
By-Laws of the Valley Youth Football League

(Revised July 13, 2008)

I. Rules

The Valley Youth Football League is a group of individuals designated as a non-profit Michigan corporation for the purpose of providing and perpetuating a youth level tackle football program. This Association reserves the right to sponsor all teams (5th - 8th grade) and govern by our own set of by-laws written by past and present members of the Board.

II. Applicable Rules

All football games played in the league formed by this Association will be governed by official Michigan High School Athletic Association Rules, except where specifically modified by this Association herein.

III. Members

The membership shall consist of teams and their respective coaches and representatives. Each member team shall pay an annual fee of \$150.00 per team which is used to pay for league insurance, equipment and expenses (office supplies, officials scheduling fees, etc.).

The member teams of this association for the 2008 season (shown with their official uniform colors) are as follows (revised July 13, 2008):

St .Stephen - Dark Green/White/Gold	Bay City Holy Family - Black/Yellow
St. Thomas - Burgundy/White	Grand Blanc Holy Family - Blue/White
Carrollton - Red/Black	Saints – Blue/White
Ricker - Black/Red	Fenton St. John - Kelly Green/Gold
Bridgeport - Red/Gold	Flint St. John Vianney - Red/White
Webber - TBD	Thompson - Blue/Orange
Central - Purple/Yellow	Hawks – Blue/White

IV. Officers and Duties

Elected officers of the Association shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and their term of office shall be one year and voted upon at the annual winter meeting.

A. Duties of the officers are as follows:

1. President: Organizes and presides over all league meetings. Prepares registration forms and maintains records of the registration form for each team. Notifies the newspaper of scores and games. Keeps official record of wins and losses for each team and league standings at all levels.

2. Vice-President: Assists the President as needed and assumes the responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President.
3. Secretary: Maintains meeting minutes and arranges and provides notification of league meetings.
4. Treasurer: Duly authorized to open an account at a financial institution in the name of this Association and has custody of all funds and assets and shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements of the Association. Responsible for the presentation of the Association financial report at all meetings.
5. When a vacancy occurs among the officers of the Association, the remaining officers shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term of the vacated office.
6. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall be a policy making board, and also a decision making body with full authority to address all allegations of violations of this Association's rules and by-laws, which may meet whenever necessary, and report back to the membership at the next general meeting. The Executive Committee shall consist of elected officers of this Association, together with the representative of any team not represented among the elected officers. There shall be no more than one voting member of the Executive Committee per team. In the event any new team joins this Association, they shall immediately be given one vote on the Executive Committee.

V. Meetings

Meetings of this Association will be held whenever deemed necessary by the officers.

- A. Meetings shall be conducted in an orderly fashion as provided in Roberts Rules of Order.
- B. There shall be one vote per team.
- C. A quorum (2/3rd members) shall exist when a majority of the voting members, or their authorized representatives, are present.
- D. A resolution shall be passed when the majority of the voting members present at a quorum approve same.

VI. Player Eligibility

- A. The eligibility age of players for the season is determined based on the age of the player on September 1st of the given year. The requirements for each division are as follows:
 - 8th grade: Player is not 15 years old prior to September 1.

- 7th grade: Player is not 14 years old prior to September 1.
- 6th grade: Player is not 13 years old prior to September 1.
- 5th grade: Player is not 12 years old prior to September 1.

B. All players who are suspended or expelled from school for any reason shall lose their eligibility to participate in practice, games or scrimmages during their suspension. Parents and the player suspended are responsible for the communication to the head coach or assistant coach of the school suspension. This is an Association (VYFL) rule and is not governed by individual school district rules. The coach notified will then notify their team director immediately and abide by the following sanctions: 1-5 day suspension = 1 game, 6-10 day suspension = 2 games, etc. Contact the VYFL Executive Board with any questions or clarifications required on this rule.

