

CFA Football League Constitution & Bylaws

Updated May 1, 2025

Article I

Name, Object, and Mission

Section 1.01 – Name

- A. The name of this organization shall be the CFA Football League (CFA).
- B. The CFA was incorporated October 24, 1997.

Section 1.02 - Object

- A. The CFA was founded to give children an opportunity to play tackle football with adult supervision, in a safe environment, and with adequate equipment. The object of this organization is to establish and maintain a program of supervised football for children through the development of the following fundamentals: sportsmanship, mental and physical health, character, and cultural and scholastic achievements.

Section 1.03 – Mission

- A. The CFA Football League believes that the well-being of the sport of youth football depends on the following:

A broad appreciation of the game, excellence in coaching, an emphasis on safety and health, high levels of youth participation and collaborations with the many partner organizations involved in youth football and cheerleading. We will promote this through family, fun and fundamentals as well as “Giving Back” to our youth and their communities.

Article II

Structure

Section 2.01 - Article II can only be changed by Executive Board (Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners). However, associations may request and/or recommend changes to this article for the Executive Board to review.

Section 2.02 – Conferences, Divisions, Playoffs and Post Season Games

- A. The CFA will be comprised of three conferences.
 - 1. The conferences will be named National, Federal, and Liberty.
 - 2. All changes made to any part of the bylaws must and will apply to all conferences.
 - 3. Association’s teams will be placed into one of the conferences mentioned at the recommendation and approval of the Executive Board.

4. New conferences can be created as needed.
- B. There will be two divisions in each conference.
- C. The Executive Board is responsible to develop the criteria to select Associations and their teams for each conference and division.
1. Realignment formula:
 - a. Each winning team receives (1) point for every win during the regular season at all 3 competitive levels
 - b. Each winning team receives (1) point for win during round one of the playoffs at all 3 competitive levels
 - c. Each winning team receives (2) points for win during round two of the playoffs at all 3 competitive levels
 - d. Winning team in the Super Bowl receives (3) points at all 3 competitive levels
 - e. Each team will be awarded points based on total program enrollment. With the largest organization receiving the maximum number of points based on the number of teams within the conference. Example: a conference with 8 teams, the organization with the largest enrollment receives 8, 2nd largest receives 7, and so on. This number will be multiplied by 25%, which will indicate the number of enrollment points each team will receive.
 - f. These points are then added together and the team with the highest total moves up to the next conference and the team with the lowest amount of points moves down to the lower conference. Two teams from the Federal Conference will move – one will move up and one will move down. One team from the National Conference will move down and one team from the Liberty Conference will move up.
 - g. This will be done every 2 years. However, realignment will occur annually under the following circumstances:
 - i. An Association withdrawals and/or is removed from the CFA.
 - ii. New Association(s) join the CFA.
 - h. Re-alignment tiebreakers: In the event of a tie after the re-alignment calculations are completed, the following will be used to break the tie(s):
 - i. Super Bowl wins an organization had
 - ii. Semi-Final wins an organization had
 - iii. 1st Round Playoff wins an organization had
 - iv. 1st Round Playoff appearances an organization had
 - v. Regular Season wins an organization had
- D. The regular season football schedule may last for eight or nine weeks.
- E. Each Conference, National, Federal, and Liberty, will have playoffs and a super bowl.
- F. The CFA Playoffs, Cribari Super Bowl Championship Schedules and Post Season Turnpike Classic will be developed by the Executive Board.
- G. At the end of the eight game and/or nine game regular season schedule, all CFA Association (Teams) will be ranked in their conference and placed in a playoff bracket according to the criteria set up by the Executive Board.

- H. New associations requesting admission to the CFA may be added as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. The Executive Board will approve and coordinate this action to all CFA Team Reps.
- I. New associations will be placed on a one (1) year probationary period. At the end of the first year probationary period season, the Executive Board and team reps will vote to accept the new Association(s). If an Association is not accepted, the Executive Board and team reps may vote to place the Association(s) on probation for an additional year.
- J. CFA Associations on probation are not eligible to vote on any changes or revisions to the bylaws. However, they can recommend changes and are eligible to vote on daily business.

Section 2.03 - Governing Body

- A. The governing body of the CFA shall be composed of the Executive Board (Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners), and Board of Directors (Association Team Representatives).
 - 1. Assistant Commissioners' assignments will be determined by the Commissioner.
- B. Election of Officers.
 - 1. COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner shall be elected at least once every three-(3) years.
 - a. The election shall be held on the second Monday of February and the Commissioner shall assume office immediately.
 - b. To be eligible to run for the Commissioner position the individual must have served as the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner for at least the three preceding years.
 - c. Nominations will be accepted through and including January 31st of the voting year.
 - d. May only vote to break ties, and on protests and/or penalties.
 - 2. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS. Assistant Commissioners shall be appointed by the Commissioner and shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner.
 - a. To be eligible to be selected as an Assistant Commissioner the individual(s) must have served as a team representative for at least the preceding three years.
 - b. Assistant Commissioner Appointments automatically expire when the appointing Commissioner leaves office.
 - c. Assistant Commissioners may be removed from office against the will of the Commissioner by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of all member teams at a duly constituted meeting of the Association.
 - 3. TREASURER. The Treasurer, an assistant commissioner, shall be appointed by the Commissioner and shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner.
 - 4. SECRETARY. The secretary shall be appointed by the Commissioner and shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner. This is a non-Executive Board voting position.
- C. In the event the Commissioner becomes unable to fulfill his/her duties as Commissioner, due to illness or death, the assistant commissioner with the most seniority as an assistant commissioner will become the interim Commissioner for the remainder of the Commissioners term.

- D. The terms of this amendment shall become effective 90 days after the resignation of the current Commissioner/Assistant Commissioners or by the expiration of their elected terms, whichever event occurs sooner.

Section 2.04 – Duties of Executive Board and Team Representatives

A. Commissioner.

1. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to preside at all meetings of the CFA and maintain order therein.
2. Its proceedings shall be recorded.
3. The minutes shall be signed by the Commissioner and shall be read at every regular meeting. Its proceedings shall become records of the CFA.
4. He shall take a vote on all motions after they have been properly made and seconded and decide the question when the vote is a tie.
5. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for and perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Bylaws.
6. He shall require such reports, in addition to those prescribed by the Bylaws as may be deemed necessary to the proper supervision of CFA activities.
7. He shall see that the Bylaws are enforced, and see that harmony is preserved throughout the CFA.

B. Assistant Commissioner.

1. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Commissioners to preside at the meetings in the absence of the Commissioner and perform all the duties of the Commissioner in his absence.
2. Assistant Commissioners are granted voting privileges for the following matters:
 - a. The admission of new Associations into the league.
 - b. By-law Amendments.
 - c. Acceptance of any and all punishments administered by the Associations in pertaining to coaching and other persons and officials on all disciplinary actions taken by Associations to meet bylaws requirements.
 - d. Any denials of punishments noted in Section 2.3 require that the Assistant Commissioners oversee a special meeting in regard to the action and a voted recommendation be submitted in writing to the Commissioner and acted on by the commissioner and reported to the league reps. Any Assistant Commissioners involved in any part of the actions taken requiring punishments administered by the Assistant Commissioners will abstain themselves from participating in the special meeting and voting except in the case of testimony as needed by the commissioners about the incidents in question.
 - e. Any and all requests by the League Commissioner made to the Assistant Commissioners for a vote to assist in any and all league matters as deemed appropriate or needed by the commissioner. Only the League Commissioner may request voting to be performed by the assistant commissioners for any actions other than the actions noted above.

C. Treasurer.

1. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies and dues of the CFA giving receipt for same, approve and pay all obligations of the CFA in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.
2. He shall maintain an accurate accounting system and immediately notify the Officers and Team Representatives when the accounts are not in balance.
3. He shall keep a just and true account of all monies paid out, make a full written report of finances and present same to the CFA once per month or at any time the Commissioner may direct.
4. He shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Bylaws.
5. He shall, at the expiration of his term, deliver to his successor all books, papers, and monies in his possession belonging to the CFA.

D. Secretary.

1. He shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the CFA, in a book provided for that purpose, subject at all times to the inspection of the Officers and Team Representatives.
2. He shall attend all meetings of the CFA with the requisite books and papers at the time prescribed.
3. He shall keep a direct list of all Officers and Team Representatives and perform such other duties pertinent to his office as the Commissioner may from time to time designate.
4. He shall perform such duties as may be required of him by the Bylaws.
5. He shall at the expiration of the Commissioners term deliver to his successor all books, papers, and other property in his possession belonging to the CFA.

