

West Alabama Youth Football Association (WAYFA)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

High school rules will be used unless it is written in the bylaws.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – SUPERSEDES:

This constitution supersedes all written and applied constitution and by-laws.

ARTICLE 2 – NAME:

The name of this organization shall be called the “West Alabama Youth Football Association”.

ARTICLE 3 – GOVERNING:

The association shall be governed by one representative from each organization, pending that the organization is not on probation.

ARTICLE 4 – PURPOSE:

The purpose of this association shall be to promote SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP and ATHLETICS, among young people.

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of the association shall be made up of teams approved by the present members of the association, except in the event of teams that have left the association in bad standing, or withdrew from the association prior, with monies owed. In such circumstances, these teams shall be allowed to reinstate only with the approval of the executive board and all charter honorary members.

ARTICLE 6 – OFFICERS:

The officers of the association shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The president shall preside at all meetings, represent the association, when necessary, appoint necessary committees, and administrate the policies of the Constitution and By-Laws and will disburse funds upon the absence of the Treasurer. The vice-president shall preside at the meetings in the absence of the president, assist in all administrating of the affairs of the association, and serve on committee as designated in the By-Laws. The secretary shall keep records of the membership, record minutes of the meetings, and carry on the association’s correspondence. The treasurer shall record financial matters, collect and disburse association’s funds. Every odd year there shall be an official election of Officers held.

During votes, the president will only cast a vote in the event of a tie.

The president has the authority to reschedule championship games due to adverse conditions and other special circumstances.

ARTICLE 7 - MEETINGS:

Meetings shall be held at such time and place as considered necessary by the WAYFA board. Each organization shall have at least one member present at all meetings, however no more than two members representing each organization.

INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS FINANCES:

Each Organization shall retain all monies collected (Gate, Concessions, etc) throughout the season. Also, each team will pay their portion of the projected budget by October 1st. Organizations not in good financial standing after October 1st will be subjected to the following:

1. Organizations on probationary status will be removed from the league following the season.
2. Organizations with Honorary (permanent) Member status will be moved immediately to probationary status and a vote at the completion of the season will be taken to determine eligibility for the following season.

Each organization shall pay all of their own expenses throughout the season including officials and paramedics. The league will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by individual organizations. Organizations that host playoff and/or jamboree games will be responsible for all costs associated with hosting the event.

LEAGUE FINANCES:

All league expenses will be compiled into one budget and the budget will be divided by the number of teams in the league. Each organization will then be required to pay their portion of the budget by October 1st of each year. The funds collected during the current year will then be used to fund the league for the following year. New teams in the league will be required to pay the budgeted amount times two. This will catch them up.

The league budget will include the following and can be amended to include additional items with a vote of the members.

- Trophies will be provided for the first and second place teams in each age division. The trophies should measure from 29” to 33” tall with three columns. The cost of the trophies should not exceed \$500.00.
- The cost of insurance will be determined by the bid accepted by the league.
- Any items determined essential to operate the league.

ARTICLE 8 – AMENDMENTS:

This constitution may be amended by a majority of the members present, provided that more than 50% of the leagues Honorary Members are present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 9 – ORGANIZATION:

Any organization requesting membership with the association must have the approval of the majority of the association presidents and executive board.

Any organization requesting membership, that were prior members, must have paid all monies owed, and the 100% approval of the executive board, and 100% of the charter honorary board members. The charter honorary board members are: Northport, Hillcrest Red, Gordo, Pickens County, Hale County, Brookwood, and Central; additional members will be added after probation period has expired.

ARTICLE 10 – LIABILITY OF WAYFA:

The association, executive board, honorary board members, shall not be held liable for actions taken by individual organizations, or individuals within organizations. Each organization is responsible for its actions, and individuals in the respected organizations. The association governs only what is covered in this constitution and by-laws, and can be held harmless in any other matters.

BY – LAWS

ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP:

All organizations must pay all dues by October 1st to be considered in good standing with the league.

ARTICLE 2 – INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION BY LAWS:

Each organization may have rules and regulations to govern the individual organization; however, these rules and regulations will not supersede the WAYFA Constitution, WAYFA By-Laws, or AHSAA rules.