VII. Current Weight Restrictions

- A. There shall be no minimum weight requirement set by the league. This matter will be left to the sound discretion of each individual coach.
- B. There shall be no maximum weight limitation except for players who are playing the skilled positions - which are defined as running back, quarterback, or receivers (including tight ends). In the case of those skilled positions, the player shall not weigh more than the restrictions set forth by the V.Y.F.L. as of the date of registration. Each coach is responsible for weighing the players on his team, and each player’s weight and playing position shall be listed on the registration form submitted by each team prior to the start of the season.
- B. The VYFL weight restrictions for skilled positions (quarterbacks, running backs, receivers and tight ends) are as follows (revised for the 2008 season):

QBs, RBs and receivers:	Tight Ends:
5 th grade: 115 lbs.	5 th grade: 125 lbs.
6 th grade: 125 lbs.	6 th grade: 135 lbs.
7 th grade: 145 lbs.	7 th grade: 155 lbs.
8 th grade: 155 lbs.	8 th grade: 165 lbs.

VIII. Registration

A. Registration will be made on a team basis on forms provided by the Association on or before a date to be addressed at the next meeting determined each year by the Association. As the Officers of this Association believe that players will in most cases naturally gravitate to that team in their own school district/community, there shall be no draft, with strict geographical team boundaries. Any questions or concerns regarding this rule shall be addressed to the Executive Board and a decision will be made prior to player participation. A player must play for his/her team within set school district boundaries, if a player attends a private school and that school does not have a football program of any kind, the player must then

- play for the school district he/she resides in. Again, any concerns with this rule, you must contact the Executive Board and a decision will be made.
- B. With the exception of the original charter member teams of this league, teams wishing to join this Association must make application to the Association for membership. The Executive Committee will then meet and vote on the application. If the application is approved, the Association may require payment of a team entry fee in an amount determined by the Association.
 - C. Each player's parent or guardian must sign a Release of Liability form supplied by the Association in which they also provide evidence of personal medical/hospitalization insurance.
 - D. The amount of the Team Registration fee shall be determined by the Officers of the Association prior to each season.
 - E. Coaches are responsible for paying the Team Registration fee and turning in to the Association a tentative Team Registration Form for each player on the roster on the scrimmage date of each year. Each team is responsible to file the Parental Consent and Hold Harmless Agreement on their own.
 - F. A final roster is to be turned in by each team to the Executive Committee on the scrimmage date of each year. No additions to the roster are allowed after that date. No exceptions. Blank roster forms with names, numbers, birth dates and school will be supplied by the VYFL along with weight restriction form to be filled out completely by each coach and turned in to the Executive Committee member on the scrimmage date.

IX. Schedule of Games, Practices and Scrimmages

- A. Teams may start practice on or after the date established by the M.H.S.A.A. for the start of fall high school football practice. There shall be no requirement or limitation on the number of practices after fixed date, leaving that to the sound discretion of each coach.
- B. No private or public clinics, camps, conditioning, and or practices held before fixed date set by M.H.S.A.A. Players may attend youth camps/clinics (5th - 8th grade) organized by varsity coaches within age group. Any violation deemed inappropriate by the league board will result in fines or suspensions up to an indefinite or permanent ban from the league. The VYFL expects each coach, team, and organization to display integrity relative to conformance to this rule.
- C. Each team shall be allowed one pre-season scrimmage with another team of this Association and/or on a single day in combination with multiple other teams of this Association.
- D. Each team shall play a six game schedule, beginning the first full week after Labor Day each year.

- E. Games can be played on Saturday or Sundays at sites and times to be determined by the league.
- F. Generally, games are played as scheduled regardless of inclement weather. However, in the event of extreme weather conditions, such as a lightning storm, the game may be postponed, delayed or rescheduled by agreement of the officials and coaches.
- G. As the schedule will consist of home and away games, each team must provide a home field equivalent to a high school field with clock and fenced-in field. The home team must charge gate admission in the amount of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 years of age and under. Children 5 years and under are free (Revised March 2006).
- H. The Association will arrange for a minimum of three registered referees to be assigned to each game site. The “home team” is responsible for paying referees, and providing down markers, and chains, which are to be handled by responsible people.
- I. A protest committee shall consist of the Executive Committee of the Association. All protests must be submitted in writing to the President of the Association following the game in question. All protests will be addressed with a final decision being made prior to the next league game.

