



Metro Atlanta Youth Football League
Atlanta Youth Football League Football
Conference Rules
Revised June 2025

Contents

100 – MISSION STATEMENT	2
200 – OBJECTIVES.....	2
300 – PREFACE.....	2
400 – MAYFL / AYFL SEASON	2
<u>400.02 – Pre-Season</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>400.03 – Regular Season</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>400.04 – Post-Season</u>	<u>3</u>
500 – RULE ENFORCEMENT / AUTHORITY	3
600 – GOVERNING RULE BOOK	3
700 – MAYFL / AYFL CONFERENCES / DIVISIONS.....	4
<u>700.01 – Conference Placement</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>700.02 – MAYFL / AYFL Age Grouping</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>700.03 – MAYFL / AYFL Single Age Grouping</u>	<u>4</u>
800 – TEAM COMPOSITION	4
900 – MAYFL / AYFL CERTIFICATION	5
1000 – UNIFORMS.....	7
1100 – INSURANCE.....	8
1200 – FOOTBALL PRACTICES	8
1300 - PLAYING RULES	10
1400 – MAYFL / AYFL PLAYOFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIP.....	17
1500 - INELIGIBLE COACHES / PLAYER / TEAM	18
1600 - PROTEST RULES AND PROCEDURES	19
1700 – WEAPONS PROHIBITED.....	19
1800 – RULE AMENDMENT/CHANGE	20

100 – MISSION STATEMENT

The Metro Atlanta Youth Football League, Inc. and Atlanta Youth Football League (hereinafter referred to as "MAYFL / AYFL" or "the League") is an athletic organization dedicated to organizing and conducting a competitive football and cheerleading environment for youth. The League's rules and guidelines mandate fair play at all levels, creating a structure that promotes the success of all players and cheerleaders. In alignment with this mission, MAYFL / AYFL strives to provide programs that support the highest levels of character development, foster self-esteem and self-respect, and emphasize respect for the individual dignity of every participant.

200 – OBJECTIVES

*"Winning is only half of it. Having fun is the other half."
— Bum Phillips*

The objectives of MAYFL / AYFL are as follows:

- To provide wholesome competition within a safe and structured framework that protects the well-being of youth athletes.
- To promote good sportsmanship, teamwork, and high moral and physical standards while emphasizing the importance of academic achievement through recognition and rewards.
- To ensure that youth football remains **all-inclusive**, welcoming participants without exclusion based on superficial factors such as weight.
- To honor and reward organizations, coaches, volunteers, and contributors who demonstrate **integrity, honor, and servant leadership**—defined as putting the team ahead of self, fulfilling roles selflessly, and setting a positive example.
- To create opportunities for success and enjoyment regardless of organizational size or player talent.
- To maintain and communicate a clear, concise, and consistently updated rulebook. This ensures strict and fair enforcement of rules and preserves the **spirit and integrity** of MAYFL / AYFL by preventing both direct and perceived violations. The League acknowledges its role in shaping youth and expects all participants to serve as positive role models.

300 – PREFACE

MAYFL / AYFL serves as the presiding authority over all league operations. The day-to-day operations of member organizations and teams are subject to oversight and final approval by the League's Board of Directors. The League's rules and regulations are informed by the MAYFL / AYFL Board of Directors, reputable football handbooks, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Rule Book, and the Georgia High School Sports Association (GHSA) rules and guidelines. The Board reserves the right to interpret, add, amend, suspend, or remove any rule at any time to preserve the integrity of the League and ensure fair competition. The following general rules, policies, and procedures apply to all MAYFL / AYFL football activities, including pre-season, regular season, and post-season play.

400 – MAYFL / AYFL SEASON

400.01 – Off-Season

The Off-Season is defined as the period from January 1st of each calendar year until the League's official start of practice, which shall begin on the Sunday before Memorial Day each year. Any MAYFL / AYFL member organization participating in spring conditioning, tackle football, or 7v7 leagues during this period does so at their own risk. All

liability for incidents or injuries that may or may not occur during Off-Season activities shall be fully assumed by the participating league member, team, coach, player, and/or parent.

400.02 – Pre-Season

The Pre-Season begins on the League-declared first day of practice and continues through the day before the first regular-season game.

400.03 – Regular Season

The Regular Season spans from the first regular-season game through the final regular-season game scheduled on the League calendar.

400.04 – Post-Season

The Post-Season begins immediately following the completion of the final regular-season game and continues through December 31st of that calendar year.

