



Metro Atlanta Youth Football League
Football Conference Rules

Revised June 2018

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100 - MISSION STATEMENT

The Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “MAYFL” or “League”) is an athletic league dedicated to the purpose of organizing and conducting a competitive football and cheerleading environment for our youth. League rules and guidelines mandate fair play at all levels and allow for the success of all cheerleaders and players. In keeping with this primary mission, MAYFL aims to provide cheerleading and football programs that offer the highest character development of all participants, provide the players and cheerleaders with opportunities to achieve high levels of self-esteem and self-respect, and emphasize the respect for the individual dignity of each participant

200 - OBJECTIVES

“Winning is only half of it. Having fun is the other half.” Bum Phillips

The League’s objectives shall be:

- to provide a wholesome competitiveness within the scope of our rules and regulations that will protect the youth athletes;
- to influence good sportsmanship, teamwork, highest moral and physical standards and the importance of scholarship by recognizing and rewarding academic achievement;
- to make Youth Football ALL-INCLUSIVE by not excluding participants based on superficial factors (Such as weight);
- to recognize and reward Organizations, Coaches, Volunteers, and those involved in the sport of football and cheerleading who exemplify the highest degree of Integrity, Honor and Servant Leadership (ability to put the team ahead of self in every decision, accepts and fulfills a role);
- to provide opportunities for success and fun, regardless of organizational size or player talent; and,
- to annually communicate, update, and revise the rulebook to provide clear, concise and consistent rules, thereby eliminating real or perceived violations of those stated rules. This allows for strict enforcement of rules, whether a direct violation or a violation of the spirit of the rule, thereby, insuring the integrity of MAYFL and fair play by all. Understanding always that this is a youth organization and we are all role models for our youth.

300 - PREFACE

MAYFL is the presiding authority of the league. Changes in the day-to-day operations of the member communities and teams are subject to the oversight and final approval of the League’s Board of Directors. Rules of MAYFL are rules and regulations of the MAYFL Board of Directors, reputable handbooks, the National Federation of State High School (NFHS) Rule Book, and the Georgia High School Sports Association (GHSSA) rules and guidelines. The League’s Board of Directors has the right to interpret, add, amend, revoke, suspend, or delete any rule contained herein, in the spirit of fair competition at any time.

The following general rules, regulations, policies and procedures governing MAYFL’s football competition, apply to all pre-season, regular season, and post season football activities.

400- MAYFL SEASON

400.01- Off-Season:

Shall be the time from January 1st to the League's established first day of practice, which shall be the second (2nd) Monday in July of each calendar year. No MAYFL league member team shall engage in any organized physical conditioning or other football type activity involving players, or prospective players, sooner than the League established first day of practice.

NOTE: A waiver may be obtained for this rule from the Commissioner. Such waivers are for the purpose of camps that will benefit and/or are open for all members of the League, or participation in a tournament that has been sanctioned by the League.

400.02- Pre-Season:

Shall be the time from the date of the League declared first day of practice to the first regular season game.

400.03- Regular Season:

Shall be from the first regular season game to the completion of the final regular season game.

400.04- Post Season:

Post-Season shall be the time period from which the final MAYFL regular season game has been completed and will continue to December 31st.

500 - RULE ENFORCEMENT / AUTHORITY

Associations are hereby required to enforce MAYFL's Rules, Regulations, and Fines contained herein. Associations have the obligation and authority to enforce the MAYFL Rules, Regulations, Fines, and the Spirit of the Rules and Regulations and its own rules, by-laws and other organizational materials. Additionally, Associations have the right to make any rule more stringent, but do not have the right to make these rules less strict. Any organization found not enforcing this rulebook, the rules regulations, and the spirit of the rules and regulations may be suspended until compliance is achieved. Associations are asked to submit their Rules and Regulations to the MAYFL Commissioner by August 1st of each season. All associations, and teams in accordance with their organizational and operational materials, may be called upon from time to time to: (1) resolve disputes between member organizations and individuals, (2) discipline both adult and juvenile members and (3) may from time to time be required to take action to enforce MAYFL Rules, Regulations, and Fines.

600 - GOVERNING RULE BOOK

MAYFL shall follow the Georgia High School Sports Association rules except where superseded by this Rule Book. All MAYFL Rules and Regulations supersede all other rulebooks. The MAYFL Board of

Directors will determine and be the final adjudicator on all rule conflicts. MAYFL requires that all coaches receive and read this rulebook and strongly recommends that every Associations supply the Georgia High School Sport Association rulebook to all its coaches. Any association found to have allowed a variance to this rulebook, the rules regulations and the spirit of the rules and regulations without filing and receiving written approval may be suspended or fined.

700 – MAYFL CONFERENCES

700.01 - A team’s conference/divisional placement within their respective league shall be define by the MAYFL Football Commissioner and approved by the MAYFL Board of Directors.

800 – PLAYER AND TEAM COMPOSITION

800.01 - The purpose of this section is to define how MAYFL groups participants into teams using the parameters of Age and Weight. MAYFL shall use the following metrics to group players into teams for both Conferences.

800.01A - The age of players on all MAYFL teams shall be their age as of July 1st of the current year.

| Team (Age Group) | Age on July 1 st (Age Level) | Max Weight for Skill Player |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Pee Wee | 5 – 6 | Unlimited |
| Mighty Mite | 7 – 8 | Unlimited |
| Bandit | 9 – 10 | Unlimited |
| Junior | 11 – 12 | Unlimited |
| Senior | 13 – 14 | Unlimited |

A team must play and compete in the age level of the oldest participant on the team based on the age cut- off date of July 1st. (For example, on a team of twenty-five (25) players, the single oldest player on the team is eight (8)-years old by July 31st and the remaining players are seven (7)-years old, then that team must compete as an eight (8)-year old team in the Super Elite Conference.)

800.01B- Each MAYFL league member shall field a minimum of one team each in 4 of the 9 MAYFL Age Groups regardless of the league. Though it is highly discouraged, players are allowed to play up in age by one age level. MAYFL shall not limit any MAYFL league member to a maximum number of teams regardless of age group or league participation.

800.02a - Any association with more than one team in one of the respective age group shall have those teams placed in separate divisions if at all possible. Every effort shall be made to ensure that teams from the same association shall not play a regular season game against one another.

800.02B - Any association that changes their (OFFICIAL TEAM COUNT) after the first Saturday in August of the current football season will incur a fine of \$250.00

800.03 - Team Composition - The MAYFL Football Commissioner shall setup Divisions for all age groups. No age group shall be no more than 9 teams in each age level in each Division.

900 - MAYFL TEAM CERTIFICATION

900.01 - Association Registration

All players participating in MAYFL regardless of Conference must be registered with a member association.

