/her term of office, he/she shall give a correct report of the business of his/her office to the GCYFL, and shall deliver to his/her successor in office all books and other properties of the League in his/her possession.
- 6.3.11 The Secretary shall file all paperwork as necessary with the State of Ohio to maintain the organizational status.

6.4 Treasurer

- 6.4.1 The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the GCYFL.
- 6.4.2 The Treasurer shall select a financial institution for the GCYFL's use.

- 6.4.3 The Treasurer shall deposit all funds acquired by the GCYFL into a GCYFL account at a federally insured financial institution.
- 6.4.4 The Treasurer shall make the payments for any obligations incurred by the GCYFL.
- 6.4.5 The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the receipts and expenditures including all financial records described in Article VIII.
- 6.4.6 The Treasurer shall provide a financial statement at every GCYFL meeting.
- 6.4.7 The Treasurer will be bonded at the expense of the GCYFL.
- 6.4.8 The Treasurer shall open for inspection the financial records to the Board of Directors at any time with reasonable notice.
- 6.4.9 The Treasurer shall be empowered to sign Organization checks and sign for bank loans.
- 6.4.10 The Treasurer shall select a PO Box for the GCYFL's use.
- 6.4.11 The Treasurer shall file all required tax documents.
- 6.4.12 The Treasurer shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-President.
- 6.5.13 The Treasurer shall be responsible for ordering all season ending medals and trophies.
- 6.5.14 The Treasurer shall determine and notify organizational representatives of the league dues for each season by January 31.
- 6.5.15 The Treasurer shall oversee the collection of each organization's security deposit.

6.5 League Representatives (3)

- 6.5.1 There shall be three (3) League Representatives who shall ensure the League meetings are ran in an orderly fashion and within the approved GCYFL bylaws.
- 6.5.2 The League Representatives shall have the ability to ask anyone to leave the meetings for being disruptive.
- 6.5.3 The League Representatives shall assist any of the GCYFL Board officers as needed.
- 6.5.4 The League Representatives shall serve as a liaison to schedule referees for GMYFC games.

6.6 Competition Committee

- 6.6.1 The President or his designee shall serve as the Chairman of a Competition Committee. The Competition Committee shall be comprised of four additional Organizational Representatives from the Organization Representatives. The President shall appoint two members and the Vice-President shall appoint two members. If the Board agrees by majority that the Committee is larger in size, the President shall appoint the majority of members and the Vice-President shall appoint the minority. The Committee will reset annually upon Board elections.
- 6.6.2 The purpose of the Competition Committee is to select the number Divisions, size of each Division and assign teams to the Divisions. The committee will also set a regular season schedule.
- 6.6.3 Any division assignment or matchup may be appealed by an Organization to the Board. The Governing Board has the final determination but changes in contradiction to the Competition Committee should be limited.

6.7 Rules Committee

- 6.7.1 The Vice-President shall serve as the Chairman of a Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall be comprised of four additional Organizational Representatives from the League. The President shall appoint two members and the Vice-President shall appoint two members. If the Board agrees by majority that the Committee is larger in size, the President shall appoint the majority of members and the Vice-President shall appoint the minority. The Committee will reset annually upon Board elections.
- 6.7.2 The purpose of the Rules Committee is to review the Bylaws and Rules. From time to time the Bylaws and Rules may need revised to address the trends in youth football, unforeseen circumstances that arise, to alter an OHSAA rule that better aligns with the level of play in youth football, etc.
- 6.7.3 All bylaw Amendments and rule changes shall be presented to the Leagues Organizational Representatives. The bylaws may only be amended by a vote of 2/3 of the Organizational Representatives. The Rules may only be amended by a majority vote.

