

ORGANIZATIONAL RULES

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization will be known as the Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference. The Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference is a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Conference shall be to promote the game of football in the area, to inspire children to practice good health, citizenship, and character, to bring area children together through the means of a common interest in sportsmanship, fair play, and fellowship, to impart to the game elements of safety, sanity, intelligent supervision, and to keep the welfare of the children first.

In addition to the above general purposes, specific purposes are as follows:

- A. To acquaint the children with the fundamentals of the game, running, passing, kicking, blocking, and tackling.
- B. To teach through the game sportsmanship, love of the game, and the ability to take a few knocks and bumps.
- C. To promote safe play by encouraging children to play in their own weight and age division and preventing unsportsmanlike conduct.

ARTICLE III – LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

- A. The league shall be composed of no less than four organizations whose teams have met the eligibility requirements listed in these by-laws. The fiscal year shall run January 1 through December 31.
- B. All original member organizations will be charter members. They will each have 2 votes on all matters of the league.
- C. New organizations will have 1 vote for a 3 year probation period, when entering their 4th year they will be then become a charter member and have all rights that go along with charter membership.
- D. Only charter member may vote on new organizations wanting to join the league. To become a member of the league your organization must have a 100% vote of all charter members.
- E. No organization may join the Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference if they have a population over 12,000 in their community. Also a community offering Jr. High Football programs will not be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board of Directors and the Executive Board will be members from each Charter members organization. They will serve from January through December of the current year.
- B. The Executive Board will consist of a President, Vice President/Treasurer and Secretary.
- C. Each organization will be allowed to hold only 1 Executive Board seat each year.
- D. The Board of Directors will consist of 1 representative from each charter organization. The representatives will be appointed by their own organization.

ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATIONS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each new organization will be required to pay \$100 to the league.
- B. Each organization will be required to pay \$50 each year to the league.
- C. All organizations yearly fees will be suspended if the League treasury goes over \$1000, whenever the treasury amount goes under that \$1000 then the organizations yearly fees will be reinstated.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Meetings will rotate between Charter members organizations. Rotation:

Nashville

Waterloo

Pinckneyville

Columbia

Dupo

Regular meetings will be held from March through November each year. Meetings will be held every 1st Wednesday of each month at 7pm. The month of February will be for special meetings, such as if there are changes to be made with the by-laws or the rules of play.

Only two members from each organization will be allowed to participate at the SWIYFC meetings.

ARTICLE VII – LIABILITY

- A. The league officers, coaches, managers, referees, and all other supervisory personnel will not be held responsible for injuries to persons or damage to property.
- B. Each organization will be responsible for all coaches, parents, players and spectators.

ARTICLE VIII – TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. Each team shall register a maximum of 32 players and a maximum of 6 coaches. No player can be added to the Roster after the Wednesday before the 2nd weekend of games, providing the roster doesn't exceed 32 players or result in splitting a team.
- B. Splitting of teams must be done as equal as possible considering age. Example: If you have 34 players signed up for a division with 17 younger and 17 older. The split should be no greater or less than 3 players as it relates to age. 15/19 won't be acceptable.
- C. All team rosters will be turned in at the September league meeting.
- D. Team rosters will consist of name, addresses, game card numbers, date of birth, age and weight of each player. They will also have coach's names and phone numbers listed.
- E. There will be an official weigh in for each team. An identification card will be issued for each player. These cards will list the name, date of birth (to be verified by a birth certificate, baptismal record, military ID card, passport or past player ID card), grade in school, name of school, weight, organization and division, team number, head coaches name, a current picture(not more than 2 years old) of the child affixed to the card. Each card will be stamped with an official stamp covering part of the picture and initialed by a League officer. A play down player's card will have the Date of Birth highlighted in Yellow. All ID cards must be individually laminated by week 2 of the season.
- F. The home team is responsible for furnishing weigh in equipment. A representative of the opposing team is to witness the weigh in. Two rosters of the player's names and numbers, in numerical order, must be available at the weigh in. Rosters must be typed or printed legibly. The team coach must have the Leagues ID cards available at all games. All cards must be completed for the player to be eligible for that game. The mandatory weigh in will commence no earlier than 30 minutes before the scheduled game time and no later than fifteen minutes prior to a League scheduled game time and the identification cards will be provided to the opposing coach at that time. In addition, the identification cards must be provided to the opposing coach to review at anytime during the game in case of a protest.

- G. An additional weigh in will be provided at half time of each game for any late arrivals or overweight players. Example: If scheduled game time is 1:00 p.m., any player arriving or is overweight after 12:45 p.m. must weigh in at halftime and is ineligible for the first half.
- H. If a card(s) is lost, the organization must notify the President of the League, prepare a new card and have it authenticated by the President of the league or next ranking officer available, using the official League stamp.

ARTICLE IX – INSURANCE

All organizations must carry insurance on all teams. Certification of Insurance must be submitted to the league before practices begin. The 1st installment will be due at the regularly scheduled July Meeting. The remainder will be due at the regularly scheduled September meeting.

