



Metro Atlanta Youth Football League

Football Conference Rules

Revised June 2022

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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 for 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, the 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.
- 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 ensuring 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 of each year to the league's established first day of practice, which should 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 without first obtaining an approved waiver from the MAYFL Football 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 the league has sanctioned.

400.02- Pre-Season:

Shall be the dates declared by the league to be the 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 when the final MAYFL regular-season game has been completed and will continue to December 31st of each year.

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 association supply the Georgia High School Sports 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 / DIVISIONS

700.01 – Conference Placement

A MAYFL Age conference shall be formed when five or more teams are registered within a MAYFL-defined age grouping. A team shall play and compete in the age conference of the oldest participant on the team based on the age cut-off date defined in the next section below. A team's divisional placement within their respective age conference shall be determined by the MAYFL Football Commissioner and approved by the MAYFL Board of Directors.

700.01a – MAYFL Age Grouping

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

Age Conference	Allowable Playing Age (July 1 st Cutoff Date)	Weight Restrictions
Pee Wee	5 – 6	None
Mighty Mite	7 – 8	None
Bandit	9 – 10	None
Youth	11 – 12	None
Senior	13 – 14	None

700.01b – MAYFL Single Age Grouping

MAYFL shall be structured as a single age league where each Age Conference shall be divided into two sub-conferences, Jr. and Sr., If a MAYFL Age sub-conference does not achieve the minimum team count. That Age Conference shall be combined into one Age Conference using the chart above. The MAYFL Football Commissioner shall have the right to deviate from the Age Conference chart with approval from the MAYFL Board and a 51% or more passing vote from qualifying MAYFL Members.

700.02 – Division Count

A MAYFL Division shall not exceed more than nine teams. Once an age group has ten or more teams, that conference shall be broken up into equal divisions. All Conferences with an odd team count greater than nine shall be split into similar separate divisions with no division exceeding the lesser division by more than one team count. (i.e., An Age sub-conference with 17 teams can be split into two divisions of nine and eight teams or three divisions of four and one division with five teams.)

800 – TEAM COMPOSITION

800.01 – MAYFL Team

A Team shall be defined as a MAYFL Team once an Association has completed the following steps

1. Verbally declared the Team's existence and commitment to participate in a MAYFL Conference.
2. Register a Head Coach in the MAYFL System for a declared Team.
3. Satisfied all association and team fees have been.
4. The Team has successfully certified and met or exceeded the 15-player Roster Minimum.

NOTE: Any team that has completed steps one and two shall be subject to all MAYFL Rules defined within this handbook

800.01a – Player Age Rules

The age of players on all MAYFL teams shall be their age as of July 1st of the current year. A team shall play and compete in the age conference of the oldest participant on the team based on the age cut-off date defined in the section above. Though it is highly discouraged, players are allowed to play up in age by one age sub-conference.

800.01b – League Member Team Commitment and Regulations

Each MAYFL league member shall attempt to field a minimum of one team in 4 of the 9 MAYFL Age sub-conference. MAYFL shall not limit any MAYFL league member to a maximum number of teams regardless of age conference. When possible, any association with more than one team in one of the respective age sub-conference shall have those teams placed in separate divisions. Every effort should be made to ensure that teams from the same Association do not play a regular-season game against one another. *Any association that changes its (OFFICIAL TEAM COUNT) after the first Saturday in August of the current football season shall incur a \$250.00 fine.*

900 - MAYFL CERTIFICATION

900.01 MAYFL Coaches Certification

MAYFL-certified Teams shall have the right to have as many coaches as needed to prepare their team for play. However, MAYFL shall only provide certification badges for (1) Head Coach, (6) Assistant Coaches, and (1) Team Manager for sideline access during any MAYFL sponsored game. There shall be no coaching number restriction during halftime. While MAYFL shall host its own coaches certification and training, MAYFL strongly recommends that all coaches obtain coaching liability insurance through USA Football or a similar youth coaching training program.

900.01a Park Hopping Rule

If a coach resigns in good standing from another association within MAYFL, it shall be considered good sportsmanship when the receiving Association contacts the departing Association's league president or Commissioner to confirm the coach's eligibility. After the coach's credentials have been verified and there are no outstanding issues or fines, the departing coach should be accepted or offered a position within the receiving Association.

900.01b CPR Training/Certification Requirements

It is highly recommended that all persons designated as a coach on the team roster complete training and certification in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It shall, however, be a MAYFL requirement that the Head Coach of Each Team is 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 that 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 is eligible per this requirement to fill in during their absence. Any person designated as a head coach and listed on the official team roster who 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.

