Big East Youth Football

Constitution and By-Laws

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Article I. Name

The name of the Association shall be the Big East Youth Football League, with its principle address of 4 Brenda Avenue, Jeannette, PA 15666

Article II. Purpose

The Association is organized for the following purposes:

Section 1: Support

To encourage and support participation in youth football within the Members' organization.

Section 2: Safety

To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants in the Association's youth football league.

Section 3: Competition

To promote competition and sportsmanship through participation in the Big East Youth Football League.

Section 4: Coaching

To promote proper coaching and teaching of football to Members' participants that ensures the safety of all players.

Section 5: Development

To administer a youth football league that focuses on the development of its participants as football players and as young men.

Section 6: Advisory Jurisdiction

To exercise advisory jurisdiction over activities carried on by the Member Organizations, and to enforce the By-laws and Rules of the Association upon all Member Organizations who are subject to such jurisdiction.

Section 7: Propaganda

Anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding, the purposes of the Association shall not include engaging in propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; nor shall they include the advancement of any of its objects by engaging in propaganda or attempting to influence legislation; nor shall the Association make any grant or payment for such purposes.

Article III. Membership and Dues

Section 1: Original Members

The Original Members of the Association are as follows:

A. Franklin Area Midget Football Association
B. Gateway Midget Football and Cheerleading Association
C. Hempfield Area Youth Athletic Association
D. Kiski Valley Youth Football Association
E. McKeesport Little Tigers
F. PAL Norwin (Police Athletic League of North Huntingdon)
G. Penn Trafford Midget Athletic Association
H. Plum Midget Football Association
I. Greater Latrobe Area Midget Football Association

Section 2: Additional Members

Additional Members may be invited to join the league under the following process.

1. A two-thirds majority of existing Members agree to extend an invitation to a prospective member organization.

2. The prospective member organization sends delegates to attend at least two (2) consecutive League Meetings.

3. The prospective member completes an Application; the form which shall be developed by the League's Executive Committee and shall be approved by a majority of existing members.

4. The prospective member makes a formal written request to be admitted into the League.

5. The existing Members approve the admission of the prospective members by at least a two-thirds majority of delegates present at the meeting wherein the subject was taken up.

6. Upon admission of the Big East Youth Football League, the Additional Member will automatically be on one-year probation, without vote, but with voice.

7. Additional Member will also be placed last in rotation for Weigh-in and Championship sites.

Section 3: Membership Dues and additional Member Obligations

Initial Membership Dues will be set at Five-Hundred dollars, and must be paid by February 15 of the year in which the team was admitted. Furthermore:

1. Each Member shall pay annual dues of Three-Hundred dollars; monies should be paid to the League Treasurer no later than February 15 of the fiscal year.

2. Failure to pay dues in a timely fashion may subject a Member Organization to disciplinary action up to, and including, removal from the league.

3. Each Member must maintain proper registration of their organization, and must remain, at all times, a non-profit entity.

4. Each Member must maintain adequate Liability Insurance to cover any potential loss by such Members' participants or third-parties. Such Insurance Policy shall name the Big East Youth Football League as an additional insured.

5. Members shall abide by and be subject to all By-Laws as hereafter adopted by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Members of the Association.
6. Any Member Organization that opts to pursue another league shall forfeit any dues or monies held by the Big East Youth Football League.

Section 4: Team Minimum

If an organization does not field four (4) teams for a full season, it will be determined the following season by the other teams in the league whether that organization will remain a member in good standing of the Big East Youth Football League

Section 5: Meeting Representatives

Each team or organization will have a maximum of two (2) Delegates at each and every league meeting or weigh-in. Any team or organization that misses or does not attend will be fined $50.00 and, if said team does not pay fine before the next league meeting, said team will have no voice in that meeting or any further meetings until said fine is paid. Secretary will notify absent team of teams of said assessment. Grace period is 15 minutes.

Article IV. Delegates

Each Member Organization shall appoint one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate to represent said Member Organization at all League meetings. Both the delegate and alternate delegate may attend any League Meeting, but each Member Organization shall only be entitled to one (1) vote on any given issue.

Article V. Jurisdiction

The powers of the Association shall extend to enforcement of the By-Laws of the Association as to all Member Organizations with respect to this Agreement of Association, and Youth Football League Activities of Member Organizations.

Article VI. Executive Committee and Officers

The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer and one (1) additional member who shall be elected as hereinafter provided and all of whom must be members of the Association. The Executive Committee, consisting of five (5) members, and the officers included therein, shall be elected by ballot at the December meeting of the Association. In addition to the above elected Officers, there shall be a By-Laws Delegate who shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee.

Article VII. Duties of the Officers

Section 1: President

The President shall preside at all meetings and shall be exofficio Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 2: Vice-President

The Vice-President shall in order of seniority, as specified by the Executive Committee, assist the President in the discharge of his duties and preside in his absence.

Section 3: Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings and shall preserve all documents, reports and communications connected with the business of the Association, send out all notices, compile the records for Championships, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to office. The Secretary will also be responsible for:

A. Maintain a record of minutes to all meetings in ledger supplied by the league.

B. Keep an official score of all league games played. The league officer or designated representative of the home team is responsible for reporting scores by 10:00 pm, Sunday, of the weekend the game is played. Failure to report score is an automatic fine of $50.00. Scores are to be sent to each team every week, if possible.