E. Team Representatives.

1. It shall be the duty of the Team Representatives to meet as a Governing Board with the CFA Executive Board at least once a month.
2. All actions of the Team Representatives shall be governed by a majority vote of the CFA.
3. The Team Representatives shall perform such other duties, as may be required of them by the Bylaws.

Section 2.05 - Finances

- A. Each home association will pay for PIAA Football Officials during regular season games.
- B. CFA League dues will be \$700 per year including the PIAA assignor fee, payable prior to or on August 1st of each season.
 1. The dues for any association to add one or more division of teams to play in the league will be set at 50% of the Associations regular dues per additional divisions.
 2. In the event dues are not paid by roster night, the association(s) not in compliance will forfeit all games until dues are paid. The games must be played as they are regularly scheduled and will serve as an exhibition game.
- C. Gate receipts for the Super Bowl go to the CFA.
- D. Gate receipts for the First Round and Semi-Final Playoffs go to the host site.

- E. Teams will receive a statement at each monthly meeting outlining receipts and expenses incurred.
- F. New Projects. Funds to pay for new projects such as All Stars, post season games and others will be voted on by each association when the new project or projects are up for CFA approval. Projects and budgets must be presented each season prior to the first week of practice to start the new season. The commissioner may add additional minor projects and or awards as he deems appropriate after the start of the season to enhance the CFA Football League experience.

Section 2.06 – Trophies

- A. A trophy shall be presented to the Division Peewee, Pony and Midget Team Champs and to the Super Bowl Winner and Runner-up in all Varsity Conferences.
- B. Gold medallions will be presented to the Super Bowl Peewee, Pony and Midget winners. Silver medallions to the runner-up.

Section 2.07 – Associations – Commissioners Representation

- A. CFA meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month.
- B. Association Information Sheet: Associations must provide the name, best contact number and email address of association team rep. As well as practice field location and game field location, and list of officers of the association by March 1st of each year.
- C. Team Reps must attend all CFA Regular Meetings, Bylaws Meetings and any other Special Meetings called by the Commissioner.
 - 1. A CFA Association that is not represented within ten minutes of the scheduled start time of any of these meetings will be fined \$50.00 per missed meeting.
 - 2. The fine may be waived by the commissioners if an appropriate excuse explaining the reason for non-attendance by the association is submitted, by e-mail, to the commissioner prior to the start of any scheduled meeting.
 - 3. Notice of the fine will be e-mailed by the Treasurer to the team rep and association president at the conclusion of the meeting and must be paid prior to the start of the next scheduled meeting.
 - 4. Failure to pay the fine as indicated will result in an additional \$10 fine per meeting until paid in full.
- D. The Commissioner and assistant commissioners are required to attend all CFA meetings. If unable, the commissioner must be notified prior to the meeting.

Article III

Revision of Bylaws

Section 3.01 – Amendments

- A. The Bylaws may be revised or amended by a 2/3 vote of the eligible members present and voting at the designated bylaws meeting for the upcoming season.

Section 3.02 - Submission of Amendments

- A. No revision or amendments may be considered unless the same has been submitted in written form to the Commissioner by the deadline established for submission prior to the designated bylaws meeting for the upcoming season.
- B. The proposed revisions or amendments shall then be emailed or electronically sent to each Team Rep.

Section 3.03 – Effectiveness

- A. Submitted by-law changes proposals will require a 50% vote of the members present at the designated annual by-laws meeting.
- B. Submitted by-law change proposals that are accepted during the annual by-laws meeting will require a two third vote at the designated annual by-law ratification meeting.
- C. Assistant Commissioners are eligible to vote concerning bylaw changes. However, the Head Commissioner only votes to break a tie.
- D. The changes of amendments shall go into effect immediately upon adoption by the Governing Body.

Section 3.04 – Member Association Bylaws

- A. Each member association is permitted to have its own governing body and organizational structure in addition to the league by-laws.
 - 1. To the extent a member association adopts its own by-laws, said by-laws may not override or conflict the league by-laws.
 - 2. Questions regarding conflicts are to be resolved by vote of the members of the association.

Section 3.05 – Clerical revisions of posted bylaws

- A. The league commissioner may make clerical changes or revisions to the active seasons bylaws to correct spelling or grammar errors, organization of the bylaw's sections to a more reader friendly version or change term words such as TEAM and ASSOCIATION around as needed to represent the correct wording for the provision.
- B. The league commissioner will inform the member associations of any clerical revisions made to the bylaws with a listing of the revisions made or corrected at the end of the current active bylaws posted on the league website.
- C. The league commissioner will not add, change or delete any written bylaws provisions or statements while using Section 3.05 of the bylaws to correct any of the allowed revisions.
- D. The league commissioner will send out electronically the revised copy of the clerical changes of the bylaws to the member associations within 24 hours of posting to the website with the current revision number and what clerical changes were made.

Section 3.06 – Rule Changes

- A. There will not be any changes to the league rules during a playing season, July 1 through December 1.
- B. Rule changes will be made during the off-season, January 1 through June 30.

- C. In the event a rule change is suggested, outside the defined timeline, the Executive Board will meet to evaluate and determine if the change will benefit the entire league immediately. If it is determined the suggested rule change will benefit the league immediately, it will be presented at a league meeting for consideration.

Article IV

League Play

Section 4.01 – Games

- A. All league games shall be played according to PIAA football rules and as modified by the CFA bylaws:
1. Length of quarters as specified herein for each class of team.
 2. Point after touchdown: Two (2) points for a successful kick, One (1) point for a successful run or pass.
 - a. A defensive penalty for offside or encroachment if declined by kicking team to be assessed on the ensuing kickoff. Multiple infractions during PAT attempt to be assessed on pursuing kickoff. Example: Kicking team declines 3 consecutive offside penalties before finally getting kick off. On ensuing kickoff ball will be placed on the opposite 45 yard line for kickoff. Assessment of 3 penalties at 5 yards each.
 3. The CFA “Mercy Rule” is a 25-point differential at halftime.
- B. Game starting times:
1. Sunday Games: Peewee Game 12:00 PM, Midget Game 1:30 PM or 10 minutes after the previous game, Pony Game 3:00 PM or 10 minutes after the previous game.
 2. Saturday Games: Peewee Game no later than 4:00 PM, Pony Game 5:30 PM or 10 minutes after the previous game, Midget Game 7:00 PM or 10 minutes after the previous game.
 3. No games shall start after 9:30 PM.
 4. Games cannot begin more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, unless both organizations have been notified and agree to advancing game times due to impending weather.
 5. If, at the end of regulation play, a regular season game ends in a tie, the teams will play no more than two overtime series pursuant to PIAA rules in an effort to have a winner of the game.
- C. Home team must provide a warm-up area for visiting team.
- D. Associations are responsible for notifying the league of all game scores by email upon completion of the games the day they are played.
- E. Price admission to CFA games will be \$2/adult or \$5/family.

Section 4.02 - Standings

- A. Division winners are the team in the division with the best overall won/loss record.

- B. All conference games will be used to develop playoff seeding.

Section 4.03 – Ties

- A. In the case of a tie at the end of regulation season play these guidelines will be used to determine division winners and playoff seeding tie breakers:
1. Tie Breakers.
 - a. Two (2) teams.
 - i. 1st-Head-to-Head. The winner of the game played between the teams in question during regular scheduled play.
 - ii. 2nd - Strength of Victory. Overall won/loss record of teams defeated (Overall end of the season won/loss record of teams defeated based on section 2 above)
 - iii. 3rd – Overall Strength of Schedule. Overall won/loss record of teams played (Overall end of the season won/loss record of teams defeated based on section 2 above)
 - iv. 4th - Winning Percentage. Ties will be used in the calculation by taking the average between a win and loss. A team with one (1) tie will be calculated as follows: Team A finishes 6-1-1; the winning percentage is the average between 7-1 and 6-2, which is .813. A team with two (2) ties will be calculated as follows: Team A finishes 5-1-2; the winning percentage is the average between 7-1 and 5-3, which is .750.
 - v. 5th – Winning Percentage vs. Common Opponents (Use current winning percentage calculation)
 - vi. 6th– Division Record
 - vii. 7th - Coin Toss.
 - b. Three (3) or more teams.
 - i. 1st-Head-to-Head. The winner over both teams or if one team loses to the other teams involved.
 - ii. 2nd-3rd-4th-5th-6th, 7th, same as 1(a) excluding 1st-Head-to-Head.
 - iii. As higher teams are placed the remaining teams revert back to first tiebreaker.