ARTICLE 3 – PROBATION:

All new organizations (after 2003) shall be on a three (3) year probation. Probationary organizations shall not vote on the acceptance of other new organizations, or other probationary organizations vote to receive permanent member status.

The executive board shall have the sole authority to place any organization, or member thereof, on probation for actions detrimental to the association as a whole, or individual association.

The executive board shall have the sole authority to fine, suspend, and expel any member or members of organizations, in the association, for any violation of this constitution, by-laws, or conduct detrimental to the association as a whole.

ARTICLE 4 – HEAD COACHES:

All organization presidents must provide a list of all head coaches to the WAYFA. All head coaches should the coaches meetings prior to the start of the season. All head coaches are responsible for their assistant coaches. A file will be kept on each coach regarding conduct and rules violations. Each case will be examined and decided upon the extent of the violation by the ethics committee which in turn will be appointed by the President. Any violations could result in fines, suspensions, and/or discharge from WAYFA.

ARTICLE 5 – VOTING:

Each organization shall have one vote upon the end of the organization probation period. The president or representative of that organization shall vote on matters where voting is necessary.

ARTICLE 6 – ETHICS:

The association supports and demands ethical conduct of all coaches, players and spectators.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

The ethics committee shall be appointed by the WAYFA President and shall consist of the presidents from different regions or localities. However the teams are divided, someone from each division shall be represented.

PROCEDURE

Immediately following the game, practice, or situation where the alleged violation has taken place, the organization's president reporting the violation, shall - in PRIVATE – discuss the issue with the president of the organization in violation. Within 48 hours of the violation, a letter of complaint stating the ethics violation and all details thereof, must be delivered to the WAYFA president or a member of the executive board.

Upon receipt of this letter, WAYFA president will deliver the letter of complaint to the President of the organization of the alleged violation(s), this time limit will be extended based on circumstance beyond the control of either party.

MEETING

The ethics committee shall call a meeting at which time the president of the organization making the complaint shall read aloud the letter of complaint and details therein. After reading the complaint, the alleged offender shall be allowed to respond, after which time, both organizations shall state their position on the matter and leave the ethics committee meeting. The committee shall then recommend to the executive board on what, if any, action should be taken.

PENALTY

A penalty of \$500.00, payable to the WAYFA, shall be assessed to the organization found to be at fault in the allegation not excluding game forfeitures, dismissals or coaches and/or players, or total removal of any organization from membership within the WAYFA.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLAINTS

In special cases where individual organizations cannot reach agreement on internal organizational problems or issues, and the WAYFA board is called to resolve such disagreements, the WAYFA board will meet with individual organization to try and work out problems, discuss allegations, and try to resolve issues. WAYFA has the right to audit all financial records, remove individuals from offices, coaches, players, and spectators from participating at WAYFA functions, or to place organizations as a whole on probation, or total removal of any organization found to be detrimental to the WAYFA.

WAYFA POSITION

The WAYFA is the governing body for all organizations in our league. However, all issues that are of a local league level need to be resolved at that level. Only at the exhaustion of all local organizational control should an issue be brought before the WAYFA board. It is each organization's responsibility to resolve all matters within the local organization, without the association being affected.

ARTICLE 7 – ORGANIZATIONAL REGISTRATION:

Each organization shall hold registration on any date(s) chosen by the organization.

ARTICLE 8 – VERIFICATION OF PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

At Jamboree weigh in, each organization shall provide to the association:

- Team Rosters, containing player’s age, weight, and birth date.
- A current photograph of each player with playing jersey.
- A legible copy of birth certificate or equivalent valid birth or health record.
- Association release form properly executed by parent or legal guardian of each player granting to the association power of attorney to verify all records.

Teams, that do not present a complete Team Book at weigh in, will be fined \$100.

ARTICLE 9 – PRACTICE:

There can be no practice of players or cheerleaders until insurance is effective. Practice will be helmets only the first week and full pads will be allowed the second week. Practices will be limited to three (3) days per week beginning the third week of practice; however, unlimited practice days the first two weeks of practice. A \$500.00 penalty will be assessed to any organization for violation of this article, along with forfeiture of any post-season play.