C. Notify each and every team and league officer of all regular league meetings, five days before said meeting, by mail, e-mail, or by phone. If meeting is of such importance, each team or organization may be notified orally. In case of special meetings, teams may be notified by mail or orally, if necessary.

D. Maintain an official record of all teams and its personnel.

E. All elected officers to be bonded. The minimum amount is set at $10,000.00. The bond shall be binding for the term of the officer.

Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys, keep a correct account thereof and deposit same in the name of the Association in such bank as may be approved by the Executive Committee. At the Annual Meeting, the Treasure shall submit a full report annually in writing of the financial condition of the Association, which shall previously have been audited and approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer will also complete the following:

A. Maintain an accurate account of all league funds in a ledger provided by the league and pay all bills after approval by officers or at league meetings.

B. Receive $300 per year from each team to be paid in January, after the initial deposit of $500 to establish league and its operating costs.

C. The Treasurer will receive reimbursement for any expenses.

D. Deposit funds received member organizations and any other revenue generating activity of the Big East Youth Football League in an operating account (Checking Account).

Section 5: By-Laws Delegate

The By-Laws Delegate shall maintain true, accurate and up-to-date copies of any and all By-Laws enacted by the Members, and shall be the individual to whom any proposed changes to such By-Laws are first presented. When any such By-Laws changes are proposed, the By-Laws Delegate shall disseminate such proposal(s) to all other delegates and shall ensure that action on such proposals are according to the rules of the Association.

Section 6: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have general management of the affairs of the Association. It shall appoint special officers and committees, and take such steps as it may consider necessary and expedient to carry into effect the objects of the Association. See Article XIV for election requirements.

Section 7: Candidacy for Office

Not more than two representatives of any one Member Organization shall be eligible for election to any office or to the Executive Committee. This Article shall not exclude independent nominations made in any other way.

Section 8: Weigh-in Responsibility

The officers of the league will be in charge of the weigh-in of all teams.

Section 9: Team Photographs

The officers and appointed business manager will be responsible for photographs of all teams at weigh-ins.

Section 10: Vacated Officers Position

In case of an officer resigning or being removed from office, all other officers' move up to the next highest office, except the Secretary.

Article VIII. Appointment Committees

The President and Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint the following Committees: Website Content and Design; Rules and Competition; Safety and Coaching; Championship; Referees and Officials Liaison; and such other committees as the Executive Committee shall approve. Each of such Committees shall consist of such number of members as shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall be Delegates or Board Members of Member Organizations.

Article IX. Meetings

The Annual Meeting shall be held in December of each year during which time Officers shall be elected. General meetings will be held monthly from February through July. The Executive Committee may call special meetings of the Association whenever they consider it necessary and shall do so upon the written request of seven delegates.

The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as they consider expedient.

Article X. Notices

Notices of every Association meeting shall be in writing and mailed either via electronic mail or regular mail to each Delegate and to the Secretary of each Organization Member at least ten days previous to such meeting.

Notices of special meetings shall state in detail the subjects proposed to be acted upon, and at such meeting no other matter shall be acted upon. The notice of the Annual Meeting must contain the report of the Nominating Committee.

Article XI. Quorum

In order to conduct the business of the Association at a meeting, at least sixty percent (60%) of the Member Organizations must have a delegate present.

Article XII. Voting

Only Delegates and Alternates shall be present at any meeting of the Association except by invitation of the Executive Committee. Every Member Organization represented at a meeting by a Delegate or Alternate Delegate shall have one (1) vote on any motion put forth.

Every organization represented at a meeting by a Delegate or Alternate Delegate, when a motion is under consideration, shall vote thereon unless excused. Voting by proxy shall be allowed and proxies shall be in writing and signed, but need not be sealed, witnessed or acknowledged, and shall be filed with the Secretary at or before the meeting.

Article XIII. Amendments

These rules may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Delegates present in person or by proxy at any meeting at which a quorum is present, provided notice in writing of such proposed amendment has been given ten days previous to the meeting.

Proposed amendments must be in writing, signed by two Delegates and sent to the Secretary in sufficient time to be included in the call for the meeting at which they are to be acted upon; provided, however, that the Executive Committee may initiate and approve any proposed amendment for submission to a meeting of the Delegates.

The rules of this Association cannot be suspended under any circumstances.

Article XIV. Elections

At the December meeting in each year a Nominating Committee of five shall be elected, none of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee and no two of whom shall be representatives of the same Member Organization, provided, however, that majority of the members shall have served in the preceding year, but in no event shall any member serve in excess of five consecutive years.

This Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office to be balloted for at the Annual Meeting in October and shall notify the Secretary of their selection not later than October 1st.

Vacancies occurring in any office or committee shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee until the next meeting of the Association.

Alternating elections will occur for the Executive Committee with the President and Ways and Means officers elected on even ending years, and the Secretary, Treasurer, and By-laws elected on odd years.

Article XV. Fiscal Operations and/or Dissolution

At no time and in no manner, shall the revenues of the Association inure to the benefit of any individual officer; manager; director; or delegate. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the Treasurer shall pay all debts of the Association, and shall return any and all remaining funds, in equal shares, to the Member Organizations. If no Member Organizations exist to receive such funds, the remaining funds shall be paid to a charitable organization, preferably a youth sports organization.

Article XVI. Conduct

Section 1: Conduct of Persons Other than Players

Unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach, substitute, trainer, or team attendant shall be charged against his team. Unsportsmanlike conduct acts are such:

A. Attempting to influence a decision by an official, disrespectfully addressing an official, indicating objections to an official's decision.