500 – RULE ENFORCEMENT / AUTHORITY

All member associations are required to enforce the **rules, regulations, fines, and spirit of the rules** as established by MAYFL / AYFL. Each association is obligated to uphold and implement both the League's standards and its own bylaws, rules, and operational materials. While associations may adopt rules that are **more stringent** than those outlined by MAYFL / AYFL, they **may not implement rules that are less strict** or in conflict with those established by the League.

Any organization found to be in violation of this enforcement requirement—whether by failing to uphold League rules or by disregarding the spirit of those rules—may be subject to **suspension** until full compliance is achieved.

All member associations are required to submit a current copy of their **Rules and Regulations** to the MAYFL / AYFL Commissioner **no later than August 1st** of each season.

Furthermore, all associations and teams, consistent with their organizational governance, may be called upon at any time to:

1. Resolve disputes between member organizations or individuals,
2. Discipline both adult and youth participants, and
3. Enforce MAYFL / AYFL Rules, Regulations, and Fines as directed by League leadership.

600 – GOVERNING RULE BOOK

MAYFL / AYFL shall adhere to the Georgia High School Sports Association (GHSA) rules and guidelines, except where superseded by the MAYFL / AYFL Rule Book. In all cases, the rules and regulations outlined by MAYFL / AYFL take precedence over all other rulebooks. The MAYFL / AYFL Board of Directors shall serve as the final authority in resolving any rule conflicts or interpretations.

All coaches are required to receive, review, and understand the MAYFL / AYFL Rule Book prior to the start of the season. It is strongly recommended that each member association also provide a copy of the GHSA Rule Book to its coaching staff for broader rule familiarity.

Any association found to have permitted a variance or deviation from this rulebook, its rules, regulations, or the spirit of those rules without prior written approval from the League, may be subject to suspension and/or fines as determined by the MAYFL / AYFL Board of Directors.

700 – MAYFL / AYFL CONFERENCES / DIVISIONS

700.01 – Conference Placement

A MAYFL / AYFL Age conference shall be formed when five or more teams are registered within a MAYFL / AYFL-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 / AYFL Football Commissioners.

700.02 – MAYFL / AYFL Age Grouping

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

Age Conference	Allowable Playing Age (July 1st Cutoff Date)	Weight Restrictions
05U	4 – 5	None
06U	4 – 6	None
07U	6 – 7	None
08U	7 – 8	None
09U	8 – 9	None
10U	9 – 10	None
11U	10 – 11	None
12U	11 – 12	None
14U	12 – 14	None

700.03 – MAYFL / AYFL Single Age Grouping

MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL 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 / AYFL Football Commissioner shall have the right to deviate from the Age Conference chart with approval from the MAYFL / AYFL Board and a 51% or more passing vote from qualifying MAYFL / AYFL Members.

700.04 – Division Count

A MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL Team Definition

A team shall be officially recognized as a MAYFL / AYFL team once the following requirements have been met:

1. The Association has verbally declared the team's existence and intent to participate in a MAYFL / AYFL conference.
2. A Head Coach has been registered in the MAYFL / AYFL system for the declared team.
3. All association and team fees have been satisfied in full.
4. The team has certified and met or exceeded the minimum roster requirement of 15 players.

Note: Once steps 1 and 2 are completed, the team is immediately subject to all MAYFL / AYFL rules and regulations outlined in this handbook, regardless of whether the team is fully certified.

800.02 – Player Age Rules

Player eligibility is based on the athlete's age as of July 1st of the current calendar year. A team must participate in the age conference of its oldest player based on this cut-off date. While highly discouraged, players are permitted to play up one age sub-conference (but not down).

800.03 – League Member Team Commitment and Regulations

Each MAYFL / AYFL member association is expected to field a minimum of one team in at least four (4) of the nine (9) MAYFL / AYFL age sub-conferences. There is no limit on the maximum number of teams an association may field in any age conference.

When an association has multiple teams in the same age sub-conference, efforts will be made to place those teams in separate divisions. Regular season matchups between teams from the same association should be avoided whenever possible to ensure broader competition.

If an association modifies its official team count after the first Saturday in August of the current football season, a \$250.00 fine can be imposed at the discretion of MAYFL/AYFL Leadership.