X. Player Equipment/Game Balls

Each player must have full football equipment as required by M.H.S.A.A rules. This equipment to include the following:

- A. A helmet which meets M.H.S.A.A. standards at the time of manufacture and has a visible external warning label regarding risk of injury. The helmet shall be secured by a properly fastened chin strap, and have a face protector bar.
- B. A mouth guard which is attached to the helmet.
- C. Shoulder pads fully covered by a jersey which is numbered on both front and back. Each team will be dressed alike in uniforms and helmets bearing their official team colors.
- D. Football pants containing knee pads and thigh pads.
- E. Hip pads with tailbone protector.
- F. Players may wear molded sole rubber or plastic cleats which do not exceed 3/8 inches in length. However, cleats are not required.

- G. Prior to the start of each game, the referees shall inspect the equipment of each player to insure compliance with these standards. Any player whose equipment does not meet these standards is ineligible for that game.
- H. The standard $\frac{3}{4}$ sized football will be used in all league games. When each team is on offense, it shall have the option of using its own football, provided by the VYFL. The home team shall provide a "ball boy" to assure that change of possessions and ball exchanges are handled as smoothly as possible without interrupting the flow of the game.

XI. Coaches

- A. There shall be no more than 4 coaches total in the box during VYFL games. Each team is allowed a maximum of 6 coaches total per team which shall be designated on the team registration form submitted to the Association. The other 2 coaches can stay in the restricted area for players behind the chalked line. Only the individuals listed on the official league roster at the beginning of the year can be on the sideline during games. No exceptions.
- B. Coaches shall refrain from inappropriate behavior and profane language during league games.
- C. If a coach is ejected from a game for incurring two unsportsmanlike conduct fouls in a game, that coach could be subjected to fines and suspensions up to termination.
- D. Coaches and players must stay within the 25 yard lines.
- E. Dress code for coaches and sideline personnel (effective for 2008 season): No jeans, cut-off shorts or tank top shirts allowed. Designated team sideline personnel must dress in appropriate shorts or pants and coaching shirts only.

XII. League Title

- A. At the end of the season there will be a championship week. If division has two divisions, the championship game will consist of each division champion - winner takes all, no co-champions. If there is only one division, then 1 vs. 2 will play - winner takes all, no co-champions. If there are two teams in the same division with identical records they will play head to head for honors to championship games at a neutral site. All championship will be played at neutral site to be determined at a later date (TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING WITH ALL MEMBERS).
- B. All championship games will go into overtime periods until a winner is declared. This applies to championship week only and not regular season games. The VYFL will use MHSAA rules for overtime starting at the 10 yard line with 4 downs to score + PAT. Winner of championship game will be declared VYFL champion regardless of overall records.

XIII. Amending By-Laws

- A. These Bylaws, or any part of them, may be amended by the voting members of this Association at any regularly called meeting.
- B. The procedure for amending the by-laws requires a motion duly made and seconded which is approved by a majority of the voting members from a quorum, and thereafter recorded in resolution form in the minutes for that meeting.

Revised VYFL By-Laws - July 13, 2008

Mike Newvine – VYFL President

Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer

Valley Youth Football League

By-Law Amendments

February 27, 1992

1. Resolved by consensus, that the association will develop a waiting list of teams wishing to join our league in the event an opening occurs. The Association agreed that Hemlock would be the most logical first choice, and that other teams affiliated with the Tri-Valley Conference would also be desirable.
2. Resolved by consensus that the coaches of each member team pledge to teach proper football techniques, and especially to not allow or teach “cut blocking” or blocking below the waist.

March 22, 1992

1. Resolved that the teams of this association may charge a gate admission for the purposes of paying the referees (SEE SECTION IX LETTER F).
2. Resolved that this association require a minimum of three certified referees at all league sanctioned games, and that they are paid by the home team as independent contractors out of gate proceeds.
3. Resolved that, because some teams already have numbered uniforms, the association shall not require strict compliance with the M.H.S.A.A. rule concerning numbering of players by position.

January 10, 1993

1. Resolved to adopt “Valley Youth Football League” as the new league name.

March 10, 1993

1. Resolved to approve the application for admission into the league from Merrill and Bridgeport.
2. Resolved to set the league annual entry fee at \$150 per team payable no later than June 5th.