B. Using an artificial aid to coach or direct plays or using mechanical devices to attract attention;

C. Doing anything to incite undesirable (continued) crowd reactions;

D. Disrespectfully addressing (insulting language or gesture) or baiting an opponent, which engenders ill will.

E. **Question:** ***Who is responsible for the behavior of spectators?*** **Answer:** The home management or game committee, to the degree they can reasonably be expected to control the spectators.

Article XVII. Zero Tolerance Spectator Rules of Conduct

Section 1: Zero Tolerance Policy

The following guidelines shall be enforced by the league executives of the Big East Youth Football League and ALL of its member organizations with respect to a "Zero Tolerance" policy:

1. No Profanity is allowed.

2. No intimidating language or actions shall be directed towards players, coaches, other spectators, guests or anyone else associated with a game or league function.

3. No heckling of game officials, coaches, or players will be tolerated.

4. Absolutely no spectators shall be allowed inside any fencing area or partitioned areas used for practice or on the field of play during game days.

5. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted during practices or games.

The unacceptable behavior of a single individual could endanger the continued participation of an entire group of children in the league. Consequently, any person who violates any one or all of the above cited "Zero Tolerance Spectator Rules of Conduct" will cause themselves and possibly their participating child/children to be immediately expelled from the Big East Youth Football League and associated team organization with NO REFUND.

It is expected that all member organizations will promulgate this "Zero Tolerance" policy to its parents and any other guests, visitors, and spectators who attend any Big East Youth Football League function, be it a practice or game. Member organizations may in fact demand that parents of any participating player actually sign a document attesting to the understanding and observance of said rules of conduct.

Section 2: Ejections

All ejections during league games by the Big East Youth Football League Officials shall be documented by the Home Team League Officer or Representative and called in to the League Secretary with the scores. Anyone ejected from a game shall also be suspended from the next scheduled game. The league officers have the right to review the incident for further disciplinary action.

Section 3: Big East Youth Football League Violator

Any Member Organization who has a coach or representative violate the rule, will have the incident documented with the League Secretary, a $50 fine issued, and action will be taken by the Executive Board at their earliest convenience.

Article XVIII. Player Eligibility and Ongoing Team Participation Requirements

Section 1: Dual Roster

The Big East Youth Football League forbids any Member Organization from dual-rostering any player within, and outside, of their designated school district.

Section 2: Team Requirements

Each team or organization that is a member in good standing in the league must meet each and every team requirement for said team. Each team or organization must have one team of 11 to 12 year-olds at 165 pounds for the scale weight limit; a team of 9 to 10 year-olds at 145 pounds, for the scale weight limit; and a team of 7 and 8 year-olds at 125 pounds for the scale weight limit. Each organization will have their respective team in the same basic color jersey for all league games. Each team or organization will field a flag team comprised of 5 to 6 year olds. Although the flag teams will not participate in the weigh-ins and will not require validation of birth certificates, all flag teams will be under the same rules and regulations as the older squads when it comes to the league having jurisdiction over their coaches, players and spectators. In addition, all flag teams will be in conformity to the guidelines established by the league as to equipment, such as the types of flag belts used, and any other aspect of the flag games.

Section 3: Team Boundaries

A team's boundaries for its respective players will be determined by the school district(s) in which the team is organized if a team has a player on its roster that comes from a divorced or separated relationship and one of the parents moves outside of the school district, that player's eligibility to participate on said team will be determined in the following manner.

1. If the child played on the team during the prior season, that child is grandfathered to continue playing on said team if he wishes after the 2014 season.

2. If the child did not participate on said team in the prior season, then the child is permitted to participate on said team if he is under custody of the parent who still resides within the school district.

Otherwise, the child is not permitted to continue playing for said team.

The following addendum will take effect for the 2015 season and beyond:

1. Teams are required to remain in their respective school district boundaries, regardless of the number of players registered for that team(s) organization.

2. In the event that a league member cannot field a proper team, that organization can request a special meeting to review possible solutions.

3. Each member organization, in good standing, will vote on said solution and the majority will take precedence.

4. At no time, will a member actively recruit outside their school district boundaries.

5. School District Boundary is defined by the high school of the member organization.

Section 4: Change in Districts

Once a youth has started playing in the Big East Youth Football League, he/she has the prerogative, when changing school districts, to finish his playing eligibility with initial team or change teams before weigh-ins of next season. The option can be exercised once, and only once, upon notification to the league officers.

A. Any youth or member of the same immediate family may appeal to continue playing for the same team, in the event of a change in school district.

B. Player attending private or parochial school must play in the district where he/she resides.

C. Each case will be scrutinized with all vested parties in front of the Executive Board.

Article XIX. Ages and Weights

Section 1: 11 and 12-Year-Old Teams

A. Players on said team will not be over 12 years of age before May 1st of that current year or they will not be eligible for league play.

B. The weight limit for said team will be 165 pounds.

C. Players that are over the league maximum at the initial weigh-in will remain on the roster. That player can be re-weighed by (2) executive board members prior to each week until eligible. If said player would weigh in under weight maximum, that player must maintain weight throughout the season per the weigh in by laws.

D. The BEYFL recognizes the need to maintain the weight limit over the course of the season. A mid-season weigh-ins (Game 5) and a weigh in at the start of the playoff games will be required to verify all players are within the weight limit.