900 – MAYFL / AYFL CERTIFICATION

900.01 – MAYFL / AYFL Coaches Certification

MAYFL / AYFL-certified teams may appoint as many coaches as necessary for team preparation. However, the League will issue sideline certification badges for only (1) Head Coach, (6) Assistant Coaches, and (1) Team Manager. **This same restriction shall apply during halftime.** MAYFL / AYFL will host official coaching certification and training sessions. It is strongly recommended that all coaches carry coaching liability insurance through USA Football or a similar program.

900.02 - Park Hopping Rule

A coach who resigns in good standing from a MAYFL / AYFL association may be considered eligible to coach for another association, provided that the receiving organization contacts the departing association's President or Commissioner to verify the coach's standing. Once it is confirmed that there are no outstanding disciplinary issues or unpaid fines, the coach may be accepted and allowed to certify as a MAYFL / AYFL coach.

However, coaches who resign after the fourth (4th) Sunday in July of the current year shall not be eligible to coach in the same age group they departed if more than two (2) players from their previous team follow them to the new team and are not legally tied to the coach (e.g., immediate family or legal guardianship). This rule is intended to discourage late-season team disruption and ensure fair play across the league.

900.03 - CPR Training Requirement

All coaches are encouraged to complete CPR certification. It is mandatory that each Head Coach be CPR certified with valid certification presented at team certification. If the Head Coach is unavailable, another CPR-certified individual listed on the roster must be present. Failure to comply could result in a fine of no less than \$150, and the coach being removed from the roster until compliance is met.

900.04 – Association Registration

All MAYFL / AYFL players must be registered with a member association. Required certified information includes:

- Full legal name as shown on a state-sealed birth certificate
- Age and date of birth
- Current Player Mailing Address
- Documentation ID # as shown on the Birth Certificate above, State ID, or Passport
- Primary phone number and email address

900.05 – Player Proof of Age

- **Birth Certificate:** Must be original or a certified copy with a raised seal, issued within one year of birth, and in good condition.
- **Handwritten Records:** Must include a letter from the player's school, signed by a school official, verifying the player's age.
- **Children Born Abroad:** Must provide an official U.S. federal government document referring to the birth date and issued within one year of birth. Originals only.
- **State ID:** A valid State-issued Identification Card (State ID) is an acceptable form of age verification, provided the ID was issued within the past three (3) years. This requirement ensures that the player's photo is current and accurately reflects their physical appearance at the time of certification. Expired or outdated State IDs may be rejected at the discretion of the MAYFL / AYFL certification staff.

The League reserves the right to accept or reject any documentation.

900.06 – Team Composition

- Teams are capped at 35 players with no exceptions.
- Teams with fewer than 15 players by the certification deadline may be removed from the schedule.
- Teams participating in other leagues during the current season are not eligible for MAYFL / AYFL.
- Direct recruitment of players/coaches from other MAYFL / AYFL teams is considered poor sportsmanship and will not be tolerated. Should a team be found guilty MAYFL / AYFL reserves the right to remove team from the schedule
- Each team is allowed 1 Head Coach, 6 Assistant Coaches, and 1 Team Manager. All staff must be 18 or over.

900.07 – MAYFL/AYFL Online Registration, Player Photos, and Player Certification

Each association is required to enter each player onto a MAYFL / AYFL team based on the player's age as of July 1st of the current calendar year. All required documents and player information must be uploaded into the MAYFL / AYFL Player Database prior to the official roster freeze date established by the League.

Information Need for Database Shall Include

- Full legal name as shown on a state-sealed birth certificate
- Age and date of birth
- Documentation ID # as shown on the Birth Certificate above, State ID, or Passport
- Primary phone number and email address

To ensure consistency and integrity of player identification, MAYFL / AYFL will capture all player photographs at the time of official registration and will upload them directly to each player's profile within the League database.

900.08 – Certification Roster Freeze Date

Rosters will be frozen at 12:00 AM on the morning of the first certification date. Teams with fewer than 15 players at that time could be removed from the schedule.

900.09 – Player Certification

All Certification must be completed at least one week before the first regular season game.

900.10 - Certification Package Must Include:

- Team roster in numerical order
- Proof of age
- Signed Parent Code of Conduct
- Signed Player Code of Conduct

No participant will be certified without all documents. Conditional certification is not permitted.

900.11 - Team Certification Day:

- Submit printed MAYFL / AYFL roster including jersey color, home field address, age division, and full coaching staff list
- Only one coach, the team manager, and certifying officials are permitted in the certification area
- Certifying officer will confirm documents and conduct verbal questionnaire

900.12 - Cheating:

Any coach found guilty of cheating or document tampering will be suspended indefinitely, and their association will be fined.