900.02 - Boundaries and Recruiting

No formal boundary lines shall be established to designate specific geographic areas for a member association. However, it is of good sportsmanship that no member association posts any flyers, posters or other similar forms of advertisement in areas that are generally considered to be within the local drawing area for another member association

900.03 - MAYFL Required Player Information

At a minimum, the registering association shall obtain the following information for every player to be certified and participate in MAYFL's football program:

- Player's complete name as shown on original birth certificate (First, Middle, Last)
- Age and Date of Birth as shown on original birth certificate.
- Current mailing address
- Jersey Number worn by player
- Home Phone Number
- Evidence of physical examination

900.04 - Player Proof of Age Requirements

All players must present proof of age documents to its registering association and to MAYFL when requested. Acceptable document forms for proof of age shall be at a minimum:

900.04a – Original Birth Certificate

An original certified copy of birth certificate with raised seal as issued by federal, state or provincial registrars of vital statistics, or local offices, is acceptable proof-of- age, provided the document was filed, recorded, registered or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child, and the document must be in good form, legible and without any evidence of wear or tear.

900.04b – Hand Written Records

Any player born in a region that produces hand written birth records must also provide a letter from the players' school signed by a school official verifying the player's age.

900.04c – Children Born Abroad

For children born abroad of a parent or parents who are U.S. citizens, any official government document issued by a U.S. federal agency or service is acceptable. These must be originals, not copies, and must refer to a filing, recording, registration, or issue date that is within one (1) year of the birth of the child. The document must be in good form, legible and without any evidence of wear or tear.

MAYFL reserves the right to accept or reject any proof-of-age documentation, even if it is not listed above.

900.05– Certification Roster

A team’s certification roster shall include the printed name and signature of the team’s coach, and the printed name and signature of the Association’s president or his/her designate certifying that the information contained on the team’s roster is complete and accurate. A fine of not less than \$15.00 per occurrence can be imposed on the league member for any error discovered by MAYFL or its authorized designate upon certification and review of league member’s team rosters at the time of the team certification.

900.05a - A league member whom has been to be in violation of said rule shall be granted a 72-clock hour period to fix the error that has been identified on the team roster. If the error is not fixed within the 72-clock hour period, the player or players where the error occurred shall be permanently removed from the team roster and declared ineligible to participate in MAYFL’s football program for the current year.

900.06- Team Composition

Each MAYFL team shall be limited to a maximum of 30 players. All Team shall meet the following MAYFL Requirements;

- No team shall be allowed more than 30 players “No Exceptions”.
- Any uncertified team found with less than 15 players in the MAYFL System by the MAYFL Define Certification deadline can be dropped from the MAYFL database and not added to the current year’s MAYFL Football Scheduled.
- No team is eligible to participate in MAYFL if they are participating in another football league during the current season.
- Any team participating in the MAYFL ‘s football program, regardless of league and/or age group, shall be limited to one (1) head football coach and six (6) football assistant coaches., one (1) team manager and one (1) ball boy under the age of 18. All coaches, statisticians and trainers must be over the age of 18 except where noted.

900.07- MAYFL On-line Registration

Each association shall assign each individual player registered to a team based on that player’s age as of July 1st of the current year. Each MAYFL association shall execute such a task by uploading that player’s required information and picture to their respective team listed within the MAYFL database.

900.07a - Each participant’s photograph appearing on the MAYFL certification roster shall satisfy, as a minimum, the following requirements:

- Photograph must be in color;
- Photograph must clearly capture the participant’s facial features with no other distracting objects or persons;
- Each participant’s photograph shall be taken in the same uniform as to style, design, and color; and, in the case of a tee shirt, the tee shirt must also be in the same style, design, and color; and
- Shall be of the MAYFL define size and pixels.

Any participant’s photograph not meeting these minimum standards will be removed from the MAYFL official roster, and the team is subject to the fine as stipulated in Section 900.05 of these rules and must submit a corrected photograph in the time period stipulated under Section 900.05a.

900.07b - MAYFL shall freeze all online roster activity at 12:00am the morning of the MAYFL Player certification date. At which time all rosters shall be consider FINAL. Any team(s) found with less than 15 players at the MAYFL define deadline can be dropped from the MAYFL Scheduled

900.08 - MAYFL Player Certification - MAYFL shall certify all players loaded into the MAYFL database for the current season. MAYFL player's certification shall commence at least one week before the first MAYFL sponsored game. The following activities and/or rule shall take place during and/or after the MAYFL player certification.

900.08a - Each team registered on the MAYFL website shall print and submit their MAYFL team roster along with all original birth records, signed physicians physical form, (provided by physician) date after last Feb 28, and a signed copy of the MAYFL's Parents Code of Conduct form by his/her parent or guardian in numerical order, lowest to highest number, to the MAYFL certifying officer.

No participant will be certified without all required documents as stipulated in this Section 9.00, MAYFL Team Certification. There will be no conditional certification of a participant.

900.08b - Each team shall submit at the MAYFL player certification a team roster. The roster shall be uploaded to the official MAYFL website roster form. The roster shall be completed in full with the following information:

Included on the team roster shall be the color of the home jersey, address for the home field, age division, names and numbers of each member of the coaching staff. No players can be added to the team roster after certification without prior approval of the board of directors.

900.08c - During certification, only one coach, the team manager and MAYFL's certifying members are allowed into the certification area.

900.08d - All players on the roster must attend the MAYFL certification unless injury or sickness prevents their attendance. In such cases, the coach is responsible for notifying the certification officer prior to certification. If deem appropriate, the Commissioner may establish a late certification date, time, and place.

Any player listed on official roster that is not certified by the late certification will be removed from the team roster permanently.

900.08e - The MAYFL certifying officer shall confirm all documentation submitted.

900.08f - All players shall complete a verbal questionnaire before that player is eligible to compete in a MAYFL sponsored game.

900.08g - Jersey numbers for any players cannot be changed once that player has been certified by MAYFL. In such cases of lost or damaged jerseys the jersey shall be replaced with a jersey of the same number if at all possible. In cases where this is not possible, the member must submit a request for a jersey number change to the MAYFL Football Commissioner (MFC). The MFC shall provide a written change of jersey number approval to that team's head coach. The approval notice must be filed with the team's MAYFL roster and presented during pre-game certification of every game after the MAYFL affect date. Any jersey damaged during a league game can be replaced with a different number for that game only.

900.09- Attrition Rule - In the event of natural attrition and a team is unable to field a team of fifteen players after MAYFL Player Certification, the association may petition MAYFL to re-open their roster to avoid future game forfeitures and fines.

1000 - UNIFORMS

1000.01 - MAYFL Coaches Dress Code

Each league is required to establish a uniform for its coaches, which will require them to be similarly dressed in the league member's colors. Similarly dressed includes hats, shirts, jackets, pants, etc.

1000.01a - Unacceptable Dress at Any Time

The following items are not acceptable for coaching in MAYFL: all t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, gym shorts, cut-off shorts, tights (as pants), bib overalls, collared shirts that do not display the league members logo. Flip-flops, bandannas, slipper style, or beach sandals are prohibited at all-times. This includes photographs taken for the MAYFL identification badges.

1000.01b – Fines

Any coach appearing on the field of play that is considered improperly dressed can be asked to leave the playing area, “**No**” sagging pants will be allowed on the Field of play during any MAYFL GAMES. (Sagging pants are defined as pants below the waistline; and where your underpants or skin is visible.) If any coach or sideline personnel is guilty of sagging a pants a 15-yard penalty can be assessed and a second penalty can result in Ejection from the game for that coach or individual.