Article VII – Meetings

- 7.0 The President shall, with input of the Board, prepare a meeting calendar for each calendar year. Whenever possible, meetings shall be consistently scheduled once per month. All meetings will be attended by the Board of Directors and Organizational Representatives. No official meeting may be held, or matters voted upon, unless a majority of all Organizational Representatives, or their Alternates, and a majority of all Board Members are in attendance.
- 7.1 Unless otherwise authorized for a specific purpose, all meetings shall be “closed” and attended only by the Board Members, Organizational Representatives (or their Alternates) and any GCYFL support personnel approved by the Board for such purpose.
- 7.2 Provided a majority of all Organizational Representatives to the League (or their Alternates) are in attendance, the President shall call for a vote on all matters or motions before the League. The results of all such votes shall be recorded and incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.
- 7.3 The vote on any matter or motion shall be considered “passed” or “rejected” when a majority of the participating Organizational Representatives (or their Alternates) are in consensus. In the event of a “tie” vote, the President may then cast a tie-breaking vote, or table the matter to the next meeting.
- 7.4 In the event an urgent matter arises that, in the opinion of the President, should be addressed by the League prior to the next scheduled meeting, the President shall notify all Organizational Representatives to the League of the matter by any available electronic means (email, electronic vote, etc.) and may make a motion to resolve the matter. The vote shall be open for 24 hours from the time the Motion is made. A majority agreement of all Organizational Representatives will decide the vote and the results shall be incorporated into the Minutes of the next meeting. In the event of a tied vote among the Organizational Representatives, the President shall not be entitled to a “tie-breaking” vote and the matter shall be tabled to the next meeting. Any Motion that does not pass may be discussed and Motioned at the next meeting.
- 7.5 The President shall have the power to call a meeting of the League if a 48-hour notice is provided to all Organizational Representatives of the League and Board of Directors.
- 7.6 The President shall call meetings of the Board of Directors as necessary if a 24-hour notice is given to all the Board of Directors. A quorum shall consist of three members of the Board.

Article VIII – League Assessments

- 8.0 Each Organization shall pay annual dues in a sum to be determined by the League in order to facilitate the business of the GCYFL. The annual dues may increase or decrease from year to year as necessary. The Board shall set the due date and may adopt a late fee schedule. Any Organization that has not paid their dues as of July 1st will be suspended from football activities in the GCYFL and all previously scheduled games shall be ruled a forfeit and will not be rescheduled.
- 8.1 The Treasurer shall select a financial institution of his/her choice. All Dues, Income, Fines, etc., shall be deposited into the GCYFL account.
- 8.2 The Treasurer shall maintain a log of debits and credits for each organization.
- 8.3 The Treasurer and President shall have the authorization to pay all debts and make all purchases necessary for the operation of the GCYFL.
- 8.4 The Board shall determine and maintain an end of season balance to conduct business as needed in the off season.
- 8.5 Where 2/3 of Organizational Representatives at any regular meeting desire an assessment to be levied on the Organizations, the same shall be ordered by the President, and notice thereof, in writing, shall be sent to every Organization by the Secretary. Such assessment shall be paid immediately as directed by the Board.

Article IX – Teams, Grade Levels, Groups and Divisions

- 9.0 Teams competing within the GCYFL shall be Grade Level based and be solely comprised of players in scholastic grades Kindergarten, 1, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th.
- 9.1 Each Organization, without exception, must be able to field a team for each Grade Level. The collective grouping of its' teams, K1 through 6th Grade, inclusive, shall be hereinafter, referred to as a "Pod".
- 9.2 A maximum age limitation, for eligible participation, shall be established for each Grade Level.
- 9.3 A team must have a minimum of 12 eligible and registered players to commence a season.
- 9.4 Any Player, at the discretion of his or her Organization, may play up or be rostered up one Grade Level. However, once game play commences, such player must continue to participate at his rostered Grade Level and shall not be permitted to change teams.
- 9.5 No Player, without exception, may play down a Grade Level. Where a team is comprised of Players of multiple Grade Levels, such team must compete at the higher-grade Level. (EXAMPLE: a team that is comprised of thirteen 4th Graders and one 5th Grader must compete at the 5th Grade Level.)
- 9.6 The GCYFL does not offer 7th Grade football. Accordingly, no player promoted to enroll in 7th Grade, regardless of age or size, may participate in the GCYFL.
- 9.7 The GCYFL shall create multiple Divisions for game play. For each season, Pods shall be assigned to Divisions.
- 9.8 Each Pod of an Organization shall be identified by a Name. For name purposes, the Organization may designate any Pod name it chooses.