900.13 - Makeup Certification:

Players who miss certification due to injury/illness must get prior approval for makeup certification. Responsibility lies with the player and team.

900.14 - Late Certification:

Approved at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Must be completed before the start of the second regular season game. Players not certified by this deadline will be removed.

900.15 - Late Roster Additions:

Prohibited without BOD approval and must comply with the Attrition Rule.

900.16 – Attrition Rule

If a certified team falls below 15 players due to natural attrition, the team may petition the Board to add players.

1000 – UNIFORMS

1000.01 – MAYFL / AYFL Coaches Dress Code

Each team shall establish a coaches' uniform that features the Association Member's logo and reflects the team's official colors. The following items are not acceptable attire for coaches during any MAYFL / AYFL-sponsored event:

- T-shirts without Association Members Logo
- Sweatshirts without Association Members Logo
- Collared shirts without Association Members Logo
- Sagging Pants or Shorts (below the waistline exposing undergarments or skin)
- Flip-flops
- Slipper-style sandals
- Athletic Slides
- Bandannas

1000.02 – Coaches Dress Code Penalty

Teams will receive a warning for any improperly dressed coach on the sideline or field. After the first warning, MAYFL / AYFL reserves the right to issue a 15-yard penalty, and may escalate to a game forfeiture if the coach refuses to comply or leave the playing area.

1000.03 – Game Day Contrasting Colors

Each team must list its home jersey color on the official team roster. The Home Team is required to wear that color unless both the home and visiting teams jointly notify the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner at least 72 hours in advance via email. Otherwise, it is the visiting team's responsibility to wear a contrasting jersey.

1000.04 – Game Day Uniform

Players must wear complete uniforms, including a jersey with visible numbers on the front and back and game pants that extend beyond the knee.

1000.05 – Jersey Number Changes

If a jersey is damaged during a game, a replacement jersey with a different number may be worn for that game only. Permanent number changes are not allowed after certification unless approved by the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner (MFC). Associations must submit a formal request, and if approved, the new number must be reflected in the MAYFL / AYFL System.

1000.06 – Game Day Cleats

Molded cleats are allowed. Detachable cleats must be of a type that does not expose any metal, with the cleat insert (male) fitting into a molded receiver (female).

1000.07 – Game Day Mouthpieces

All players are required to wear a mouthpiece during play. The mouthpiece must be attached to the helmet/facemask or be of a distinct color to ensure it is clearly visible.

1000.08 – Game Day Visors

Visors that allow the Head Official to clearly see the player's eyes are permitted. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to confirm acceptability with the Head Referee before the game. Dark-tinted visors are only permitted with documentation from a licensed physician.

1100 – INSURANCE

All MAYFL / AYFL member associations are required to maintain adequate insurance coverage to protect against accidents and injuries sustained by players, coaches, and affiliated personnel during games, practices, or team-related travel.

The definition and minimum requirements of adequate coverage are further outlined in the MAYFL By-Laws. Each association must submit proof of insurance to the League Secretary prior to the first official day of practice. No team or member association is permitted to conduct practices under the MAYFL / AYFL brand until valid insurance documentation has been received and verified by league officials.

1200 – FOOTBALL PRACTICES

1200.01 – Football Practice Definition

Football Practice is defined as any gathering of six (6) or more players or prospective players verbally committed to

a MAYFL / AYFL team, during a scheduled league meeting, that involves football-related activities. These include film study, play review, skill training, conditioning with unpaid volunteers, or football-specific drills. Controlled scrimmages during the season are also considered practices.

Note: Travel to a scheduled game does not count as practice. Activities within 1 hour before kickoff are considered pre-game warm-ups.

1200.02 – Summer Practice Rules

From the 5th Monday in May through the 2nd Monday in August, teams are limited to 10 hours of practice per calendar week, with no single practice exceeding 2 hours per day. A 10-minute break per hour is required. During extreme heat, 15-minute or on-demand breaks are encouraged.

1200.03 – School Days Practice Rules

During the school year, practices are limited to 6 hours per week, with a maximum of 2 hours per day. Same break guidelines as summer apply.

1200.04 – League Playoff Practice Rules

During the playoffs, eligible teams may practice up to 8 hours per calendar week, with no more than 2 hours per day, and the standard break periods remain in effect.

1200.05 – Practice End Time Rules

No team practice shall continue past 9:00 PM, regardless of the practice period.