900.02 - Association Registration

Regardless of the conference, all players participating in MAYFL shall be registered with a member association. MAYFL shall require its League Members to maintain the minimum Certified Player Information

- Player's complete name as shown on a State Seal Certified Birth certificate (First, Middle, Last)
- Player's age and date of birth as shown on a State Seal Certified Birth certificate.
- Player's current mailing address
- Player's jersey number worn
- Player's best contact phone number and email address

900.03 Player Proof of Age Requirements

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

900.03a Original Birth Certificate

An original certified copy of a 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 shall be in good form, legible and without any evidence of wear or tear.

900.03b Hand Written Records

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

900.03c Children Born Abroad

Any official government document issued by a U.S. federal agency or service is acceptable for children born abroad to a parent or parents who are U.S. citizens. These must be originals, not copies, and must refer to a filing, recording, registration, or issue date within one (1) year of the child's birth. In addition, the document shall 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.

900.04 - Team Composition

Each MAYFL team shall be limited to a maximum of 35 players. All Teams shall meet the following MAYFL Requirements;

- No team shall be allowed more than 35 players "No Exceptions."
- Any uncertified team found with less than 15 players in the MAYFL System by the MAYFL Define Certification deadline shall be dropped from the MAYFL database and shall not be added back to the current year's MAYFL Football Scheduled.
- No team shall be eligible to participate in MAYFL if they participate in another football league during the current season.
- Any association, head coach, assistant coach, and /or board member shall be considered poor sportsmanship to directly recruit players and coaches affiliated with another MAYFL team or Association.
- Any team participating in MAYFL's football program, regardless of Conference and/or Division, 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 shall be over the age of 18.

900.05 - MAYFL Online 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 pictures to their respective team listed within the MAYFL database.

900.05a Player Certifying Photograph

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

- The photograph shall be in color;
- The photograph shall capture the participant's facial features clearly with no other distracting objects or persons in the picture or background;
- 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 shall 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 should be removed from the MAYFL official roster. The team is subject to the fine as stipulated in Section 900.05 of these rules. A corrected photograph should be submitted in the time stipulated under Section 900.05a.

900.05b Certification Roster Freeze Date

MAYFL shall freeze all online roster activity at 12:00 am the morning of the first MAYFL Player certification date. At this time, all rosters should be considered FINAL. Any team(s) found with less than 15 players at the MAYFL defined deadline should be dropped from the MAYFL Scheduled.

900.06 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 their designee, certifying that the information contained on the team's roster is complete and accurate. A fine of not less than \$15.00 per occurrence should be imposed on the league member for any error discovered at the time of the team certification by MAYFL or its authorized designee upon accreditation and review of league members' team rosters.

900.06a Roster Errors

A league member who has violated the said rule shall be granted a 72-hour clock period to fix the error identified on the team roster. Should the error not be resolved within the 72-hour clock period, the player or players where the error occurred should be permanently removed from the team roster and declared ineligible to participate in MAYFL's football program for the current year.

900.07 - MAYFL Player Certification

MAYFL shall require certification for all players loaded into the MAYFL database intending to participate in the current season. MAYFL player's certification should be completed at least one week before the first MAYFL-sponsored regular seasoned game. The following activities and/or rules shall occur during and/or after the MAYFL player certification.

900.07a Player Certification Package

Each team shall submit their MAYFL Team Roster from the lowest to the highest player number. The player's certifying packages shall be organized with proof of age evidence, a parent or guardian signed copy of the MAYFL's Parents Code of Conduct form, and a player signed copy of the MAYFL Player Code of Conduct. No participant shall be certified without all required documents. There shall be no

conditional certification of a participant.

900.07b Team Certification Day

Each team shall submit a Team Roster at MAYFL player certification. The roster shall be printed on the official MAYFL website roster form. The roster shall be completed in full with the following information:

- color of the home jersey,
- address for the home field,
- age division,
- names and numbers of each coaching staff member.

Only one coach, the team manager, and MAYFL's certifying members are allowed into the certification area during certification. The MAYFL certifying officer shall confirm all documentation submitted by completing a verbal questionnaire of each player.

900.07c Cheating

Any Coach found guilty during the MAYFL season of cheating, misrepresenting, or altering a record for player certification shall be suspended indefinitely from MAYFL. In addition, the coach's Association shall be fined per the MAYFL By-laws for each infraction.

900.07d Player Make-up Certification

All players on the roster shall attend their MAYFL certification session unless injury or sickness prevents their attendance. In such cases, the coach shall be responsible for notifying the certification officer before certification. Any Player that missed their certification timing shall first obtain MAYFL approval to attend another certification session. It shall be the responsibility of the player and their association/team to find the means necessary to participate in an approved makeup.