- 9.9 An Organization may enter more than one Pod for competition, but at least one Pod shall be complete with teams participating at each Grade Level, K1 through 6th Grade, inclusive. Such multiple Pods shall each be given a unique Name Identifier. The Organization shall submit an opinion of the relative and comparable strength and experience of the teams comprising each Pod. Such opinions, together with prior performance records, shall be taken into consideration by the Competition Committee for the purpose of making each season's Division assignments.
- 9.10 When an Organization enters more than one Pod for competition, for game scheduling purposes, during regular season play, the teams comprising a Pod shall be scheduled to host, or travel, together as a group. Game start times should be consistent throughout the GCYFL, with K1 being the first game of the day and continuing in progression of Grade Levels. Game Days may be either Saturday or Sunday. This provision may not apply to post season playoffs.
- 9.11 If any team is unable to begin a game with a minimum of 11 players, that team shall notify the field official and shall endeavor to play the game by temporarily supplementing its' roster pursuant to Rules developed by the League. Such temporary players may only be drawn from the next younger Grade Level and from within the same Pod.
- 9.12 In the event an Organization fails to satisfactorily field a minimum of one complete Pod, or to field teams for each Grade Level within at least one Pod, said Organization shall be placed on immediate probation. The League shall subsequently review mitigating circumstances to determine whether further sanctions are warranted.

Article X – Player Eligibility, Rosters and Validation

- 10.0 The GCYFL shall establish a date each year on which Team Rosters shall be closed for the current season. Similarly, a date shall be established on which the GCYFL will conduct its process of validating player weights and eligibility. Required documentation may include Player Contract, Photograph, Birth Certificate, Proof of Residence and/or Grade Level Verification.
- It shall be the responsibility of each Head Coach to gather, verify, organize and submit a Team Book, as prescribed by the GCYFL, containing the required documentation for each player on his roster. Failure to timely and efficiently perform this duty may result in forfeit of the first regular season game.
- Willful falsification or misrepresentation of player documentation, or willful playing of an ineligible player, shall result in any, or all, of the following penalties: a) forfeit of all games in which the subject player participated, and, b) termination of the subject player from further GCYFL participation, and, c) permanent termination of the Head Coach from the GCYFL, and, d) sanctions against the Head Coach and Organization.
- 10.1 Except as provided in Article XI, all players must reside within the official residential boundaries of a High School District an Organization represents.
- 10.2 If a returning player moves outside of the Organization's District prior to the first scheduled regular season game, they will count as an Exempted Player as provided in Article XI. If a player moves after the regular season has begun, they will not count as an Exempted Player as provided in Article XI.
- 10.3 No player may be added to a Team Roster after the date established by the GCYFL to close Team Rosters for the current season.
- 10.4 No player may participate in a GCYFL game until his eligibility is validated and certified by a GCYFL official.

- 10.5 No player may participate in the GCYFL while, at any time during the same season, participating in another football program.
- 10.6 Each team shall be required to maintain a Field Book containing validated roster records, as may be specified by Rule or Procedure, and any coach's certifications as required by Ohio law, GCYFL or GCYFL bylaws. Each Field Book shall be available for inspection on Game Days. Incomplete or non-validated records for any specific player shall result in disqualification of that player. Failure or refusal to produce the Field Book, on demand pursuant to the Rules established by the GCYFL, shall result in game forfeit.

Article XI – Grandfather Clause & Player Exemptions

- 11.0 The GCYFL hereby recognizes that one or more proposed Organizations may currently have one or more players on team rosters that would be unable to satisfy the Residency Requirements of these bylaws. Further, it has been determined that declaring such players to be ineligible to participate in the GCYFL would be unreasonable, adversely impacting those players, their families and the proposed Organizations. These players shall be considered Exempted Players.
- 11.1 All 2020 Rosters will be frozen for the 2021 season. Any player on a 2020 roster is permitted to continue to play for that organization in succeeding seasons without restriction as long as the player continues to play for that organization. If a player does not play for one season, all eligibility rules mentioned herein apply. For example, if a player was rostered on a team in 2020 and does not meet the criteria listed herein, the player will be able to continue to play in 2021 and beyond. However, if the player does not play in 2020, the player will be an Exempted Player and all rules related to Exempted Players shall apply in 2021. Exempted Player limits apply to all Rosters. However, no team shall be required to eliminate players from 2020 Rosters to be compliant. All 2020 Rosters shall be provided to the Board of Directors and maintained by the Secretary. The GCYFL shall certify the Rosters for accountability purposes and provide each organization with a copy that has the GCYFL seal on it. The certified Roster shall be kept in the Field Book each year until the team completes 6th grade.
- 11.2 If an Organization has multiple teams in a grade, players are required to continue to play for that team if they are going to continue to play for the Organization in succeeding seasons. If a player wants to switch teams within the Organization, the President of the Organization must petition the Board for approval. The Board may approve the move by a majority vote. No player shall be granted more than one move. The intent of this section is to keep an organization from sweeping multiple quality players to one team. This does not apply to a player who does not play for one season and returns to football. Leniency will be given when an Organization is creating a new team due to an influx in registrations or eliminating a team due to a decrease in registrations.
- 11.3 The GCYFL may adopt a process to permit additional Exempted Players and limit the number of Exempted Players per team.

