

# O-D YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## 2008 BYLAWS

### **1. Goals of the O-D Youth Football League Program:**

#### **1a. Objective:**

To create a fun, safe, and open football opportunity for youth ages 5 through 14 where the youth can learn the game of football along with strong fundamental life principles.

#### **1b. O-D Youth Football League Statement:**

The objective of the ODYFL is to develop and promote the ideals of fellowship, responsibility, hard work, sportsmanship, teamwork, and equality in youth while teaching them the game of football in a positive and safe environment. The community will be enhanced through the spirit of opportunity, competition, discipline, and fair play. O-D will accomplish these goals by providing a program that maintains the highest standards and seeking out coaches and other volunteers willing to teach and exemplify all of these ideals.

#### **1c. Academic Achievement:**

The ODYFL strongly encourages each player to maintain a sound academic record. League officials and all coaches shall do their best to encourage players to academic excellence especially when asked to do so by the player's parent or legal guardian.

### **2. Insurance:**

#### **2a. O-D Youth Football League provides insurance:**

ODYFL provides full medical and liability insurance for all players. Players without any type of insurance will automatically be covered through the ODYFL insurance provider which is a primary insurance. For players with their own primary insurance, the ODYFL insurance shall be a secondary insurance coverage. To be covered, a player must properly sign up and complete registration according to ODYFL rules.

### **3. League Equipment:**

#### **3a. O-D Youth Football League Equipment:**

ODYFL shall provide the following equipment to each player:

1. Football helmet and facemask
2. Shoulder pads
3. Hip pads
4. Thigh pads
5. Knee pads
6. Football pants & belt
7. Football team jerseys (practice and game)
8. Footballs (practice and game)

Each player shall provide the following equipment on their own:

1. Football shoes (cleats)
2. Teeth protector (mouthguard)
3. Socks & undergarments

All league and player provided equipment shall meet NOCSAE and National Federation of High School Association Standards. Jerseys shall fully cover shoulder pads and players abdomen area. All ODYFL-provided equipment shall be returned by each player at the end of each season in good working condition other than normal wear and tear. If the equipment is not returned, or returned damaged due to abuse, the player shall be charged for the replacement of that equipment.

#### **4. Organization:**

##### **4a. Presidents:**

There shall be a President (P) for each League. The responsibilities of the P shall be to seek out, approve, teach, and train volunteer coaches and other volunteers within their district. The P shall secure and maintain home playing and practicing areas used by the area. The P shall provide for the orderly conduct of the games played within the area as well as the fans in attendance.

##### **4b. Vice Presidents:**

Each League shall have at least one Vice President (VP), however multiple VP's may be placed. The responsibilities of the VP shall be to act as an assistant to the P. The VP may take charge of district home games in the absence of the P.

##### **4c. Treasurer/Secretary:**

It is recommended that each Area have a Treasurer/Secretary (TS). The responsibilities of the TS are to act as secretary to the Area presidency and to collect and account for all Area funds. The TS shall also manage the official Area website under the direction of the P. The TS shall be responsible to transfer collected funds to league officials when needed and outside firms as required.

##### **4d. Facilities Manager:**

It is recommended that each Area have at least one Facilities Manager (FM), however multiple FMs may be placed. The duty of the FM is to prepare and maintain Area playing fields for home games. This may include layout, striping, placing of field equipment, putting away field equipment, and making sure trash and debris are cleaned up after games.

##### **4e. Equipment Supervisor:**

It is recommended that each Area have an Equipment Supervisor (ES). The duties of the ES are to help in Area equipment handout and turn in and to care for all Area equipment. During football season the ES maintains and distributes replacement equipment that has been damaged or lost. The ES may collect funds for replacement equipment when it has been damaged due to improper use or when it has been lost by the player. In the event the ES collects funds the ES shall deliver those funds to the TS.

##### **4f. Team Moms:**

It is recommended that each team have a Team Mom organization. We recommend that one Team Mom be appointed by the coaching staff as the Head Team Mom and other team moms be recruited to help. The team moms would be responsible for providing drinks at games, treats for players at halftime, and planning team nights or team parties. They would also assist in sending information from coaches to players during the season.

**4g. Coaches:**

Each Area shall appoint one head coach for each team. Each team may also have up to four assistant coaches. All coaches must complete a background check and must sign a league coaching agreement before being given the opportunity to coach. The league coaching agreement outlines coaches required conduct throughout the season. The league coaching agreement may be reviewed on the O-D Youth Football League website. The league reserves the right to deny any person the opportunity to coach, at any time, at the league's sole discretion. Coaches should hold regular team practices each week. These practices shall be no longer than two consecutive hours each and in no case shall there be more than three practices per week. Games are in addition to practices and shall be held as the league schedules them. The league will strive to hold games on Saturdays as a first choice.

