

# ARTICLE I

## MEMBERSHIP

Qualification for GCAYF membership is as follows:

Associations shall enter at least on team in four (2) of the first six (6) divisions, which include All- American, in the upcoming season.

*\*Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis with Executive Board approval.*

***Associations shall not be a member of any other youth football league.***

*\*Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis with Executive Board approval.*

Exceptions will be considered only when the following conditions are met:

- The league/conference is a member of American Youth Football (AYF).
- The Association is a full member of GCAYF and has met the league requirements as stated above.
- Associations will pay a \$185.00 league registration fee for each team; this includes the \$35 fee for MyAYF.com, which is managed by our League Certification Coordinator (Flag fees are \$100.00 regardless of the number of flag teams you field). Additional teams in the same division, except flag, will receive a discount of \$50.00 off league registration fee. A third team at a weight class will receive a discount of \$75.00 off league registration fee. (Example: 1<sup>st</sup> 12U= \$185.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> 12U= \$135.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> 12U=\$110.00).

Associations must be a non-profit youth organization and fit within the goals of both the GCAYF and AYF.

Associations must provide the necessary insurance requirements in accordance with AYF rules.

***Associations must have a designated area of draw (boundaries) that DO NOT infringe on the boundaries of an existing GCAYF association.***

Associations must have their own equipment and practice facility. It is preferred that they secure a home playing site as well. Newly entering associations should submit a formal letter to the GCAYF Executive Board with the membership fee that explains the following in detail:

- Teams applying for
- Proposed area or location
- Personal description
- About yourself
- Background
- Support/Sponsors
- Why you want a Youth Program
- Coaches you have in place

New Associations may be voted in by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board. Application deadline for new Associations shall be June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Problems-Complaints-Grievances-Protest**

All problems, complaints and grievances relating to league activities shall be processed as set forth below:

Coaches, Players and Parents

1. Coaches, players and parents shall first discuss the issue with their Association President.
2. Should the Association President not be able to settle the issue, he/she shall then present all facts to the League Commissioner within 48 hours of said incident.
3. Should the League Commissioner not be able to settle the issue, he/she shall then present all facts to the Executive Board for resolution.
4. There will be a \$50 fee for filing a grievance form. If a grievance is won GCAYF we will refund the \$50 fee. Grievance form can be located on the GCAYF([www.greatercharlotteayf.com](http://www.greatercharlotteayf.com)) website. Forms to be submitted [breweja@msn.com](mailto:breweja@msn.com)

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PLAYING SEASON**

**Section 1** The GCAYF playing season may start as early as the fourth Monday in July and extend until December 31 of the current year.

**Section 2** No association shall commence team practice until the fourth Monday in July, with the first week being dedicated to Ten (10) Hours of conditioning ONLY before tackling is allowed. A later start date may occur for any association, but NO association may start any earlier.

**Section 3** Teams must qualify under the age and/or weight guidelines outlined in the current year AYF National Football Rule Book Section 5.

## ARTICLE IV

### EXPLANATION OF PLAYING RULES

**Section 1** The on field playing rules of the GCAYF will be that of the National Federation of State High School Association except for state high school associations that play under the NCAA rules. The GCAYF will modify some of these rules for its purposes in the (6U, 7U) age group.

## ARTICLE V

### PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

**Section 1 Consent to Play:** Parents or legal guardians are required to furnish the GCAYF a completed Participant Registration & Permission Form declaring their child has permission to participate in GCAYF/AYF activities. The Participant Registration Form must include a: Emergency Information & Consent and Image release.

**Section 2 Medical Certification:** All GCAYF players and cheerleaders must deliver to their local league proof of a physical examination before participating in GCAYF programs. The examining physician must attest that the player or cheerleader is physically fit and can participate in all activities offered by GCAYF. ***\*\*The AYF Physical Form is the ONLY acceptable form that can be used for travel.***

**Section 3 Age Certification:** The GCAYF requires all participants to be verified by Sports Thread. **Note:** Falsifying birth documents to make a player or cheerleader eligible will result in forfeiture of all games in which they have participated and permanent league suspension of the adult/adult(s) responsible for the act. Team Presidents' are ultimately responsible for each team roster submitted from their association.