1200.06 – MAYFL / AYFL Earlier Equipment Ramp-Up Schedule

Starting Memorial Day, teams in good standing may petition the Football Commissioner for early equipment ramp-up:

- First 20 hours: conditioning and fundamentals only, no pads.
- After 20 hours: helmets and mouthpieces allowed.
- After 10 hours in helmet/mouthpiece: add shoulder pads.
- After 4 hours in helmet, mouthpiece, and shoulder pads: add pants.
- After 34 total hours: full pads allowed.
- After 2 hours in full pads: player-to-player contact may begin.

Teams assume full responsibility for all activities during this early ramp-up period.

1200.07 – MAYFL / AYFL General Equipment Ramp-Up Schedule

Except as stipulated in Section 1200.06, no team may utilize helmets, shoulder pads, or any football equipment during pre-season sessions. However, beginning on the second Monday in July of each calendar year, which marks the official start of the MAYFL / AYFL season, all teams are allowed to begin their Pad Accumulation Period without requiring prior permission.

The General Ramp-Up Schedule is as follows:

- Maximum of 10 practice hours per week, with each practice not to exceed 2 hours.
- First three days of two-hour practices shall consist of conditioning only; no helmets or gear permitted.
- On the fourth, fifth, and sixth day of practice following the conditioning period, teams may practice in helmets and mouthpieces only.
- Beginning with the seventh practice, teams may practice in helmets, mouthpieces, and shoulder pads (aka "shells").

- On the ninth day of two-hour practices, teams may be permitted to practice in full pads.
- No player-to-player contact is permitted until the completion of the tenth day of two-hour practices.

These guidelines are intended to ensure safe acclimatization for all participants and must be strictly followed by all member associations and teams.

1200.08 – Practice Acclimatization Violation Penalty

Violating any practice rule or conducting unauthorized practice-type activities is a serious offense. Penalties may include:

- Minimum \$500 fine
- Suspension, probation, or other disciplinary action

1200.09 – Practice Trespassing

It is deemed poor sportsmanship for a coach or representative to attend another team's practice without approval from the practicing team's head coach. However, practices utilizing referees in a scrimmage setting may be observed by other league members, scouts, or representatives.

1300 - PLAYING RULES

1300.01 MAYFL / AYFL Game Field Size Requirements

All MAYFL / AYFL sponsored game fields, except the MAYFL / AYFL 5U age conference, shall be played on GHSA football regulation fields with a Regulation Goal Post at each end-zone. The MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL Field Inspection

All fields shall undergo a Field Suitability Inspection and Approval Review Process. League Member(s) with field(s) found inadequate for MAYFL / AYFL sponsored games shall be allowed to request a reinspection once all findings have been adequately resolved. The MAYFL / AYFL Football Commission and the MAYFL / AYFL Vice Commissioner shall reserve the right to choose if a reinspection is or is not granted. MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL Football Commissioner to determine if and how these fields get scheduled to host MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL Football Commissioner no later than one week before the first MAYFL / AYFL sponsor regular-season game. The MAYFL / AYFL regular season shall be ten (10) weeks, with each team scheduled for eight (8) MAYFL / AYFL regular-season games.

1300.05 Game Day Security

Each Association shall provide a security plan to the MAYFL / AYFL Vice Commissioner and Secretary before MAYFL / AYFL 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

1300.06 Regular Season Home Games

Every league member meeting the MAYFL / AYFL team count and field requirements shall be allowed to host a minimum of four (4) weekends using their approved field location. MAYFL / AYFL 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.

1300.07 - 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 / AYFL-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 1300.5

1300.08 Game Day Admission Fee

Hosting MAYFL / AYFL League Members shall be permitted to charge a game day admission fee up to \$8.00 per adult person over the age of 15 years old and no more than \$3.00 per child 4 – 14 that is not a registered participant of MAYFL / AYFL. Parking fees shall not be allowed.