Section 4.04 – Officials

- A. All officials used in league games shall be PIAA approved football officials.
- B. Game officials shall allow 10 minutes between games for sufficient warm up and exercise.
- C. Full minute time outs at the change of quarters so coach can confer with the team captain.
- D. First Round Playoffs require four (4) PIAA officials to be paid by the Host Team.
- E. The Semi-Final Games require five (5) PIAA officials and (1) scoreboard official to be paid by the host site. The host site will provide the chain crew.
- F. Super Bowl Games require five (5) PIAA officials on the field and three (3) PIAA officials for the chain crew and (1) scoreboard official to be paid by the CFA.

Section 4.05 - Number of Games

- A. League scheduled games and playoffs shall take precedence over non-league games.

Section 4.06 - Play-off Games - Super Bowl Games

- A. The Commissioner shall determine play-off sites and approve all post-season games.
- B. Each association is required to supply one person to work (i.e. collect at gate, sell 50/50, etc.) for the CFA at the Super Bowls and Cribari Classic games or pay a \$500 fine. The fine will be added to the following season's league dues. The Commissioner will coordinate the tasks and duties.

Section 4.07 - Night Games

- A. No game shall be permitted to start after 9:30 P.M.

Section 4.08 - Cancellation of Games

- A. Only severe weather conditions may cause the cancellation of a scheduled game.
 - 1. Cancellation to be made only after consultation and mutual agreement by the Directors of the two associations involved.
 - 2. The Commissioner must be notified and will resolve any disagreements.
- B. When a game is canceled by mutual agreement a new date and time should be set and the Commissioner shall be notified.
 - 1. If the game is cancelled on Saturday, it must be played on the following day, Sunday.
 - 2. If the game is cancelled on Sunday, it must be played as soon as possible with both teams involved agreeing on the date and location; coordinating the agreement with the commissioner.
 - 3. The Commissioner will resolve any disagreements.
- C. Any association canceling a game must notify the opposing association 2 hours prior to the time specified by the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of PIAA officials, normally by 10:00 A.M. of game day.
- D. Those associations not complying with the above will be required to pay the officials for the game or games involved.

Section 4.09 - Playoff Site Requirements

- A. Any association wishing to host a post-season game must submit a request in written form.
 - 1. The request is to be given to the Commissioner's Office prior to July 25th.
- B. Site selection for post-season games will be announced by August 25th.
- C. To host a semi-final or super bowl game, the following requirements must be met for a bid to be considered:
 - 1. Gated, ability to collect admission
 - 2. Operable score board clock
 - 3. Lighted playing field
 - 4. Adequate seating for both home and away fans
 - 5. Turf field is preferred, but not required

- D. If locker room facilities are only available for one (1) team, then locker room facilities cannot be used by either team.
- E. An association hosting playoff games will be permitted to maintain home side integrity i.e. their teams and fans will be permitted to sit on the home side of the field.

SECTION 4.10 - Practice

- A. Practices are closed.
 - 1. No coach, player, parent, team support or board member shall observe, film, videotape, photo or otherwise record the practice of an opposing association team without opposing association written consent.

Article V

Coaching Eligibility

Section 5.01 - Coaching Requirements

- A. All new coaches in the CFA must complete numbers 1 and/or 2 and must meet number 3 PRIOR to their first year to be approved as a registered CFA Coach:
 - 1. Attend a CFA approved clinic.
 - 2. Be certified by NYSCA and/or USA Football.
 - 3. Have a background check (Each CFA association will be responsible).
- B. Background Check.
 - 1. The Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) requires certain individuals to obtain clearances in order to be employed, be a resource parent (foster or adoptive), or be a volunteer with children. The purpose for requiring clearances is to provide employers and those selecting volunteers with information to use as a part of a larger decision-making process when determining whether to hire someone as an employee or select them as a volunteer.
 - 2. Clearances are required for an employee or unpaid volunteer at a minimum of every 60 months from the date of the oldest clearance. Clearances may be required more frequently based on licensure or employer requirements.
 - 3. Agencies and organizations must ensure that clearances are obtained in accordance with the CPSL. The required clearances may include:
 - a. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance;
 - b. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check; and
 - c. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Criminal History Background Check (required for all employees and some volunteers)
 - 4. The results of the background checks will be maintained by the member association.
 - a. All teams must submit a Certificate of Compliance form listing all eligible head and assistant coaches' names.

- b. This form will certify that all coaches have passed the proper Pennsylvania State Criminal Background Checks.
 - c. The form must be signed by (2) Executive Board Members from that association.
 - d. Any organizations that have not submitted this form to the Commissioner by the designated CFA Roster Book Night will not be eligible to participate and will forfeit scheduled games until it has been submitted.
 - e. If a coach is added after the original form is submitted, an updated (including updated signatures/dates) form must be submitted to the Commissioner before the coach is allowed to participate.
- 5. It will be the responsibility of the member association to terminate an existing staff member or deny a position to an applicant based on the results of the background checks. It is suggested that no individual be accepted to a association who has been convicted of a felony, a crime against a child, violent crime, domestic violence, or alcohol/drug offense.
 - 6. Only individuals with proper identification badges may be on the sideline during game day; this includes but is not limited to coaches, team parent, media, board members, etc.
 - 7. There is to be a maximum of (6) six coaches on the sideline during games.

Section 5.02 – PIAA Rules Update

- A. At least one coach from each officiated team (pee wee, pony, midget) of a CFA association must attend the annual PIAA rules update meeting conducted by the PIAA each year for the CFA or attend an approved PIAA event.
- B. Each coach/rep from each team (pee wee, pony, midget) of a CFA association must sign in at the beginning of the meeting to officially be counted as in attendance.
- C. Violation of this rule will result in a \$50 fine for each coach of each CFA association not in attendance. Example: one coach from a level from an organization attends, but no one from the other two levels, the fine would be \$100 for the organization.

Article VI

Scheduling

Section 6.01 – Schedule

- A. All league games will be scheduled and distributed to each Team Representative 4 months prior to the first league game, if possible.
- B. The CFA schedule will be set up and finalized by the Commissioner only.
- C. The Commissioner is authorized to set time and place for all playoff games.
- D. Where possible, all non-divisional games should be played at the beginning of the schedule.
- E. The Commissioner shall use the following criteria for post-season games:
 - 1. Consider all association written requests to host games.

2. Use alternate division/alternate conference basis for placing games.
3. Assure site conditions conducive to good gate collection.

Section 6.02 - Length of Season

- A. Practice may begin on Monday, the week of August 1st.
- B. All playoff games shall be completed no later than the third Sunday in November, unless cancellations were caused by an Act of God.
- C. The official start date for the CFA Football League and member Association activities will be January 1st of each year.
- D. The official end of season date for all League and Association activities will be December 31st of each year.

Section 6.03 – Camps/Clinics/Tournaments

- A. Summer camps and/or spring and summer 7 on 7 camps/clinics/tournaments must be open to all CFA associations and/or to its players and must be approved by the league commissioners prior to 2 weeks before the scheduled camps/clinics/tournaments.
- B. Only those camps/clinics/tournaments posted on the official CFA Football League website will be considered approved.
- C. No Association shall permit coaches or teams officials to require that their players attend any of the above functions prior to the official start date of that year's season.
- D. Conditioning sessions run and attended by an Associations coaching staffs or officials are considered camps and clinics and must follow the same guidelines to be open to all teams in the league to participate in.

Article VII

Player Eligibility

Section 7.01 – Player Eligibility

- A. In order for players to be eligible to compete in the CFA Football League they must meet the requirements set forth below.
- B. Any team found using an ineligible player should forfeit all games in which said player has participated and the head coach will be suspended for one game

Section 7.02 – Player Age

- A. Players eligible to compete in the CFA must be between the ages of 5 and 13 years old.
- B. The age shall be determined on April 30. If a player is 13 on April 30, the player is eligible.
- C. Proof of date of birth shall be determined by birth certificate presented at the time of registration. Any other form of proof must be submitted to the Executive Board for certification.
- D. All participants will be rostered to the appropriate squad based on their age.

- E. Midget players are eligible to play in the CFA if they are 14 years old AND in the 8th grade.
- F. 9th graders who are league age 13 (they were 13 years old on April 30th of current season) are eligible to play in the CFA.

Section 7.03 - League Medical Waivers

- A. Players requesting waiver exceptions due to age restrictions that have either medical or mental handicaps or special needs may be given a waiver by the commissioner for any age group that the commissioner feels can benefit the player by participation and not harm that player or opposing team players by his or her participation.
- B. The commissioner's response to all waiver requests is final and cannot be challenged or overridden.
- C. This type of waiver will be hereafter known as a League Medical Waiver.
- D. Any teams that have a player with a League Medical Waiver shall be required to have a copy of the waiver with that team for inspection at all league weigh-ins and inform the opposing coach and weighmaster of the player with that waiver during the weigh in period or prior.
- E. Every coach on each team is required to ensure that all players with a League Medical Waiver are treated with an additional notice of safety and respect if and when that player participates in a game.
- F. The safety of a player with a League Medical Waiver is of utmost importance.
- G. Game officials officiating the game should be made aware of any special needs or handicapped player entering the game and what that player's role will be during play.