*All teams must play within the rules of eligibility which includes: age and registration. The certification date (Eligible age is the participants age as of July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current season.*

**Section 4 Scholastic Eligibility:** All players and cheerleaders must submit a final report card from the previous year grade. All players and cheerleaders must have received passing grades in school to be eligible for GCAYF participation. If verifications of grades are necessary, only a school administrator (principal or counselor) will make the final ruling regarding scholastic eligibility.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **REGISTRATION/CERTIFICATION**

**Section 1 Certification Files:** Each team must present at certification a complete file for every athlete, coach and cheerleader in their organization. The original file will be turned into the league. Each team must also maintain a duplicate file for their records.

A complete player file will contain the following:

- Participant Tracking Form (Page 1 & 2)
- Emergency Consent Form
- AYF Medical Release Form
- Copy of Official Birth Certificate
- End of Prior Year Report Card
- Waiver and Release of Liability Form (MINOR)
- Image Release Form (MINOR)
- Concussion Statement
- Signature Page from Current Year Code of Conduct

A complete coach file will contain the following:

- Participant GCAYF Volunteer Form (electronic)
- Background Check Form
- Any REQUIRED AYF coaches' certification
- Copy of drivers' license or ID
- Acknowledgement of Coaches Code of Conduct (electronic)

**Note:**

*Players with missing documentation not submitted by the final paperwork date will be declared ineligible for the entire season.*

*Players legal name (same on his/her birth certificate) must be on all forms (registration, participation, waiver, etc.)*

*Once a player certifies, they cannot play for another team unless voted on by the Executive Board*

**Section 2 League Payment:** Each team fees will be paid upon certification.

**Section 3 Team Rosters:** Each team should submit a complete, typed team roster. Rosters will include, participants name and birthdate. Names should be listed on the form in alphabetic order.

**Section 4 Other Required Documentation:** Each association will also provide to the league the following completed documentation:

- Signed Background Affidavit
- Signed Academic Affidavit
- AYF Certificate
- Proof of Insurance (Accord) with required coverage amounts

**Section 5 Certification Dates:** TBD by League Certification Coordinator based on Executive Board decision to start the season; changes yearly.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY ROSTERS**

**Section 1** All final rosters will be digitally submitted to AYF by the League Certification Coordinator as October 1st of the current playing season. ALL rosters need to be locked before week 3 of the current season.

**Section 2** Once a player has been certified on a roster, he cannot be re-certified to another roster without an exception from the board.

**Section 3** For all divisions, first time and inexperienced players should be tried and placed, whenever possible, in the lowest possible classification they can qualify for by age.

**Section 4** A certified roster that has been signed and sealed by the league will be provided to each head coach and must accompany the coach on game day along with the player identification.

**Section 5 Dual Participation:** For the current season, the GCAYF has obtained a waiver from the AYF National Office and can allow kids to participate in both GCAYF and Middle School football. This should be allowed on a limited basis. It is not GCAYF intent to compete with either the middle school or high school programs. If a child participates in both middle school and GCAYF, careful monitoring of practice and academics must be maintained at all times. Once middle school practice starts, kids that participate in both shall be allowed to practice only 2 times per week with their GCAYF team. Academic progress should be monitored weekly. GCAYF participants are NOT allowed to play on a High School team and GCAYF simultaneously.

**Section 6 Formation of Teams:** Organizations with more than one team at an age classification **MUST** have a draft and take steps to make those teams as equal as possible. There will be **NO** stacking of teams by placing all of the most talented players on one team. The following procedures should be written into the organizations draft policy.

- Head coaches must participate in the draft
- Players may return to their last year's team if they choose
- Teams moving up a weight class may move up together
- If one team has more players (returners) than the other at the start of the draft, the team with fewer players will get a supplemental draft until the numbers are even and then players are chosen on a 1 for 1 basis.  
Any organization found to have violated this rule will be subject to disciplinary actions which could include team suspensions or other actions.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **DROPPING AND ADDING PLAYERS**

There will be no player add-ons/certification on game day unless approved by the executive board.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **PLAYER CUTS**

Cutting of players is **NOT** allowed in GCAYF/AYF. The league recommends a first come, first served participation policy. However, there are certain guidelines that should be met if it becomes necessary to not assign a player to a team.

**Section 1** When a player cannot furnish the required documents for certification to a team roster (Official birth certificate, physical, etc.)

**Section 2** Player shows no interest in football, is disruptive to other players and the instructions of the coaching staff, and becomes a discipline problem.

