



2008 BOY'S FOOTBALL RULES

ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible for a team in the CYO, a player must be an acknowledged member of his parish or attend the parish grade school.
2. A player can play on only one CYO team in the same sport.
3. No CYO team may compete in more than one league during the same season.
4. Flagrant violations will result in the dismissal of the players and may result in the forfeiture of all games played when violation was discovered.
5. CYO football is designed to be a boys' sports program that is played in the fall concurrent with girls' basketball.
6. If a youth moves from one parish to another during the school year, he may finish the season with the original parish or he may transfer to the new parish at the time of the move. The individual must play with the new parish during the next season.

LEAGUES

Pony Football

The Pony football league consists of 3rd & 4th grade boys. A player cannot be 11 years of age before August 1 of the current year. **Second graders are not permitted to play.**

Reserve Football

The reserve league consists of 5th & 6th grade boys. A player cannot be 13 years of age before August 1 of the current year. Fourth graders may play only if necessary to field a team. CYO strongly recommends 4th grade boys play Pony football if it is available as an option.

Varsity Football

The varsity football league consists of 7th & 8th grade boys. A player may not be 15 years of age before August 1 of the current year. Sixth graders may play only if necessary to field a team; fifth graders are not eligible to compete in varsity football. CYO strongly recommends 6th grade boys play Reserve football if it is available as

an option.

The possibility of leagues for individual grades will be determined on an annual basis.

PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

CYO football players will be classified in one of the following categories:

1. Attached-belonging to a parish or member of a school that fields a varsity, reserve, or pony team.
2. Unattached-belonging to a parish or member of a school that does not field a varsity, reserve, or pony team.

Unattached players may be assigned to play on other parish teams if it meets with the approval of that parish. Their assignment must be made through and with the approval of the CYO Office.

If a parish or a member team will have 22 or more players from its own parish or school, it may not pick up players from other parishes to add to its roster. If additional players register during the summer the number will be raised to 25. A parish or member team may not dismiss any players for the sake of a merger or combination team.

If a parish or member team's roster drops below 22/25 players, a member of the parish or school can be added, however to add a player or players outside the parish or school, it must have the approval of the CYO Office.

COMBINATIONS & MERGERS

If two or more parishes find it necessary to combine or merge to form a single team in order to participate in CYO football, they shall submit a formal request to the CYO Office by June 1. All eligible students of merged parishes must be afforded the opportunity to participate. Such requests must include the approval of the athletic commission of each parish and the approval of the pastor of each parish. The CYO Office will make the final decision on the merger/combination.

Mergers and combinations are not permanent. They are only valid during the season for which they are granted. Parishes must re-apply each year.

For parishes that have historically merged with another parish and due to the past mergers, field availability and equipment usage makes separate parish teams unfeasible the following guidelines have been established:

When the team exceeds the 22/25-player rule from one parish but has historically merged with another parish, the football program has two options:

1. Discontinue the merger and have teams from distinct separate parishes.
2. Continue the merger, but separate teams in each grade must be fielded.
(Example: for a 7/8 grade merger team when parish exceeds the rule of 22/25 the merger may continue but you must field 2 separate varsity teams)

A decision must be made by the affected parishes/schools and a proposal submitted to the CYO Office by June 1.

PLAYERS WEIGHTS

The weight policy established by CYO must be strictly followed. Any deviation may result in a forfeit. The weight policy will be as follows:

The players may be weighed in full uniform and equipment or when necessary the minimum they can be weighed in is gym shorts and game jersey, the game jersey is necessary for identification purposes.

The maximum an athlete on the pony level may weigh is 120 lbs.

The maximum an athlete on the reserve level may weigh is 140 lbs.

The maximum an athlete on the varsity level may weigh is 170 lbs.

No one above the stated weight limit is permitted to play. **CYO cannot legally allow any trade-off of players that do not make weight.** If this violation occurs there will be a double forfeit.

CYO does permit players that exceed the weight limit to participate in practice as long as they complete a CYO release form.

All players must be weighed before each game. The coaches should conduct weigh-ins at least 20-30 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off times or earlier if mutually agreeable to both teams. At weigh-ins rosters with names and numbers are to be exchanged between teams.

SCALES

Medical Detecto scales are mandatory. A scale company should calibrate this scale annually. Accurate scales are a must. If a visiting coach challenges the weight, then an average of the weights on both scales will be used as the official weight. Disputes over weight must be settled at the weigh-ins. The game officials are not to be involved.

GAMES/GAME RULES

Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and Federation rules will apply in all cases that are not superseded by CYO rules.

Noted exceptions:

1. All Pony games will be 7 minute quarters Reserve and Varsity football games will be 8-minute quarters.
2. Appropriate numbering is strongly recommended.
3. Pony and Reserve regular season game can end in a tie. The Varsity will use one tiebreaker as explained below. The tiebreaker rule will be used in the event of a tie in the playoffs or championship games.
4. For Pony games, all kick-offs will be from the 50-yard line.
5. For Pony games, a punt is a free kick. There is no rushing the punter by the defense under any circumstances. If the ball is snapped over the punter's head, the punter can retrieve the ball, but take no more than three steps forward before punting. NO player on the punting team may release downfield until the ball is kicked. There will be no release by the punting team and no rush by the receiving team until the ball is kicked - you must declare a punt.
6. No coaches on the playing field for the Pony league.
7. Tiebreaker rule-similar to OHSAA & Federation rule - a coin toss shall determine the team with the first opportunity to score, and then the ball will be placed on the 10-yard line. Each team shall be given a series of downs from the 10-yard line. If a score is made, the team is allowed to try for the extra points, then the turn is complete. The ball will be on the 5-yard line for all subsequent series. The defense cannot score when on an interception or fumble; the ball becomes dead immediately and that series ends.

