

Florida Youth Football & Cheerleading Association, Inc.
Youth Football Rules

Rule 5—Association Schedule

All FYFCA games shall be scheduled on Saturdays according to the following time frames:

	Level	Game Time	Weigh in Time Book Check
1.	Mighty Mites	8:00 am	7:30 am
2.	Peewees	9:30 am	8:00 am
3.	Midgets	10:30 am	9:30 am
4.	Super Midgets	12:00 pm	11:00 am
5.	Junior Varsity	1:30 pm	12:30 pm
6.	Varsity	3:00 pm	2:00 pm

Rule 8—Stopping, Shortening, or Postponing Games

- A. All games must be played to completion, except under such conditions or circumstances where the safety and welfare of the players may be adversely affected.
Both organizations' Trustees must agree to any shortening of a game.
- B. A game may be postponed for good cause, providing the visiting team is given at least 4 hours notice and there is agreement by both teams.
1. In the event the team desiring to postpone a game is unable to contact the head coach, Trustee, or president of the opposing team's organization, or the opposing team will not agree to a postponement, then the question shall be submitted to the FYFCA President whose decision shall be final.
 2. The organization that initiated the postponement shall be responsible for paying the officials.
 3. In the event a visiting team fails to show or shows with less than the required 11 players, such team's organization shall be required to pay the officials.
- C. In the event of inclement weather or adverse conditions, play shall be delayed for 1 hour before the game is called. If the game is called, a make up time shall be scheduled within 1 week (1st practice night or as soon as officials can be secured).
When the game is rescheduled for a different date, a weigh-in shall be required.
- D. In the event of stopping or shorten a game(s) due to unforeseen circumstances, the minimum play requirement shall be waived.
If the game is rescheduled the minimum play rule shall be reinstated.

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Rule 11—Conduct

- A. Conduct of spectators or participants which is determined to be unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the players, or to the association, or to a member thereof, may subject their team to disciplinary action after a warning by the offended organization or Trustee, whose responsibility it will be to warn the offending organization's Trustee or coach of such conduct.
- B. Such conduct by spectators or football participants, before, during, or after an event may also subject their organization to disciplinary action by the association. If a disciplinary problem continues, refer to ByLaws ARTICLE X—DISCIPLINARY PROCESS.
- C. FYFCA Trustees and their organizations are responsible for controlling the conduct of spectators and participants, and have the authority to request the departure from the premises of any individual whose conduct is detrimental to peace and order.
 - 1. Any removals should first take the form of a reasonable request.
 - 2. Should the request be ignored or trouble is anticipated, a law enforcement officer shall be summoned immediately.
- D. The press box announcer shall not be allowed to coach, officiate, or criticize from the press box. The announcer will be fair to both teams involved and restrain from any derogatory comments. If at any time an opposing member Trustee feels that the announcer is not following appropriate conduct, they must go to the hosting member Trustee to request intervention. The announcer will be warned and if the problem persists then will be dismissed from their duties and unable to return to announcing for the rest of the day.
- E. Ejection Form shall have the person's name, jersey number (if a player), organization name, date, division, reason for the ejection, and signatures from the game official and Association Trustees. Each Association Trustee, game official, and FYFCA President shall receive a copy of the Official Ejection Form. Ejection's for misconduct is as follows:
 - 1. Football Players:**
 - a. Any player officially ejected from a game or field for unsportsmanlike conduct is automatically suspended from the next regular scheduled Association game. For purposes of this rule: "the next regular scheduled Association game" shall be defined as the next regular season game, mini game, make-up game, play off, or championship game scheduled or to be scheduled.
 - b. Any player officially ejected a second time for unsportsmanlike conduct during the same year must appear before the Association Board of Trustees and show just cause why they should not be suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - c. Any player officially ejected from a game or field for fighting is automatically suspended for the next two (2) consecutive games (as described in RULE 11—CONDUCT) and cannot participate in any other regular scheduled games until they appear before the Association Board of Trustees and show just cause why they should not be suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - d. Any organization's players leaving the bench to join a fight on the field or the sidelines will forfeit the next game, as well as the game in which the fighting occurs.
 - 2. Coaches and Organization Officials:**
 - a. RULE 11—CONDUCT D, 1a, b, and c. shall be in effect for coaches and organization officials.
- F. Any pending litigation against any FYFCA member organization shall be reported to the FYFCA Board of Trustees.