ARTICLE X – PLAYER ELIGIBLTY

	AGES	WEIGHT		PLAY DOWN RULES
FRESHMEN	6 & 7 Years Old	70 lbs & under	Any Position	
		71 lbs & above	Lineman Position	
SOPHOMORE	8 & 9 Years Old	90 lbs & under	Any Position	8 yr olds - 55lbs or under may play Freshman division
		91 lbs & above	Lineman Position	
JR VARSITY	10 & 11 Years Old	110 lbs & under	Any Position	10 yr olds – 70 lbs or under May play Sophomore division
		111 lbs & above	Lineman Position	
VARSITY	12, 13 & 14 Years Old	140 lbs & under	Any position	12 yr olds – 90 lbs or under May play Jr Varsity division
		141 lbs & above	Lineman Position	

- A. Minimum age for participation shall be six years of age. Organizations who wish to include participation of 5 year olds may do so, but will want to acknowledge that not all organizations must offer participation to 5 year olds. The player’s age shall be considered that as of September 1st of the current year. No Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference player will be eligibly in a like sport defined by IHSA rules (excepting Punt, Pass, & Kick activities). No Southern Illinois Youth Football Conference player shall have completed the 8th grade, nor be in 9th grade.
- B. No change of team classification will be permitted after the child has participated in any League game.
- C. A weight allowance (growth factor) will be provided. In the Freshman, Sophomore, Jr. Varsity and Varsity divisions, an allowance of one pound every 2 weeks starting with the second week of the regular season game.
- D. A player can not turn 15 during the designated season including playoffs

ARTICLE XI – GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

- A. All teams will follow the IHSA Rules unless otherwise noted.
- B. Any Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference member organization hosting a football camp must conclude said camp by the last weekend in June.
- C. Practice may begin Five (5) weekends prior to the Labor Day.
- D. The Declaration of Teams will be no later than 21 days prior to Labor Day.
- E. The scheduling committee will distribute the home schedules to all clubs 3 days after the Declaration Date.
- F. The Scheduling Meeting will be held the Saturday following the Declaration Date.
- G. The season will consist of a Nine (9) week schedule, starting following Labor Day weekend. The top 2 teams in each Division except for freshman will participate in a One (1) weekend post season.
- H. Each team will control their fans and keep them at least 5 yards behind the players bench and boundary line. This shall be accomplished by use of a restraining line. The home team shall be responsible for providing said restraining line. The restraining line is defined as a visible barrier, portable or permanent, at least 2 feet off the ground, running the length of the field, end zone, on both sides of the field. Only the following personnel will be allowed in the above mentioned boundaries: players, coaches, game officials, Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference Representatives, Athletic Directors, Chain Gang, Stats Person and Emergency personnel.
- I. All team personnel, maximum of 6 adult coaches/statisticians (age 17+), shall stay in a designated box as defined by I.H.S.A. rules during the game time. Coaches and statisticians shall wear some kind of visible organizational identification at all games.
- J. A copy of the Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference by laws will be available at all games at all playing fields.
- K. All playing fields are subject to inspection and approval by Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference Board at any time.
- L. Scores will be kept in all divisions
- M. All games shall consist of 4, 10 minute quarters.
- N. There shall be free substitution.
- O. There shall be a 10 minute half time between the second and third quarters.
- P. All players will play a minimum of 8 plays per game. Plays do not include kick-offs, receiving teams plays or extra point plays.
- Q. All League games will play on Saturday and Sundays. Freshman, Sophomore and Jr. Varsity division games will be scheduled on Saturday or Sundays. All Varsity games will be scheduled on Sunday's unless agreed upon by both organizations involved.
- R. Scheduled home games shall be at least 2 hours between start of games. In the event of a serious injury, teams will be allowed to continue up to 15 minutes of the next game's starting time's grace period.
- S. Points after touchdown shall be 2 points for a kick and 1 point for a run or pass.
- T. Regular season games shall consist of 4 quarters. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, one overtime will be played. Post season play off games will include unlimited overtimes, if necessary.
- U. Equipment shall be as follows: A durable helmet approved by NOCSAE with face guard(may not be exposed metal), shoulder pads, pants, thigh pads, knee pads, mouth pieces, hip pads, tail bone pads and shoes, which meet the requirements as outlined in the National Federation of State High School Associations rule book and adopted by the Illinois High School Association. Socks, a cup, kidney pads and supporters are optional.