Article XII – Player Weight and Weigh-In

- 12.0 The GCYFL shall offer an Unlimited Weight policy for player participation. Weight restrictions, if any, shall apply only to Offensive positions as defined by the League or Board. A date and location shall be established at which the GCYFL will conduct its process of validating player weights and eligibility. All teams and players shall participate in this weigh-in and validation process. A minimum of one make-up date will be established for those players who are unable to weigh-in with their team.

It shall be the responsibility of each Head Coach to have his team assembled at the designated time and location. Failure to adequately perform this duty may result in forfeit of the first regular season game.

- 12.1 The GCYFL shall establish the Limited Weight restriction for each Grade Level.
- 12.2 Players may wear street clothes, but, if wearing socks, shall be permitted to remove shoes. The recorded weight shall be official and shall determine that player's position eligibility unless the League determines by vote that any designated Supplemental Weigh-in the final weekend of regular season league play, playoffs or Championship game should be required.
- 12.3 Players will be allowed one opportunity to weigh-in and the weight will be the official weight.
- 12.5 In the event any player does not make it to a scheduled Weigh-In, such player, regardless of his apparent size, shall be declared ineligible to play a Limited Weight position for the remainder of the season until any Supplemental Weigh-in is conducted.
- 12.6 The GCYFL may establish a method to clearly identify those players who will be eligible to play Offensive Backfield positions, or those who are ineligible and may not.
- 12.7 Inadvertent participation by an ineligible player at an Offensive Backfield position shall result in a 15- yard penalty against the offending team. A second occurrence within the same game shall additionally result in ejection of the Head Coach from the game.
- 12.8 Willful and intentional illegal participation by an ineligible player at an Offensive Backfield position, as evidenced by an effort to conceal or alter any methods intended to identify such eligible players, shall result in game forfeit and suspension of the Head Coach for the remainder of the season.
- 12.9 A Supplemental Weigh-In may occur the final week of regular season play, during playoffs or prior to the Championship game. The League shall determine when the Supplemental Weigh-In will occur and what, if any, allowance will be granted for growth throughout the season. The Board shall establish a procedure for the Supplemental Weigh-In. Players shall be deemed as eligible or ineligible to play Limited Weight Positions based on this weigh-in and shall commence immediately. Any player missing the weigh-in will be deemed ineligible to play a Limited Weight Position until the next weigh-in.

Article XIII – Practices

- 13.0 The GCYFL shall establish the official start date to begin practices. No football instruction may occur during the three-week period prior to the official start date.

Teams may practice outside of the regular season as long as there is one USA Football certified coach for every seven football players present at the practice.
- 13.1 Violation of this Article shall result in the forfeit of the first regular season game(s) by the offending teams and/or Organization.

Article XIII – Game Rules and Officiating

- 14.0 The GCYFL shall adopt the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) rules for Football, as they may be amended from season to season, as its basic guide for game rules and their interpretation. Provided they are not less restrictive and intended to enhance safety or quality of youth play, the GCYFL may adopt modifications or changes to the OHSAA rules. All such rule modifications, if any, shall be published annually in the Rules & Regulations of the GCYFL and may differ for each Grade Level.

The GCYFL shall endeavor to employ qualified Game Officials to officiate GCYFL contests. The compensation for Officials shall be negotiated by the GCYFL but shall be paid directly by each hosting Organization from its gate admission or concession receipts.