**Section 3** Player does not show up for practices. Participants must have a valid excuse from the parents, guardians or a physician.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **BOUNDARIES**

**Section 1** Association boundaries will not infringe on the boundaries of another association. In some cases, associations may have overlapping boundaries. Each association should pull the majority of their participants from their specific boundaries. Teams not pulling at least 75% of their participants from within their boundaries will be ineligible for post season play as they will be considered all-star teams.

**Section 2** Players will not be allowed to change teams during the season unless their family has physically changed residents. Even with a change of address, player movement must still take place within the guidelines of dropping and adding players and is a Board Decision.

**Section 3** It is against league rules to recruit players from another association. Associations found tampering with another associations players face fines and/or suspension.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **PRACTICES**

**Section 1** Practices, as a team, shall not begin before the fourth Monday in July or later. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Section 2** Pre-season practice can be on a daily basis (except Sundays) until Labor Day, but must not exceed 10 hours a week and two hours in duration. Water breaks do not count against the 2 hours.

**Section 3** After Labor Day, all practices may not exceed a maximum of eight hours per week with a maximum of two hours per day.

**Section 4** All players, regardless of when they join the team, must have at least one week of conditioning before they are allowed to practice with full equipment or have live contact with another player. Even if a player joins the team after the start of the regular season schedule, this requirement must be met.

**Section 5** At least one coach must be present during every practice.

**Section 6** There shall be at least one person holding a Red Cross card or similar equivalency present at all practices. This can be a coach or any other volunteer approved by the team.

**Section 7** There shall be no “Out of Class” practices. This includes non-contact as well as contact sessions.

**Section 8** Associations may offer camps from time to time. Associations however cannot make attendance in said camps mandatory. There shall be no exceptions. Camps may be offered if, they are not mandatory and the association provides an accident insurance policy for all participants.

**Note:** *Practices are defined as a gathering of 2 or more players and a coach for skill sessions, film viewing, conditioning, scrimmaging and any gathering by the team for any football purpose.*

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **COACHES**

**Section 1** Head coaches must be at least 21 years of age. The coaching staff will be under his direction and supervision.

**Section 2** Assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age and have graduated from high school or hold a GED certificate. They must have general knowledge of the game of football.

**Section 3** Head coaches are in complete charge of their players. They are responsible for their own actions, their assistant's actions and the actions of their players and the parents of their players.

**Section 4** Head coaches are **REQUIRED** to be certified through the AYF Coaches Training Program and/or USA Football Training Program. The league may also require assistant coaches to be certified.

**Section 5** All coaches must pass a background check in order to complete their certification.

**Section 6** All coaches must read and sign the GCAYF Coaches Code of Contact.

**Section 7** All Coaches must wear league appropriate coaches' attire or team apparel. *\*Note: If a head coach leaves an existing organization, he cannot coach for 1 year unless agreed upon among teams.*

**Section 8 Coaches Disqualification Criteria :**

Individual staff members found to be guilty of the following crimes will be disqualified as a staff member as outlined below. Guilty means the applicant was found guilty following a trial, entered a guilty plea, and entered a no contest plea accompanied by the court's finding of guilty, regardless of whether there was an adjudication of guilt (conviction) or a withholding of guilt. This policy does not apply if criminal charges resulted in acquittal, dismissal or in an entry of "nolle prosequi":

1) Ever found to be guilty of:

- All sex offenses including child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent

exposure, etc.

▪ All felony violence including murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.

2) Found to be guilty within the past 10 years of:

All felony offenses other than violence or sex including drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.

3) Found to be guilty within the past 7 years of:

▪ All misdemeanor violence offenses including simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit & run, etc.

4) Found to be guilty within the past 5 year or multiple offenses in the past 10 years of:

▪ Misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses including driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.

5) Any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of the staff member including contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, theft- if volunteer is handling funds, etc.

NOTE: Should any of the pending charges described above be uncovered, or should any of the above charges be brought against an applicant during the season, the applicant shall be suspended from serving until such time as the charges have been cleared or dropped and the President and Football Commissioner have approved reinstatement.

6) Any coach that leaves one organization and goes to another organization, within GCAYF, CANNOT COACH in any capacity (i.e. Head Coach or Assistant Coach) for a period of one (1) year.