OFFICIALS

There will be three officials assigned by the CYO to each game. Each team will give the crew chief \$60 for each game in which they participate. The game will not start until the officials are paid.

For the quarter and semi final games of the playoffs, there will be four officials assigned to the game and each team will give the crew chief \$80. For the final game there will be five officials assigned but teams still are only responsible to give the crew chief \$80.

FOOTBALL SEASON

Football practice may begin 30 days before the first scheduled regular season game. July 27. There will be no exceptions for the start of practice. Violations will result in disciplinary action to the program, coaches and team.

The regular season will consist of a minimum of eight and a maximum of nine scheduled games.

League winners will be determined by their league record.

All scores are to be called, faxed or e-mailed to the CYO office before the start of business on Monday following the game.

Post-season playoffs will be determined as follows: The top four teams from each league will make the playoffs with the #1 seed playing the #4 seed and the #2 seed playing the #3 seed.

To repeat the selection for post season play will be determined as based on the league records. If there is a tie the tie breakers will be as follows:

1. Head-to-Head competition.
2. Total Points – calculated as 2-points for a win; 1-point for a tie and; 0-points for a loss.

There will also be a 7th Grade playoff the four teams will make the playoffs. (#1 vs #4 and #2 vs #3).

The first week of the play-offs will be held on October 26, 2008 at either home fields or neutral sites depending on availability. Finals are scheduled to be held on November 9, 2008 at neutral sites depending on field availability.

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Only extreme inclement weather is recognized as legitimate reason for postponing games. Any team postponing a game except for this reason forfeits the game. The home team is responsible for getting fields in playable condition in inclement weather. Teams must show up ready to play unless otherwise notified by the home team or the CYO office. When a game is cancelled, the home team is responsible for rescheduling the game. As soon as the game is rescheduled the CYO Office must be notified so that game official can be assigned. If a conflict develops over rescheduling the CYO Office will reschedule the game.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

All players must have jerseys with identifying numbers and all players must have the same color jersey. Two or more players may not wear the same number.

When a team has two jerseys of different colors, they shall wear the jersey of opposite color of their opponent. The home team would determine the color of the day and visitor would wear the opposite.

All players shall wear the following mandatory equipment:

- Approved NOCSAE helmet, with faceguard, chinstrap and mouthpiece,
- Shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh pads and knee pads
- Football pants, Numbered Jersey
- Shoes and socks

Any additional equipment such as rib pads, etc. is optional and is approved equipment if it conforms to the OHSAA rules.

Footballs

Varsity will use the junior size balls Wilson TDY, Hutch 951, Rawlings R5Y, TPRO or Nike Composite

Reserve teams will use Wilson T.D.J. or Rawlings Pros or Nike Composite

Pony teams will use Wilson K-2 or its equivalent or Nike Composite.

SIDELINE EQUIPMENT

The home team or host in case of a neutral field is responsible for the sideline marker and down indicator. CYO requires the use of foam or padded yard markers to help minimize the possibility of injury.

A responsible crew of adults must be furnished by the home team or host in case of a neutral field to maintain the chains and down marker. However, it is recommended that the visiting team supply at least one of the sideline crewmembers. For safety reasons and accuracy, the CYO strongly recommends the use of adults.

The chains and down markers should be switched to the opposite side of the field at half time, unless the field press box (PA) is being used. In this case the chains and down indicator will remain on the side opposite the press box throughout the game.

A responsible person must be furnished by the home team or host in case of a neutral field to operate the clock if it is to be used. This person must follow the clock operation directions of the officials on the field. If they cannot the clock will be turned off and the time will be kept only on the field.

COACHES

Each CYO athletic team must have an adult coach. High School and College age persons are eligible to coach provided that the team registered in the name of a responsible adult coach (21 years or older) who will occupy a position on the team's sideline during each game and practice.

All coaches must be listed on the team coaches' roster that is on file with the CYO Office

The head coach and one other coach designated by the head coach are the only people on the sideline permitted to speak to an official. If someone else speaks to an official they can be flagged for unsportsmanlike-like conduct and/or removed from the sideline.

The head coach will be responsible for the following:

1. Being knowledgeable of all aspects of the current CYO football rules and making sure that all rules and policies are observed.
2. Attend the pre-season coaches meeting and any other special meetings designated by the CYO Office. In the event this is not possible, the head coach must make sure a team representative is at the meetings.
3. Make sure the players roster for the team and all player participation forms are correctly completed and submitted to the CYO Office with the proper signatures by the due dates.
4. Determine the eligibility of each player on the team through the parish or school. The use of an ineligible player either deliberately or unknowingly shall result in a forfeiture of every game the ineligible player participated in.
5. Is responsible for the actions, conduct and behavior of his assistants, players and spectators of his team.

All coaches will:

1. Conduct themselves in a Christian manner; you are a representative of your parish and school, therefore your behavior should reflect positively on these institutions.
2. Teach and guide our youth in a manner, which will increase their knowledge and ability to play the sport; promote respect for authority, a sense of fair play and their ability to keep winning and losing in perspective.
3. Take special precautions to protect all valuables and clothing of players since fields, gyms and locker rooms usually have public access.
4. Be aware that individual parishes or member schools will be held responsible for any damages caused by their team members or fans.
5. Will know that they can be cited for unsportsmanlike conduct and be subject to disciplinary action by the CYO and their own parish or member school.

MISCELLANEOUS

Filming of opponents games is strictly prohibited. The exchange of game films or scouting of any type is strongly discouraged. Please keep things in perspective.