1000.02 – Team Colors

Each team shall provide a list of their home colors on the official roster. That color shall be worn in all home games, unless the visiting team and home team collectively notify the MAYFL Football Commissioner via email 72 hours in advance. It is the visiting team's responsibility to wear contrasting jerseys.

1000.02a – Game Uniform

Each player shall have a complete uniform, jersey & pants. The jersey shall have a visible number on the front and back. Game pants shall extend beyond the knee of the player.

1000.02b – Cleats

Molded cleats are permissible. Detachable cleats shall be the type in which the shoe contains the receiver “female” and the cleat contains the insert “male” and there is no exposed metal.

1000.02c – Mouthpiece

All players shall wear a mouthpiece during all MAYFL sponsored games. The mouthpiece shall be attached to the helmet/facemask, or colored if not attached to make the mouthpiece easily identifiable.

1000.02d – Visors

All visors shall be clear in color if worn, unless otherwise prescribed by a licensed physician. Said approval

shall be indicated on the MAYFL Roster.

1100 - INSURANCE

1100.01 - It shall be mandatory that all MAYFL associations have adequate insurance to cover accidents and injuries to players or other member teams while playing, practicing or traveling. Proof of insurance must be filed with the MAYFL Football commissioner prior to the first day of practice. No member shall conduct any practices until such proof is provided. See MAYFL By-laws for definition of adequate insurance coverage.

1200 - FOOTBALL PRACTICES

1200.01 - The purpose of this rule is to provide a standard, fair and equal practice time for all MAYFL teams to keep practice activity at a reasonable level during school days so as not to create a hardship on the players with regard to school studies and participation in school activities.

1200.01a – Definition

Practice is defined as any gathering of players, prospective players of a MAYFL team or six (6) or more members of a MAYFL team to discuss the subject of football, view films on football, exercise or study football. During the regularly schedule playing season, any controlled scrimmages shall be considered as practices.

Time spent traveling to the location of a scheduled game will not be counted as a practice activity. All activities conducted 1 hour prior to pre-game weigh-in shall be considered pre-game warm-up and not counted as a practice activity.

1200.01b – Practice Length

Practice will be limited to ten hours per week until school begins. After the start of school teams shall not at any time practice more than three times during any calendar week nor exceed 6 hours. At the start of the league playoffs, teams that are scheduled to play in the MAYFL playoffs may hold four practices during a calendar week, not to exceed eight hours.

1200.01c - No practice shall continue past 9:00pm.

1200.02– Practice Ramp Up Schedule

Except as stipulated in these rules, no team to be certified to participate in MAYFL's football program shall engage in any team practice, camp, or conditioning session where helmets, shoulder pads, or other football equipment are to be worn.

However, commencing with the first official day of practice, which shall be the second Monday of July in each calendar year, no team shall practice for more than ten (10) hours per week. The first ten (10) hours of practice shall be devoted entirely and exclusively to conditioning and fundamental drill work. No pads will be

allowed; however, helmets may be included after the first six (6) hours of practice. The fourth and fifth practices will be with helmet and mouthpiece while the sixth through ninth practices will be with helmet, mouthpiece, and shoulder pads only. Starting with the tenth practice during the first two-weeks after the official opening day of practice may be with full pads. No player to player contact will be allowed until after twenty (20) hours of practice time have been completed. No practice shall exceed more than two (2) hours per day total practice time. At least one 10-minute break per hour should be provided within this timeframe. During extreme heat, 15-minute breaks, or on demand, are encouraged.

NOTE: A waiver may be obtained for this rule from the Football Commissioner. Such waivers are for camps that will benefit and/or are open for all members of MAYFL, or participation in a tournament that has been sanctioned by MAYFL.

1200.03 – Practice Fines

Violations of this rule or any other rules pertaining to practice, or practice type activity shall be considered a very serious offense. In the event any MAYFL Association, team or associated individual is deemed guilty by MAYFL of violating any of the practice or practice-type rules shall be subject, collectively and separately to a fine of no less than \$250, suspension, probation and/or any other action deemed appropriate by MAYFL.

1300- GAME DAY AND PLAYING RULES

1300.01 - Playing Field

All regulation GHSA football field measurements shall be used for all MAYFL sponsored games. with the only exception being the 5U Pee Wee division. The 5U Pee Wee games shall be played on an 80 yard version of the GHSA football field measurements. Regulation Goal post shall be available at each end zone of either field size.

1300.01a – Multiple Fields

If the member association has more than one playing field they shall notify the MAYFL Football Commissioner of the playing dimensions for all fields to be used for MAYFL sponsored games.

1300.01b – Field Approval

All fields must be inspected and approved by a member of the Rules Committee for league games prior to the first scheduled game. Any shortcomings must be corrected prior to any game being played on said field.

1300.01c – Ants

No games shall be started or played while ants are active (foraging). It is the coaches' responsibility to bring active ant beds to the attention on the game officials or park representatives.

1300.02 –Scheduling

The league schedule shall be completed by the MAYFL Football Commissioner with the concurrence of the MAYFL Commissioner and Vice Commissioner no later than one week before the first MAYFL sponsor regular season game.

1300.02a – Season Length

MAYFL shall have a ten (10)-week regular season. All teams will play an eight (8) game regular season schedule. No MAYFL sponsored games shall be played during Labor Day Weekend.

1300.02b – Home Games

On home game weekends, as many of the members teams shall be scheduled to play at the member's park as can be accommodated by field availability and scheduling needs.

This rule does not apply to member association that has been deemed as MAYFL Road Teams for reason defined and approved by MAYFL's Board of Directors.

1300.02c – Multiple Teams

Any association with more than one team in any age group shall have those teams placed in separate divisions if at all possible. Every effort shall be made to make sure that teams from the same association shall not play a regular season game against one another if possible. Each team shall play every team within their division during regular season play.

1300.03 - Home Team Responsibility

It is the host parks responsibility to provide field markings, markers, and necessary officiating equipment needed to conduct the game. The host park shall ensure that the playing surfaces are cleared and ready for play thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start of a conference game. The host park shall provide adequate seating for both the home and visiting team. The playing field shall have fencing between the playing field and the parking and spectator area. The home team shall be responsible for providing chain crews. The chain crew shall consist of no person under the age of 14. The chain crew shall be in place at least five minutes before the scheduled kick-off.

1300.03a – Admission

All MAYFL Association shall provide free admission and parking to all MAYFL regular season and 1st round of playoff games.

1300.03b – Game Day Supervisor

The home team shall provide a game day supervisor who shall be present at all times during home games. The supervisor shall be easily identifiable.

The supervisor shall have the responsibility of collecting the officiating referee information for every MAYFL sponsored game.

The supervisor shall have the responsibility of certifying all coaches and roster personnel. Verifying pictures are on roster and each has his/her game day badge.

The supervisor shall have the responsibility of verifying the 11U & 12U player certification for attendance purposes. (Middle School players must participate in 5 (five) of the MAYFL scheduled games), and reporting all no shows to the MAYFL Football Commissioner within 48 hours of games completion.

The supervisor, after conferring with the MAYFL Commissioner, shall have responsibility of determining if games are to be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the supervisor feels that the weather conditions are jeopardizing the safety of the players, coaches, officials and fans, the supervisor shall have the authority to postpone the game.