NOTE: Any Association that is found to have violated this rule will be subject to a \$250 Fine (payable IMMEDIATELY) and the coach in violation will be removed from all rosters and league badge, if issued, will be revoked.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **INSURANCE**

**Section 1** All teams must furnish proof of General Liability and Accident Insurance. Additionally, the GCAYF/AYF must be named as an additional insured. All teams not covered under the AYF endorsed insurance policy are required to deliver the GCAYF/AYF a certificate of insurance prior to conducting any games or practices.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **ROSTERS**

**Section 1** No roster shall be larger than a maximum of 36 players and no roster can be less than 16 players certified for post season games.

**Section 2** Any team failing to field at least 13 players for regular season games can play, but will have to forfeit the game regardless of outcome.

**Section 3** If any team drops under 11 players the game will be called immediately by the officials.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **MUST PLAY RULE**

**Section 1** All GCAYF players must play in each game according to the MPR (Must Play Rule) Sheet. The exceptions should be noted prior to the start of the game or if injury should arise. Injury or disciplinary reasons are the only acceptable reasons for a child not participating in the game.

**Section 2** The GCAYF utilizes the AYF National rule for must play. Teams shall utilize the GCAYF Must Play Sheet to help monitor and

enforce the must play rule. Any player not meeting his required must plays at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will immediately enter the game and stay in the game until his must plays are met. Players must enter the game regardless of whether the team is on offense or defense. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

**Section 3** Any team failing to comply with the must play rule risks forfeiture of the game if found to be intentionally ignoring this rule. Coaches found in violation of this rule a second time shall be fined and/or suspended.

**Section 4** Kickoffs, extra point tries or punts do not count as plays. All plays must be from the line of scrimmage. Penalties do not count as plays unless action has taken place and a penalty has been assessed (holding, pass interference).

**Section 5** Official evaluation and All Must Play Forms should be turned in at the end of each game to the field marshal. The field marshal is responsible for submitting these forms to the league by the end of the day each Saturday. The MPR must be signed by both the team coach and opposing coach.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **PLAYERS REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

**Section 1** The following is the required equipment for all GCAYF players. The most important consideration is given to the helmet and shoulder pads.

1. Helmets are to be NOCSAE approved with the warning label on the outside of the helmet and reconditioned every 2 years. Chin strap regulations as required under the High School Federation shall apply.

2. Shoulder Pads
3. Pants
4. Hip Pads
5. Tail Pad covering the base of the spine.
6. Knee Pads
7. Thigh Guards
8. Keeper strap mouth guards
9. All divisions may wear the soft detachable cleats.
10. Eye glasses shall be the athletic constructed type with non-shattering glass. This also applies to contact lenses.
11. League approved game jerseys

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **RECOMMENDED FOOTBALL**

Although there are many named brand footballs and many youth football clubs have their own favorite, the GCAYF requires the following footballs.

- Flag/6U/7U/8U – Wilson K2, Nike P
- 9U/10U/11U/12U – Wilson TDJ, Nike J
- 13U/14U – Wilson TDY, Nike Y

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **LENGTH OF QUARTERS**

#### **Section 1**

Ten (10) minute quarters will be used in all levels of GCAYF except 6U which will be a 10-minute running clock.

Flag will be 20-minute half with a running clock.

#### **Section 2**

The GCAYF will utilize the ten (10) yard High School Tie Breaker system.

#### **Section 3**

Intermission will be ten (10) minutes.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **TIME CLOCK**

**Section 1** The official clock can either be kept by the officials on the field, or at the press box if the league is allowed to use the press box.

**Section 2** If a scoreboard clock is used, the timekeeper must be approved by the game officials before the game starts.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **TIMEOUTS**

**Section 1** There will be three timeouts per half for all GCAYF games.

**Section 2** Timeouts are not charged against a team for injuries or game official timeouts.

## **ARTICLE XXI**

### **INJURED PLAYERS**

**Section 1** GCAYF teams are required to have one of the following : EMT, First Aid Attendant, Physician or Multi-Media Card Holder at each game. Also, the phone number to the local Fire Department, Emergency Response Team must be available at the concession stand or by the game day commissioner at all times.

**Section 2** Once an injured player is removed from the game, they may not re-enter unless first approved by one of the on-site medical staff. Head injuries are to be closely evaluated before the player can re- enter, and if a player is transported off the playing field by ambulance to a medical facility, a signed-off release **MUST** accompany that player, prior to any further participation.