900.07e Player Late Certification

Late certification shall be for players denied makeup certification due to failure to communicate or unapproved makeup requests. Late certification shall be at the discretion of the MAYFL BOD and shall be scheduled on a date that is after the first MAYFL regular-season game but no later than the kickoff of the second round of MAYFL regular session games.

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

900.07f Late Roster Add

No players can be added to the team roster after certification without prior approval from the board of directors and should be related to the MAYFL Team Attrition Rules.

900.08 Attrition Rule

Natural attrition resulted in a MAYFL-certified team falling below fifteen players. That team shall have the right to petition the MAYFL BOD to add new additional players to allow the team to get back up to their original roster count.

900.08a New Players Rules

A team petitioning the league for new additional players under the attrition rule shall not be allowed to add national players nor players certified for regular season play on or with another team, regardless of league, conference, or division.

900.8b National Player(s)

Any player that competes on or with a Nonaffiliated League Team, aka "National Teams," on or after the 2nd Friday in August of the current year.

1000 – UNIFORMS**1000.01 MAYFL Coaches Dress Code**

Teams shall be required to establish a coach's uniform with the association members' logo that is similar, using the association members' colors. The following items shall not be acceptable for coaching in MAYFL:

- T-shirts without Association Members Logo
- Sweatshirts without Association Members Logo
- Collared shirts without Association Members Logo
- Sagging Pants and Shorts (Sagging pants/shorts are defined as pants below the waistline where your underpants or skin is visible.)
- Cut-off jean shorts
- Tights (as pants)
- Bib overalls
- Flip-flops
- Slipper style Sandals
- Beach sandals
- Bandannas

1000.01b Coaches Dress Code Penalty

A Team shall be given a warning for any coach(es) appearing on their respective sideline or field of play improperly dressed. After a warning has been issued, MAYFL shall reserve the right to assess a 15-yard penalty up to forfeit the game against the team with the transgressing coach(es) refusing to comply with the rule or leave the playing field.

1000.02 Game Day Contrasting Colors

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

1000.03 Game Day Uniform

Each player shall have a complete uniform jersey & pants in accordance with the rules defined in section 1000.02. The jersey shall have a visible number on the front and back. Game pants shall extend beyond the knee of the player.

1000.03a Game Day Uniform Number Change

Any jersey damaged during a league game can be replaced with a different number for that game only. Otherwise, Jersey numbers for any players shall not be changed once that player has been certified by MAYFL unless unforeseen circumstances dictate otherwise. In such cases, it shall be the Association's responsibility to replace the jerseys with a jersey of the same number and likeness. In cases where that is not possible, the member shall 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 shall be filed with the Team's MAYFL roster and presented during every game's pre-game certification after the MAYFL affects the date. *It is the responsibility of the MFC to change the jersey number within the MAYFL System within 48 hours of approval.*

1000.04 Game Day Cleats

Molded cleats are allowed. 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.

1000.05 Game Day 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.

1000.06 Game Day Visors

Visors in which the Head Official can easily see a player's eyes shall be permissible during MAYFL Sponsor games. It shall be the responsibility of the Head Coach to confirm with the Head Referee if he/she deems the visor acceptable for gameplay. Darker-tinted visors shall not be allowed unless otherwise prescribed by a licensed physician.

1100 – INSURANCE

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

1200 - FOOTBALL PRACTICES

1200.01 Football Practice Definition

Football Practice is defined as any gathering of six (6) or more players or prospective players of a team verbally committed to MAYFL during a MAYFL scheduled league meeting by a MAYFL League Member regardless of standing to; discuss the subject of football; view films on football; study football; skill training/condition for football with an unpaid volunteer; or rep football plays. During the regularly scheduled playing season, any controlled scrimmages shall also be considered as practices.

NOTE: 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 shall be considered a pre-game warm-up and not counted as practice activities.

1200.02 Summer Practice Rules

Practice shall be limited to ten (10) hours per calendar week starting the 5th Monday in May until the 2nd Monday in Aug of each calendar year. No practice shall exceed 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.

12000.03 School Days Practice Rules

In an effort not to create a hardship on our players' school-related studies and activities, MAYFL shall limit the number of practice hours in a calendar week to six (6) hours for all MAYFL teams. No practice shall exceed 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.

1200.04 League Playoff Practice Rules

At the start of the league playoffs, teams that are scheduled to play in the MAYFL playoffs shall be allowed up to eight (8) hours of practice during a calendar week. No practice shall exceed 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.

1200.05 Practice End Time Rules

No practice shall continue past 9:00 pm regardless of the practice period.