1300.03d – Security

Each association shall provide a security plan to the MAYFL Football Commissioner before MAYFL will schedule any home games at their respective park. All association shall provide security during all games to help ensure the safety of all coaches, fans, officials, and players.

- Security officers should be easily identifiable.
- Violation of this rule shall be handled and administered in accordance with MAYFL By-Laws

1300.04– Officials

All Officials/Referees shall report to the association’s designated supervisor one (1) hour before scheduled kick-off of their respective MAYFL sponsored game(s). All field crews shall include at least one (1) certified official and no more than one (1) first year official. The total number of Officials/Referees shall be as follow

1300.04a – All 5U and 6U MAYFL sponsored games shall be played using two (2) officials for the field crew.

1300.04b - Three (3) Officials/Referees shall be used for 6U MAYFL sponsored playoff and championship games

1300.04c - Three (3) Officials/Referees shall be used for all 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, and 11U MAYFL sponsored games.

1300.04d - Four (4) Officials/Referees shall be used for all 12U and 14U sponsored games

1300.04e – Additional Officials/Referees, deemed necessary by the MAYFL Football Commissioner, shall be used for MAYFL sponsored playoff and championship games

1300.05 - Pre-Game Roster Check

A MAYFL sponsored pre-game roster check shall be conducted on the playing field during the fifteen-minute interval between games and fifteen minutes before the start of the first game of the day.

1300.05a – Grace Period

Teams that have less than 12 players at the time of the pre-game roster check shall forfeit their game to the opposing team only after the following has taken place; Officials shall give the team at fault a twenty (20) minute grace period. Grace period granted shall not exceed more than five (5) minutes beyond the MAYFL

schedule kickoff.

1300.05b –Late Player(s)

Any player that does not show up prior kick-off must sit out the first half of the game. Such player can check in with the opposing coach at halftime and participate in the second half. Any player that participates in a game without checking in with the opposing coach for said game shall be ejected from that game and suspended for the next game.

1300.05c – Suspended Player(s) - Any coach that allows a player to participate after the player has been suspended shall be suspended for two games and fined no less than \$150. The fine must be paid to the MAYFL Commissioner before the next game.

1300.06 – Coaches

All coaches on the field during the game must be certified through MAYFL. Certification, through USA Football, or similar certified youth coaching entity that is approved by MAYFL's Board of Directors, must be submitted at the time of the coach's certification meeting. Such certification cannot be more than two (2)-years older from the current year.

- Only seven (7) certified coaches are allowed to be on the sideline during games. There is no limit to the number of certified coaches allowed on the sideline at halftime.

1300.06a – Field Coaches

Two (2) 5U coaches are allowed on the field during play in all 5U games; One (1) 6U coach is allowed on the field during play in all 6U games. One (1) 7U coach is allowed on the field during play until the 4 Saturday of September at which time no coach shall be on the field for the balance of the regular season and playoff series.

- Coaches participating on the field in Pee Wee and Might Mite Age Groups shall not have any form of communication with any player after the offensive center touches the ball. Violation of this rule is subject to a 5-yard penalty.
- The coach participating on the field must be at least 15 yards from the line of scrimmage when the play starts and remain away from interfering with the play.

1300.06b – CPR Training/Certification

It is highly recommended that all persons designated as a coach on the team roster complete a training and certification in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It shall however be a requirement that the Head Coach of Each Team be trained and Certified in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Evidence of such training and certification must be presented along with the team roster at the time of the team's certification; and, the CPR certification shall not expire during the current season. A Registered CPR certified Coach shall be on the field with each team at all times; In the event the Head Coach is suspended and/or cannot attend a game(s) it shall be his/her responsibility to ensure that someone listed on the approved MAYFL Team roster eligible per this requirement to fill in during their absence.

Any person designated as a head-coach and listed on the official team roster as such that has not completed the required CPR training can incur a fine of no less than \$150.00. Additionally, this person

shall be removed from the roster until such time the CPR training has been completed and evidence of the training has been presented to the Commissioner.

1300.07- Sideline Restrictions

All Associations hosting MAYFL sponsored game shall clearly define their sidelines boundaries. These boundaries shall define the following areas at a minimum

- Coaches Box
- Cheerleading Box
- Spectators' area

1300.07a – Coach Box

No Person shall be allowed outside of the coach's box or on the playing field during play except:

- Chain Crew
- One (1) ball person to assist the officials
- Cheerleaders, when adequate room is not available outside of the restricted area.

1300.07b – All other personnel including any photographer, camera crew, or reporter may roam the boundaries of the sidelines and at the end of the end zone provided such permission has been granted and authorized by the member association. At no time shall any photographer, camera crew, or reporter be on the field of play. Any member association that permits violation of this section shall incur a fine of no less than \$250.

1300.08 – MAYFL Badges

No person is allowed inside the restricted area without displaying MAYFL issued identification badge (inside or outside the coaches' box).

Coaches listed on the official team roster and properly displaying a MAYFL issued identification badge shall be allowed access to the sidelines. No other persons shall have access except as stipulated in these Rules. Any team which allows unauthorized persons and those not displaying a MAYFL issued identification badge to roam its sidelines and other restricted areas on the field of play shall incur a fine of no less than \$250 per occurrence. In addition to the fine, repeated violations of this Section shall result in a game forfeiture for the team.

1300.08a – Badge Count

MAYFL will provide MAYFL badges to one (1) Head Coach and six (6) certified assistant coaches. Other coaches are allowed on the field at halftime, but may not enter the coaches' box during play. MAYFL will provide a badge to one (1) team manager that has been certified by MAYFL.

1300.08b – Badge Exceptions

The following positions are an exception to the MAYFL Badge Rule; two team managers under the age of 18 and the president or other members of the association's board of directors maybe on the sideline when they

feel it is in the best interest of the game or MAYFL.

1300.09 - Headsets

Headsets can be used; however no coach shall be allowed on the field of play with a headset, cell phone or two-way radio on their person. No team shall be prohibited from using headsets because the other team does not have access to the same.

1300.10 - Game Ball

MAYFL Sanctioned football manufactures are Wilson® and Nike®. MAYFL regular season and playoffs games shall be played using a Wilson® or Nike® footballs. Balls shall be brown in color and of good leather quality or rubber. The ball sizes shall be the following and shall have the specified size indicated on the ball when purchased:

| (Age Group) | 1 st Choice | 2 nd Choice |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Pee Wee | Wilson K2 | Nike 1000K |
| Mighty Mite | Wilson K2 | Nike 1000K |
| Bandit | Wilson TDJ | Nike 1000Js |
| Junior | Wilson TDJ | Nike 1000Js |
| Senior | Wilson TDY | Nike 1000Y |

1300.11 - Kick Rules

All MAYFL Sponsored 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, and 14U Games shall kick-off from the kicking team’s 40-yard line. At the start of a game, opening of a half (unless the mercy rule is being applied), and/or after all scoring plays. A Score via a defensive safety shall be an exception to this rule. The following Kicking Rules shall apply for the respective age groups

1300.11a – 5U Punting and Field Goals Rules

There shall be “NO KICKING” kickoff, Field Goal, nor Punting for any MAYFL sponsored 5U Pee Wee Games.