## **ARTICLE XXII**

### **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

**Section 1** When ineligible players are found, all games of which the ineligible players have participated in are forfeited and will count in the league standings as such.

**Section 2** Team is ineligible for post-season bowl games and championships regardless of the number of losses it has suffered for playing ineligible players.

**Section 3** If a player quits or is disqualified from the league, his id card must be removed from the team and his name removed from the teams certified roster. The league should be notified immediately. Once a player has been removed from the certified roster, that player is ruled ineligible for the remainder of the season.

## **ARTICLE XXIII**

### **SCORING**

Touchdown - 6pts

Point after TD (Running or Passing) – 1pt

Point after TD (Kicking) - 2pts

Field Goal - 3pts

Forfeit - 6pts

## **ARTICLE XXIV**

### **LOPSIDED SCORES**

***Note:** There is nothing more demoralizing to a losing team than a lopsided score. Intentionally run-up scores are even more demeaning. A run-up score is when a team continues to pour it on even after the game is in their favor and far out of reach for their opponents. The GCAYF considers this type of coaching contrary to its purposes. Coaches who practice this will face disciplinary action by the league including but not limited to fines and/or suspensions.*

**Section 1** When team 'A' has a 25 or more point lead over team 'B' at the end of the first half, or takes this lead into the second half, the game clock will become a running clock and can only be stopped for injury or an official's time out

**Section 2** Once a team is leading another team by 25 points or more, no further kickoffs will be allowed. Team 'B' will take over the ball on their own 40-yard line.

**Section 3** Coaches should have substituted all of their players before the above rule comes into play. Lopsided games can be used as a working tool for skill development for inexperienced players. The winning team

is prohibited from running reverses, counters, misdirection's or 'trick plays of any kind.

## **ARTICLE XXV**

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**Section 1** There will be no electronic devices from the press box or any other positions on the field to relay messages to the coaches on the sidelines at any time, and this includes cell phones. A coach using a cell phone for an emergency must step outside the coach's box, and if it continues, could be asked to leave the field.

## **ARTICLE XXVI**

### **SCHEDULES**

**Section 1** All pre-season and post-season games are to be approved by the league. Individual teams are prohibited from scheduling games on their own.

**Section 2** In all classes, a maximum of 14 games are allowed, which includes playoff games. Pre-season games do not count in the regular season schedule.

**Section 3** Games will be played once a week with a 48-hour minimum between games. Games will typically be played on weekends. Exception may be made to play week day games for inclement weather make ups and playoffs and regionals.

## **ARTICLE XXVII**

### **BREAKING TIE GAMES**

#### **Section 1**

All games that end in a tie, the following will take place:

1. There will be a coin toss. Winning team will choose to take the ball or defend. Losing team will choose the goal they wish to defend.
2. The referee places the ball on the defending teams' 10-yard line.
3. The offensive team is given 4 downs to score.
4. The defensive team takes over and is giving the same opportunity.
5. If the game is tied after the first possession during the regular season, the game will end in a tie.
6. If the game is tied after the first possession the same procedure takes place until a winner is declared in playoffs only.
7. Each team will be given one timeout for over time play

#### **Section 2**

*There will be no sudden death tie-breakers and there are no fifth quarters allowed in GCAYF.*

## **ARTICLE XXXVIII**

### **ALL STAR TEAMS**

**Section 1** All-Star teams are for internal GCAYF league play only. The exception will be the 10U/12U/14U travel team which will represent the league in Regional/National play.

**Section 2** Players participating on the League Championship teams that will represent the GCAYF in Regional/National tournaments are prohibited from playing on an All-Star team. The AYF/All- American Game is an exception.

**Section 3** All-Star teams are prohibited from playing another leagues All-Stars.

**Section 4** All Star teams are prohibited from playing in AYF Regional/National Championship games at any time. Only in All-Star National Championship divisions.

## **ARTICLE XXIX**

### **COACHES STANDARD OF CONDUCT**

To players, coaches are living heroes. To parents and fans, coaches represent the best in football and a leader and role model for their children. A coach's conduct is always under scrutiny. His actions affect his players, parents and fans. To this end, the GCAYF requires this standard of conduct from all of its coaches.

All coaches must have a criminal background investigation performed on them at least once every four years by the league.