1300.09 MAYFL / AYFL Game Day Representative

MAYFL / AYFL shall provide a Game Day Supervisor. The supervisor shall be easily identifiable in as the MAYFL / AYFL White Hat

Responsibility of the Game Day Supervisor shall be

- to collect the officiating referee information for every MAYFL / AYFL-sponsored game;
- to submit scores to the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner or designee after each game;
- to document incidents, accidents, protest notifications, or MAYFL / AYFL Rule violations;
- to monitor the location of inclement weather conditions and confer with the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner, MAYFL / AYFL Vice Commissioner, or MAYFL / AYFL Commissioner for the next steps;
- to monitor the safety of the players, coaches, and fans and report any immediate concerns to the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner, MAYFL / AYFL Vice Commissioner, or MAYFL / AYFL Commissioner for the next steps.
- to conduct pre-game player and coaching certification against the MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL scheduled games to be eligible for the MAYFL / AYFL Post Season);

1300.10 MAYFL / AYFL Officials

MAYFL / AYFL shall require that all Officials/Referees report to the MAYFL / AYFL Game Day Supervisor thirty-minutes before the first game of the day and one (1) hour before the scheduled kickoff of their respective MAYFL / AYFL sponsored game(s) thereafter.

MAYFL / AYFL shall require that all field crews include at least one (1) certified official and no more than one first-year official. The total number of Officials/Referees shall be as follows

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

1300.11 MAYFL / AYFL Pre-Game Roster Check

The MAYFL / AYFL requires a pre-game roster check for each team to be conducted at two specific times: at the 5-minute mark of the 4th quarter of the preceding game, and ten (10) minutes before the first scheduled game of the day.

- During the roster check, teams must line up in opposite end zones and present their players for verification by the opposing team.
- All teams must have a minimum of ten (10) physically fit and properly dressed players ready at the scheduled start time of the game. Failure to meet the minimum number of players requirement will result in an automatic forfeit, awarding the game to the team that is prepared to play.
- Any team found guilty of delaying the pre-game roster check will be assessed a 15-yard delay of game penalty on their first offensive possession. Continued or deliberate attempts to delay may result in game forfeiture at the discretion of league officials.
- If both teams are found guilty of delaying the pre-game roster check the league official shall be allowed to start the playing clock and not stop it until both team have completed their on the field certification.

1300.12 Pre-game Grace Period

Teams with less than 10 players at the pre-game roster check shall forfeit their game to the opposing team only after the following the grace period granted has exceeded five (5) minutes beyond the MAYFL / AYFL scheduled kickoff.

1300.13 Late Player(s) Check-In

MAYFL / AYFL 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. 1300.12 shall be the exception to this rule

- 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.

1300.14 – 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 \$250. 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 / AYFL schedule.

1300.15 Game Day Coaches

All coaches on the field during the game shall be MAYFL / AYFL certified and in good standing with a current MAYFL / AYFL badge. MAYFL / AYFL shall allow each team to have

- one (1) certified Head Coach,
- six (6) Assist certified coaches, and
- one (1) certified Team Manager on the sideline during games.

Any team which allows unauthorized persons and those not displaying a MAYFL / AYFL-issued identification badge to roam its sidelines and other restricted areas on the field of play could incur a fine of no less than \$50 per person 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 / AYFL Badge Rule; The president or a designated members of the Association's board of directors when they feel it is in the best interest of the game or MAYFL / AYFL.

1300.16 On Field Coaches

To ensure effective play, MAYFL / AYFL shall allow on-field coaches in the following format for the following age groups. Coaches participating on the field at 5U, 6U, and 7U 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 20 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 / AYFL shall allow Two (2) certified 5U coaches with current badges on the field during play in all MAYFL / AYFL 5U games;
- MAYFL / AYFL shall allow One (1) certified 6U coach with a current badge on the field during play in all 6U games;
- MAYFL / AYFL shall allow One (1) certified 7U coach with a current badge on the field during play up until the 4th Friday of September, at which time no coach shall be on the field for the balance of the regular season and playoff series.

1300.17 Game Day Coaching Headsets

Press Box 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.

1300.18 Approved Game Day Balls

MAYFL / AYFL Sanctioned football manufacturers are Wilson® and Nike®. MAYFL / AYFL 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)	Ball Size	1stChoice	2ndChoice
5U / 6U	Pee Wee	Wilson K2	Nike 1000K
7U / 8U	Pee Wee	Wilson K2	Nike 1000K
9U / 10U	Junior	Wilson TDJ	Nike 1000Js
11U / 12U	Junior	Wilson TDJ	Nike 1000Js
14U	Youth	Wilson TDY	Nike 1000Y

1300.19 MAYFL / AYFL Game Structure

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

1300.20 MAYFL / AYFL Game Playing Clock Timing

- No game shall begin after 8:30 pm on a school night.
- MAYFL / AYFL Sponsored 5U games shall consist of four (4) six-minute quarters;
- MAYFL / AYFL 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.
- All teams shall be awarded three time-outs per half. Calling a Time Out, shall stop the game clock unless otherwise stated within these rules. Game officials shall keep an accurate count of the time outs used.