**4h. Officials:**

Game officials shall be provided by the league for each game. These officials shall be hired, scheduled, and regulated by the O-D Youth Football League.

**4i. Videographer:**

It is recommended that the TS designate a videographer to film all games and place the video on the web page developed by ODYFL to the team or club. This video will be used in a fund raising effort to allow Sponsors the opportunity to financially support their selected local team or club.

**5. Rules of Field Play and Playing Field:**

**5a. Playing Field:**

Selection of chain volunteers shall be the responsibility of the home team, but in no case may they be coaches from the home team. Chain volunteers must be 16 years of age or older.

**5b. Rules of Field Play:**

The rules of play for the ODYFL are the National High School Athletic Association rules for football with the following changes and/or exceptions:

- I. Each player shall play in all of their team games a minimum of eight (8) plays. These plays may be offensive, defensive, or special team's plays. If a coach desires to keep a player from playing for disciplinary or health reasons they must first obtain approval to do so from the parents/legal guardian of the youth, or from the President of that League. We strongly encourage coaches to play each of their players more than the eight-play minimum if possible. If a coach fails to play a player/players eight (8) plays or more the coach will be investigated by the league. If there is proper proof (video) that the coach failed to follow the eight (8)

play rule, the coach will be suspended for one (1) game. If there is a second violation, the coach will be suspended for two (2) games and if there is a third violation, the coach will be suspended indefinitely.

- II. Ball placement for games shall be as follows:
  1. Kickoffs, 80-yard field = 30-yard line of kicking team
  2. Kickoffs, 100-yard field = 40-yard line of kicking team
  3. After a safety or touchback = 20-yard line
  4. After touchdowns = Offense is given choice for a 1- or 2-point conversion. If a 1-point conversion, the ball shall be placed on the 3-yard line. If a 2-point conversion, the ball shall be placed on the 5-yard line. Once the selection has been made, the team may not reverse their decision.
- III. The game shall consist of four, 12-minute quarters for all teams. Other than on time-outs, the clock shall run without stopping until the last 2 minutes of the second and fourth quarters. During the last 2 minutes of the second and fourth quarters, the game clock shall be operated according to National High School Athletics Association rules. There shall be a total of 3 time-outs allowed per half, per team. Time outs shall last no longer than 60 seconds. The game clock shall be run and managed by the head official using a wrist watch chronograph. Halftime shall be no longer than 10 minutes. Eight minutes after halftime begins, the team captains will meet with the officials on the field.
- IV. The rules regarding blitzing are as follows:
  1. ODYFL places restrictions per weight class on blitzing.  
**Blitzing in the ODYFL is defined as a direct attack on the passer by any defensive player not playing one of the five interior line positions from tackle to tackle.** The passer for the blitzing rule is defined as the quarterback who is attempting to pass the football and not attempting to run the football. Once the football is transferred by the quarterback to another player by any method, or the quarterback attempts to advance the football forward, or the quarterback runs outside the standard tackle-to-tackle pocket, they are fair game to be tackled by any player at any place on the field.
  2. All teams shall be allowed to blitz according to National High School Athletic Association rules for football.
  3. The defense is not allowed to rush the punt.
  4. With the following exceptions, only 5 players are allowed to line up on the defensive line of scrimmage:
    - I. When the opposing offensive team is facing a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> down and 1 yard or less to go for the first down.
    - II. When the opposing offensive team is within the 10-yard line of the defensive team's end-zone

III. Defensive backs may start from the line of scrimmage when guarding split-out receivers.

**6. Players:**

**6a. Registration:**

Players and parents must register according to ODYFL rules to be eligible to play – no exceptions.

**6b. Requirements:**

The age of a player for a playing season shall be defined as the age of the player as of September 1 of that year. Standard maximum ages for youth in each Division are as follows:

- 5 years old and under
- 7 years old and under
- 9 years old and under
- 11 years old and under
- 12 years old and under
- 14 years old and under

Players who exceed these maximum ages for any reason shall play within the age group described above. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by a majority vote of the league board of directors.

**6d. Single Team Requirement:**

A player is allowed to play on only one ODYFL team in a single season.

**7. Draft**

If there are more than 27 players per age group under a specific district then the team will be split into two teams. Each team will be split evenly with a moderator involved in the split.

7a. Teams with 27+ players will practice its first week together with all the coaches. This will be the week for the coaches of each team to be able to get a good look and get to know each player. It also gives the kids the opportunity to get the conditioning out of the way.

**8. Tournaments**

The ODYFL has a committee on Tournaments which shall schedule and administer tournaments. All tournaments shall be posted on the website [odyfl.com](http://odyfl.com).