1. A coach will always keep the health and welfare of players foremost and remove from a game any injured player whose injury in doubt concerning his return to the game.
2. A coach will always strive to set the example for his players on and off the field.
3. A coach will strive to make every football activity serve as a training ground for life, and a basis for good mental and physical health.

4. A coach will emphasize that winning is the result of good teamwork.
5. A coach will not smoke on the practice field or on the sideline during games.
6. A coach will not berate a player privately, nor in the presence of teammates, parents or fans.
7. A coach will not berate or criticize game officials and will accept their decisions as fair.
8. A coach will not run up the score on a weaker opponent.
9. A coach will not use abusive, profane or degrading language at any time.
10. A coach will not incite fans or spectators into actions unbecoming to the game of football.
11. A coach will not use alcohol on the practice or game field at any time.
12. A coach will encourage scholastics on and off the field and observe the no pass-no play rule.
13. A coach will follow the parameters of the Anti-Substance Abuse rule and see that it is carried out faithfully and that all players understand its importance.
14. A coach will not use ineligible players and will take the responsibility of having proper and legal documents on each and every player proving his eligibility at all times.

15. A coach will make sure that all players play the required number of plays under the GCAYF rules and regulations.

16. **ABSOLUTELY NO GAMBLING ON GCAYF GAMES; VIOLATORS WILL BE BANNED FROM GCAYF PERMANENTLY – NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

## **ARTICLE XXX**

### **ANTI SUBSTANCE ABUSE RULE**

**Section 1** Each team will present a Substance Abuse lecture to players and cheerleaders at all levels of play. The lecture will be presented during the first week of practice and will be repeated as many times as necessary to ensure all participants are aware of the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

**Section 2** The lecture must be given by a member of the coaching staff.

## **ARTICLE XXXI**

### **PENALTIES PART I: Coaches**

The following penalties/fines are prescribed for coaches who are guilty of the following:

1. Failing to observe the All Play Rule. First offense: probation, affected players given double playing time next game. Second offense: suspension for one game. Third offense: suspension for remainder of season. If it is the last game: suspension for the first

half of the season games next season.

2. Cheating: Permanent suspension.
3. Playing ineligible players: Suspension for the rest of the season. League will review status for next season.
4. Badgering of game officials with threats and inciting fans to display poor sportsmanship: First offense: suspension for two games. Second offense: Permanent suspension.
5. Fighting of any kind: Suspension for the remainder of the season.
6. Teaching players 'dirty tactics: First offense: Suspension for one game. Second offense: Permanent suspension.
7. Failure to keep the health, safety and welfare of players in mind: First offense: Suspension for one game. Second offense: Permanent suspension.
8. **ABSOLUTELY NO GAMBLING ON GAMES SUBJECT TO BEING BANNED FOR LIFE FROM GCAYF**

## **PART II: Players**

Players are to be removed from the game for the following:

1. Ejected for Fighting: First offense: removal from the game. Second offense: suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.
2. Disrespect to coaches, game and team officials: First offense: removal from the game. Second offense: suspended for one game (including practice). Third offense: suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.

3. Badgering opponents by word of mouth with the purpose of intimidation: First offense: removal from the game. Second offense: suspended for one game (including practice). Third offense: suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.

### **PART III: Team**

1. Failure to control parents or fans: First offense: forfeiture of the game in question. Second offense: suspension of the team in question for the remainder of the season. Third offense: suspension of the entire program from the league.
2. Failure to control coaches from actions that are or may be harmful to the health, safety and welfare of players. First offense: probation for the entire program for the season. Second offense: suspension of the entire club program from the league.
3. Failure to show up for a scheduled game: First offense: forfeiture of the game in question and \$250 fine will be imposed. Second offense: \$500 fine and suspension of the team in question for the remainder of the season. Third offense: suspension of the entire program from the league indefinitely.
4. Team Presidents' are responsible for all fines. All fines are to be paid immediately or by the Wednesday before the next game, whichever comes first, or the team will not be allowed to participate.

## **ARTICLE XXXII**

### **GAME DAY CHECK IN**

**Section 1** All players must line up at the designated check in area. Players are not allowed to speak or taunt opposing players at any time.

**Section 2** One designated team staff member is to present the CERTIFIED Team Roster and Player Identification information and required Must Play Form for review. Only a designated staff member is allowed to check the roster and player identification. Coaches are not to speak to players.