E. Weigh-ins for bubbled players, mid-season, and playoff games will occur by at least halftime of the previous game.

F. If the teams agree to play a 5th Quarter game, it will take place prior to the start of the 11 and 12-year-old game and concurrently with the 9 and 10-year-old 5th Quarter game; the officiating will be done by team coaches.

G. Although Ages will continue to be verified each season by confirmation of birth certificates, each players eligibility will also be grade based and will have a limit on age of 1 additional year. For example, a 14-year-old is not eligible to play with kids on the 11 and 12-year-old team regardless of grade. Verification is required to confirm grades, we will use the prior years report card as verification of not only what grade the player is in but what school district they attend.

Section 2: 9 and 10-Year-Old Teams

A. Players on said team will not be over 10 years of age before May 1st of that current year or they will not be eligible for league play.

B. The weight limit for said team will be 145 pounds.

C. Players that are not more than five (5) pounds over the league maximum at the initial weigh-in can remain on the roster and be considered “bubbled” and be re-weighed each week to determine eligibility.

D. Players that are over the 145-pound allowable weight limit can choose to play up at the next level, but must be reweighed and accounted for on said roster.

E. The BEYFL recognizes the need to maintain the weight limit over the course of the season. A mid-season weigh-ins (Game 5) and a weigh in at the start of the playoff games will be required to verify all players are within the weight limit.

F. Weigh-ins for bubbled players, mid-season, and playoff games will occur by at least halftime of the previous game.

G. If the teams agree to play a 5th Quarter game, it will take place post the official 9 and 10-year-old game and concurrently with the 11 and 12-year-old 5th Quarter game, and before the official 11 and 12 year old game; the officiating will be done by team coaches.

H. Although Ages will continue to be verified each season by confirmation of birth certificates, each players eligibility will also be grade based and will have a limit on age of 1 additional year. For example, a 14-year-old is not eligible to play with kids on the 11 and 12-year-old team regardless of grade. Verification is required to confirm grades, we will use the prior years report card as verification of not only what grade the player is in but what school district they attend.

Section 3: 7 and 8-Year-Old Teams

A. Players on said team will not be over 8 years of age before May 1st of that current year or they will not be eligible for league play.

B. The weight limit for said team will be 125 pounds.

C. Players that are not more than five (5) pounds over the league maximum at the initial weigh-in can remain on the roster and be considered "bubbled" and be re-weighed each week to determine eligibility.

D. Players that are over the 125-pound allowable weight limit can choose to play up at the next level, but must be reweighed and accounted for on said roster.

E. The BEYFL recognizes the need to maintain the weight limit over the course of the season. A mid-season weigh-ins (Game 5) and a weigh in at the start of the playoff games will be required to verify all players are within the weight limit.

F. Weigh-ins for bubbled players, mid-season, and playoff games will occur by at least halftime of the previous game.

G. If the teams agree to play a 5th Quarter game, it will take place concurrently with the flag game and before the first official game of the day; the officiating will be done by team coaches.

H. Although Ages will continue to be verified each season by confirmation of birth certificates, each players eligibility will also be grade based and will have a limit on age of 1 additional year. For example, a 14-year-old is not eligible to play with kids on the 11 and 12-year-old team regardless of grade. Verification is required to confirm grades, we will use the prior years report card as verification of not only what grade the player is in but what school district they attend.

Section 4: Flag Team

A. Players on said team will not be over 6 years of age before May 1st of that current year or they will not be eligible for league play.

B. There will be no weight restrictions on youth at the Flag level.

C. Big East Youth Football League organizations are mandated to have a Flag team. Member Organizations acknowledge said flag team is held to the same rules and regulations as all of the older squads when it comes to the jurisdiction of the league over the coaches, players and spectators.

D. Each team is responsible for ensuring that their players are equipped with three (3) flags of contrasting nature from the natural color of their uniform, and set at intervals of side/back/side, placed over top the outermost jersey or shirt.

E. Cleats must be worn; no street shoes

F. All players must be equipped and use an opaque mouthpiece

G. Only two (2) coaches are permitted on the field at one time. Closest coach not more than ten (10) yards to the nearest player at the snap of the ball.

Article XX. League Weigh in Procedures

Section 1: Time and Date

The league will set up the time and date for the official weigh-in of all teams in the league prior to start of the league season. The schedule for weigh-in sites was determined by draw prior to the start of the 2014 inaugural season; teams that may join the league after the inaugural season will be placed at the end of the list, which will rotate yearly. The current sites are:

2018 Order		***2019 Order***		***2020 Order***	
1.	McKeesport	1.	Kiski Valley	1.	Plum
2.	Kiski Valley	2.	Plum	2.	Jeannette
3.	Plum	3.	Jeannette	3.	Woodland Hills
4.	Jeannette	4.	Woodland Hills	4.	Penn Trafford
5.	Woodland Hills	5.	Penn Trafford	5.	Franklin
6.	Penn Trafford	6.	Franklin	6.	East Allegheny
7.	Franklin	7.	East Allegheny	7.	Hempfield
8.	East Allegheny	8.	Hempfield	8.	Gateway
9.	Hempfield	9.	Gateway	9.	McKeesport
10.	Gateway	10.	McKeesport	10.	Kiski Valley

The league shall reserve the option of having a weigh-in prior to the official weigh-in date for teams or players demonstrating a definite hardship. Time, place and date will be decided by the President. The President or an appointed league officer will preside over this meeting with regular weigh-in procedures being followed. All decisions must be approved by majority vote of the Big East Youth Football officers.