1200.06 MAYFL Earlier Equipment Ramp-Up Schedule

Commencing the 5th Monday in May of a Calendar year, teams shall petition the MAYFL Football Commissioner to start an earlier equipment ramp-up schedule. Team members of associations in good standing shall be approved to execute the following schedule.

- The first twenty (20) hours of each team's practice shall be devoted entirely and exclusively to conditioning and fundamental drill work. No pads shall be allowed.
- After the satisfaction of the 20-hour conditioning period, helmets and mouthpieces shall be allowed. Teams shall complete a minimum of (10) hours in helmets and mouthpieces before adding shoulder pads.
- Once a team has completed the minimum period of helmet adaptation, a team shall be allowed to practice in helmets, mouthpieces, and shoulder pads. The helmet, mouthpiece, and shoulder pads' familiarization period shall be a minimum of four (4) hours before pants can be added.
- Full pads shall be allowed after the completion of the 34-hour acclimatization period.
- Teams shall complete a minimum of two (2) hours in full pads before being allowed player-player contact, after which time teams shall be allowed to conduct full-contact practices.

1200.06 MAYFL General Equipment 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 hitting shall be allowed.

- Helmets may be included after the first six (6) hours of practice which is the fourth day of practice.
- The sixth through ninth practices will only be with helmets, mouthpieces, and shoulder pads.
- Starting with the tenth practice during the first two weeks after the official opening day of practice shall be allowed with full pads.
- No player-to-player contact will be allowed until after twenty (20) hours of practice time have been completed.

1200.07 Practice Acclimatization Violation Penalty

Violations of these MAYFL Practice Rules or practice type activity shall be considered a severe offense. Any MAYFL association, team, or associated individual 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.

1200.08 Practice Trespassing

It shall be considered poor sportsmanship for a coach or a team representative to attend another MAYFL member's practice without first gaining permission from the practicing team's head coach. Coaches, representatives, or scouts are allowed to view any practice game utilizing officials.

1300 - PLAYING RULES**1300.01 MAYFL Game Field Size Requirements**

All MAYFL sponsored game fields, except the MAYFL 5U age conference, shall be played on GHSA football regulation fields with a Regulation Goal Post at each end-zone. The MAYFL 5U age conference games shall be played on an 80-yard version of the GHSA football field with the option of Regulation Goal Post at each end-zone.

1300.02 MAYFL Field Inspection

All fields shall undergo a Field Suitability Inspection and Approval Review Process. League Member(s) with field(s) found inadequate for MAYFL sponsored games shall be allowed to request a reinspection once all findings have been adequately resolved. The MAYFL Football Commission and the MAYFL Vice Commissioner shall reserve the right to choose if a reinspection is or is not granted. MAYFL League Members shall have the right to qualify as many fields as they see fit to meet their needs. However, it shall be up to the MAYFL Football Commissioner to determine if and how these fields get scheduled to host MAYFL Sponsored Games.

1300.03 Multiple Teams

Association(s) with more than one team in an age group shall have those teams placed in separate divisions if at all possible. Every effort should be made to make sure that teams from the same Association do not play a regular season against one another.

1300.04 Regular Season 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. The MAYFL regular season shall be ten (10) weeks, with each team scheduled for eight (8) MAYFL regular-season games.

1300.04a Game Day Security

Each Association shall provide a security plan to the MAYFL Vice Commissioner and Football Commissioner before MAYFL schedules any home games at their respective park. All associations shall plan to 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 under MAYFL By-Laws

1300.04b Regular Season Home Games

Every league member meeting the MAYFL team count and field requirements shall be allowed to host a

minimum of four (4) weekends using their approved field location. MAYFL shall attempt to schedule as many of that League Member's teams to play at the member's park, which can be accommodated by field availability and scheduling needs.

1300.05 - Home Team Responsibility

The hosting League Member's responsibility shall be

- to provide adequate seating for both the home and visiting team;
- to ensure the playing field has fencing between the playing field and the spectator area.
- to provide field markings which include both a Coaches and Cheerleading box, Line and Down markers, and necessary officiating equipment to conduct the game;
- to ensure that there are no active ant beds within the playing and sidelines areas
- ensure that the playing area is cleared and ready for play thirty minutes before the first scheduled start time of a MAYFL-sponsored game;
- to provide aged appropriate, 16 and older, chain crew for all scheduled games;
- to ensure the chain crew is in place at least five minutes before the scheduled kickoff of each game
- to ensure the execution of the League Member's Security plan per the guidelines in section 1300.4a
- to guarantee game day admission does exceed the MAYFL defined entry fee.

1300.05a Game Day Admission Fee

Hosting MAYFL League Members shall be permitted to charge a game day admission fee up to \$5.00 per person over the age of 15 years old that is not a registered participant of MAYFL. Parking fees shall not be allowed.