- V. Two game jerseys are required. A colored 1 for home games and a white 1 for away games. The front and back of jersey shall be reserved for the numbers, team name and players name only. Numbers shall be a minimum of 6 inches on the front and 8 inches on the back.
- W. A team should wear no duplicate numbers.
- X. The home team shall furnish all the following:
 - 1. Game Ball Specifications – Freshman, Sophomore, and Jr Varsity divisions must use a ball with a width circumference measuring approximately 18 inches and length circumference measuring approximately 24 inches. Example: Wilson F 1382 and/or K-2 balls. The Varsity division must use a ball with a sixth circumference measuring approximately 19 inches and a length circumference measuring approximately 26 inches. Example: Rawlings KRG and/or the Pro 5 Jr balls. (The Jr Varsity division has the option to use either size ball). The offensive team in any division has the option to use any ball meeting the above specification and as outlined in the I.H.S.A. rules.
 - 2. Weigh In Scale – Scales must be a balance type, no spring type.
 - 3. Yard Markers – All yard markers must meet I.H.S.A. safety requirements.
 - 4. Official Time – A working Time Clock must be displayed at each field. When an official time is being kept on the field, any coach may request and must be given the time remaining in a quarter.
 - 5. Penalties – All preliminary and final penalty reports will be given to both team benches by the referee.
 - 6. Officials – Each home team will provide at least 3 officials for each game, at least 2 of these officials must be licensed and in uniform, and all officials must be at least 18 years of age. Prior to game time, all licensed officials are required to show their license and identification if requested. A game may start with 2 licensed officials if mutually agreed upon by the opposing coaches. If the 3rd official is not present by the start of the 3rd quarter, the game is over and the result is a forfeit by the home team. No coaches, parent, or sibling may officiate a game in which their team and/or family member participates. This rule is to avoid a possible conflict of interest.
- Y. Awards will be presented at the League's discretion. Trophies and plaques will be approximately equal monetary value.
- Z. A sportsmanship plaque is awarded for sportsmanship demonstrated by spectators, coaches, and players. Any sportsmanship points deducted on game cards must have an explanation of why points were deducted on the reverse side of the game card and signed by the official. If no explanation of deduction is given on the back of the card, the sportsmanship points will remain at 3 points.
- AA. Game cards of all football games must be completed correctly and must be received by the official recorder, bearing postmark no later than the Tuesday following the Saturday or Sunday games played.

RULES OF PLAY

STRIPERS = unlimited weight players

A. No striper will be allowed to advance the ball unless:

The striper was a Defender at the onset of the play and was the first to touch the ball after the change of possession. Should this same player fumble, the play will be ruled dead immediately.

B. Regarding Kick offs, and Kick off returns, Stripers will be on the front line at the onset of the play.

C. A Striper will not be allowed to advance the ball on any special teams play.

D. There will be no more than 5 stripers on the field at any time.

E. There will be no Defensive stripers allowed wider than their inside foot at the midline of the furthest covered Offensive lineman from the ball. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.

F. Each Striper shall have an adhesive “stripe” of contrasting color, and at least one inch in width on their helmet from ear hole to ear hole.

G. All Stripers will be “covered” by a Non-striper on the Offensive Line of Scrimmage. A Striper cannot be the outermost player on the line of scrimmage. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.

FRESHMEN DIVISION

A. Two coaches will be allowed on the field. Coaches will not give verbal instructions or aid the players in any way after the snap of the ball. 1st offense will result in a warning. 2nd offense will result in the coach being removed from the field of play for the remainder of the game.

B. When a team requests to punt, the ball will be an automatically advanced 20 yards from the line of scrimmage.

C. There will be a maximum of 6 players on the defensive line. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.

D. No defenders over the Center. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.

E. No blitzing. All defensive players who are not playing on the defensive line will be at least 4 yards off the line of scrimmage.

F. There will only be two (2) Kickoffs per game, 1st and 3rd quarters. Following a score, the ball will be placed on the 40 yard line to resume play.

G. A 35 second play clock will be utilized in the Freshman Division.

H. Two Referees may be used instead of Three in Freshman Division only.

SOPHMORE DIVISION

- A. No rushing of the punter and no one leaves the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. Once declared, the offense must punt the ball. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.
- B. There will be a maximum of 6 players in the box on the defensive line. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.
- C. There will be a maximum of one (1) blitzing player. All defensive players who are not playing on the defensive line will be at least 3 yards off the line of scrimmage. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.
- D. There will be no defender over the center at the snap of the ball. A 5 yard penalty will be assessed for each violation.

JUNIOR VARSITY DIVISION

All IHSA rules will apply.

VARSITY DIVISION

All IHSA rules will apply.

GAME PROTEST

There will be only 2 areas of condition for which a game may be played Under Protest:

- A. Issues of player eligibility
- B. Field Conditions
 - 1. Clock Function or lack there of
 - 2. Scale Function of lack there of
 - 3. Improper number of officials

The Game Officials, A member of The Board of Directors, and the Opposing Head Coach must be notified as soon as possible after the alleged infraction has occurred. The protesting coach must write a summary of the alleged infraction on the back of the game card. In case of a protest, the game will be played in its entirety unless there is an immediate safety concern for the players. The protest can be initiated at anytime, but will require a \$100 deposit by the coach/team that initiates the protest. At first convenience after the end of the game, the Board of Directors will appoint a committee to determine the validity, and subsequent outcome of the protest. If the protest is upheld the deposit will be returned to the protesting team. If denied the deposit money will be placed into the general league treasury.

PLAYOFFS

The championship games will include only the top two teams in each age division (except Freshman). The games will be played on one day at same field. The opportunity to host these games will be on a rotational basis.