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Rule 13—Game Officials

- A. All FYFCA games shall be played with a minimum of 4 officials, except for the Mighty Mite division in which 3 officials shall be required. One official must remain in the press box to run the clock.
- B. No coaching personnel shall shout insults or cause any other obvious display of disagreement with an official.
- C. When determined appropriate, a specific complaint of an official's conduct or interpretations of Rules shall be forwarded, in writing, to the FYFCA Board of Trustees.
- D. The head game official shall be required to complete the Official Ejection Form.

Rule 15—Playing Field

- A. Regulation high school field measurements shall be used for FYFCA games in all divisions.
- B. If more than 1 field is available the organization must specify which field will be the game field. If the selected field becomes unavailable, the organization must notify the FYFCA President at least 7 days prior to the next game. The FYFCA President will notify all organizations affected, as well as the officials.
- C. If playing conditions at game time are considered hazardous, the game may be postponed by the game officials. The make-up time to be rescheduled within 1 week, 1st practice night or as soon as officials can be secured.
- D. A pre-game inspection of the playing field will be conducted by the FYFCA President or a designated representative(s) 2 weeks prior to the start of the regular season. If, at this time or subsequently, a playing field does not meet accepted minimum safety standards, or other FYFCA requirements, the Board of Trustees shall have the authority to deny the member organization home games until such conditions are corrected.

Rule 16—Playing Rules

- A. All games shall be played according to the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA) rules with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Quarters shall be 10 minutes in duration for Varsity games.
 - 2. Quarters shall be 9 minutes in duration for Junior Varsity games.
 - 3. Quarters shall be 8 minutes in duration for Midgets and Peewees games.
 - 4. Quarters shall be 10 minutes in duration continuous clock for Might Mites games.
- 5. The following ball sizes shall be used (brand must be Wilson or the equivalent):

Varsity	TDY
Junior Varsity	TDJ
Super Midget	TDJ
Midgets	TDJ
Pee Wee	K2
Mighty Mites	K2

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6. All night games preceding a school day shall begin no later than 7:30 p.m. except in extreme circumstances as determined by the FYFCA President to be in the best interest of the FYFCA.
 7. All games should start as close to the scheduled time as possible. A reasonable amount of time shall be allowed for proper player warm-ups, official's instructions and introduction of team captains.
 8. No coach will be allowed on the playing field after Jamboree except in the Mighty Might Division. One coach from the pee wee team will be allowed to be in the huddle and to stand 10 yards back behind the ball with no coaching. He will not be able to interfere with the play, or an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty will be applied. For the 1st 5 games after that 5th game there will be no coach on the field during the pee wee game.
 9. In the **Varsity division**:
 - a. 1 point shall be scored for **kicking** a "point after touchdown".
 - b. 2 points shall be scored for **running or passing** a "point after touchdown".
 10. In the **Mighty Mite division**:
 - a. 1 point shall be scored for **running** "a point after touchdown".
 - b. 2 points shall be scored for **passing** a "point after touchdown".
 11. In **ALL Other divisions**:
 - a. 2 points shall be scored for **kicking** the "point after touchdown".
 - b. 1 point shall be scored for **running or passing** a "point after touchdown".
- B. All teams shall refrain from running up scores. Coaches and Trustees are under obligation of sportsmanship and fair play to take reasonable steps to avoid running up the scores, and thereby, demoralizing and embarrassing the opposing team.
1. When there is a point spread of 21 points or more, the following rules will go into effect:
 - a. In the event of a continuous clock due to the 21-point rule, the team down by 21 points has the option of continuous clock (not mandatory). If the team down by 21 points chooses the continuous clock, the clock will only be stopped for time-outs, and official time-outs, and injury time-outs.
 - b. When the point spread falls below 21 points, normal time keeping shall resume.
 2. When there is a point spread of 35 points or more, continuous clock shall become mandatory.
- C. **GUIDELINE**: It is the intent of the FYFCA to see that all players listed on the official roster are given a reasonable opportunity to play in every game, barring sickness, injury or disciplinary action. Therefore, all eligible (non-benched) players that are on the sideline during a game shall be guaranteed a minimum of 7 plays per game. Any ineligible players will be announced at weigh in. The 7 play rule also applies to all Play Off's and Super Bowl games.
- a. Breaching this GUIDELINE shall subject the head coach to a one game suspension. A second infraction shall result in disciplinary action by the Association.
 - b. In the event of a continuous clock the minimum play rule shall be waived.
- D. All member organizations are charged with the responsibility to ensure that all coaches are familiar with and understand these and all other applicable rules. Copies of appropriate rulebooks must be available at all games.
- E. In the event of a tie game, the Kansas City Tie Breaker shall decide the game.