1300.06 MAYFL Game Day Representative

MAYFL shall provide an independent Game Day Supervisor representative at each MAYFL-sponsored game site. The supervisor shall be easily identifiable in MAYFL apparel. Responsibility of the Game Day Supervisor shall be

- to collect the officiating referee information for every MAYFL-sponsored game;
- to conduct pre-game player and coaching certification against the MAYFL Roster and coaching badges;
- to verify the game attendance of 11U, 12U, and 14U players (Middle and High School players must participate in 5 (five) of the MAYFL scheduled games to be eligible for the MAYFL Post Season);
- to submit scores to the MAYFL Football Commissioner or designee after each game;
- to document incidents, accidents, protest notifications, or MAYFL Rule violations;
- to monitor the location of inclement weather conditions and confer with the MAYFL Football Commissioner, MAYFL Vice Commissioner, or MAYFL Commissioner for the next steps;
- to monitor the safety of the players, coaches, and fans and report any immediate concerns to the MAYFL Football Commissioner, MAYFL Vice Commissioner, or MAYFL Commissioner for the next steps.

1300.07 MAYFL Officials

MAYFL shall require that all Officials/Referees report to the MAYFL Game Day Supervisor one (1) hour before the scheduled kickoff of their respective MAYFL sponsored game(s). MAYFL shall require that all field crews 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 follows

- MAYFL shall require the use of two (2) officials for all 5U, 6U, and 7U MAYFL-sponsored games. In addition, MAYFL shall use three (3), Officials/Referees for 5U, 6U, and 7U MAYFL sponsored playoff and championship games.
- MAYFL shall require the use of three (3) Officials/Referees for all 8U, 9U, and 10U MAYFL sponsored games.
- MAYFL shall require the use of four (4) Officials/Referees for all 11U, 12U, and 14U sponsored games.
- The MAYFL Football Commissioner shall reserve the right to add Additional Officials/Referees in part or in whole where it has been deemed necessary for MAYFL sponsored playoff and championship games for MAYFL age conferences 8U -14U

1300.08 MAYFL Pre-Game Roster Check

MAYFL shall require a pre-game roster check of each team on the playing field during the ten-minute interval between their respective games and ten minutes before the start of the first game of the day. In addition, all teams shall have twelve (12) physically fit and adequately dressed players at the scheduled game time, or the game shall be forfeited to the team prepared to play. Any team found guilty of delaying a pre-game roster check shall be subject to a 15-yard delay of game penalty on their first offensive possession up to game forfeiture.

1300.08a Pre-game Grace Period

Teams with less than 12 players at the pre-game roster check shall forfeit their game to the opposing team only after the following. The Head Official has given the team at fault a ten (10) minute grace period, or the grace period granted has exceeded five (5) minutes beyond the MAYFL scheduled kickoff.

1300.08b Late Player(s) Check-In

MAYFL shall require any player not present during the pre-game roster check to sit out the first half of the game. Late player(s) can check in with the opposing coach at halftime and participate in the second half.

1300.08c check In violation

Any player that participates in a game without being certified to play at the pre-game roster check or at halftime, if deemed a late player, shall be ejected from that game and suspended for the next game.

1300.08d – Suspended Player(s)

Any Head Coach that allows a player to participate after suspension shall be suspended for two games and fined no less than \$150. Failure to pay a fine shall result in a game forfeit(s) until the fine is paid or the team has been removed from the MAYFL schedule.

1300.09 Game Day Coaches

All coaches on the field during the game shall be MAYFL certified and in good standing with a current MAYFL badge. MAYFL shall allow each team to have one (1) certified Head Coach, six (6) Assist certified coaches, and (1) certified Team Manager on the sideline during games. There shall be no limit to the number of certified coaches allowed on the sideline at halftime. 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. The following positions are an exception to the MAYFL Badge Rule; two team

ball boys between the ages of 16 and 18; and the president or other members of the Association's board of directors when they feel it is in the best interest of the game or MAYFL.

1300.09a On Field Coaches

To ensure effective play, MAYFL shall allow on-field coaches in the following format for the following age groups.

- Coaches participating on the field in Pee Wee and Mighty Mite Age Groups shall not have any form of communication with any player after the offensive center touches the ball. 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. Violation of this rule is subject to a 5-yard penalty.
- MAYFL shall allow Two (2) certified 5U coaches with current badges on the field during play in all MAYFL 5U games;
- MAYFL shall allow One (1) certified 6U coach with a current badge on the field during play in all 6U games;
- MAYFL shall allow One (1) certified 7U coach with a current badge on the field during play up until the 4th Saturday of September, at which time no coach shall be on the field for the balance of the regular season and playoff series.