Section 7.04 – Registration

- A. Team registration shall take place prior to the opening game of the league schedule. Each player's age, school, and home address of the primary custodial parent [See 7.06 F], must be verified.
- B. A new CFA Registration Form will be submitted to the League Office each year that the player competes in the CFA Football League.
- C. Each CFA association will keep a copy of the Player Registration Form and submit a copy to the Executive Board for approval or rejection during CFA Roster Night [see 7.05].
- D. In order for a player to be eligible for registration an association must have on file:
 - 1. The written consent of parent or guardian.
 - 2. Proof of birth date [see 7.02 C].
 - 3. Consent affidavit, parent or guardian's authorization (signature), authorization for medical care, and physician's affidavit must be completed and/or renewed each year.
 - 4. Physical Examination: Each player must present a physical examination report for the current season from a physician on or before the first day of practice. Players without physicals will not be allowed to practice or play in scrimmages or games.
 - 5. Proof of where player attends school. This can be a report card, official transcript, or printout from the school district platform in which the player attends.
 - 6. Any required LEAGUE MEDICAL WAIVER [see 7.03] or TEAM-to-TEAM WAIVER [see 7.06 G].

- E. Teams may register an athlete up to the Monday before the 4th week of the current season.
 - 1. The date for 2025 is 11:59 pm on September 8th.
- F. Rosters are officially closed after the 4th week of the regular season.
 - 1. The date for 2025 is 11:59 pm September 14th.
 - 2. Exceptions may be made by the Commissioners for teams that have minimal player numbers, those teams must be determined and announced at roster night.
- G. Monday at 11:59 pm is the deadline for new players or existing players with incomplete documentation to become officially registered and eligible to participate in the upcoming week's games with the exception of week 1 (see 7.05 A 3). This means that all required documentation must be received by this deadline. In extreme circumstances exceptions may be made by the Commissioners for teams that have minimal player numbers, those teams must be determined and announced at roster night.
- H. Any team found to be using a player who is not officially rostered by the CFA (registered and eligible to participate), will forfeit any game in which the said player participated. In addition, the Head Coach of the team will be suspended for one game.
- I. During the season, official player rosters will be maintained on an internal document accessible by authorized officers from each association (preferably a locked Google Spreadsheet Document). This document will be a copy of the information each team provided in their roster spreadsheet [see 7.05 D] with the exception of the player's date of birth, address, and phone number.
- J. It is an association's responsibility to review their rosters on this internal document and notify the Commissioners (and opponents if timing is a concern) of any errors so that they can be corrected.
- K. A list of each association's TEAM-to-TEAM waiver cap % will also be published by Commissioners in an internal document accessible by authorized officers from each association. [see 7.06 G].

Section 7.05 – Roster Books

- A. All CFA Associations must prepare a team registration roster book each season.
 - 1. The roster book must contain the player's registration form, birth certificate, physician's affidavit of physical examination, parent or guardian's consent authorization, proof of the school district in which the player attends school, players' jersey numbers, as well as any required LEAGUE MEDICAL WAIVER or TEAM-to-TEAM WAIVER.
 - 2. It is CFA League policy that no player is allowed to practice and/or compete or be listed on the team's official roster in the CFA without these documents.
 - 3. Only the players listed in the submitted team roster book on roster night, with all the above-mentioned documents included, will be eligible to play during the first scheduled game of the season.
- B. The roster book will be submitted to the CFA on the official roster night, normally the 3rd Sunday in August (6 or 7 days prior to the first regular season game).
 - 1. Each team will provide the Commissioner with contact info on the person that will be responsible for developing and updating the roster book.

2. All rosters (all levels) must come from an authorized officer of each association who must verify and sign their respective roster.
- C. Any player who is missing the required documentation is NOT permitted to be listed on the team's official roster and therefore ineligible to participate in any league competitions or practices.
1. Missing documents must be sent to the Executive Board by the authorized officer of an association before an ineligible player may be added to the official league roster. [see 7.04 E, F, G]
 2. A digital copy of each association's roster must be submitted to the league office prior to roster night.
 3. The CFA Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner will provide a standard digital template for this purpose.
 4. Any changes made to the roster book, including adding or removing players, changing numbers, adding required documentation, must also be revised in the digital roster and forwarded to the designated Commissioner so that the official league website may be updated accordingly. [see 7.04 I]
- D. The spreadsheet template will include squad assignment, jersey number, first and last name, birth date, age, weight, grade, whether the player is new, returning, birth certificate is received, physical is received, waiver status [see codes below], waivers from [listing the associations who have provided a waiver], public school district of custodial parent, school name, address of custodial parent, phone number of custodial parent. Waiver Codes should be utilized as follows:
1. G: Used for a player grandfathered by a move, from being previously rostered on a team joining the CFA, or a player cut/excluded from their home organization. [See 7.06 E 4, 5,6]
 2. OA: Player is a Free Player from an Open Area.
 3. W: Used to indicate a TEAM-to-TEAM WAIVER. Must be indicated on a yearly basis as long as that waiver is being utilized.
 4. MW: Used for Commissioner's Medical Waiver.
- E. Rosters will be reviewed on roster night by the Executive Board. Each player, squad, and roster should be verified to be in full compliance with all CFA Bylaws. This includes boundary/waiver stipulations as outlined in 7.06.
1. Players in question may be checked through the Bureau of Vital Statistics with their parents' permission. If a parent fails to comply, the player in question will be immediately removed from the roster until the matter is resolved.
 2. Access to the CFA official boundary files [preferably on a google drive] will be available to resolve any conflict or boundary dispute. [See 7.06 A]

Section 7.06 – Boundaries and TEAM-to-TEAM Waivers

- A. All teams will be limited to players drawn from specific territories/boundaries.
- B. In general, organizational boundaries should reflect the boundaries of the school district in which they are located.
- C. When necessary, a Boundary Committee will be formed to maintain and update a complete organizational boundary map of the entire league.

1. The committee will consist of two team representatives per conference nominated at the beginning of each calendar year by conference member vote.
 2. Petitions to change and modify an association's recruitment boundaries must be approved by the said committee with consultation/objection from all associations who are territorially affected.
 3. Mutually agreed upon boundary changes, including the creation of new buffer zones, must also be approved by the said committee.
 4. The initial boundary of any new association also must be approved by the said committee.
 5. The boundary committee must report its decisions and rationale to all associations at the next general meeting.
 6. An association may appeal the committee's decision at the same general meeting where the decision is reported.
 7. A majority vote of all attending associations is required to overturn any decision.
- D. Boundary Zones-Different types of boundaries may be created to reflect complex organizational territorial situations. They are outlined below:
1. DISTRICT ZONES: Consist of specific boundaries that are assigned to only one association for recruitment. This is typically an alignment of one Home Association with one school district or certain school boundaries within a school district.
 2. BUFFER ZONES: Consist of specific boundaries where two or more CFA teams can solicit new players equally and are considered Home Associations.
 3. OPEN AREAS: Consist of areas outside of territories claimed by any CFA team and are open territory to any CFA Team.
- E. HOME ASSOCIATION(s): Players must play for the association or associations(s) whose boundary they reside in. Residence is established by their primary custodial parent's home address. I.E. the address they utilize to attend public school or WOULD utilize to attend public school (in case of their attendance at private, parochial, or home school). This/these association(s) is/are considered their Home Association. In general, players need a TEAM-to-TEAM WAIVER [See 7.06 F] to be rostered with an association that is not their home association(s). Exceptions to this situation that do not require a TEAM-to-TEAM Waiver are as follows:
1. A player who attends a Roman Catholic Parochial school may elect to play for a designated legacy parish association. This association is not considered the player's Home Association unless that player also happens to live within the association's assigned physical boundary.
 2. A player who attends a physical school outside of their home district (private or parochial) may elect to play for the association whose boundary encompasses their school's physical address. This association is not considered a Home Association.
 3. OPEN AREA: Open Area players have no Home Association and are considered "Free Players". They may roster initially with any association.
 4. GRANDFATHERED Scenario 1: A player whose primary custodial parent has moved outside of an association's boundary may continue to play for their previous team or play for their new home association. This rule only applies to players who have

continuously played for their prior association. The former organization is no longer considered the player's Home Association.