- 14.1 For all grades, three Officials shall be employed.
- 14.2 For Superbowl / Championship contests only, four Officials shall be employed.
- 14.3 The GCYFL may implement a monitoring process to evaluate the efficiency and unbiased quality of its Game Officials.
- 14.4 The GCYFL shall determine the official game ball, its size and composition; to be used at all games. No substitutions shall be permitted.
- 14.5 Scouting shall be permitted.
 - 14.5.1 The scouting organization must inform the field administrator of their presence and intention to video tape a game. No such notification is required if no video taping will occur.
- 14.6 The GCYFL bylaws and Rules Committee shall establish a procedure for Protest.

Article XIV – Game Facilities

- 15.0 To be considered for game hosting purposes, each Organization must be able to provide the minimum facility standards specified herein.
- 15.1 The playing field must be a regulation size football field, properly lined and allowing for team boxes.
- 15.2 There shall be an operational scoreboard with clock. A public address system is preferred, but not required.
- 15.3 There shall be separate restroom facilities for men and women.
- 15.4 There shall be a spectator area parallel to at least one sideline. Such spectator area shall be roped or fenced separately from the team box. An area shall be provided to Cheer Squads to perform.
- 15.5 Gate admission fees shall be at a rate schedule established by the GCYFL. The hosting Organization shall be permitted to retain all gate receipts but shall be required to directly pay Game Officials.
- 15.6 Players, cheerleaders, game officials, coaches, and team moms with GCYFL credentials shall not be required to pay a gate admission.
- 15.7 Teams may bring in coolers with water, water bottles, fruit and granola bars or similar snacks to be consumed by players as necessary during games.
- 15.8 Teams may bring in a post-game snack and drink to be consumed by the players only after the game.
- 15.9 The only pets permitted at game facilities are Assistance Dogs and Animal Assistants.
- 15.10 No alcohol or use of tobacco products shall be permitted
- 15.11 Each hosting Organization is encouraged to offer Concessions but is not required to do so.
- 15.12 The GCYFL shall issue uniform guidelines with respect to still photography and videotaping.
- 15.13 To be considered as a potential hosting site for Playoff games, preference shall be given to those site venues offering substantial seating capacity, full concessions capability and a turf field with the ability to illuminate the field with stadium lights if needed.

- 15.14 Championship games shall be played on turf fields with permanently mounted stadium lights, concessions and adequate seating and parking.
- 15.15 The GCYFL shall provide Trophies and Medals selected by the Board for presentation following each Championship game.

Article XVI – Coaches and Sideline Rules

- 16.0 All coaches within the GCYFL shall be held to the highest standards regarding conduct and sportsmanship. Organizations are encouraged to require all coaches within their respective organizations to undergo a background check.
- 16.1 Every coach shall complete a certification course as prescribed by the GCYFL in order to ensure each coach meets the standards of coaching set forth by the State of Ohio for coaching youth football.
- 16.2 A maximum of (8) football coaches and (2) cheer coaches will be granted free admission. Each Organization shall declare their coaches to the GCYFL and a procedure will be established to validate their eligibility.
- 16.3 A maximum of eight (8) football coaches, (1) trainer, (1) photographer and (1) hydration assistant may be on a sideline or within the team box. Excluding players, no other persons shall be permitted on the sideline or within the team box. Violation of this rule may result in a 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty.
- 16.4 All Head Coaches shall be held accountable for the conduct of their players, staff and spectators.
- 16.5 Any game ejection of a sideline member of a coaching staff shall also result in the immediate ejection of the Head Coach.
- 16.6 Any coach ejected from a game shall also be suspended from the next subsequent game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season. A second ejection occurring within the same season shall result in a permanent suspension of coaching privileges for the balance of that season. A second ejection that occurs during a playoff or championship game shall result in a suspension for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- 16.7 Any willful and intentional violation of rules pertaining to player eligibility, or gross misconduct with respect to sportsmanship, may result in suspension for the remainder of the season; and, upon review by the Board, may result in the permanent termination of the offending party, the Head Coach and/or the organization.
- 16.8 Any coach facing a game suspension or termination may request, and shall be granted, a hearing to present mitigating circumstances. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Article XVII – Participant & Spectator Conduct

- 17.0 The GCYFL is a family friendly program and encourages all participants to invite family and friends to be supportive fans and spectators. Accordingly, parents shall be required to sign a Sportsmanship & Conduct form, which shall be kept on file by their Organization.