Section 2: Weigh-in Order

The league will use a measured weight to adjust scales at the official weigh-in. The 7 and 8-year-olds will weigh-in first, then the 9 and 10-year-olds and finally the 11 and 12-year-olds. The host team is to weigh-in first. Other teams weigh-in according to distance to travel.

Section 3: Team Representative

Each team will have at least one representative at the official weigh-in and all league officers present at weigh-ins. If the Big East Youth Football League needs an officer for other duties, an alternate will be allowed.

Section 4: Officer in Charge

The league officials will be in charge of the official weigh-in and decisions will be made by the officer's present at the time.

Section 5: Weigh-in Procedure

Each player will weigh-in with their Game Jersey, Game Pants, and Game Socks with an allowance of Two pounds to be added to each weight classification.

Section 6: Team Roster

Each team, at the weigh-in, will have ready a completed copy of all their rosters for each team in the league and one for the league secretary. Rosters shall be in numerical order. The league secretary will provide a guide roster which all teams will follow.

Section 7: Acceptable Verification Documents

All youths from all teams must present certified birth certificate or approved league documents on or before 1 week of the official weigh-in. If documents are not presented, youth will not be eligible to play until verified.

Section 8: Absentee Players

Unless exception is granted by the league officers by a majority vote, any player not present at the weigh-in will not be eligible for league play. Each organization will receive a fifteen-minute grace period, starting from the end of their time slot.

Section 9: Photographs

The league will provide a photographer at the official weigh-in for the purpose of taking pictures of all teams in the league. All youths will wear team jersey for team pictures. These pictures will become the official record for the league and will be in the possession of the league secretary.

Section 10: Team Photo

The league will provide all other teams in the league a photo of opposing teams. These photos will be made the official league photographs. These photos will be provided at the expense of the League. Team photos MUST BE checked at least 15 minutes before each game. If photos are not checked, a $100 fine will be assessed for each offense, each team.

Section 11: Weigh-in Scales

Each team will have the same type or equivalent type of scale used for weigh-ins at their home field to check weight of youths during regular season. Any scale that does not qualify for use at official weigh-ins cannot be used for game days. No bathroom scales. Digital scales are allowed.

Article XXI. Individual Player, Team, and Game Equipment

Section 1: Equipment Check

At league games, all equipment used in the games should be checked before the game for any sharp objects that may cause injury to another player and equipment may also be checked by the opposing team.

Section 2: Cleats and Shoes

The only requirements by the Big East Youth Football League will be that no cleat shall have a metal tip; all other shoe types are considered appropriate.

Section 3: Helmets

At league games, all headgear used in the games will be of the same color, furnished with a facemask.

Section 4: Jerseys

At league games, all jerseys used will be numbered and be of the same color. No duplicate number will exist in each of the three groups. Each member of said team will be dressed in the same color jersey and each will be clearly numbered and registered with the league secretary. Numbers are not to be changed unless the opposing team is notified by the league secretary verbally or in writing, if possible.

Team	Jersey	Helmet
East Allegheny	Blue/Yellow	Blue
Franklin	Blue/Gold	Navy
Gateway	Black / Vegas Gold	Black
Hempfield	Grey	Royal Blue
Kiski Valley	Grey / Royal Blue	Royal Blue
McKeesport	Purple/Gold	White
Jeannette	Red/Blue	Blue
Penn Trafford	Green/White	Gold
Plum	Purple/White	Purple
Woodland Hills	Black/Columbia Blue	Black

Section 5: Game Footballs

At league games, balls used by all three teams will be those designated by the league. These balls are the official balls:

A. Wilson (K2) leather ball will be the only one used for the 7 and 8-year-old teams.

B. A Wilson (TDJ) leather ball will be the only one used for the 9 and 10-year-old teams.

C. A Wilson (TDY) leather ball will be the only one used for the 11 and 12-year-old teams.

Article XXII. Season and Game Day Operations

Section 1: Game Time

With the league's approval, all games may be either day or night games, and the home team chooses weekend day.

Section 2: Scoring / Rule Modifications

The BEYFL will follow the PIAA Rules of play with exception to the following rule modifications:

A. Punting, 7/8-year-old level only, if the head coach of the punting team declares a punt the following rules will govern.
   a. There must be seven (7) linemen and seven (7) defenders lined up on the line of scrimmage.
   b. There is no rush and the punter is permitted to punt the ball with no rush, but may not advance the ball.
   c. Balls snapped out of play or that result in safety points nullify the rule.
   d. The ball becomes live and play begins once the ball is punted.

B. Shotgun
   a. The back receiving the snap must be a minimum of five (5) yards deep in order to have center protection.
   b. Defensemen can line directly over the center and the gaps are eligible to be penetrated. However, the center can only be touched from the waste to the shoulder pads in either gap, no "bull rushing".

C. Electronic Devices
   a. No electronic devices are permitted on or near the field of play. Including but not limited to:
      i. Cell Phones
      ii. Wireless radios / Headsets
      iii. Walkie-talkies

D. Kick-offs
   a. There must be four (4) players on each side of the kicker at all times
   b. All players must be within five (5) yards of the ball, only the kicker may be deeper.
   c. The kicking team may not touch the receiving team until either of two (2) things occur.
      i. The ball travels a distance of at least ten (10) yards
      ii. The receiving team touches the ball.

Points-After-Touchdown <u>for 7/8 and 9/10 levels only</u> (PAT) shall consist of:

E. One (1) point for a kicked extra point
F. Two (2) points for conversions crossing the goal line
G. Three (3) points for converted field goals.