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Rule 17—Sideline Restrictions

- A. During all Association games, no one is allowed on the sidelines outside of the coaching box, marked by the 30 yard line to the 30 yard line, except the following:
1. Cheerleaders and (4) cheerleader representatives (coaches or team representatives), when adequate space cannot be provided outside of the game field area
 2. The official chain crew
 3. Authorized members of the print or electronic media (advance notice shall be given to both teams)
 4. The ball boy or any other personnel requested by the officials for their assistance.
- B. No headphones, radios, or other similar equipment shall be allowed on the playing field during a game.
- C. The use of tobacco products on the sidelines is strictly prohibited.

Rule 22—Tie Breaker Rule

- A. Championships and Play Off positions shall be determined in the following manner:
1. Win-loss record (see RULE 23—PLAY OFF AND SUPER BOWL)
 2. Head-to-head competition during the regular season (points shall not be considered).
 3. Mini-game consisting of two regular quarters, with a 5 minute break between quarters.
 4. A tie at the conclusion of a mini-game shall be settled by FHSAA Rules - 4 downs from the 10-yard line (Kansas City Tie Breaker).
 5. A tie at the conclusion of a post-season game shall be settled by FHSAA Rules - 4 downs from the 10 yard line (Kansas City Tie Breaker).

Rule 23—Play Off and Super Bowl

A. Division Championship

1. Division championship shall be determined by the win-loss record of regular season games played within the division.
2. Win-Loss records shall be determined on a percentage basis:
The total number of games played divided into the total number of games won.

B. Play Offs

1. Play Off games to determine the participants in the Super Bowl will be scheduled as follows:
 - a. According to the final regular season standing in each division.
 - b. The 1st place team plays the 4th place team.
 - c. The 2nd place team plays the 3rd place team.

C. Super Bowl

The Play Off winners in each division shall meet in a single game—Super Bowl.

D. Game Day of Champions

Official schedule to include the Game Day of Champions. Super Bowl winners for the squads, designated by the Hillsborough Sports Authority, have the option to attend. If the Super Bowl winning team does not choose to participate, the Super Bowl runner up has the option to attend.

Rule 24—Rule Changes

- A. FYFCA Football Rules may be reviewed for possible changes by the Board of Trustees in odd-numbered years.
- B. Should any rule changes become necessary at any time, the procedure specified in ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS of the FYFCA Bylaws shall be adhered to.

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RULE 25—PROTESTS

- A. An official's judgement call will not be considered as grounds for a protest.
- B. All other protests shall be filed in accordance with ByLaw ARTICLE X—DISCIPLINARY PROCESS.C.1.
- C. Protests must be submitted, in writing, to the FYFCA President or the President's designee no later than 72 hours after termination of the protest game.
- D. It must be the responsibility of the protesting team to furnish evidence of a contestable violation.
- E. If possible, the official's crew and head coaches of both teams shall be notified of a pending protest and the reason, immediately following the game to be protested.
- F. Upon the receipt of a timely, written protest, the FYFCA President shall schedule a hearing to consider the protest.
 - 1. The protest shall be considered at the next regularly scheduled Association meeting, or at the option of the President, at a special called meeting.
 - 2. At the protest hearing, both sides will be allowed to state their cases and present evidence and witnesses and all parties shall be allowed to see and hear all evidence.
 - 3. The FYFCA Trustees shall be allowed to question witnesses.
 - 4. Upon conclusion of the testimony, the FYFCA Board of Trustees shall meet in closed session to discuss the protest and to vote.
 - 5. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Trustees is required to approve a protest.
 - 6. All parties will be notified in writing within five (5) days of the FYFCA decision.
- G. When determined appropriate, a specific complaint of an official's conduct or interpretations of Rules shall be forwarded, in writing, to the FYFCA Board of Trustees.

Rule 26—Restricted Items

- A. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on the property of any FYFCA facility before, during, or after games, practices, or any other FYFCA events.
- B. It is the responsibility of each organization to discourage the use of personal coolers by their spectators.
- C. Use of tobacco products by any member of a team is strictly prohibited.