No person shall become unruly, disorderly, belligerent or display obnoxious behavior, including any remarks to harass, intimidate or ridicule opposing coaches, players or cheerleaders, their spectators, or game officials.

- 17.1 A first offense shall result in a verbal warning by the site administrator. If he or she persists in offensive behavior, becomes physically threatening or violent, or is perceived to be intoxicated, shall be removed from the facility.
- 17.2 Any person(s) removed from a facility in accordance with Article 17.1 shall subsequently be suspended from attending all GCYFL events and games for the remainder of the season.
- 17.3 If, in their sole opinion, their ability to control and manage a game is threatened, Game Officials shall have the authority to halt the game and/or award the game to the offended team by forfeiture.

Article XVII – Disciplinary Actions

- 18.0 The Rules & Regulations of the GCYFL, together with these bylaws, identify various rule violations, situations, events or conditions for which, in the event of their occurrence, shall result in Penalty or Disciplinary Action taken against an offending Organization, team, coach and/or other persons involved.

The extent of any Penalty or Disciplinary Action may include, but shall not be limited to, verbal or written warnings, in-game yardage assessments, game ejection, game forfeit, probation, fines, suspension or termination.

The harshest of Disciplinary Actions shall apply to the participation of ineligible players and gross misconduct with respect to sportsmanship.

An Organization in violation may be subject to further sanctions, which may include, but shall not be limited to, suspension of game hosting privileges, game forfeitures and suspension from playoff participation, fines, and probation.
- 18.1 Any team forfeiting a game will be subject to a fine which shall be determined by the League prior to division assignments and/or the creation of a schedule.
- 18.2 Any fine assessed to an individual shall not exceed \$100. Any fine assessed to an organization shall not exceed \$750.
- 18.3 Any person facing multiple game suspension or termination may request, and shall be granted, a hearing to present mitigating circumstances. The decision of the League shall be final.
- 18.4 No Organization may be terminated by the GCYFL unless a minimum of one full season is afforded the Organization, to find an alternate league or conference, after said Notice of Termination is issued. During the final season they shall do so with a probationary status and are subject to termination with any violation of the bylaws.

Article XVIII – Organization Resignation

- 19.0 An Organization may resign its association and withdraw from the GCYFL by submitting a Letter of Resignation to the President and Treasure.

Article XIX – Amendments and Revisions

- 20.0 These bylaws shall be subject to review and discussion at the first GCYFL meeting of each calendar year. An Organization, through its Organizational Representative, may propose changes or revisions to be considered by the Bylaws and Rules Committee.

Any proposed Amendment change or revision to these bylaws must be approved by a 2/3 majority of all Organizational Representatives to the League. If approved, such amendment, change or revision shall be put in effect immediately.

- 20.1 No Amendment, change or revision to these bylaws shall be permitted if passage would result in any modification to the mission or purpose of the GCYFL, or to the core values upon which it is founded.

WHEREAS, if any provision of these bylaws is held to be invalid in any court of equity, such provision shall amend to conform to law; and all remaining Articles, and their provisions, shall endure and remain in full force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties endorsing hereto hereby agree to each of the following affirmations:

- 1) Endorser is authorized, on behalf of his/her organization, to contractually commit such organization to these bylaws and to the GCYFL.
- 2) Endorser affirms that his/her organization will participate and compete within the GCYFL.
- 3) Endorser affirms that his/her organization can enter one or more Pods of teams, to compete within the GCYFL.
- 4) Endorser affirms that his/her organization can satisfy all minimum standards and requirements of a GCYFL Organization, in accordance with these bylaws.

Signatures of Approval and Acceptance of the above Bylaws:

ORGANIZATION

SIGNATURE / DATE

ANDERSON

EDGEWOOD

FAIRFIELD

HAMILTON

KINGS

LAKOTA

LITTLE MIAMI

LOVELAND

MASON

MILFORD

NORTHER KENTUCKY

NORTHWEST

OAK HILLS

SYCAMORE

TALAWANDA

WEST CLERMONT