1300.11b – 6U/7U Punting and Field Goals Rules

Teams in these age groups can, declare to kick a field goal from any spot on the field of play; declare to kick an extra point at which time the ball will be spotted at the 3-yard line, declare to punt the ball or request to receive 25 yards walk off with a 25-sec run off, of the game clock.

- Request for the 25-yard Walk off can be done on any down so long they are not beyond their opponent’s 40-yard line.
- Declared Field Goals and Punts can happen anywhere on the field on any down.
- During a declared Field Goal and Punt the opposing team shall not be allowed to rush but may raise their hands and jump up and down at the line of scrimmage.
- The receiving team can elect to receive the ball
- If successful, the play is blown dead at that spot.

- If unsuccessful the ball is blown dead at the spot it was first touched by either team. There shall be no turnovers of any kind for any declared kicks at this age group

1300.11c – 8U/9U Punting and Field Goals Rules

Teams at these age group shall kick the ball. “Walk offs are not allowed.” All Kicks shall be declared, and the defending team is not allowed to rush. The offense only has 10 secs from the snap to punt the ball.

- If the 10sec kicking time expires then a delay of game penalty shall occur, the play shall be blown dead, and the ball will be turned over on downs per game regulation rules
- If a Punt or Field Goal does not cross the neutral zone, it will be declared dead at that spot and awarded to the receiving Team from the previous spot.
- All Punts and Field Goals are Live after the ball has been kicked passed the neutral zone.

1300.11d – 10U/11U/12U/14U Punting and Field Goals Rules

Teams at these age groups shall have live ball kicks, field goals, and punts. The opposing team cannot rush the kicker from over the center or the “A” Gaps between the center and guard.

1300.12- Game Structure

All MAYFL games shall be governed by Georgia High School Association (GHSA) rules unless otherwise modified herein. MAYFL recommends that every association maintain a copy of the Georgia High School Sports Association football rulebook.

1300.12a – Game Clock Timing

No game shall begin after 8:30pm on a school night. MAYFL Sponsored 5U games shall consist of four (4) six-minute quarters; MAYFL Sponsored 6U, 7U and 8U games shall consist of four (4) eight-minute quarters; all other games shall consist of four (4) ten-minute quarters. There shall be a 25-second play clock for all divisions except for 5U, 6U and 7U. 6U and 7U games shall have a 40-second play clock. All teams shall have three-time outs per half. Upon calling a Time Out, the game clock shall stop, unless otherwise stated within these rules. Game officials shall keep accurate count of the time outs used.

1300.12b – Scoring

Any team that crosses into the end zone shall be awarded six (6) points and given a chance to score extra points. The ball shall be spotted on the 3-yard line for extra point attempts.

- Teams shall be awarded two (2) extra points for successfully kicking the football between the goal posts after scoring a touchdown.
- Teams shall be awarded one (1) extra point for successful running or completing a pass in the end-zone after scoring a touchdown.

1300.12c – DL Alignment

No defensive lineman can line up over the offensive center or in the “A” gap between the center and the guard on any play during a MAYFL Sponsored 5U Pee Wee Game or during a play in a MAYFL Sponsored 6U/7U/8U/9U/10U game in which a player is not taking a direct snap from under the center. This includes shotgun snaps, extra points, field goals and punts. There are no restrictions in alignment in the 11U, 12U and 14U and under divisions.

- Shotgun is defined in MAYFL as at least five yards from the center.
- Violation of this Section of the Rules shall be considered off-side and the defensive team shall be assessed a five (5) - yard penalty.

1300.12d – Snap Origination

Only the MAYFL Pee Wee 5U/6U division teams shall have the option to originate the ball for the snap. The ball shall be placed vertically for measurements.

1300.13 – Suspended Games

Any game that is suspended in whole or in part shall be completed at the discretion of the MAYFL Football Commissioner who will then confer with MAYFL’s Commissioner and Vice Commissioner.

1300.13a – Weather Postponement

Any game that is postponed due to weather or safety of participants, can at the discretion of the MAYFL Football commissioner be considered a complete game if three quarters have not been completed.

1300.13b - Forfeits

Both teams shall check in at the game site with the game day coordinator one hour prior to the scheduled game time for pre-game roster checks. All teams must have twelve physically fit and properly dressed players at the scheduled game time or the game shall be forfeited to the team prepared to play. There will be an additional 10-minute grace period for the first game of the day only. There will be no grace period for all subsequent games. In the event of a forfeit, the violating association shall be fined no less than \$200. That fine must be paid in full prior to the next scheduled game. If the fine is not paid, no teams from that association will be allowed to participate in the playoffs until the fine is paid. Any team having forfeited two games in a given season due to lack of players or late arrival shall be removed from the MAYFL schedule. All teams shall receive a (6-0) victory in place of the game they were scheduled to play against the violating team. After the second forfeit, the violating association must pay a \$500 fine and meet with MAYFL’s Board of Directors. At that time, the association must present a written plan of action to correct the situation in order to enter a team in the violating age group the following year. The Association shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the season and possibly the following year.

1300.14 – Overtime

Regular season games that complete regulation play in a tie shall play a maximum of two overtimes. Each team

will be allowed 4 downs starting from the 10-yard line in which to score or advance the ball. Any defensive penalty during overtime play shall result in half the distance to the goal and a repeat of the down. The teams shall play no more than 2 overtimes during the regular season and the game will be declared a tie after the second overtime. All playoff games shall follow this format until a winner is determined. A team that scores will be allowed to attempt the PAT of their choice, unless otherwise restrict within this rule book, (i.e. the 5U No Kicking rule).

1300.15 -Slaughter Rule

When one team is twenty-four (24) points ahead the following slaughter rules will go into effect. A running clock will go into effect, only stopping for an injury or unusual delays. The winning team whenever on offense shall be allowed to run any play of their choosing but shall start each drive 1st and Goal from the spot. There shall be no opportunity for a first down, unless by way of a defensive penalties charged to the losing team that is greater than or equal to 10 yards. All other defensive penalties charged to the losing team shall result in a respective yardage walk off and a repeat of the down. The winning team shall not be allowed to rush the punter when the slaughter rule is in effect. No more kick-offs, the losing team shall get the ball at the 50 yard line after each score by the winning team and the Winning Team will receive the ball at their 30 yard line if the losing team scores. The slaughter rule will remain in effect until such time the score margin in the affected game is less than 20 points.

1300.15a – Penalty

The winning team shall be penalized for an Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty if they failed to comply with the slaughter rule.

1300.15b – At the 5U/6U/7U age groups, no defensive player shall line-up in the “A” gap while a game is under the slaughter rule. The defensive player must be at least three (3) yards off the line of scrimmage. Violation of this Section of the Rules shall be considered off-side and the defensive team shall be assessed a five (5) - yard penalty.

1300.16 - Intervals between games

A minimum of fifteen (15) minutes must elapse between the end of any game and the start of the next. This fifteen (15) minute period must be enforced regardless of schedule start times for the game.