There shall be a 25-second play clock for all divisions except 5U, 6U, and 7U which shall have a 40-second play clock. Play Clock shall start once the ball has been set.

1300.21 Scoring

Scoring shall be the same as GHSA rules with the following exception. After a team crosses into the end zone for a touchdown that team shall be awarded six (6) points and given a chance to score extra points using one of the following declared options.

- **1 – Point Run/Pass:** Teams shall be awarded one (1) extra point for successful running or completing a pass into the end-zone from the 3-yard line after scoring a touchdown.
- **2 – Point Run/Pass:** Team shall be awarded two (2) extra points point for successful running or completing a pass into the end-zone from the 7-yard line after scoring a touchdown.
- **2 – Points Kick:** Teams shall be awarded two (2) extra points for successfully kicking the football between the goal posts after scoring a touchdown.

1300.22 Special Teams Rules

All MAYFL / AYFL Sponsored 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 / AYFL rule book.

Kick-off Rules: All MAYFL / AYFL Sponsored 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, and 14U games shall kick off from the kicking team's 40-yard line unless a penalty is being enforced. At the start of a game, the opening of a half and/or after all scoring plays, (unless the mercy rule is being applied).

5U Kick-off and Kicking Rules: There shall be "NO KICKING," including kickoff, Field Goal, or Punting for any MAYFL / AYFL-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 Safety, a 5U offense shall receive the ball at their 35-yard line.

6U/7U Kick-off, Punting and Field Goals Rules: At this age group there shall be **No Kick-Offs** 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 Safety, offense shall receive the ball at their 20-yard line.

In these age groups, teams are permitted to declare field goals, extra points, and punts under modified rules to promote safety and development. A declared field goal may occur on any down from any spot on the field. During a declared field goal attempt, the defense is not allowed to rush or cross the line of scrimmage but may raise their hands and jump to distract the kicker.

The offense has 5 seconds from the snap to complete the play, or it will be blown dead.

After a touchdown, teams may declare an extra point kick, with the ball spotted at the 3-yard line and following the same no-rush rule.

Teams may also declare a punt or elect a 25-yard walk-off with a 10-second runoff on the game clock. This option is available on any down prior to crossing the 50-yard line.

During a declared punt, no fake punts are allowed, and the defense must remain behind the line of scrimmage, only allowed to raise hands and jump. The receiving team may attempt to field the punt; if successful, the play ends at the spot of the catch. If the punt is missed or touched by either team, the ball is dead at the first point of contact or when kick ends.

No turnovers are allowed on any declared kicking play in these age groups.

8U/9U Punting and Field Goals Rules: In these age groups, all kicking plays must be executed kicks—walk-offs are not permitted.

All kicks, including punts and field goals, must be declared in advance, and the defending team is not allowed to rush the play.

Once a kick has been declared said kick must take place,

No Fakes allowed. Any team that attempts a fake shall be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The offense has 5 seconds from the snap to complete the kick; if they fail to do so, the play is blown dead and possession is turned over on downs in accordance with standard game rules.

If a declared punt or field goal does not cross the neutral zone, the ball is immediately declared dead and awarded to the receiving team at the previous spot.

Once the ball crosses the neutral zone, all punts and field goals become live and may be fielded or recovered under standard play conditions.

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.

1300.23 Snap Origination

MAYFL / AYFL teams shall have the option to originate the ball sideways for the snap. The ball shall be placed vertically for measurements.

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 / AYFL Sponsored 5U Game or when a team regardless of age group has lined up to attempt an extra point, field goals, and punts per GHSA.

5U Offensive Team cannot attempt the QB Sneak at this age group. QB if under center must complete one full step back before going forward through the either "A" gap.

Defensive Linemen shall not be allowed to line up over the "Center" in MAYFL / AYFL Sponsored 6U/7U/8U/9U/10U game in which a player receiving the snap is at least five (5) yards behind the center.

There shall be no restrictions in defensive alignment in MAYFL / AYFL 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.

1300.25 MAYFL / AYFL Game Day Slaughter Rule

When one team has a lead equal to or greater than twenty-four (24) points, the following slaughter rules shall go into effect. Under the MAYFL / AYFL 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 sixteen (16) points.