5. GRANDFATHERED Scenario 2: A player who was rostered with a newly admitted CFA association the season prior to their association joining the CFA.
 6. GRANDFATHERED Scenario 3: A player in a District Zone who was cut/released from their CFA Home Association or turned away due to self-imposed roster limits ONLY, may play for any team without a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver. They will be considered grandfathered for as long as they continuously play their new association.
- F. TEAM-to-TEAM WAIVERS: No players (other than the situations listed above) are eligible to register with an association outside of their Home Association [see 7.06 E] without a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver.
1. This consists of a digital or written approval from the team in whose boundary area he/she resides.
 2. The CFA Executive Board may not issue a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver unilaterally.
 3. No association is permitted to actively recruit a player(s) to switch team affiliations. Evidence of violations may be brought before the Commissioner. If appropriate, the Commissioner may convene a disciplinary committee to judge the validity of the complaint and issue possible consequences up to and including coach suspensions, game forfeitures, or possible organizational probation.
 4. A TEAM-to-TEAM waiver may only be issued at a parent's request.
 - a. The receiving association should not initiate contact with the player's home association to request a waiver.
 - b. A Home Association is not required to honor waiver requests; the Home Association has sole discretion over issuing requested waiver.
 5. Any sibling of an active player with a TEAM-to-TEAM Waiver is considered automatically covered under the same waiver.
 - a. A copy of their sibling's waiver document should be indicated in their file, and it should be indicated that this child is a sibling.
 - b. This does not count for the siblings of Cheerleaders participating in another organization as they do not require waivers and can't be used to automatically waive a sibling playing football.
 6. Any player residing in a Buffer Zone requesting a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver to play for a team that is not one of their Home Associations, must receive waivers from all Home Associations in that Buffer Zone.
 7. Any player residing in a Buffer Zone and rostered with one Home Association, who wishes to move to another Home Association within the same Buffer Zone, must still obtain a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver from their former team. As a Home Association, this waiver does not need to be indicated on a digital roster, nor will it count towards any waiver cap.
 8. A player wishing to return back to their HOME ASSOCIATION after previously receiving a waiver and playing for another team, must have an approved TEAM-to-TEAM waiver from their current team for the return to be eligible.
 - a. The current association may only deny this waiver request if it can prove the player has an outstanding financial or equipment liability; the player

- will be unable to register with any association until these liabilities have been satisfied.
- b. As a Home Association, this waiver does not need to be indicated on a digital roster, nor will it count towards any waiver cap.
- 9. A player seeking to move from one team outside of their Home Association(s) to another team outside of their Home Association(s), must receive a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver from their former team and their Home Association(s).
- 10. An Open Area player wishing to switch from their current CFA Association to another Association must obtain a TEAM-to-TEAM waiver from their initial Association.
- G. Once a player initiates participation with a designated team in a particular season, the player may not leave that team to play for another team in the CFA during that same season. The participation date will be roster night.
- H. Associations may not roster more than 15% of their given roster via TEAM-to-TEAM waivers. This does not count grandfathered players [see 7.06 E 4, 5, 6], Open Area players, or players rostering back with a Home Association [see 7.06 F].
 - 1. Any association who is over the 15% TEAM-to-TEAM waiver cap in a given season may not roster any new players via TEAM-to-TEAM waivers the following season or any additional seasons until they are under the 15% waiver cap for a full season. [Note: This roster restriction will take place with registrations for the 2023 season and will utilize data from the 2022 season].
 - 2. Players rostered with a team in 2022 will remain eligible to play for that team in 2023 and continuously through their FINAL, age-eligible midget season.
- I. Any player rostered via a TEAM-to-TEAM Waiver, or an Open Area is considered open information and must be included in the official rosters published internally by the CFA [see 7.04 I].

Section 7.07 – League Home Associations Boundaries

- A. The League Home Association boundaries in 2025 are as follows:
 - 1. Big Spring Bulldogs: District Zone - Big Spring School District
 - 2. Boiling Springs Bubblers: District Zone - South Middleton School District
 - 3. Carlisle Herd: District Zone - Carlisle Area School District
 - 4. Central Dauphin Rams: District Zone - Central Dauphin High School footprint within CDSD.
 - 5. Central Penn Crusaders*: Buffer Zone - Central Dauphin East footprint within CDSD
 - 6. Chambersburg: District Zone - Chambersburg Area School District
 - 7. Cumberland Valley Eagles: District Zone - Cumberland Valley School District west of Good Hope/Sporting Hill Road. Buffer Zone - Cumberland Valley School District east of Good Hope/Sporting Hill Road
 - 8. East Pennsboro Panthers: District Zone - East Pennsboro School District
 - 9. Fairfield Knights: Fairfield School District
 - 10. Gettysburg Warriors: District Zone - Gettysburg Area School District
 - 11. Greencastle-Antrim Blue Devils: District Zone – Greencastle-Antrim School District
 - 12. Greenwood-Newport Buffaloes: District Zone - Greenwood School District, Newport School District

13. Harrisburg Cougars: District Zone - Harrisburg School District
14. Hershey Trojans: District Zone - Derry Township School District
15. Lebanon Raiders: District Zone - Lebanon School District
16. Lower Dauphin Falcons: District Zone - Lower Dauphin School District
17. Mechanicsburg Wildcats: District Zone - Mechanicsburg Area School District
18. Mercersburg Rockets: District Zone – Tuscarora School District
19. Middletown Blue Raiders: Buffer Zone - Middletown Area School District
20. Mountville Black Knights: Hempfield School District
21. New Cumberland Colts: District Zone - Cedar Cliff High School footprint within WSSD with the exception of Washington Heights Elementary. Buffer Zone - Washington Heights Elementary School in the West Shore School District.
22. Northern Polar Bears: District Zone - Northern York School District
23. Northern Lebanon Vikings: District Zone - Northern Lebanon School District
24. Palmyra Cougars: District Zone – Palmyra Area School District
25. Red Land Patriots: District Zone - Red Land High School footprint within WSSD
26. Seven Sorrows Eagles: Buffer Zone - Middletown Area School District
27. Shamrocks Football*: District Zone - Camp Hill School District. Buffer Zone - Cumberland Valley School District east of Good Hope/Sporting Hill Road. Buffer Zone - Washington Heights Elementary School in the West Shore School District.
28. Shippensburg Hounds: District Zone – Shippensburg Area School District
29. Steelton Rollers: District Zone - Steelton-Highspire School District
30. Susquehanna Tribe: District Zone - Susquehanna Township School District
31. Susquenita Blackhawks: District Zone - Susquenita School District
32. Swatara Tigers: Buffer Zone - Central Dauphin East footprint within CDSD
33. Tri-Community Panthers: Buffer Zone - Central Dauphin East footprint within CDSD
34. Waynesboro Stallions: District Zone - Waynesboro School District
35. West Perry Mustangs: District Zone - West Perry School District
36. York Bears: District Zone - York City School District

Section 7.08 - Player Agreement

- A. Each player shall sign a player agreement with his respective team.

Article VIII

Competition

Section 8.01 - Size of Squad

- A. It is recommended that each team register at least 18 players unless the Commissioner grants a waiver for this.
- B. Each association sets its' own maximum players per level.
- C. Lower-level players may be moved up.

- D. All lower-level players must appear on lower-level roster and their normal level must be noted on upper-level roster.

Section 8.02 - Player Personal Equipment

- A. Full safety equipment is mandatory for each team participant per PIAA rules.
- B. It is the individual team's responsibility to provide or ensure the team participant has the following minimum safety equipment:
 - 1. NOCSAE approved helmet and face guard.
 - 2. Playing Jersey and Shoulder pads.
 - 3. Football pants with a belt or waistband and proper fitting knee and thigh pads.
 - 4. Football girdles or belts pads with proper fitting hip and tail pads.
 - 5. Football shoes with rubber/plastic cleats or tennis shoes. Metal tipped cleats are prohibited.
 - 6. Mouthpiece. Mouthpieces must be attached to the face mask at all times and cannot be clear/white. All mouthpieces must be colored.
 - 7. Visible exterior warning label for all helmets.
 - 8. All chinstraps are required to have plastic snaps.
 - 9. All player equipment must be covered by a game jersey and pants.
- C. Players playing with a cast. The requirements for players who are playing with a cast are as follows: The cast must be covered with at least ½ inch high density closed-cell polyurethane (or something similar). The player must have a doctor's note (or a copy of the doctor's note) to be handed to the official at each game to keep. This is in accordance with PIAA rules.