1300.17- Playoff and Championships

Each Conference will conduct a playoff to determine one MAYFL Champion for each age group. The MAYFL Board of Directors will determine the number of teams qualifying for league playoffs immediately after the MAYFL player certification. The number of teams shall vary depending upon the number of teams in the various age classifications. Playoff tie-breakers are as follows;

- Overall record
- Head-to-head record
- Out of Division Record
- Points Allowed

1300.17a –Playoff Field Requirements

Every playing field for a playoff game shall be equipped with an electric scoreboard with a functioning clock. Each leagues' championship games shall be hosted by MAYFL at a pre-determined site.

1300.17b – Playoff Brackets

Playoff brackets shall be inter-division seeded brackets with all teams being seeded according to overall regular season record, regardless of conference/divisional alliances. The top seeds in each age group shall be awarded to the division winners in that age group based on overall regular season record. The remaining wildcard spots shall be filled by the teams with the next best overall regular season records. MAYFL will schedule playoff games based on seeding

1300.17c – Division Champion

The division champion shall be the team with the best record within their individual division. Division champion tie-breakers shall be as follows:

- Overall record
- Head to Head
- Out of Division Record
- Points Allowed

1300.17d – Home Field Advantage

Home field advantage will be awarded to the Team with the highest divisional seed for their respective age group using the following tie breaker:

- Overall record
- Head-to-head record
- Out of Division Record
- Points Allowed

1300.18- Trophies and Awards

Champions shall be awarded a championship trophy and individual awards for each player listed on their MAYFL team roster. Runner-ups shall be awarded runner-up medallions for all participants and a runner-up team trophy. The specific size and design of these awards and/or patches shall be determined by the MAYFL Board of Directors.

MAYFL shall provide a team trophy to each regular season divisional champion for each of the respective age group. The specific size and design of these awards and/or patches shall be determined by the MAYFL Board of Directors. Conference USA team and individual awards shall not exceed 75% of the cost of the MAYFL Super Elite Conference awards.

1400 – COACHES, PLAYERS, AND PARENTS RULES

1400.01 – Coaches Conduct

Any Coach misrepresenting or cheating with any record required for player certification shall be suspended indefinitely if found guilty by MAYFL. The coach's association will be fined per the MAYFL By-laws per infraction.

1400.01a – Game Ejection

Any coach ejected from a game for verbally or physically abusing a game official is subject to a minimum one game suspension. The coach will be fined per the MAYFL By-laws and must be paid within 48 hours to the MAYFL Treasurer. If a coach has been ejected and participates in the next game, the coach will be suspended indefinitely by the MAYFL Commissioner.

1400.01b – Practice Trespassing

It shall be considered misconduct for a coach or representative at another MAYFL members practice without permission from the practicing team's head coach. Coaches, representatives, or scouts are allowed to view any practice game utilizing paid officials.

1400.01c – Illegal Recruiting

Any association, head coach, assistant coach, and /or board member who engage in direct recruiting of players, coaches, or other individuals who were a member of another MAYFL team or association the previous year shall be subject to the charge of misconduct by the offended member, if found guilty, the member shall be subject to whatever action deemed appropriate by MAYFL.

1400.01d – Park Hopping Rule

If a coach resigns in good standing from another association within MAYFL, the receiving association must contact the association's league president or commissioner to confirm the coaches standing. After the coach's credentials have been confirmed, and there are no outstanding issues or fines the coach can be accepted or offered a position within the receiving association.

1400.01e – Conduct Detrimental Clause

Any coach guilty of conduct detrimental to any MAYFL game or event, shall be expelled until further investigation by the MAYFL Commissioner and Vice Commissioner.

1400.01f – Intoxication

A report from the game day coordinator, official, and/or parent can be made to the MAYFL Football Commissioners when a coach is found to be under the influence of narcotics or alcohol at any game or event. The coach and the Association President will be notified immediately for further investigation.

1400.02 - Misconduct of Players

Any player found to have actively participated in a fight before, during or after a MAYFL sponsored game will be ejected from said game. The player shall also serve a one- game suspension to be served at the next scheduled game for the player's team. If the fight occurs at the end of the season for the player, the player shall serve the suspension to start the next season. Such actions should be reported to MAYFL Football Commissioner by the game officials. All suspensions shall be administered by the MAYFL Board of Directors.

1400.03 – Others' Conduct

The coach shall be held responsible for the conduct of any persons connected to his/her team. The coach may be assessed an unsportsmanlike penalty after a warning from the officials. Any person ejected from a

MAYFL game or event by the game official shall go outside the park area. Failure to comply with this Section gives the game official the authority to forfeit the game against the offending team.

1500 - INELIGIBLE COACHES / PLAYER / TEAM

1500.01 - Ineligible Coaches

When any team is found to have permitted any coach that is declared ineligible to participate in MAYFL by the MAYFL Board, that team shall forfeit all games that said coach is found to have participated. Any coach that has been suspended from another youth football organization shall be ineligible to participate in MAYFL for the duration of the suspension imposed by the former organization. The coach must provide a letter from the previous organization stating the expiration of the suspension. The suspended party can ask for an exception to this rule by appealing to the MAYFL Appeals Committee. Any member association is subject to a (\$500) fine and placed on probation for the remainder of the season for any ineligible participation by coaches. The member shall also receive additional one (1)-year probation. The member association shall be ineligible for any playoff competition until said fine is paid in full. The fine maybe waived if the general membership by a majority vote finds that the member has taken corrective measures and had no prior knowledge of the infraction. A second infraction of the ineligible participation rule during the probationary period may result in suspension of the member association from MAYFL.

1500.02 - Ineligible Players

When any team is found to have permitted any player that is declared ineligible to participate in MAYFL by MAYFL, that team shall forfeit all games that said player is found to have participated. Any member association is subject to a (\$500) fine and placed on probation for the remainder of the season for any ineligible participation by coaches or players. The member shall also receive additional one (1)-year probation. The member association shall be ineligible for any playoff competition until said fine is paid in full. The membership may have the authority to waive the fine if the membership by a majority vote finds that the member has taken corrective measures and had no prior knowledge of the infraction. A second infraction of the ineligible participation rule during the probationary period may result in suspension of the member association from MAYFL.

1500.02a – Middle School / High School Players

Players on a middle school or high school roster shall be eligible to participate in any of the MAYFL league regular scheduled games during the school year in which the player played or actively dressed out for a high school or middle school football game. Any player is considered illegal if they were on the team roster during any high school or middle school sanctioned games and did not participate in 5 (five) of the 8 (eight) MAYFL regular season scheduled games regardless of whether the player actually entered the game.

No Middle School /High School player will be allowed to participate in the Playoff games if, said player did not participate in 5 of 8 regular scheduled games.

Players injured and/or sick must certify for 5 of the 8 regular season games.

1500.02b – Player Roster Limitations

A player can only play for one team within MAYFL. Players are allowed to play in an age group above their age group, provided they meet the minimum requirements defined within this document, but they shall remain in that age group for the duration of the season and not be eligible to play in the lower age group.

1500.02c – Player / Team Ineligible Factor

No player or team shall be eligible to compete in MAYFL if they are a member of another youth league organization any time after the MAYFL Player Certification.

1500.02d – Suspended Coach/Players

Any coach/player that has been suspended from another youth football organization shall be ineligible to coach or compete in MAYFL for the duration of the suspension in the former organization. The coach/player shall provide a letter from the previous organization stating the expiration of the suspension. The suspended party can ask for an exception to this rule by appealing to the MAYFL appeals committee.