ARTICLE 10 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

The association supports the NO PASS – NO PLAY RULE:

All players must be on the official roster at the jamboree to be eligible. No player can be added to the roster after the roster has been certified at the weigh in on jamboree day.

AGE

August 1st is the cut-off age eligibility. Play the season at whatever age the child is on July 31st.

WEIGHT

Weigh in weights apply to those players playing the positions of offensive or defensive backs, ends, or linebackers. A player will only be weighed once at weigh-in and the weight is recorded.

ROOKIES – 7/8 yr olds 85lbs

Organizations have the option of player eligibility at age 5 or 6.

JUNIORS – 9/10 yr olds 115 lbs

SENIORS – 11/12 yr olds 135 lbs

The penalty assessed to organizations for violations of this article shall be forfeiture of game. If any president, officer, or coach knowingly violates this article, they will be barred from the WAYFA.

OFFICIAL WEIGH IN

All teams shall be weighed prior to Jamboree game. Final roster should be presented at Jamboree unless roster has not been filled with the minimum (15) number of players. There shall be a WAYFA official present at the weigh-in as well as an additional team president. There shall be no unofficial weigh in of players. Organizations in violation of the official weigh in will be penalized as follows:

- One player absent – no fine
- 2 – 3 players absent - \$50.00
- 4 – 5 players absent - \$150.00
- 6 or more players absent - \$350.00

If a child is unable to be present at the official weigh-in that child or players must be present at the next WAYFA meeting otherwise they will be considered linemen for the entire season.

PLAYOFF WEIGHT-IN

All players with weights subject to the limitations above shall be weighed prior to and on the day of the championship games.

ARTICLE 11 – JERSEY NUMBERS

Players whose weight exceeds the weights above shall be numbered 50-79 and automatically be known as Down Linemen and must be in a minimum 2-point stance.

ARTICLE 12 – NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM

There shall be no try-outs for a team, no cutting of players and each organization shall sign up all players up until jamboree.

If a team starts with 11-players and loses a player the game will not be forfeited and the game will continue.

If a team has ten or fewer players, they forfeit and game is still played. Ten minute limit for players to show – will be played like a scrimmage (clock runs).

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE:

Players providing proof of change of residence may be added to team subject to limitations below: A player may transfer teams if he moves from one division to another division. There will be NO transfers permitted after Jamboree.

ARTICLE 13 – PLAYERS CHANGING ORGANIZATIONS:

No player may change organizations after the association release documents have been executed, without proper proof of change of residence. Special cases are left to the discretion of the ethics committee. No player may change after Jamboree.

ARTICLE 14 – PLAYERS MOVING UP WITHIN ORGANIZATION:

A player may move up only to fill a roster of the next age group. The WAYFA board must be notified of this move and all safety issues addressed.

If, after a player is moved up and then is needed to fill the team in the player's own age group, they can be moved back down to fill their respective age group team.

No child will be permitted to move to the next age team if there is a two (or more) year age difference.

A player may only play in one game within one day.

ARTICLE 15 – ROSTERS:

Each coach must present, to the opposing coach and the press box, a legible complete official team roster. The roster must contain the players name, age, weight (B/L) and jersey number. A player can only play with one league and be on one roster. A player CAN NOT play Junior High (Middle School) Ball. A player that participates in a junior high game is not eligible to participate in WAYFA.

ARTICLE 16 – GAMES:

ADMISSION: \$3.00 for everyone 6 yrs old and up. Coaches, players, cheerleaders, and referees are excluded from admission; however, coaches and referees must present their ID badge.

DAY & TIME: Games will be played on Saturday mornings starting at 9:00am. There will be a ten minute intermission between games. Organization presidents may change time/day of games upon agreement of both parties, however if both parties cannot agree the games will begin at 9:00 AM. The home team is responsible for notifying officials of any game change. The head official must be contacted by Wednesday prior to the game.

CANCELLATION OF GAME: The WAYFA board has the sole authority to schedule or cancel games. In the event of a game cancellation, the game must be rescheduled within a five day period. The home team will designate the day to be rescheduled. If the opposing organization or team refuses to play the canceled game, the refusal shall constitute a forfeiture of all games and a \$500.00 penalty payable to the home team organization.

REFRESHMENTS: The home team organization shall furnish cheerleaders a soft drink or juice at half time and shall furnish players and referees a drink after the game.