Points-After-Touchdown <u>for 11/12 level only</u> (PAT) shall consist of:

A. Two (2) points for a kicked extra point

B. One (1) point for conversions crossing the goal line
C. Three (3) points for converted field goals.

Section 3: Playing Time

At league games, the playing time of each team will be as follow:

A. The flag games will be the first game of the day. The game will consist of two 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. Both halves will have a continuous clock.

B. The 7 and 8-year-old 5th Quarter team will play concurrently with the flag games using the designated side of the field of flag choice.

C. 7 and 8-year-old team will play the second game. The game will consist of four 8-minute quarters and a ten-minute rest period between halves.

D. The 9 and 10 and 11 and 12-year-old 5th Quarter teams will play concurrently after the completion of the 7 and 8-year-old regulation game, providing each team can field a 5th Quarter team.

E. 9 and 10-year-old team will play at the conclusion of the 9 and 10 and 11 and 12-year-old 5th Quarter game. The game will consist of four 9-minute quarters with a ten-minute rest period between halves.

F. 11 and 12-year-old team will play at the conclusion of the 9 and 10-year-old regulation game. The game will consist of four 10-minute quarters with a ten-minute rest period between halves. (5th Quarter games are optional.)

G. 5th Quarter games will have the option of playing ten (10) plays and switch sides, or playing for first down yardage, on a forty-yard field, and switching after scores.

At least 15 minutes prior to each game, teams will line up in numerical order for a picture check. After checking pictures, if any team leaves the field, the opposing team may recheck pictures before play is resumed. Players coming late to the game can still be weighed and pictures rechecked as long as notice was given prior to the end of halftime.

Section 4: 5th Quarter Games

A. All organizations that have rosters equal or greater than 22 players must field a 5th quarter team and participate weekly, including playoffs, at each age level.
B. Each organization must commit to the 5th quarter games at the yearly weigh in meeting.

Section 5: Maximum Personnel on the Field

A. A maximum of Eight (8) persons from each team is permitted in the coaching box, which covers from the 25-yard line to the 25-yard line.

B. The following are permitted on the field, with proper League credentials, but not in the coaching box:

1. Statisticians
2. Photographer(s)
3. Equipment Managers

C. The following are permitted in the coaching box, with proper League credentials:

1. Trainers or Medical Staff

2. Water Personnel under the age of 16

D. On an official time-out, two (2) coaches and one (1) non-coach water person is to be allowed on the field to give water.

E. All coaches on sidelines **ARE REQUIRED** to visibly wear their Big East Youth Football League provided coach's pass and may be on the sideline for the game designated by that pass only. No other team pass should be on the sidelines for that game.

F. All Coaches, League Representatives, BEYFL Officials, and Photographers are to display identification at all youth games.

G. On an official time-out for injury, a water person is to be allowed on the field to give water.

Section 6: Forfeitures, Postponements, and Mercy Rule

At league games, any team not appearing for scheduled game shall forfeit said game 15-minutes after starting time, unless postponed by mutual agreement of both organizations.

A. Any organization not able to field a team for a scheduled game shall not be fined, but will be held responsible for payment of officials for said game.

B. In case of cancellation or postponement of any league game, an advance notice of four (4) hour's must be given to the opposing team, except in emergency. Any protest arising from such cancellation or postponement will be ruled on by the league officers only.

C. All teams will have the following Sunday as an alternate day for cancelled Saturday games, when possible.

D. Any game stopped in progress due to weather will be continued from that point unless teams mutually agree to end the game. Officials determine if a game should be stopped.

E. The Mercy Rule will go into effect at twenty-three (23) points.

Section 7: Substitution of Players

At league games, when the winning team is ahead by 23 or more points, both teams will substitute members of their varsity squad. If the score changes and the margin narrows below 23 points, starting players may be re-substituted.

Section 8: Equity of Accommodation

A. All Big East Youth Football League organizations will provide facilities and accommodations equal to those used by the home team whereby fixed structures exist.

B. Home team must provide an equitable warm-up surface and warm-up time to each visiting team. If facilities do not permit an equitable off-field warm-up (same surface, lighting, etc.) there will be a 20 minute on-field warm-up period prior to the start of each game for both teams. Home team may not warm up prior to the on-field warm-ups if visiting team does not have the equal ability to do so.

Section 9: Medical Coverage

All Member Organizations will be required to provide appropriate medical coverage for all games played at their home field. This coverage will be required to be present for the entire time of play. Adequate coverage will consist of a minimum of at least one of the following:

A. Pennsylvania State Certified Emergency Medical Technician

B. Pennsylvania State Certified Paramedic with current Medical Command

C. Certified Athletic Trainer

No games are permitted to start, or in the event coverage is not present, all play will stop. Play may only resume once medical coverage is present. If after a reasonable time frame the home team is not able to provide the appropriate medical coverage, they will forfeit that came and any future games.

1. Each team will be required to present a Big East Youth Football League medical coverage agreement to the League Secretary by the start of each practice season.

2. All Member Organizations will introduce one of the above mentioned acceptable coverages to each Head Coach prior to any game.

3. All injuries requiring Ambulatory care will be documented with the League Secretary, by the Home Team League Representative, upon calling in game scores.

Section 10: Season

The start of the official football season shall begin the first Monday of August, in which full pads and full contact are permitted by the league.