1300.09 Game Day Coaching Headsets

Pressbox to Sideline Headsets shall be allowed. 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 Approved Game Day Balls

MAYFL Sanctioned football manufacturers 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)	1stChoice	2ndChoice
5U / 6U	Wilson K2	Nike 1000K
7U / 8U	Wilson K2	Nike 1000K
9U / 10U	Wilson TDJ	Nike 1000Js
11U / 12U	Wilson TDJ	Nike 1000Js
14U	Wilson TDY	Nike 1000Y

1300.11 MAYFL 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.

1300.11a MAYFL Game Playing Clock Timing

No game shall begin after 8:30 pm 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 5U, 6U, and 7U.

5U, 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 an accurate count of the time outs used.

1300.11b 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 one of the following extra point attempt options;

- 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.

1300.12 Special Teams Rules

All MAYFL Sponsored 5U, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, and 14U Games shall have some form of special team play as defined in this section of the MAYFL rule book.

1300.12a Kick-off 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, the opening of a half (unless the mercy rule is being applied), and/or after all scoring plays. 5U games and A Score via a defensive safety shall be an exception to this rule.

1300.12b 5U Kick-off and Kicking Rules

There shall be "NO KICKING," including kickoff, Field Goal, or Punting for any MAYFL-sponsored 5U Games. The Offensive team shall receive the ball from their own 25-yard line at the start of the game, the opening of a half, and/or after all scoring plays. After a defensive safety, a 5U offense shall receive the ball at their 35-yard line.

1300.12c 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. Declared Field Goals can happen anywhere on the field on any down. During a declared Field Goal, the opposing team shall not be allowed to rush but may raise their hands and jump up and down at the line of scrimmage.
- declare to kick an extra point after a scored touchdown, at which time the ball will be spotted at the 3-yard line. The field goal rules listed above shall apply;
- declare to punt the ball or request to receive a 25 yards walk-off with a 25-sec run-off of the game clock. Request for the 25-yard Walk off can be made on any down so long as they are not beyond the 50-yard line. Declared Field Goals can happen anywhere on the field on any down. During a declared punt, the punting team shall punt the ball; no fake punting is allowed. 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 either team first touched it. There shall be no turnovers of any kind for any declared kicks at this age group

1300.12d 8U/9U Punting and Field Goals Rules

Teams in these age groups shall kick the ball. 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. "Walk-offs are not allowed."

- 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.

1300.12e 10U/11U/12U/14U Punting and Field Goals Rules

Teams in 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.

1300.13 Snap Origination

MAYFL 5U and 6U teams shall have the option to originate the ball sideways for the snap. The ball shall be placed vertically for measurements. All other MAYFL age groups shall be required to snap the ball from its vertical position.

1300.14 DL Alignment Rules

No defensive lineman shall line up over the offensive center or in the "A" gaps between the center and the guard during any play of a MAYFL Sponsored 5U Game. Defensive Linemen shall not be allowed to line up over the "Center" in MAYFL Sponsored 6U/7U/8U/9U/10U game in which a player receiving the snap is at least five (5) yards behind the center. This rule shall also apply to extra points, field goals, and punts so long as the snap receiver is at least three (3) yards behind the center. There shall be no restrictions in defensive alignment in MAYFL 11U, 12U, and 14U sponsored games. Violation of these Rules shall be considered off-side, and the defensive team shall be assessed a five (5) - yard penalty.

1300.15 MAYFL Game Day Slaughter Rule

When one team has a lead equal to or greater than twenty-six (26) points, the following slaughter rules shall go into effect. Under the MAYFL Slaughter Rule;

- the game clock shall continue to run, only stopping for an injury or an unusual delay deemed by the Head referee;
- no defensive player shall be allowed to line up in or blitz the "A" gap while the game is under the slaughter rule. Linebackers and other standing skill positions shall line up at least 3 yards off the line of scrimmage;
- 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 defensive penalties charged to the losing team that is greater than or equal to ten (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;
- there shall be no more kickoffs, and the losing team shall get the ball at the fifty (50) yard line after each score by the winning team, and the Winning Team will receive the ball at their thirty (30) yard line if the losing team scores. The slaughter rule will remain in effect until the score margin in the affected game is equal to or less than twenty (20) points.

1300.16 MAYFL Regular Season Overtime Rules

MAYFL Regular season games that complete regulation play in a tie shall be allowed to play a maximum of two (2) overtimes. During a MAYFL sanction Overtime, each team shall be allowed four downs starting from the 10-yard line to score or advance the ball. During overtime, any defensive penalty shall result in half the distance to the Goal and a repeat of the down. The teams shall play no more than two (2) overtimes during the regular season, with the game being declared a tie after the second overtime. A team that scores will be allowed to attempt the PAT of their choice unless otherwise restricted within this rule book (i.e., the 5U No Kicking rule).