Section 8.03 - Game Equipment

- A. The regulation game balls shall be as follows and may be either leather or composite:
 - 1. Pee Wee - Wilson K2" - "Pony - Wilson TDJ" - "Midget - Wilson TDY"
 - 2. Note the composite equivalent is not indicated as K2, TDJ or TDY on the balls
- B. No two or more players on the same team may wear the same numbered jersey in the same game.
- C. Team helmets, jerseys, and pants should be closely associated in color and style as to easily enable team recognition.
- D. Jersey numbering and coloring must comply with PIAA requirements.
- E. Each team must supply jersey colors, both home (dark) and away (light) prior to the start of the season to the Executive Board, in return, the Executive Board will supply each team with this list.

Article IX
Level of Competition

Section 9.01 – 2025 CFA Striper Rules

A. Weight Limits

1. Midget 165 Weight Limit, Striper Unlimited Weight*
2. Pony 135 Weight Limit, Striper Unlimited Weight*
3. Peewee 110 Weight Limit, Striper Unlimited Weight*
4. Smurf 85 Weight Limit, Striper Unlimited Weight*

B. Rules:

1. A florescent green 1 ½” or wider stripe to be applied from the front to the back of the players' helmet, which designates the players participation as a "Striper".
2. Stripers are required to have their helmets with them at weigh-ins.
3. The home team will have green florescent tape available at weigh-ins.
4. If a striper intercepts the ball, recovers a fumble or an on-side kick, play will continue as a normal football play.
5. Offensive Positions - Tackle to Tackle Only (Center, Guard or Tackle).
 - a. MUST be covered in the formation and MUST be on the line of scrimmage (therefore not eligible to catch a pass).
 - b. Unbalanced formations are acceptable as long as the sentence above is adhered to.
 - c. At most there can only be 5 stripers on the field.
 - d. Can be in a 2-Point, 3-Point or 4-Point Stance.
6. Defensive Positions - Interior Line Only (Nose Guard(s) or Tackles). Nose Guard(s) may line up head up or in the 'A' Gaps.
 - a. Tackles may line up head up, in the 'B' Gap or the outside eye of the offensive tackle.
 - b. Stripers cannot be Defensive Ends.
 - c. Must be in a 3-Point or 4-Point Stance. No 2-Point Stances.
7. Special Team's - Can participate on Kick-Off Return (front line only), Extra Point (same positions as above on offense and defense) & Punt (same positions as above on offense and defense).
 - a. Stripers cannot be a Punter or an Extra Point Kicker.
 - b. Stripers cannot participate on Kick-Offs.

C. Penalty for Striper alignment infraction will be “Illegal Participation” - a 15-yard penalty.

D. If a team registers 15 or less players at a given level (peewee, pony, or midget), then that team is permitted to use stripers on kickoffs.

1. The team must use all non-strippers first, then make up the difference with stripers. For example, a team registers 15 players, but 5 of the players are stripers. On a kickoff, that team would use their 10 non-strippers and 1 striper to fill out their kickoff team.

Section 9.02 - Midget Level

- A. Between the ages of 7 and 13 years old on April 30.
- B. Official Weight. Player must weigh 165 pounds or less*
- C. The time period for playing game quarters or periods shall be 8 minutes.
- D. Games must be played with a minimum of 3 PIAA Officials for each game.
- E. Any player whose name appears on the Midget roster as an officially recognized Midget player at the time of the first regularly scheduled league game may not play at a lower level during the regular season, unless otherwise authorized by the Governing Body.
- F. Midget players are eligible to play in the CFA if they are 14 years old AND in the 8th grade.
- G. 9th graders who are league age 13 (they were 13 years old on April 30th of current season) are eligible to play in the CFA.

Section 9.03 - Pony Level

- A. Between the ages of 7 and 11 years old on April 30.
- B. Official weight: Player must weigh 135 pounds or less*
- C. The time period for playing game quarters or periods shall be 7 minutes.
- D. Games must be played with a minimum of 3 PIAA officials for each league game.
- E. Any player whose name appears on the Pony roster as an officially recognized Pony player at the time of the first regularly scheduled league game may not play at a lower level during the regular scheduled season.
- F. A Pony player may move up to the Midget team but should remain rostered on the pony roster.

Section 9.04 - Pee wee Level

- A. Between the ages of 5 and 9 years old on April 30.
- B. Official weight: Player must weigh 110 pounds or less*
- C. The time period for playing game quarters or periods shall be 6 minutes.
- D. Games must be played with a minimum of 3 PIAA Officials for each league game.
- E. Any player whose name appears on the Pee wee roster as an officially recognized Pee wee player at the time of the first regularly scheduled league game may not play down on Smurfs during the season.
- F. A Pee wee player may advance to a higher level but should remain rostered on the Pee wee roster.

Section 9.05 – Smurf Level

- A. Between the ages of 5 and 7 years old on April 30. Recommended starting age is 6 years old. 5-year-olds may be added based on team policy.
- B. Official weight: Player must weigh 85 pounds or less*
- C. The time period for playing game quarters or periods shall be: Two (2) twenty (20) minute running clock halves or as adjusted by the coaches prior to the game.
- D. No more than two (2) coaches per team, plus officials, on the field during play.

1. Coaches on the offensive side must maintain a minimum 5-yard buffer from the deepest offensive player (typically the quarterback or running back) toward the backfield.
 2. Coaches on the defensive side must position themselves at least 5 yards toward the sideline, away from the outermost defensive corner, to ensure the quarterback's vision remains unobstructed.
 3. This rule applies specifically to Smurf Varsity games within the CFA Youth Football League.
- E. A Smurf player may advance to a higher level but should remain rostered on the Smurf roster.
- F. The length of the field shall be 80 yards.
1. Eliminate 15-yard penalties.
 2. Change all 15-yard penalties to 10 yards.
- G. Score keeping for this level is not allowed.
1. There will be no standings.
- H. Trophies will not be awarded for this level of play.
- I. Both teams must appoint one official for the entire game; the appointed coach may not be a Smurf coach.
- J. Smurf defenses may be a 4-man front or less, lined up on the Tight end to Tight end box, no nose guard or any player allowed lining up in the "A" gaps in towards the center or on or near the offensive center. First contact before entering the "A" gaps must be into the offensive Guards from any player lined up on Defense on an Offensive Guard in a "Head Up" or "Outside Shoulder" alignment.
- K. All linebackers must be lined up to start the play in a traditional LB position 5 yards off the LOS for all plays.
- L. If Line of Scrimmage is less than 5 yards from Goal line LB may lineup on the goal line.
- M. Blitz rule definition for Smurf Play. No crossing of the LOS by any player other than the 4 or less down lineman lined up between the Offensive TE's until the ball has been handed off or QB has left the TE-to-TE zone or fumbled the ball. Corners can cross the LOS but cannot enter into the TE-to-TE zone off a blitz or until either the QB moves towards and out of the zone or a RB has received a handoff or there is a fumble. LB's cannot ever cross the LOS unless to meet a back heading toward the LOS or if there is a fumble. LB's can move towards the outside areas of the noted zone at the snap of the ball to pursue a BACK or QB moving in that direction with the ball.
- N. All defensive linemen, including defensive ends, within the TE-to-TE box must align in a three-point or four-point stance at the snap of the ball. Standing alignments are prohibited for these players until the ball is snapped.
- O. The quarterback may not advance the ball past the line of scrimmage through the A gaps (between the center and either guard) unless a running back or other eligible ball carrier crosses the line of scrimmage through an A gap first on the same play. If the quarterback hands off or passes the ball and it is returned to them, they may then run freely, including through the A gaps.
- P. Any Smurf official must be at least 18 years of age. (You can use High School Football players as officials who are either Junior's or Senior's as long as they can demonstrate the

ability to know the rules and be fair and impartial). If coaches must be used as officials, coaches must be one from each team and they cannot participate in coaching during any part of the game but can participate in halftime discussions. Coaches acting as an official must refrain from talking to their players or coaching their players while officiating.