Section 11: Conditioning

Organized conditioning within the Big East Youth Football League shall be one week prior to the start of the official season.

A. No direct contact at any time during the "Conditioning" season

B. Blocking pads may be used as training devices

C. Footballs are permitted

Section 12: Off Season Drills

Football clinics are designed to build skills in athletes across the BEYFL and promote camaraderie among teams while reinforcing the USA Football guidelines; Offseason workouts can be held from January until June and not consist of more than one clinic, one day a week and up to 8 times. Clinics are open to youth between the ages of 5 to 12. The term "skill" will be defined by the rules committee – all participating organizations must petition the BEYFL within two (2) weeks of clinic. Organized plays or schemes are prohibited.

Section 13: USA Football

Every member organization will participate in the Heads-Up USA Football; Four Head-Coaches and a Safety Coach will be certified yearly at a cost to the member organization.

Article XXIII. Schedule, Standing Determinations and Playoff Game Procedures

Section 1: Length of Season

An Eight (8) game schedule will be played to decide the best overall record (Big East Youth Football League Champion) in each age division. Tie breaker as follow;

A. Most Wins

B. Head to Head Competition

C. Co-champions

D. Ties will be played in season; High School Overtime Rules: 4 downs starting on the 10-yard line in.

Section 2: Playoff and Championship Game(s)

A. The top four teams at the end of the regular season will make the playoffs. The same tiebreaker will apply. Pairings will be the First VS Fourth and Second VS Third.

B. First and Second place will host semi-final game.

C. Flag playoffs will be determined through a double-elimination shoot-out that will occur on the Monday night prior to the first round of playoffs. The four remaining teams will be seeded and site to be designated for playoff play.

D. Playoffs will start immediately after regular season ends. If possible, one set of games will be played on Saturday and the other on Sunday.

E. The league will receive gate money from all playoff sites, not including the Championship site, not to exceed $600 per site. The Home Organization will receive concessions and the Home Organization and league will split the costs of officials. All additional fees collected are the property of said site organization. Referee and timekeeper payment for Championship games will be paid for by the host team with proceeds from the day going to the host team.

F. The Big East Youth Football League Playoff Championship Team Trophy will be given to the winner of the League Championship annually by age division. This trophy will be passed from team to team, by age division, with the winning team being emblazoned on the annual trophy. Medallions or awards will be given to each individual player on the first-place teams in the Playoff Championship game.

1. Winning Championship team, by age division, will receive a cash reward of $500.

2. The Season Champion, by age division, will receive a cash reward of $250.

Age groups that decide Host field for the playoffs will be rotated each year, starting with the 11 and 12-year-old teams in 2016; the following year will reverse and be the 9 and 10-year-old age bracket. This trend will continue backwards in subsequent years. The First-place team's organization will host all first-place games. The Second-place team's organization will host all second-place games. The game to decide the Big East Youth Football League Playoff Champion will be the following week, with the winners playing at the predetermined site set forth by Article XX Section 1 beginning in 2014. A back-up field will be chosen by the Big East Youth Football League in case the predetermined site is unavailable.

1. The host of said playoff games shall designate home field side if a member of their organization is eligible; otherwise the highest seeded team will designate sidelines.

2. This process shall be completed by the Monday of the Championship week.

3. The BEYFL Executive Board can alter playoff pairings for convenience purposes, after the hosting sites are determined.

Article XXIV By-Law Procedures

Section 1: Penalty and Fines

A. Any organization that does not abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in these by-laws will be fined $100 unless penalty is otherwise stated in these by-laws. Regarding probation: an organization subject to fine or penalty while on probation may be banished from the league. Such organizations will not have a voice in any league business until such fine or penalty is paid. If a team is to be banished from the league, a 2/3 majority vote is needed.

Section 2: By-law Riders

No riders can be proposed after the by-laws are accepted by the league at the beginning of the year. If not covered by the constitution, league to act via majority rule of teams present.

Section 3: Changes to Current By-laws

The above-stated rules and regulations are not to be changed without the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of member teams present.

Any proposed changes to a By-Law Article or Section proposed by two or more-member organization, said proposals shall be referred to Committee. This Committee shall be chaired by the By-Law Committee Officer and all member organizations submitting changes to the same Article or Section of the BIG EAST YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE By-Laws. This Committee will have a minimum 21-day period in which to formulate and agree to a composite proposal change which will then be read to the BIG EAST YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE Officers and Board Members at the next scheduled meeting.

Section 4: Immediate Change to By-laws

When a new by-law proposal is voted on and passed, the By-Laws chairman shall have the right to change any other section that is affected by the new by-laws.

Section 5: Original Adoption

The original constitution was adopted January 2014.

Section 6: Validity Through Signature

This constitution must be signed by all league officers of each team before weigh-ins.

Article XXV. Specific fines associated with by-law infractions and probation

Section 1: Disciplinary Probation

This does not have any effect on team records. If there is another infraction while on probation, then there will be a special meeting to decide on a penalty or to vote on the offending organization's standing in the league.

1. No under-age players are to be on the league pictures or rosters. Violation will result in $100 fine and one (1) year disciplinary probation.

2. Not checking pictures – violation will result in $100.00 fine.

3. Teams using ineligible players shall forfeit all games in which said players participated. Additionally, $250.00 fine and organization will be put on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the season.

4. Failure to report scores – violation will result in $50.00 fine.

5. Using an artificial aid to coach – violation will result in $250.00 fine.

6. If a team has over the maximum of Eight (8) people in the Coaches Box, it shall be brought to the attention of the officers of both teams and, if not corrected, will result in a fine of $250.00.

7. The Big East Youth Football League reserves the right to investigate, cite, dismiss, or fine teams that are flagrant toward the goal of providing enriching opportunities to young boys and girls.

8. Anyone affiliated with the Big East Youth Football League or its teams found guilty of fighting at game locations will be suspended for the remainder of the season plus the entire following season. While suspended, individuals cannot be involved with any team in any way on game days. If a person does not abide by the rules while on suspension, they will be banned from the league for one (1) additional full season and their organization will be fined $500.00 and will be placed on one (1) full years' probation.

Article XXVI Procedures to Maintain Accurate Rosters

Section 1: Identification of all "New Players" to an Organization.

1. Each organization will be responsible for identifying players on both the 9 & 10 year and 11 & 12-year-old teams that are new to their organization. This will not be needed for the little team since most players are either new or not motivated to lie about their age or where they live. This will limit the amount of "additional research "(defined below) to the minimum amount of players possible.

2. If a player is new to the organization at the 9 and 10 or the 11 and 12-year-old level, they are required to answer on their registration form "Why are they new to the organization?"

    A. Never played football before and / or

    B. Moved into the local area

    C. If they moved, they must provide their previous address on the registration form.

Section 2: Identification of any Suspicious New Players

1. Weigh-ins

    a. Each organization shall clearly identify all new players on their rosters.

    b. Each organization will be required to bring the individual registration form for each "new player" for the 9 and 10 year and 11 and 12-year-old teams, along with their birth certificate.

    c. At the time of weigh-in, a Big East Youth Football League representative will ask all "new players their name, age, birth date, address and school that they attend". The Big East Youth Football League

representative shall write down the name of the school the player gives if it is not included on the registration form.

d. Big East Youth Football League representative should make a note if the player is apprehensive or unsure when answering the questions and whether the player should be considered a "Suspicious New Player". This will be strictly a judgment call on the part of the Big East Youth Football League representative. The Big East Youth Football League representative can also ask the player any additional questions he feels necessary.

e. At the post weigh-in meeting, a list of "suspicious players" will be identified and the registration forms will be reviewed with all the league representatives. The individual organization will now be responsible with verifying that the roster information for any "suspicious new player" is accurate through additional research.

2. Organizations "additional research" (Post Weigh-ins)

a. Once a "suspicious new player" is identified, the individual organization will be responsible for clearing the player through additional research.

b. Additional research can include talking to player's parents, teammates, etc. in attempts to validate the accuracy of their age and current address.

c. It will be up to the individual organizations to do enough additional research as they feel is necessary to feel comfortable that the player's roster information is accurate.

d. The organization president must report to the BIG EAST YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, as to the status of all "suspicious new players" prior to the 1st game.

Section 3: Birth Certificates

a. All BEYFL players will have a copy of their birth certificate stamped by a league official at least one week prior to official weigh-ins.

b. Any player that does not have a BEYFL verified birth certificate by official weigh-in will be ineligible to play during that said season.

Section 4: Immediate Expulsion from League

Any Member Organization that pulls players from (1) Outside Organizations, (2) Overage, (3) Overweight, or (4) Dual Rostered, will be immediately expelled from the league.

Article XXVII Volunteer Law

Section 1: Clearance Requirements

In accordance with the changes of Pennsylvania law regarding volunteers, the BEYFL makes it mandatory that all member organizations follow the changes in law as prescribed by Pennsylvania Human Services. A copy shall be posted or available at each organizations site/field and members made aware of the change yearly.

1. Each organization will submit a list of coaches, receiving a field pass, that are in compliance with state law.

2. Each member organizations League Representative will certify that each coach is in full compliance.

Article XXVIII Probation, Appeals, and Infractions

Section 1: Infractions

Persons dismissed, barred, or suspended for longer than a game period shall have the right to request an appeal hearing before the BEYFL Executive Board. Written requests for appeals must be delivered to an Officer of the League within 24 hours of notification of disciplinary action. Upon receipt of such request, a hearing will be scheduled within 48 hours. Grievances are to be delivered only to BEYFL Executive Board and not member organizations. Aggrieved and member organization will be given notice of grievance after the BEYFL Executive Board determines validity.

The BEYFL Executive Board may impose any of the following penalties which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense:

- **SUSPENSION:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he/she has been suspended from all BEYFL activity for a specific number of games or days.
- **DISMISSAL:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he/she has been dismissed from BEYFL for the remainder of the current season.
- **BARRED:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that they have been barred from current and/or future participation within the BEYFL permanently, or for a specific number of years.

The BEYFL Executive Board by majority vote shall have the authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline any coach whose conduct is in violation of the Coaches Rules, Policies and/or Regulations of BEYFL, these By-Laws, and/or at such time as it is considered to be in BEYFL best interest. A grievance of any type regarding a coach or affiliate member of an organization will understand that all infractions will be presumed to have passed the "Warning" stage and that action of Suspension, Dismissal, and or Barred is imminent.

SIGNATURE PAGE ONLY

President:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Treasurer

Please Print	Signature	Date

Secretary

Please Print	Signature	Date

By-Laws Coordinator:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Franklin Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Gateway Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Jeannette Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Kiski Valley Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

McKeesport Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Penn Trafford Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Plum Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Woodland Hills Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

East Allegheny Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date

Hempfield Delegate:

Please Print	Signature	Date