1300.16a MAYFL Playoff Overtime Rule

MAYFL playoff games shall follow the format above with the following exception after the second overtime. The starting point shall be the twenty-five (25) yard line. The team with the greatest penetration shall win the game. This format shall stay in effect until a winner is declared.

1300.17 Game Day Forfeits

MAYFL shall require that both teams check in at the game site with the Game Day Supervisor at least one hour before the scheduled game time. There will be an additional 10-minute grace period for the day's first game only. There will be no grace period for all subsequent games. A team that does not check in with the Game Day Supervisor by their required time shall be subject to a game forfeiture after MAYFL has attempted to contact the violating team to assess the situation. In the event of a forfeit, the violating Association shall be fined no less than \$200. That fine shall be paid in full before the next scheduled game. If the fine is not paid, no teams from that Association shall be allowed to participate in the playoffs until the fine is paid. MAYFL shall remove any team from the MAYFL schedule that has forfeited two games in a given season due to a lack of players or late arrivals. An association with the two (2) or more forfeits shall be fined an additional \$500 and shall meet with MAYFL's Board of Directors. The opposing team shall be rewarded a (40-0) victory against the violating team.

1300.18 Unfinished MAYFL Sponsored Games

Any game suspended due to weather, participants' safety, or other reasons not listed shall, at the discretion of the MAYFL Football commissioner, be considered final if three quarters have been completed. The MAYFL Football Commissioner shall reserve the option to resume any game suspended.

1300.19 Game Day Ejection

Any coach ejected from a game for verbally or physically abusing a game official shall be subject to a minimum one-game suspension. If a coach has been ejected and participates in the next game, the coach shall be suspended indefinitely by the MAYFL Football Commissioner or Vice Commissioner. The coach shall be fined per the MAYFL By-laws and given 48 hours to satisfy the fine with the MAYFL Treasurer.

1300.20 Conduct Detrimental Clause

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

1300.21 Intoxication

No coach shall be intoxicated while coaching a MAYFL Sponsored Game. Any coach found under the influence of narcotics or alcohol shall be removed from the sidelines and is subject to a one (1) game suspension.

1300.22 Misconduct of Players

Any player found to have actively participated in a fight before or during a MAYFL-sponsored game shall be ejected from said game. The player shall also serve a one-game suspension to be served during the team's next scheduled game. Players found guilty of a post-game fight shall be suspended for the next two (2) MAYFL Sponsored Games. If the fight occurs at the end of the season for the player, the player shall serve the suspension to start the following season. Such actions should be reported to MAYFL Football Commissioner and Vice Commissioner by the game officials. All suspensions shall be administered by the MAYFL Football commissioner and approved by the MAYFL Board of Directors.

1300.23 Others' Conduct

The Head Coach shall be held responsible for the conduct of any persons connected to their team. The Head Coach shall 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 shall give the game official the authority to forfeit the game against the offending team.

1400 – MAYFL PLAYOFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIP

Each Age Conference shall conduct a playoff to determine one (1) MAYFL Champion. The number of playoff teams may vary based on team count and economic factors. The MAYFL Football Commissioner with approval of the MAYFL BOD shall determine the number of teams qualifying for league playoffs immediately after the MAYFL player certification.

1400.01 MAYFL Playoff Seeding Rules

The MAYFL Football Commissioner with the assistance of the MAYFL Vice Commissioner shall be responsible for building the MAYFL Playoff brackets with teams in good standing and deemed eligible for MAYFL Playoffs. When more than one division exists in an age conference, the playoff seedings shall first seed all of the Age Conference's Regular Season Division Champions using the following Tie Breaker Rules

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

After all the Age Conference's Division Champions have been seeded, the balance of the teams shall be seeded using the following Tie Breaker Rules

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

1400.02 Playoff Field Requirements and Locations

MAYFL reserves the right to select the playoff location for each round of the playoffs for all age conferences. The MAYFL Football Commissioner shall be responsible for ensuring that all MAYFL Playoff Games fields have;

- an electric scoreboard that has a functioning clock,

- GHSA regulated goal post,
- suitable seating for spectators,
- working restrooms for all to use,
- adequate concessions.

1400.03 Trophies and Awards

When an age conference has more than one division, MAYFL shall provide a team trophy to each regular-season divisional champion team within that age conference. The specific size and design of these awards and/or patches shall be determined by the MAYFL Football Commissioner and approved by the MAYFL Board of Directors.