**Section 3** Players will not be allowed to participate unless they are listed on the certified league roster AND have a certified player id and make the required game weight. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Section 4** Once the game has started, only players who have been checked in by the opposing coach are eligible to play. There will be NO check-ins once the game has started. Players who arrive after the kick off will be ineligible to participate in the game unless the participant checks in at half time of that game. Coaches **MUST** communicate if a player is going to be late to a game so they could be checked in at half time.

**Section 5** When the game is over, teams have 5 minutes to shake hands and remove themselves completely from the game field.

**Section 6** Only coaches, players and cheerleaders with a certified ID will be allowed to enter the playing area. All parents, spectators etc. must be seated in the stands. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Section 7** Players are not allowed to change jerseys after check in.

## **ARTICLE XXXIII**

### **SPECIAL RULES FOR 6U AND 7U**

**Section 1** There will be no nose guard in 6U/7U. Defensive linemen cannot line up in the gaps and there will be no blitzing between the gaps. Linebackers must be 2 yards off the ball or outside the offensive tackles.

**Section 2** Two coaches may remain on the field during 6U games. One Coach may remain on the field for 7U. Offensive/Defensive Coaches must remain 10 yards behind the deepest defender at the snap. Coaches CANNOT coach players (while on the field before game play) after stepping away; this will result in a delay of game penalty. Once the ball is snapped, on field coaches are not allowed to speak.

**Section 3** There will be no rush on punts and extra-point kicks in 6U/7U. There will be a 35-yard auto punt ; CANNOT punt and pin the opponent inside the 20 yard line.

**Section 4** Ten (10) minute running clock

### **SPECIAL RULES FOR 8U/9U**

**Section 1** NO RESTRICTIONS on game play for these age divisions.

**Section 2** One coach may remain on the field during 8U/9U games until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the season and then ALL coaches, Offensive and Defensive, have to be on the sideline. Offensive/Defensive Coaches must remain 10 yards behind the deepest defender at the snap. Coaches CANNOT coach players (while on the field before game play) after stepping away; this will result in a delay of game penalty. Once the ball is snapped, on field coaches are not allowed to speak.

# ARTICLE XXXVI

## GAME DAY REQUIREMENTS

**Section 1** Each team must have a designated person to serve as game clock operator if needed by the league.

**Section 2** The home team will be responsible for the Chain Crew. The Chains will be kept on the visiting side.

**Section 3** There will be 2 game officials for 6U, 7U & 8U; 3 game officials for 9, 10U, 11, 12U, and 4 officials for older age groups for all GCAYF games.

**Section 4** Each host team is required to have the following for EACH game (NO EXCEPTIONS):

- GCAYF Local Rule book Available
- Announcer for EACH game
- Concession Stand
- Restrooms/Port-a-johns
- Access to clean water
- Field Marshal for EACH game
- Chain Crew for EACH game
- Properly marked game field

**Section 5** All coaches must have a coach i.d. or must stay outside of the game field. There will be a maximum of 6 coaches allowed per football team. Cheerleading teams are allowed 2 coaches per team.

## **ARTICLE XXXVII**

### **POST SEASON – D1/D2**

**Section 1** All Division teams will participate in a bowl series based on their finish during the regular season. The top four teams will participate in the Playoff Series. Other teams will be matched against teams with similar records for competitive play. The playoff matchups will be as follows:

**1 vs. 4**

**2 vs. 3**

***Note:** This schedule is subject to change depending on the number of teams in each division. If at all possible, all teams will be eligible for playoffs and a 1/8, 2/7 type format will be adopted. If there are too many teams to develop a full playoff system and declare our champion then we will adopt the Top Four Playoff system.*

**Section 2** Finishing order is based upon the following criteria:

- Total Wins
- Head-to-Head
- Points differential
- Common Opponents
- Coin Toss

**Section 3** The Division Champions will qualify to represent the GCAYF in regional and national playoffs. If the winning association elects not to participate in the regionals or nationals then the runner up team will represent the league.

**Section 4** All Star teams and Pro Bowl teams will be coached by the teams who finish 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the playoffs. All Star/Pro Bowl Players will be elected by their head coach and voted on by the head coaches of each team. The head coach of the All Star/Pro Bowl team will have the final decision on the selection of players.