1500.02e – Fine

Any coach that is found to have prior knowledge of an ineligible player shall face a minimum (\$250) fine and a minimum 2-year suspension from MAYFL.

1600 - PROTEST RULES AND PROCEDURES

1600.01 – Protest

Protest shall be made known to the game officials that the game shall continue or be played under protest. The filing team/coach/player shall file a completed protest form along with the required protest fee of (\$75) in the form of money order or cashier's check within forty-eight (48) hours of the game completion time. Protest fee shall be refundable if MAYFL rules in the favor of the petitioner.

1600.01a - Protest on matters of judgment rendered by game officials shall not be considered. No forfeit or replay will be allowed due to the conduct or the decision of the game officials. Such conducts should be brought before MAYFL's Board of Directors for review of said official.

1600.01b - The protest shall be heard by the MAYFL Football Commissioners and two other members of the MAYFL representatives and a decision shall be rendered within forty-eight (48) hours of the time the protest was filed.

1700 – WEAPONS PROHIBITED

All weapons including concealed firearms are prohibited at all MAYFL sanctioned, MAYFL approved, and/or MAYFL Affiliated events. This rule applies to everyone in attendance including off duty officers of the law that are not providing Park Security. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a Life banned from MAYFL.

1800 – RULE AMENDMENT/CHANGE

These Football Rules shall be reviewed annually. All rule reviews must be completed prior to the last day of May of each year. Rule changes must be submitted in writing to the membership at a regularly schedule monthly or a special meeting. No rule shall be submitted or considered between June 1st and December 31st, except for extreme circumstances or emergency conditions. All rule changes must be presented in writing to the membership at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting before they can be

voted on by the membership. Rule changes cannot be voted upon in any meeting in which they are introduced to the membership. The party introducing rule changes are allowed five minutes to explain the proposed change prior to the actual vote.

Appendix A: CODE OF CONDUCT

Football is a national game. All those involved with the game at every level and whether as a player, official, coach, owner or administrator, have a responsibility, above and beyond compliance with the law, to act according to the highest standards of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of the game is, and remains, high. This Code applies to all those involved in Football under the auspices of MAYFL.

Community

Football, at all levels, is a vital part of a community. Football will take into account community feeling when making decisions.

Equality

Football is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent it, in whatever form, from being expressed.

Participants

Football recognizes the sense of ownership felt by those who participate at all levels of the game. This includes those who play, those who coach or help in any way, and those who officiate, as well as administrators and supporters. Football is committed to appropriate consultation.

Young People

Football acknowledges the extent of its influence over young people and pledges to set a positive example.

Propriety

Football acknowledges that public confidence demands the highest standards of financial and administrative behavior within the game, and will not tolerate corruption or improper practices.

Trust and Respect

Football will uphold a relationship of trust and respect between all involved in the game, whether they are individuals, clubs or other organizations.

Violence

Football rejects the use of violence of any nature by anyone involved in the game.

Fairness

Football is committed to fairness in its dealings with all involved in the game.

Integrity and Fair Play

Football is committed to the principle of playing to win consistent with Fair Play.

PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But not winning at any cost - Fair Play and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important.

Obligations towards the game

A player should:

1. Make every effort to develop his own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics and stamina.
2. Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if his team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
3. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
4. Avoid all forms of gamesmanship, and time-wasting.
5. Always have regard to the best interest of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
6. Not use inappropriate language.

Obligations towards one's own team

A player should:

1. Make every effort consistent with Fair Play and the laws of the Game to help his own team win.
2. Resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning.

Respect for the Laws of the Game and competition rules

A player should:

1. Know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules.
2. Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
3. Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

Respect towards Opponents

A player should:

1. Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
2. Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents.

Respect towards the Officials

A player should:

1. Accept the decisions of the Official without protest.
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead an Official.
3. Show due respect towards officials.

Respect towards Team Officials

A player should:

1. Abide by the instructions of his Coach and Team Officials, providing they do not contradict the spirit of this code.
2. Show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition.

Obligations towards the Supporters

A player should:

1. Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code applies to all teams/club officials (although some items may not apply to all officials).

Obligations towards the game

The team official should:

1. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
2. Promote and develop his/her own team having regard to the interest of the Players, Supporters and reputation of the national game.
3. Share knowledge and experience when invited to do so, taking into account the interest of the body that has requested this rather than personal interests.
4. Avoid all forms of gamesmanship.
5. Show due respect to officials and others involved in the game.
6. Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
7. Not use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Obligations towards the team

The team official should:

1. Make every effort to develop the sporting, technical and tactical levels of the club/team, and to obtain the best results by the team, using all permitted means.
2. Give priority to the interests of the team over individual interests.
3. Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques.
4. Promote ethical principles.
5. Show due respect to the interests of players, coaches and other officials, at his own Club/team and others.

Obligations towards the Supporters

The team official should:

1. Show due respect to the interests of supporters.

Respect towards the Officials

The team official should:

1. Accept the decisions of the Official without protest.
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead an Official.
3. Show due respect towards Officials.

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Football is a game played at numerous levels including professional, collegiate, interscholastic, community, and recreational from the local to the international levels of competition. The function of all players, coaches, referees/umpires, officials and workers is to abide by only the highest level of sportsmanship and conduct.

The coach must be aware that he or she has tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the development of the football player, and thus, shall never place the value of winning above instilling the highest desirable ideals of character. The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the game. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct in all personal contact with the athletes, parents, referees/umpires, officials, administrators, local organizations, and the public.

Coaches are key to the establishment of ethics in Football. Their concept of ethics and their attitude directly affects the behavior of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate from a “win-at-all-costs” attitude.

Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement of the reputation of the club, school, coach or parent.

Set out below is MAYFL’s Coaches’ Code of Conduct (which reflects the standards expressed by the National Coaching Foundation and the National Association of Sports Coaches) which forms the benchmark for all involved in coaching:

1. “Bench jockeying” will not be allowed.
 - Coaches are to prohibit bench jockeying, which would include personal and malicious remarks, cursing and obscene language towards opponents, umpires/referees, spectators, and/or each other.
2. The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug; alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use.
3. The coach shall not use tobacco products on the practice/playing fields or during practices or games. The coach shall not use or have used alcohols products, or any other drugs not prescribed by a doctor when in contact or at any function where players are present
4. Coaches shall not make statements that are false, deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent concerning work activities, personal and organization affiliations.
5. The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with MAYFL and the Georgia High School Athletic Association (GHSAA) rules and regulations.

- The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements.
 - The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
 - Coaches shall not permit ineligible player(s) to participate, practice or be a part of any team function without first discussing with the football commissioner about obtaining eligibility in accordance with the League rules. All proper forms must be received before players can practice.
 - Players should be taught to respect the dignity of the game, umpires/referees and opponents.
6. Coaches should confine their discussion to the rules and not challenge umpire/referee decisions involving judgment.
 7. Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their athletes and spectators.
 - Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings in order to set the correct tone for the game.
 8. Contest umpires/referees will be treated with respect and support by the coach.
 - The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which will incite players or spectators against umpires/referees.
 - Public criticism of umpires/referees, players, a league or association official is unethical.
 9. Coaches should expect from the umpires/referees a courteous and dignified attitude towards themselves and the players.
 10. Coaches do not engage in sexual harassment, abuse (physical or mental), or any other harassment.
 11. Coaches should develop and promote a spirit of cooperation among the MAYFL family, including sponsors and any person connected with the program.
 12. Coaches shall allow parents of players to become actively involved with the team by filling positions on the team with parents first.
 13. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
 14. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
 15. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by governing bodies.
 16. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
 17. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.

18. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviors and performance.
19. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
20. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
21. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (i.e., other coaches, officials, and others) in the best interests of the player.
22. Coaches must always promote the positive aspect of the sport (i.e., fair play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviors contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
23. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance.
24. Not to use or tolerate inappropriate language.

Football is a game of fun, designed for the enjoyment of youngsters, not to be a hobby for adults coaching them. The purpose of youth sports programs is to teach youngsters the game and its fundamentals. I recognize the responsibility encumbered upon me to model ethical behavior. I pledge myself to observe, practice and maintain this code of ethics.

I recognize, as a player/coach/team official of the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, the responsibility encumbered upon me to model ethical behavior. I pledge myself to observe, practice and maintain this code. I understand breaking this code will result in revocation of participation in the football program under the auspices of the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

We, the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League (MAYFL), have implemented the following Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in cheerleading and football.

Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their child(ren) participation in MAYFL's cheer and football programs.

Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension for their child(ren), or the season forfeiture of the privilege of their child(ren) to participate in MAYFL's cheer and football programs.

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness,
- Respect,
- Responsibility,
- Fairness,
- Caring, and
- Good Citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I, as a parent or guardian, therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of MAYFL.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and

spectators at every competition, game, or practice.

6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all MAYFL sanctioned events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Adherences to these rules of conduct are mandatory. Refusal to abide by these rules of conduct will result in my ejection from the field and facility, *and if continued*, my child's expulsion from participation in MAYFL. Other sanctions as deemed appropriate by MAYFL's Board of Directors may apply.

I have read, understand, and agree to the parent's code of conduct with the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League (MAYFL) at all MAYFL sanctioned events.

Note:

A signed copy of the Parent's Code of Conduct must be presented to MAYFL at the time a cheer or football participant is presented for certification to participate in MAYFL's cheer or football program.

Athletes will not be allowed to participate without the completion and return of this form.

**Participant's Full Name must match name that is shown on participant's birth certificate and MAYFL roster.

Appendix B

MAYFL FINES STRUCTURE FOR RULES VIOLATIONS

In accordance with Section 15.1 of Article XV of the By-laws of the Metro Atlanta Youth Football League (“MAYFL”), league members are required to abide by all rules of MAYFL.

The Commissioner of MAYFL is empowered to make a determination as to whether a violation of MAYFL rules has occurred, and to assess an appropriate penalty that may include:

- A fine of not more than \$500 per offense, and/or
- Probation in the program in which the violation occurred, and/or
- Indefinite suspension from MAYFL, and/or
- Forfeiture of games and/or contests.

Pursuant to such authority, MAYFL, by and through its Commissioner and with the approval of the Board of Directors, implements and publishes the following ranges of fines for certain designated offenses. Such fines are in addition to the other penalties set forth above. The amount of such fines and the imposition of other penalties shall be determined by the Commissioner upon consideration of the facts and circumstances of the violation and shall include, but not limited to, the following factors:

1. Whether the violation was the result of carelessness, willfulness, or ignorance.
2. The length of time the violation continued.
3. Whether the offense was self-reported or resulted from the complaint by another coach or league member, and the extent of cooperation by the coach and league member in the investigation of the violation.
4. The number of violations involved.
5. The results of the violation, for example:
 - Injury to a person
 - Damage to the reputation of MAYFL
 - Whether the violation substantially contributed to winning or losing a game or contest.
6. Whether the team or league member has had similar or other violations within the past two years.
7. Any other factors deemed by the Commissioner to merit a more or less severe fine and/or penalty.

The list of violations set forth in this listing is not all-inclusive, and if a violation occurs which is not listed herein, the Commissioner shall have the authority to assess penalties that he/she deems appropriate.

In addition to the listed fines and penalties, the Commissioner may issue a severe warning to a coach or league member, which places the coach or league member on notice that further violations of MAYFL’s rules will result in increased fines and/or penalties.

ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

| Violation | Reference | Range of Fines |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Allowing a player to participate in a game without being certified through MAYFL's league and team certification process. | Football Conference Rules, Article 9.00, Sections 900.01 – 900.09 | \$150 - \$500 |
| Allowing a player to practice or compete without having a physical examination on file with the league member. | Football Conference Rules, Article 9.00, Section 900.03 | \$150 - \$500 |
| Allowing a player to participate and compete, who has been suspended or declared ineligible. | Football Conference Rules, Article 1300, Section 1300.05c, and Article 1500, Sections 1500.01 – 1500.02 | \$150 - \$500 |
| Team roster errors | Football Conference Rules, Article 9.00, Section 900.05 | \$15 per occurrence |

SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS

| Violation | Reference | Range of Fines |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Coach ejected from a competition. | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.01a | \$150 - \$500 |
| Players leave the bench area to go to the area of a fight during a contest. | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.02 | Player(s) suspension |
| Players behave in an unsporting manner before or after the contest | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.02 | Player(s) suspension |
| Coach(es) verbally or physically abuse officials before, during, or after the game (conduct considered detrimental) | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.01e and Appendix A | \$200 - \$500 |
| Having players involved in a multi-player fight before, during or after the game | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.02 | Player(s) suspension |
| Coach or park director remove team from competition outside what is allowed in the playing rules | Football Conference Rules, Article 1300, Section 1300.13c | \$200 - \$500 |
| Allow an ineligible/uncertified person to coach | Football Conference Rules, Article 1500, Section 1500.01c | \$500 |

ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

| Violation | Reference | Range of Fines |
|--|---|----------------|
| Hold an illegal practice | Football Conference Rules, Article 1200, Sections 1200.01 – 1200.03 | \$250 - \$500 |
| Participate in an illegal or unsanctioned competition | Football Conference Rules, Article 1500, Sections 1500.02a and 1500.02c | \$250 - \$500 |
| Failure to have league member representation at monthly scheduled MAYFL meetings | Bylaws, Article II, Section 2.15 | \$25.00 |
| Unacceptable dress at any time | Football Conference Rules, Article 1000, Sections 1000.01a - 1000.01bc | |
| Failure to display MAYFL photo identification at game venue | Football Conference Rules, Article 1000, Sections 1000.01 – 1000.02e | \$150 - \$500 |
| Unauthorized persons on sidelines and playing field | Football Conference Rules, Article 1300, Section 1300.08 | \$250 - \$500 |

ETHICS VIOLATIONS

| Violation | Reference | Range of Fines |
|---|---|----------------|
| Coach and or league member using undue influence to gain or cause a player or coach to move from one league member to another | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.01c | \$150 - \$500 |
| Misrepresenting facts on MAYFL documents or misrepresenting facts during a MAYFL investigation | Football Conference Rules, Article 1400, Section 1400.01 | \$150 - \$500 |