1300.26 MAYFL / AYFL Regular Season Overtime Rules

MAYFL / AYFL Regular season games that complete regulation play in a tie shall be allowed to play a maximum of two (2) overtimes. During a MAYFL / AYFL 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).

1300.27 MAYFL / AYFL Playoff Overtime Rule

MAYFL / AYFL 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 at the end of their series shall win the game. This format shall stay in effect until a winner is declared.

Note: Greatest Penetration is the spot where the team's series of play ended as a result of turnover on downs. Turnover as a result of a fumble or interception are returnable for a Defensive Touchdown at which time the game over with the scoring team been declared the winner, otherwise a turnover due to a fumble or interception is equaled to minus hundred yards (-75yds) penetration.

1300.28 Game Day Forfeits

MAYFL / AYFL shall require that both teams check in at the Host Site Director 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 Host Site Director by their required time shall be subject to a game forfeiture after MAYFL / AYFL has attempted to contact the violating team to assess the situation. In the event of a forfeit, the violating Association should 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 / AYFL shall remove any team from the MAYFL / AYFL schedule that has forfeited two games in a given season due to a lack of players or late arrivals. An association with two (2) or more forfeits should be fined an additional \$500 and shall meet with MAYFL / AYFL's Board of Directors. The opposing team shall be rewarded a (60-0) victory against the violating team.

1300.29 Unfinished MAYFL / AYFL Sponsored Games

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

1300.30 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 / AYFL Football Commissioner. The coach shall be fined per the MAYFL By-laws and given 48 hours to satisfy the fine with the MAYFL / AYFL Treasurer.

1300.31 Conduct Detrimental Clause

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

1300.32 Intoxication

No coach shall be intoxicated while coaching a MAYFL / AYFL 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.

1300.33 Misconduct of Players

Any player found to have actively participated in a fight before or during a MAYFL / AYFL-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 / AYFL 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 / AYFL Football Commissioner by the game officials. All suspensions shall be administered by the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner.

1300.34 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 / AYFL 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 / AYFL PLAYOFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIP

Each Age Conference shall conduct a playoff to determine one (1) respective MAYFL / AYFL League Champion which will compete to determine (1) MAYFL / AYFL Superbowl Champion. The number of playoff teams may vary based on team count and economic factors. The MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner shall determine the number of teams qualifying for league playoffs immediately after the MAYFL / AYFL player certification.

1400.01 MAYFL / AYFL Playoff Seeding Rules

The MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner shall be responsible for building the MAYFL / AYFL Playoff brackets with teams in good standing and deemed eligible for MAYFL / AYFL 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 Pool 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 Pool 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 / AYFL reserves the right to select the playoff location for each round of the playoffs for all age conferences. The MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner shall be responsible for ensuring that all MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL shall provide a team trophy to each regular-season pool champion team within that age conference. The specific size and design of these awards and/or patches shall be determined by the MAYFL / AYFL Football Commissioner.

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

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 / AYFL by the MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL for the duration of the suspension imposed by the former league 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 / AYFL 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 / AYFL.

1500.02 Ineligible Players

When any team has permitted a player that is declared ineligible to participate in MAYFL / AYFL by MAYFL / AYFL, 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 / AYFL.

1500.03 Middle School / High School Players

Players on a middle or high school roster shall be eligible to participate in MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL 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 / AYFL 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 / AYFL playoff eligible.

1500.04 Player Roster Limitations

A player can only play for one Team within MAYFL / AYFL. 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 / AYFL regular season and playoffs.

1500.05 Player / Team Ineligible Factor

No team shall be eligible to compete in MAYFL / AYFL if they are still an active member of another youth league. No player shall be eligible to compete in MAYFL if certified as a player on another team.

1500.06 Suspended Coach/Players

Any coach/player suspended from another youth football organization shall be ineligible to coach or compete in MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL appeals committee.

1500.07 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 / AYFL.

1600 - PROTEST RULES AND PROCEDURES

1600.01 Game Protest

Game Protest shall be made known to the Host Site Director and the Game Day Supervisor White Hat. 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 / AYFL by completing the protest form and paying the required protest fee of (\$100). The MAYFL / AYFL protest fee shall be paid electronically. The protest fee shall be refundable if MAYFL / AYFL rules in favor of the petitioner.

1600.02 Protest Ruling

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

1600.03 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 / AYFL'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 / AYFL sanctioned, MAYFL / AYFL approved, or MAYFL / AYFL 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 / AYFL.

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.