August 6, 1994

1. Resolved that 7th graders could be split off and 7th on 7th grade games could be conducted. Players may play 6 games total and one per week. The format of these games must be agreed upon by both coaches and the games conducted in a manner that abides to the league rules in effect at the time.

August 9, 1995

1. Resolved that if a 6th grader is ineligible because of age, he then would be eligible to play for 7th and 8th grade team that season.
2. Resolved that there is no tie breaker format. A tie at the end of a game will remain a tie.
3. The tight end can advance the ball by forward pass.
4. Resolved that no active person that coaches at the high school level or higher in the sport of football will be allowed on the field during games. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by Executive board.

March 24, 1996

1. Resolved that league would furnish leather balls for the teams for the sake of uniformity and continuity during the games.
2. Resolved that each team is responsible for using birth certificates as verification of player age for both the 7th & 8th and the 5th & 6th programs.

February 2, 1997

1. Resolved to authorize a scrimmage for 5th & 6th grade program tailored to mirror the scrimmage of 7th & 8th grade program.
2. Resolved that all tackles teams request physical examinations for all players on team roster.
3. Resolved that flags are purchased through the league in order for all teams to wear the same type of “official” league flag for the sake of uniformity. Individual teams are responsible to reimburse the league for cost of flags.

May 3, 1998

1. Resolved that if any team fails to meet their obligation to play in a scheduled game, that team will be placed on probation for one (1) year. The second offense will result in permanent disqualification from further participation in the league.

June 18, 1998

1. Merrill Youth Football withdraws membership in the VYFL.

August 7, 1998

1. St. Charles Youth Football and Carrollton Recreation Department notified that VYFL accepts their withdrawal from the VYFL.

June 1, 2005

1. 5th grade division rules that were amended vs. MHSAA rules:
 - A. Kickoff and punt returns: A player must catch the ball cleanly, otherwise the ball is ruled down on contact and will be placed at the marked spot by officials.
 - B. Free punts. No rushing the punter.
 - C. After scoring a touchdown, all teams must try for the two point conversion. Teams may not attempt to kick an extra point as the defense is not allowed to rush placekicker, therefore giving the kicking team an unfair advantage.
 - D. QB/center snap is ruled a dead ball once ball touches ground. This rule is for the safety of all players involved.
2. 6th grade division rules that were amended vs. MHSAA rules:
 - A. Free punts. No rushing the punter.

June 5, 2005

1. Decision made to change previous amendment made on August 9, 1995. Tight ends may now spread the field but still must cap each end of all formations.

March 5, 2006

1. All games played under the VYFL Association shall abide by a 32 point spread limit. Any games that are won by 33 points or more COULD be reviewed by the VYFL Executive Board along with both team directors. The team directors involved will be responsible for obtaining games films and game summaries from both of their respective head coaches about the game in question and will provide details and films to the Executive Board within 24 hours after the game. The Executive Board will decide whether or not further action is required and will report disciplinary actions (if any) to the team directors. The team directors are responsible for confirming to the board the suspensions are honored. Any violation to this rule could result in disciplinary action towards the head coach including, 1st offense = suspension from next game, 2nd offense = 2 game suspension, 3rd offense = banned from coaching in the VYFL indefinitely. All penalties will carry over to the following year if needed.
2. There will be no 5th grade championship game at the end of the season. By a vote of seven (7) in favor and two (2) not in favor, the VYFL team directors passed an amendment to the league by-laws to eliminate the participation of the 5th grade division in the championship week.

January 1, 2007

1. The following teams informed the VYFL that they are forming a new league (TVCYFL) and will be withdrawing from the VYFL effective at the start of the 2007 football season: Freeland, Hemlock, Bullock Creek, Alma and Swan Valley.

June 27, 2007

1. The Saginaw Hawks will no longer be members of the Valley Youth Football League per a vote by the league.

August 8, 2007

1. The Saginaw Hawks were approved to rejoin the Valley Youth Football League for the 2007 season with the introduction of a new team director and organization.

June 23, 2008

1. The following teams in the city of Saginaw were approved for membership into the Valley Youth Football League for the 2008 season: Central Middle School, Thompson Middle School and Webber Middle School.