OFFICIAL FOOTBALLS:

Rookies	Wilson K2
Juniors	Wilson K2
Seniors	Wilson TDJ

Footballs shall be properly inflatable.

SIDELINE PERSONNEL: Organization president, 7 coaches, 2 cheerleader sponsors, 2 water boys, 1 Paramedic and a photographer are allowed on the sideline. NO CHEERLEADER MASCOTS UNDER AGE 5 MAY BE ON THE SIDELINE WHILE GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED. PARAMEDICS, IN UNIFORM, ARE EXCLUDED FROM LIMITATION.

PLAYOFFS OR SPECIAL GAMES: Playoff games are determined by WAYFA each year. The north division will host the championship games on even years (2010, 2012...) and the south division will host on odd years (2011,2013...). Destination of the game will be decided amongst the teams within that division.

ALL Teams will play in the playoffs with the 1st and 2nd place teams receiving a bye for the 1st round. The first round will be 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5. The second round will be 1 vs. the winner of 4 vs. 5 and 2 vs. the winner of 3 vs. 6.

In some instances, the admissions may be changed by the WAYFA board to correspond to the event being held. Such as benefit games or special circumstances.

ARTICLE 17 – SPECIAL WAYFA RULES:

All organizations shall have properly cut and lined fields with coaches and players box, have knowledgeable persons operating the clock and chains, chain carriers can not coach.

OFFICIALS: No less than three officials shall be obtained from the official association per game. In the event that there are less than three officials present, by mutual consent of both presidents, the game will be played with two officials and the results will be official. The officials will be scheduled by the WAYFA board. The home team will be responsible for paying the officials for each game. Officials will be paid \$40.00 per official, per game (3-Officials \$120.00 per game plus travel). In the case of only two officials, the attending officials will still receive the same amount per official. They will not split the money due to the third official.

INCLIMENT WEATHER: In the case of rain, games will proceed as normal. If distant lightning is visible, the officials will monitor the situation. In the case of streak lightning, all game play will be stopped and will continue thirty (30) minutes after the last streak of lightning is seen. The officials are responsible for keeping the time. If team members leave the field and do not return for the conclusion of the game and there are not enough players to continue, the game will be forfeited.

Officials CANNOT dictate game start times. If games end early, next game start time can not be moved by officials without the consent of both coaches.

TIE BREAKERS: We will follow High School rules for overtimes.

ROOKIES (7/8):

High School Rules with the exception of:

- No Kicking
- Start on 35 yard line
- Punt – move ball 30 yards (can not advance in to the Red Zone)
- Clock – 7 minute quarters. 45 second play clock.
- Mercy Rule - @ 28 point lead; pull starters; run hot clock; clear score
- Instead of kick-offs, the ball will be spotted on offensive team's 40 yard line.
- Two defensive and two offensive coaches allowed on the field with players.
- Once huddle is broken, coaches on the field must back out of the way and be physically still
- Tackling – Head up tackles ONLY. – Violations will be penalized

- Fumbles – Offense and Defense Linemen can not advance the ball.

JUNIORS (9/10):

- Punts are dead – no advance, but hands up on defense is allowed
- Kick-off is live – all weights can be on kick-off team. Lineman only in front line but not allowed to advance
- Extra Point – Kick = 2 points; Pass = 2 points; Run = 1 point.
- High School Clock – No Exceptions – 8 minute quarters.
- Mercy Rule - @ 28 point lead; pull starters; run hot clock; clear score
- Tackling – Head up tackles ONLY. – Violations will be penalized
- Pulling guard only for Juniors and Seniors.
- Fumbles – Offense and Defense Linemen can not advance the ball.
- 25-second play clock

SENIORS (11/12):

- High School Rules
- All kicking is live
- 8 minute quarters
- Mercy Rule - @ 28 point lead; pull starters; run hot clock; clear score
- Lineman must have back numbers 50-79
- Punters must have a back number.
- Tackling –Seniors outside eye on tackles (outside eye is defined as outside of one helmet has to clip the opponent helmet). 1st Time Violation will be a warning 2nd violation will be called illegal procedure penalized 5-yards.
- Pulling guard only for Juniors and Seniors.