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

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 request an exception to this rule by appealing to the MAYFL Appeals Committee. Any member association found guilty of ineligible participation by coaches is subject to a (\$500) fine and placed on probation for the remainder of the season. The member shall also receive an additional one (1)-year of probation. The member association shall be ineligible for any playoff competition until said fines are paid. The general membership may waive the penalty with a majority vote if it finds that the member had no prior knowledge of the infraction and has developed preventive measures to prevent future occurrences. A second infraction of the ineligible participation rule during the probationary period should result in the suspension of the member association from MAYFL.

1500.02 Ineligible Players

When any team has permitted a player that is declared ineligible to participate in MAYFL by MAYFL, that team shall forfeit all games where said player participated. Member association is subject to a (\$500) fine and probation for the remainder of the season for any ineligible participation by coaches or players. The member shall also receive an additional one (1)-year of probation. The member association shall be ineligible for any playoff competition until the fine is paid. 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 with no prior knowledge of the infraction. A second infraction of the ineligible participation rule during the probationary period may result in the suspension of the member association from MAYFL.

1500.02a Middle School / High School Players

Players on a middle or high school roster shall be eligible to participate in MAYFL regular-season games while playing or actively dressing out for a high school or middle school football game. A player shall become illegal for the MAYFL post-season if they were on the team roster of a high school or middle

school team and did not participate in 5 (five) of the 8 (eight) MAYFL regular season scheduled games. Middle or High School Players injured and/or sick shall still be required to certify for five (5) of the eight (8) regular-season games to be MAYFL playoff eligible.

1500.02b Player Roster Limitations

A player can only play for one Team within MAYFL. Players shall be allowed to play up one (1) age group above their certification age, provided they meet the minimum requirements defined within this document. Any player certified to play up shall remain in that age group for the entire MAYFL regular season and playoffs.

1500.02c Player / Team Ineligible Factor

No player or team shall be eligible to compete in MAYFL if they have been actively certified as a member of another youth league and/or team in the current MAYFL season.

1500.02d Suspended Coach/Players

Any coach/player 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 request 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 Game Protest

Game Protest shall be made known to the game officials and the Game Day Supervisor. The game shall continue to be played under protest, with the game's outcome pending the protest ruling. The protesting team/coach/player shall have forty-eight (48) hours from the end of the match to file an official protest to MAYFL by completing the protest form and paying the required protest fee of (\$75). The MAYFL protest fee can be paid either electronically, in a money order, or by cashier's check. The protest fee shall be refundable if MAYFL rules in favor of the petitioner.

1600.01a Protest Ruling

The MAYFL Football Commissioners and two appointed members shall review the protest and rule within forty-eight (48) hours filing period.

1600.01b Official Judgement Call Protest

Protest of a game officials' judgment or blown calls shall not be granted. Said games shall not be forfeit nor replay. However, games should be brought before MAYFL's Board of Directors for review with said official and officiating leadership when an official's conduct or decision-making is deemed subpar.

1700 – WEAPONS PROHIBITED

All weapons, including concealed firearms, shall be prohibited at all MAYFL sanctioned, MAYFL approved, 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 shall be completed before the last day in May of each year. Rule changes shall be submitted in writing to the membership at a regular scheduled monthly or a special meeting. Except for extreme circumstances or emergency conditions, no rule change shall be submitted or considered between June 1st and December 31st. All rule changes shall be presented in writing to the membership at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting before the membership can vote on them. Rule changes shall not be voted upon in any meeting in which they are introduced to the membership. The party introducing rule changes is allowed five minutes to explain the proposed difference before the 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 feelings 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 alcohol 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 (GHSA) 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 toward 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.

Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.

1. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
2. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviors and performance.
3. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
4. 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.
5. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (i.e., other coaches, officials, and others) in the best interests of the player.
6. 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.
7. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance.
8. 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.

Coach's Name

Date

Coach's Signature

Association Name / Age Group

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.

- 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.
5. 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.
 6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
 7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
 8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
 9. 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.
 10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
 11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
 12. 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.
 13. 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.
 14. 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.
 15. 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.
 16. 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.

Parent Name

Date

Parent Signature

Participants Name

Association Name / Age Group

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 900, Sections 900.01 – 900.08b	\$150 - \$500
Allowing a player to practice or compete without having a physical examination on file with the league member.	Football Conference Rules, Article 900, Section 900.03	\$150 - \$500
Allowing a player to participate and compete, who has been suspended or declared ineligible.	Football Conference Rules, Article 1500, Sections 1500.01 – 1500.02c	\$150 - \$500
Team roster errors	Football Conference Rules, Article 900, 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