Section 9.06 - Weigh Master Guidelines

- A. Certified check weights: Each team may use a set of certified weights to balance scales prior to weighing in.
- B. Pee wee balance at 75 pounds, Pony balance at 100 pounds, Midget balance at 125 pounds.
- C. The individual teams shall have an appointed weigh master (and may have an assistant) who must be recognized by each team prior to weigh in time for each game.
- D. Weigh master must exclude any player from game participation if that player exceeds the weight requirements specified for that level of play.
- E. Scales:
 - 1. Scales used for weighing in must be certified each year from a weights and measurements firm with a current sticker attached.
 - 2. They shall be balanced beam or digital type scales.
 - 3. Any athlete that is over the max weight limit with their football uniform on may remove the uniform and be reweighed to avoid playing as a striper.
 - a. The minimum clothes for male athletes will be either underwear or shorts.
 - b. Female athletes will have a female chaperone and will have underwear or shorts with an additional sports bra or equivalent.
 - 4. The weight is always rounded down, I.E. 96.9 means 96 at weigh in, etc.
 - 5. Scales must be of a commercial/school quality or the equivalent.
 - a. Personal/home bathroom type scales are not permitted.
- F. Both team weigh masters must agree on all points prior to weigh in and cannot disagree or protest weigh in once started unless a violation of rules is evident.
- G. Each team will provide the league office during team registration and player roster meeting the name of its official weigh master.
 - 1. No coach may be a weigh master for the level of players coached.
- H. Only one team at a time may be present at the weigh in area.
 - 1. Visiting teams weigh in first.
- I. No jerseys or pants made of plastic, including garbage bags, are permitted to be worn by any player at any time to help with weight loss while under respective CFA Teams' care i.e. practice/games.
- J. Teams MUST weigh in.
 - 1. If a team is found to be out of compliance, i.e. they did not weigh in, they will face disciplinary action including forfeiture of game.

Section 9.07 - Weigh In Times

- A. Weigh in times for all games follows.
 - 1. Smurf – 90 minutes prior to start of Pee wee game.
 - 2. Pee wee – 30 minutes before game time.
 - 3. Midget – halftime of Pee wee game.

4. Pony – halftime of Midget game.
- B. Borderline weight Midget, Pony and/or Peewee players may be weighed by BOTH team weigh masters at any official weigh in time.
 1. Early weigh-ins for borderline weight players.
 - a. Each team must have a self-ink stamp with PERMANENT ink to hand stamp ALL early borderline weight players who qualify to play in that game at an early weigh in.
 - b. If a borderline weight player does not have their hand stamped, they have not qualified to play.
 - c. All borderline weight players must weigh-in with their team at the regularly scheduled weigh-in time.
- C. Following weigh in, coaches are permitted to assemble their teams to prepare for the upcoming game in an area close by the playing field.
 1. It is not permitted for any player to change the personal equipment used for weigh in.
- D. Weigh in must be accomplished prior to the start of the game being played.
 1. In case of inclement weather or incidents beyond control, the time may be changed by mutual agreement of both weigh masters of each team.
- E. When a team completes an official weigh-in and the game is cancelled by the officials due to unplayable conditions, all players that were weighed-in for that specific game, that weigh-in will carry over to the following day. No weigh-in is required.

Article X

Medical Care

Section 10.01 – Medical Care

- A. Each home team must have one of the following present during a game:
 1. An Ambulance, and/or a Doctor, Registered EMT, Paramedic or Registered Nurse.
- B. If an ambulance is not present designated acting medical responders shall be identified to visiting team Head coaches.
- C. If an athlete is injured and requires the use of an ambulance, it will be the financial responsibility of the parent team only if the athlete is not covered by private insurance policy or insurance from his parent's or guardian's employer.
- D. If none of the required medical staff is present at a given game, the game cannot continue.

Article XI

Protest and Penalties and Grievance Procedures.

Section 11.01 – Disciplinary/Appeals Committee

- A. Creation of a Disciplinary/Appeals Committee to decide what is the proper punishment for not following the bylaws.
 - 1. The committee will be made up of (1) team representative from each conference selected by the commissioner – (1) assistant commissioner and the head commissioner.
 - 2. The team representative from the conference's team, being disciplined or appealing a decision, will not be able to vote, but will be able to participate in the discussion prior to the vote.
 - 3. The head commissioner votes only to break ties.
- B. This committee will also hear any appeals that teams may have concerning a punishment handed out by officials or spelled out in the bylaws.
- C. The punishments will be kept on record so that precedents can be set for the infraction.
- D. The decision of this committee is final.

Section 11.02 - Basis for Protest and/or Penalties

- A. Team showing up thirty (30) minutes later than scheduled starting time without notifying their opponents (with the exception of an Act of God).
 - 1. The penalty shall be a forfeit.
- B. Use of ineligible player or players at any time.
 - 1. The penalty shall be the forfeit of all games in which the players are or were involved.
- C. Unsportsmanlike conduct by individuals, spectators, teams or coaches.
- D. Team personnel (players, coaches, trainers, assistants, board members, and league representatives) who engage in acts of serious misconduct or who may cause fighting among themselves, opponents, or spectators before, during or after a game, or who may threaten, push, verbally abuse through the use of profanity or otherwise abuse officials or league staff will be subject to discipline agreed upon by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and the Disciplinary Board.
 - 1. The nature and severity of such discipline shall be in the absolute discretion of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and Disciplinary Board whose decision shall be final and binding on team personnel.
 - 2. Discipline may include suspension, permanent or temporary disqualification from league-sponsored contests, reprimands and fines.
 - a. In reaching a decision about discipline the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, and Discipline Board shall consider the nature and severity of the misconduct, and the prior record of the personnel involved in the incident.

- b. The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and Disciplinary Board shall have the absolute discretion to determine if discipline shall be imposed and the amount and type of such discipline.
- 3. The decision of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and Disciplinary Board in disciplinary matters shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal or challenge in the courts.
 - a. Any person subject to the jurisdiction of the Governing Body who takes any action in court involving or arising out of disciplinary action imposed by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and Officers shall immediately and automatically become ineligible to participate in league sponsored contests for the balance of the calendar year in which such judicial action is filed and for the subsequent calendar year, unless the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and Officers agree to waive such disqualification.
- E. A team whose fans physically assault, verbally abuse through the use of profanity or otherwise abuse officials, players, league staff or abuse players, coaches, other fans and/or officials will be subject to discipline by the Disciplinary Board.
 - 1. Each team is responsible for the behavior of its fans and fan misconduct will not be tolerated by the league.
 - 2. Fan misconduct may result in a fine, suspension, disqualification and/or probation of the offending team based upon the judgment of the Disciplinary Board.
- F. Coaches who remove their team from the field before the game is completed shall forfeit that game and face possible punishment as determined by the disciplinary committee, up to and including a one-year suspension.
- G. A designated representative of each team should introduce himself to the officials before each game and obtain their names.
 - 1. Coaches are then asked to grade those officials as bad, fair, or good and why. Such reports should be submitted in writing at the meeting during the season.
 - 2. In accordance with this rule, we are asking that the league instruct the official's chapter to have their men file a report on all bench penalties, verbal abuse, threats, or other unsportsmanlike conduct to our league office.
 - 3. Repeated violations shall be brought to the attention of the Disciplinary Board for action merited by the severity of the incidents.
- H. It is the duty of coaches to teach sportsmanship to their players. We ask that this be stressed in practice and in games. No coach shall prevent his players from shaking hands with the other team. This practice should be encouraged by coaches and should occur as a regular matter of natural course.
- I. Field insufficiently or improperly lined as determined by PIAA officials.
- J. Changing or replacing equipment after weigh ins without approval of opposing team.
- K. In cases involving an ejection of a player or coach, a Team Rep, from both teams playing, must report the incident within eight (8) hours to the Commissioner and respective Conference Commissioner via email.

- L. During the course of a given season, any player or coach that gets ejected, by an official, on game day, automatically must serve a two (2) game suspension in accordance with PIAA rules.
 - 1. A coaches suspension will be served the following two like events and the suspended coach forfeits their right to have any contact with their team for those two game (I.E. no pre-game or sideline interaction, etc.). Example, coach is ejected during a Midget Varsity game, the coach may be present for the JV game as well as a different level games, but not for the subsequent two Midget Varsity games.
 - 2. A player's suspension will be served the following two like events and the suspended player may be present with his/her team, but may not be in uniform or weigh in. Example, player is ejected during a Midget Varsity game, the player may play in the JV game, but not for the subsequent two varsity midget games.
 - 3. Upon review by the Executive Board, and with input from the PIAA coordinator, the suspension may be overturned.
 - 4. Any player or coach who is ejected during the said organization's last game of the season, and has eligibility for the next season, must serve their suspension the first two games of the next season.
- M. During the course of a given season, any player or coach that gets ejected a second time from a game automatically will be suspended for the balance of the season.
 - 1. If the last game was the 2nd ejection it is up to the Executive Board to determine if the player or coach will be suspended for the following season.

Section 11.03 - "Zero Tolerance Spectators Rules of Conduct"

Youth football is for the development and participation of young children. Football games are contests that allow our children to learn to honor the game of football. On the field officials penalize players and coaches when rules are violated, and behavior is unsportsmanlike. Off the field, there are no officials to penalize spectators whose behavior becomes unacceptable due to stress and emotions. In the past adult behavior that was entirely unacceptable resulted in the expulsion of organizations, adults and guilty persons from the CFA. Think about that for a moment. Children were denied the privileges of participating in CFA youth football because of some adults' inappropriate behavior. We cannot have this unfortunate situation because it is unfair to our children.

Accordingly, effective August 1, 2011, the CFA, in order to protect the reputation and the participation of our children, hereby adopts the following to be enforced by all CFA Associations.

- A. ZERO TOLERANCE SPECTATOR RULES OF CONDUCT
 - 1. No Profanity is allowed.
 - 2. No intimidating language or actions shall be directed toward players, coaches, spectators, guests or anyone else.
 - 3. No heckling of game officials, coaches or players.
 - 4. Absolutely no spectators shall be allowed inside the fence during practices or on game days.
 - 5. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted during practice or games.

- B. The unacceptable behavior of a single spectator could endanger the continued participation of our entire group of children in this league.
- C. Any person who violates any one, or all, of the “Zero Tolerance Spectator Rules of Conduct” will cause themselves, and possibly their participating child/children, to be immediately expelled from the CFA Football League indefinitely.

Section 11.04 – Bench Flags

All bench flags, that result in an ejection, must be reported by the team representative, to the Commissioner and respective Conference Commissioner within 48 hours via email. If known, the name of the coach who received the bench flag and the official’s name who threw the flag should accompany the report.

Section 11.05 - Procedure for Filing Protest

- A. A statement of facts shall be called in to the Commissioner on the day the incident occurred and be submitted to the Commissioner in written form within 24 hours after the incident causing the protest.
 - 1. Any protest not filed within 24 hours will not be considered.
- B. All protests filed in accordance with Section 11.05.A must be accepted.
 - 1. The protest(s) will be acted upon accordingly.
 - 2. The Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners will review and discuss the incident, and if needed, call an emergency league meeting.
 - 3. Their decision will be final.

Article XII

Definitions and By-Laws Terms

Section 12.01 - Definitions

League: The League consists of a group of member associations and a governing board.

Governing Body: Consists of the Executive Board (CFA Commissioners) and Association (Team Reps).

Association and/or Organization: Is a separate not-for-profit volunteer run entity that administers one or more football squads. Associations are characterized by specific geographical areas. An association’s recruiting area is approved by the CFA Executive Board (CFA Commissioners).

Squad: A squad refers to a group of participants that are grouped together pursuant to age and weight characteristics as defined by the league. Squads in this league are referred to as one of the following: Smurf, Peewee, Pony or Midget.

Participant: Any child that has signed up with a member association.

Section 12.02 – Bylaws Terms

Bylaws Terms may be added at any time, during the year, by the commissioner, to define or explain the usage of words within or throughout the league bylaws document or any attachments or addendums related to the league bylaws or operating procedures as needed without a bylaws committee quorum or vote.

The term Executive Board used throughout the bylaws means: Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners.

The term Commissioner used throughout the bylaws refers to the Head Commissioner.

Association – The name Association refers to dues paying members of the league who have multiple team levels of play within their own organizations.

Team – The name team refers to a level of play for which a group of players is rostered under a member association broken down by league defined age groups.

All-Star Program – The term All-Star Program refers only to the selection of players for regular season awards only at each level of play as determined by the league commissioners following the current season's bylaws. When used for selection of players the term All-Stars or All-Star Program refers ONLY to awards to be presented for players regular seasons performance and should not be confused with any other term such as Senior Bowl or Turn Pike Classic etc.

Team Rep – One or 2 named Association representatives that attend league meetings and are permitted to represent an Association during league meetings, functions and voting rights.

Attached Player – An attached player is a player who was rostered on an Associations team during the prior football season only.

Un-Attached Player – An un-attached player is a player who was not rostered on an Associations team during the prior football season. If the player sat out and was NOT listed on any team's roster during the prior season, that player, even if they played for that team or any team prior to the previous season, is still considered an un-attached player.

Article XIII

Post Season

Section 13.01 – CFA Midget All-Star Awards Selection

- A. Midget All-Star Awards Selection criteria will be developed by the Midget All-Star Coordinator and presented to the league reps prior to the start of the regular season.
- B. The format will be shown on our web site.
- C. Any player ejected by an official, or subjected to disciplinary actions, during the season, will not be eligible for all-star awards.

Section 13.02 – All-Star Game Player Selection (Turnpike Classic Games)

- A. CFA All-Star Game Player Selection criteria will be developed by the Executive Board and presented to the league prior to the start of the regular season.
- B. The format will be shown on our web site.
- C. Any player ejected by an official, or subjected to disciplinary actions, during the season will not be eligible to play in the Turnpike Classic Games.

Section 13.03 – Team and Organization Awards

- A. Coach of the Year Awards
 - 1. There will be one (1) Coach of the Year awarded to a head coach, from each level of play (smurf, peewee, pony, midget), in each of the three (3) conferences.
 - 2. Head Coaches who are ejected by an official, or subjected to disciplinary action, during the season, will not be eligible to receive a Coach of the Year award.
 - 3. Coaches will vote for their peers, within their level of play, in their respective conferences, at a designated meeting in October.
- B. Team Sportsmanship Awards
 - 1. There will be one (1) Team Sportsmanship trophy awarded to a team, from each level of play (smurf, peewee, pony, midget), in each of the three (3) conferences.
 - 2. Coaches will vote for the teams, within their level of play, in their respective conferences, at a designated meeting in October.
- C. Hall of Fame Awards
 - 1. Nominees must be sent to the Commissioner, by the designated due date, to be considered.
 - 2. Nominees must have served within an organization(s) for a minimum of ten (10) years.
 - 3. Nominee should have made an impact on the organization and community within.
 - 4. Recipients will be selected by the Executive Board.
 - 5. The nominating organization will be notified if their nominee has been selected.
- D. Volunteer of the Year Awards
 - 1. Nominees must be sent to the Commissioner, by the designated due date, to be considered.
 - 2. Nominees must have served within an organization(s) for a minimum of one season.
 - 3. Nominees should be someone who has gone above and beyond to help their respective organization.
 - 4. Recipients will be selected by the Executive Board.
 - 5. The nominating organization will be notified if their nominee has been selected.

Article XIV
CFA JV League

Section 14.01- Basic Guidelines

- A. The CFA JV League will adopt and utilize Article IX Level of Competition Rules as our standard for the CFA JV League.
- B. Any team found not following Article IX, including weigh ins will face disciplinary action including dismissal from the JV league.
- C. Any association entering 2 or more teams in the JV league must guarantee a field use at least once during the JV season
- D. PIAA officials for all Pee Wee, Pony and Midget JV games will be used.
- E. JV players will follow the CFA guidelines for weighing in before all games.
- F. A team must have a minimum of Varsity roster of 25 players to enter JV League.
- G. Any varsity player that starts on a varsity team will not play that same position during a JV game. For example, a varsity receiver who plays a JV game will either play quarterback or running back, the athlete will not play receiver. On defense, if that same player plays corner on Varsity the athlete will play safety or linebacker on JV.
 - 1. If a team is caught starting a Varsity player in the same position during the JV Jamboree and that team wins any of the top 3 trophies, the team starting a varsity player in the same position will forfeit that trophy.
- H. All CFA Rosters shall include a Varsity Only designation.
 - 1. The percentage of players locked to a varsity-only status should be proportional to the total roster size.
 - 2. Instead of a flat 33%, teams will be required to lock only the number of players that equal the average roster size in the league multiplied by 33%. Ex: 2024 had 800 players among 36 teams. $(800/36) \times 33\% = 7.333$ which we'd round up to say 8 players need to be Varsity Only designation.
- I. Varsity Only players are prohibited from playing in JV games at all times.
 - 1. Varsity Only designations are due the Monday prior to the first game of the season and may be changed on the Monday of each regular season week.
- J. Only Varsity Only players will be eligible for post season awards and the Cribari Classic.
- K. The CFA website will have a two-week schedule on the site each week.
- L. Each team will play between 6-8 games a season.
- M. JV season schedule will start the week after the 1st official Varsity game.
- N. Any team who cancels/forfeits a JV game, for any reason, once the schedule has been posted, will not be permitted to participate in the remainder of the JV season, including JV Jamboree.
- O. Any team who cancels with less than 72 hours' notice will also be required to pay the full amount (both teams share) for the officials if a team does not fill their place.

Article XV

Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the CFA Football League, the CFA Commissioners and Team Reps shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Program, dispose of all of the assets of the Program exclusively for the purposes of the Program in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious or scientific purposes and shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the Program is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Date Approved:

Signatures: