

GULF COAST YOUTH SPORTS ALLIANCE 2010 FOOTBALL RULES

INDEX

FR 1.0 PREFACE

FR 2.0 DEFINITIONS

FR 3.0 DATES AND TIME FRAMES

- FR 3.1 Off season
- FR 3.2 Season Format
- FR 3.3 Pre-season
- FR 3.4 Regular Season
- FR 3.5 Post Season

FR 4.0 ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

- FR 4.1 Member Parks /The eligibility of their student-athletes
- FR 4.2 Eligibility of student-athletes
- FR 4.3 Disqualification of a student-athlete

FR 5.0 ELIGIBILITY OF COACHES

- FR 5.1 Member Parks /the eligibility of their coaches, and assistants
- FR 5.2 Eligibility of Coaches
- FR 5.3 Disqualification of a Coach

FR 6.0 PARK RESPONSIBILITIES & HOSTING CONTESTS

- FR 6.1 Park fulfilling their Alliance responsibilities
- FR 6.2 Admission fees
- FR 6.3 Chain Gang Crew
- FR 6.4 Event Support Staff
- FR 6.5 Facility Requirements
- FR 6.6 Game Balls
- FR 6.7 Deleted
- FR 6.8 Officials
- FR 6.9 Reporting of scores
- FR 6.10 Security
- FR 6.11 Warm-up Areas
- FR 6.12 Weigh-in official

FR7.0 PRESEASON, JAMBOREES, REGULAR SEASON, POSTSEASON CONTESTS AND EVENT SITE SELECTION

- FR 7.1 Pre-season Contests and Jamborees
- FR 7.2 Postseason contests
- FR 7.3 Playoff teams

- FR 7.4 Non-GCYSA Contests
- FR 7.5 Event site selection and rotation
- FR 7.6 Special Events

FR 8.0 TEAM COMPOSITION AND LIMITATIONS

- FR 8.1 Member parks are required to certify the eligibility of their participants
- FR 8.2 Team composition
- FR 8.3 Team Practices
- FR 8.4 Sunday Games

FR 9.0 RULES OF COMPETITION

- FR 9.1 Governing Rules
- FR 9.2 Age Divisions
- FR 9.3 Certification and ID cards
- FR 9.4 Cheerleading Guidelines on field
- FR 9.5 Electronic equipment
- FR 9.6 Extra point rules
- FR 9.7 Failure to Appear
- FR 9.8 High School Students
- FR 9.9 Inclement weather
- FR 9.10 Making up games
- FR 9.11 Mercy Rule
- FR 9.12 Mighty Mite Division rules variations
- FR 9.13 Moving Down in age Divisions
- FR 9.14 Moving Up in age Divisions
- FR 9.15 Play-down Player
- FR 9.16 Player Equipment
- FR 9.17 Pre-game warm-ups
- FR 9.18 Red stripe player
- FR 9.19 Roster
- FR 9.20 Scheduling
- FR 9.21 Scouting
- FR 9.22 Snapping from Center Mini-Mite thru Junior divisions
- FR 9.23 Tie games
- FR 9.24 Time Limits
- FR 9.25 Unsafe Weight Loss
- FR 9.26 Weigh-in Procedures
- FR 9.27 Weigh-in Strip down Procedures
- FR 9.28 Weight Limits
- FR 9.29 Mighty-Mite, Mini-Mite & Mite Special Kicking Rules

FR 10.0 CODES OF CONDUCT

- FR 10.1 Player Code of Conduct
- FR 10.2 Coaches Code of Conduct

FR 1.0 PREFACES:

The Gulf Coast Youth **Sports** Alliance is the presiding authority of the league. Changes in the league rules and day-to-day football operations of are subject to the oversight and final approval of the **GCYSA Board of Directors**

The Gulf Coast Youth **Sports** Alliance **Football Commissioner reserves** the right to interpret, add, amend, revoke, suspend, or delete any rule contained herein in the spirit of fair competition, at any time.

The following general rules, regulations, policies and procedures governing **GCYSA** football competition apply to all preseason, regular season and post-season football activities.

FR 2.0 DEFINITIONS:

Conference-

Optionally used if the League was to be separated into regional areas. Example: Santa Rosa Conference, Escambia Conference or Alabama Conference.

District-

The team groupings within an age Division that teams are divided into. Example, Navarre Black, Gulf Breeze Blue and Cantonment White may play in the North District and Myrtle Grove White, Pensacola and Pace Blue may be in the Southern District.

Division-

Each of the 5 ages groups that divide the league. Example: Mighty Mite Division, Junior Division....

GCYSA-

Gulf Coast Youth Sports Alliance

Practice-

Is defined to include a gathering of players and/or perspective players to discuss, study, view, film, walk through or perform plays and techniques relating to football.

Play-down Player-

Term to describe a player who is playing down in a lower age division.

Red Stripe Player-

Term to describe a player who is weight restricted to a line position. This player is identified by a red stripe down the center of the player's helmet to help the referee identify the player during the game. These players are always listed first on all rosters. Play-down, then Red Stripe and then the rest, all in jersey order.

FR 3.0 DATES AND TIME FRAMES:

FR 3.1 Off-season:

It will be the time from January 7th to the Alliance established first day of practice.

FR 3.1.2 No Alliance team will engage in any organized physical conditioning or other (contact) football type activity involving players, or prospective players, nor present or future coaches no sooner than the Alliance established **season start date**.

NOTE: A waiver may be obtained for this rule from the GCYSA Commissioner. Such waivers are for the purpose of promotional games or celebrity sponsored camps that will benefit and/or are open for ALL members of the Association.

FR 3.2 Season Start Date:

The first Monday in August will be the recognized start of the GCYSA football season. Team Meetings & organized non-contact practices may begin, however the Football Commissioner will determine the first day of contact practice.

FR 3.2.1 The GCYSA football season will follow this format:

1. The first week will be a conditioning period in which only helmets and cleats may be worn.
No personal protective padding may be worn by players during this time.
No Player shall play in a regular season game without having attended practice for 1 week (7) days.

FR 3.3 Preseason:

Shall be the time from the date of the Alliance declared first day of practice to the first regular season game day.

FR 3.4 Regular Season:

Shall be from the first regular season game to the completion of the final regular season game.

FR 3.5 Post Season:

The post season shall be the time period from which the final GCYSA regular season game has been completed and will continue to January 6th.

FR 3.5.1 Playoff Shootout:

A playoff/shootout will be held to determine district winner in the event of a tie and also for a play off invitation. Seeding can be determined by the shootout results and/or coin flip/draw.

FR 3.5.2 Playoff:

If league size permits, the Alliance may have an extra playoff round preceding the first round of playoffs. Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Championship games should follow every Saturday until the Championship games are played.

FR 4.0 ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

FR 4.1 Member Parks are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before they participate in any practice or contest and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all contact, participation and contests until eligibility issues are resolved.

FR 4.1.2 No student-athlete may be added to a roster until he/she has been registered in his/her park and certified by the Alliance **unless the student-athlete Parks Certification date is after the Jamboree.**

FR 4.2 To be eligible to participate for a park a student-athlete:

1. Must provide original documents such as his/her birth certificate or government ID card with picture to prove his/her identity.
If requested by the **GCYSA**, a student-athlete has 3 days to provide the Alliance proof of his/her eligibility.
2. Must be regularly enrolled and in regular attendance at a public, private, parochial, home, or military school.
3. Student athletes that live in our area and participate or have participated in local middle school football programs are prohibited from participating in the **GCYSA** program, however, student athletes that move into the area that had prior middle school football experience would be allowed to play.
4. Must not have, or currently be participating in any high school athletic program to include school organized summer weightlifting programs/classes.
5. Must be 14 years old or younger on July 31st of that season.
6. Must be at least 5 years old to participate in any practice or game.
7. Must meet the weight requirements for his/her age division of play.
8. **If transferring parks, the transfer process must be complete** prior to the first day of **GCYSA** authorized practice and have secured a **GCYSA** Park Transfer Form signed by the previous Park President or his/her authorized designee, **or the GCYSA Appellate Board** said transfer must be on file with the Alliance office. said transfer must be on file with the Alliance office.

NOTE: If a park is carrying waiting list players and those players are denied a roster spot AFTER the deadline, those waiting list player(s) may transfer if they fall under the other transfer rules up to the week 1 roster deadline.

A student-athlete may transfer from a **NON-GCYSA** park anytime up to the last certification day.

If a student-athlete transfers to a team that is or will be coached by a coach that was his/her coach from the previous park, the previous season, it will be assumed that the student-athlete has been recruited and will be ineligible for that season unless said coach/coaches step down.

A student-athlete may only transfer within **GCYSA** parks 1 time during his/her lifetime.

Coaches transferring parks multiple times and wishing to bring their children with them must have been a rostered coached on at least one of their children's teams from the park they are departing from AND be on at least one of their children's teams roster for the park they are arriving to to be considered eligible.

Waivers for special circumstances must be approved **by the GCYSA Appellate Board**

Only 3 student-athletes are allowed to transfer from any neighboring **GCYSA** park-team and another **specific GCYSA** park-team. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis **in the case of new parks entering the Alliance or parks folding/leaving the league.**

Parks that have accepted 3 student-athlete transfers from any other 1 specific team may accept more from that team **IF** that team is full and referring student-athletes away **or being put on a waiting list. In this case student-athletes who have used their 1 transfer must have their transfer approved by the appellate board.**

9. Must have a valid **GCYSA** ID card certified by an authorized **GCYSA** official no later than 7pm on the Tuesday prior to game participation in accordance with **GCYSA** certification rules.
10. Must participate for only 1 park and team (**GCYSA** or non-**GCYSA**) for any preseason/regular season practice(s), regular season contest(s) and playoff contest(s) in a given year/season, except in cases of moving up in age division due to weight or decision not to play down.
11. Must not have presented any false or incomplete information to his/her park or **GCYSA** Official to gain eligibility.
12. Must display good sportsmanship, follow the rules of competition and abide by the **GCYSA** Players Code of Conduct before, during and after every contest.
13. Shall not have been recruited away from one team to another.
14. **Any student-athlete that participated, played on, or was a rostered member on any team coached by a coach**

certified to another GCYSA park for travel, all star or exhibition purposes will not be allowed to transfer to any park for 2 years after his/her last participation on said team.

NOTE: A student-athlete is considered a player/team member to the last park he was certified to. If he/she sits out any number of years, he/she is still recognized as a member of that park. There is no "sit out a year rule" like in High School.

All student-athletes that meet these requirements shall be eligible to compete in **GCYSA** contests.

NOTE: Participation of an ineligible student-athlete, whether accidental or intentional in any contest, shall constitute a mandatory and automatic forfeit of each contest the ineligible student-athlete participated in .

FR 5.0 ELIGIBILITY OF COACHES

FR 5.1 Member Parks are required to certify the eligibility of their coaches, trainers, assistants, and attendants before they participate or interact in any practice or contest. Parks are required to withhold ineligible coaches, trainers, assistants, and attendants from all contact, participation and contests.

FR 5.2 To be eligible to coach, assist, or train for a park, the candidate shall:

1. Have any required **county, city** background check completed on themselves **by that governing body** and provide that document to the Alliance business office to be kept on file **or submit to any GCYSA mandated background check.**
2. **Any checks NOT cleared by the process may be appealed to the GCYSA Appellate Board**
3. Head Coaches must be a minimum 21 years of age and assistants, or trainers must be a minimum 16 years of age.
4. Head Coaches must attend a **GCYSA Coaches Clinic** or **an approved make-up requirement** every year.
5. If transferring from another **GCYSA** park, a coach cannot coach, train or be an attendant if there are any student-athletes from his/her previous team, the previous year, other than his/her own legally documented children or ones that he/she has documented legal custody of.
If a student-athlete is allowed to transfer to the team after said coach has transferred it will be automatically assumed the student-athlete has been recruited and either the coach must step down or the student-athlete not be allowed to play on that team.
6. Must possess a valid **GCYSA** ID card and be certified by an authorized **GCYSA** official before coaching in any contest.
7. Must coach or assist for 1 park during any regular season contest and playoff appearance(s).
8. Must not have presented any false or incomplete information to his/her park or **GCYSA** Official to gain eligibility.
9. Must display good sportsmanship, follow the rules of competition and follow the **GCYSA** Coaches Code of Conduct before, during and after every contest.
10. **Must have his/her coaches card displayed in open view during his her contest/game.**

FR 5.3 Disqualification of a coach:

A coach who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest for un-sportsmanlike conduct or foul, will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that and the next contest. **If the ejected coach leaves the game quietly and without creating/ furthering a disturbance, his/her ejection may be appealed. The Appellate Board may overturn the next game suspension however it cannot over rule/alter the any play or the outcome of the game the coach was ejected from. The Appellate Board may extend a coaches suspension to include expulsion from the Alliance.**

FR 5.3.1 A coach that has been disqualified (ejected) will be given seven (7) minutes to leave the event site/property. All game play will stop until the person has left the event. If the ejected person refuses to leave a **GCYSA** event, the official will notify the security person assigned or call 911 to remove the person. The person may be charged with trespassing if they do not leave as asked. The team associated with the person may forfeit he game.

A coach who has been disqualified from a contest and continues to be disruptive shall be disqualified for the remainder of the season.

FR 5.3.2 A coach who has been repeatedly disqualified from contests during his/her lifetime in the **GCYSA** may be permanently disqualified from **GCYSA** events and contests.

FR 5.3.3 In the event there has been 3 or more disqualifications of coach(s), student athlete(s), attendants or parents from the same team in a season, that Park President, and the teams entire coaching staff will meet to review and take measures to correct the negative situations.

FR 5.3.4 After a coach has been disqualified and there are no certified team coaches available to resume the game, the game will be forfeited.

FR 6.0 PARK RESPONSIBILITIES & HOSTING CONTESTS

FR 6.1 Alliance member parks are required to fulfill their Alliance and schedule responsibilities. Failure to meet these responsibilities can result in forfeitures, fines, probation, and/or expulsion from the Alliance.

FR 6.2 Admission fees:

No member park may charge a fee for a regular season contest unless said fee is agreed upon by both parks competing, AND has the approval of the Football Commissioner in writing.

Said request must be made no later than 7 days prior to the event to allow proper notification to parents from each park. It must be made clear at the event that when collecting the fee, the fee is NOT an Alliance sponsored fee and the purpose of the fee..

FR 6.2.1 Admission to all **GCYSA** preseason & post season contests and competitions will be \$5.00 for adults 18 years old, \$5.00 for school aged children unescorted by an adult Children 17 and under that are escorted by an adult and children 4 and under will be admitted free.

FR 6.3 Chain Gang Crew:

The host park will ensure that there is a chain gang of 3 (2 marker and 1down marker) present on the field prior to each game. Each chain gang member will be at least 15 years old. The chain gang will abide by the FHSAA rules to include remaining neutral and is not allowed to relay, communicate or gesture in any way, any information to anyone other than the officials.

FR 6.4 Event Support Staff:

All Parks are required to provide manning for all **GCYSA** events regardless of location **if requested by the Alliance.**

Host parks will work with the **Alliance** staff to ensure all manning requirements are coordinated and met at events hosted at their parks.

FR 6.5 Facility Requirements:

Any member park that intends to host **GCYSA** preseason, regular season or post-season contests must meet a minimum of the following requirements:

1. Must have a concession stand
2. Must have 2 restrooms (1 male, 1 female) in working condition.
3. Must have a working electronic scoreboard w/clock visible to both teams.
4. Field and public areas must be in safe and in playing condition.
5. Playing field must have a barrier between players and fans. Said barrier may be a temporary fence or track.
6. Must have a certified scale in working condition.
7. Have a Park Representative "In Charge" and "on duty" at all times from before the first weigh-in to the time visiting fans and players leave the host park. This person shall make themselves known to the security personnel and referees in the event any situation arises.
8. For preseason and post season events, the facility must be adequately constructed to control the entry and exit of spectators for the purpose of charging admission.

FR 6.6 Game Balls/Official Balls:

The host park will provide game balls for all contests it hosts.

Only **GCYSA** authorized footballs will be used. **(This rule will be reevaluated for the 2011 season)**

Authorized footballs:

Mighty Mites-Wilson K2

Mini-Mites- Wilson K2

Mites- Wilson TDJ

Midgets- Wilson TDJ

Juniors- Wilson TDY

FR 6.7 Officials:

FR 6.7.1 All member parks shall use only **GCYSA** contracted officials in **GCYSA** sanctioned games.

FR 6.7.2 Park representatives will take notice of officials late arrivals, no shows and early departures, and report infractions to the Alliance business office no later than 3pm on the Sunday following the Saturdays games.

FR 6.7.3 Park representatives will ensure that there are a minimum of:

3 officials for Mighty-Mite games

4 officials for Mini-Mite games

4 officials for Mite games

4 officials for Midget games

5 officials for Junior games

FR 6.7.4 Parks will offer or provide a drink at half-time and between each game to each referee.

FR 6.7.5 Parks will **ensure the** security for officials from the time they arrive to the time they leave the park.

Parks will provide a secure place for officials to park.

FR 6.7.6 The Park President or representative will be onsite and available should a situation develop and assistance is needed by the officials.

FR 6.8 Reporting of scores:

A representative of the host park will report scores to the Alliance office no later than 3pm on the Sunday following Saturday's games.

FR 6.9 Security:

FR 6.9.1 The host park will ensure it has a **City, County or State** Police officer present prior to, and to the completion of all Mite, Midget and Junior regular season games. The host park will be responsible for paying the security costs **during regular season contests**.

The **GCYSA** may require additional security at the parks expense if it is found there is a need with-in a certain park or parks.

FR 6.9.2 The host park is responsible for the control of spectators during all contests it hosts. The **GCYSA** recommends that the host park management notify the **GCYSA** Football Commissioner any possible negative tensions or expected larger crowds. Any and all disruptive situations will be reported to the security officer immediately.

FR 6.9.3

Parks hosting games for the upcoming weekend will email to the Alliance office a GCYSA Security Information form NLT 9am the Thursday prior to the following weekends games. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of ALL games that weekend, a \$500fine, and the Alliance will schedule and bill the park for security and related GCYSA administrative costs for the rest of the season. Violating park(s) will not be allowed to qualify teams for the playoffs nor enter teams the following season(s) until all fines or bills have been paid. To have a team qualify for a playoff bid, the fine or bill must be completely paid NLT 7 days prior the playoffs.

All park incidents should be reported to the **Alliance** office by 3pm on the Sunday following the Saturdays games.

FR 6.10 Warm-up Areas:

FR 6.10.1 Host Parks must provide a safe warm-up area for all teams to warm-up in.

FR 6.10.2 All warm-up areas and resting areas shall be in "camera-view" of the playing field or stands to ensure the validity of the pre-game weigh-in and player verification.

If a host facility has indoor or other special facilities and wishes to use them, the host facility must provide like facilities to opposing teams to include matching amenities of water, toilet facilities, heating /air-conditioning and chalk boards/dry erase boards if the host team has them. An opposing coach or attendant must be allowed/ given the opportunity to accompany the opposing team while out of camera view to ensure the validity of the pre-game weigh-in/ and player verification.

Except under emergency conditions, the removal of jerseys should be refrained from following the weigh-in until the game is over.

FR 6.11 Weigh-in official:

FR 6.11.1The host park will ensure that there is a park representative knowledgeable in weigh-in procedures present at each weigh-in. There should also be a representative of the opposite sex readily available for any opposite sex players wishing to strip down to make weight in accordance with strip down procedures. This/these persons should be knowledgeable in those procedures also.

FR 6.11.2 The weigh-in official will ensure an Official **GCYSA** Weigh-in Log is used for all weigh-ins.

Each park should keep the Weigh-in Log secure when not in use. Weigh-in Log's are the property of the **GCYSA** and shall be turned over to the Commissioner if requested.

FR 7.0 PRESEASON, JAMBOREES, REGULAR SEASON, POSTSEASON CONTESTS AND EVEN SITE SELECTION

FR 7.1 Pre-season Contests and Jamborees:

FR 7.1.1 No student-athlete shall participate on any team unless registered with his/her park for jamborees, preseason contest or practices.

FR 7.1.2 No team shall play in a practice or scrimmage contest until after it has completed at least 4 days of full contact practices.

FR 7.1.3 All **GCYSA** teams are required to participate in the Alliance pre-season Jamboree.

FR 7.1.4 All NFHS, FHSAA and **GCYSA** rules will apply to Jamboree contests with the exception of a non-stopping clock and 2 time-outs in which the clock will remain running. The time for these contests will be determined by the Alliance Commissioner and may be adjusted on game day to ensure all scheduled contests are completed.

There shall be no kickoffs. The ball shall be placed on the offense 35 yard line in lieu of a kickoff for all age divisions.

FR 7.2 Postseason contests:

FR 7.2.1 Teams that fail to make the playoffs or that have been eliminated may compete in post-season games starting the Saturday of the **Shootout and Cheer Competition**.

FR 7.2.2 **Shootout** contests, which include the GCYSA Cheerleading Competition, will remain closed for all other activities.

FR 7.3 Playoff teams:

It will be selected and seeded as follows.

1. District winners will be seeded first (by overall record) regardless if their record is worse than a runner-up/wildcard.
2. Wildcard teams will be seeded by overall record after the District winners have all been seeded higher.

Note: Identical records will be determined by draw and seeded accordingly.

FR 7.4 Non-GCYSA** Contests:**

FR 7.4.1 Any **GCYSA** team wishing to play a non-**GCYSA** certified team must have a liability waiver signed by each student-athletes parent acknowledging that they are aware the **GCYSA** has not verified that the opposing teams players meet **GCYSA** eligibility requirements and that the **GCYSA** is not sanctioning the contest, and therefore not the governing body over that contest.

FR 7.4.2 Any contest with a non-**GCYSA** team shall be held on the **GCYSA** teams OFF week, or on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of a game week.

FR 7.4.3 A **GCYSA** team may play only 2 of these type exhibition games during the regular season.

FR 7.4.4 No **GCYSA** team will practice with, scrimmage against or compete in a game against any team/park, group of players not sanctioned by the **GCYSA** unless approved by the **GCYSA** in the preseason or regular season contests.

FR 7.5 Event site selection and rotation:

FR 7.5.1 **Jamboree sites** will be rotated equally from park to park in cycles determined by the **GCYSA Football Commissioner**.

A parks turn may be deferred (by the Park) annually up to the end of the rotation cycle but not carried over into the next cycle. If at the end of a cycle, a Park declines to host, their turn will be forfeited.

The Alliance will select and assign sites.

FR 7.5.2 **Shoot-out site(s)** will be selected by the **GCYSA Football Commissioner**, giving preference to the geographical proximity of the parks involved. Park neutrality is a factor but not a reason to deny hosting of a shoot-out.

FR 7.5.3 **Playoff host sites** will be selected by the parks as follows:

1. Selection will start with Mighty-Mites first and proceed thru to the Junior site being selected last on even numbered years and Juniors first to Mighty-Mites last on odd numbered years.
2. No park may host more than 1 Division Playoff until the Semi finals.

3. Best overall record within the age division will have first choice to host quarterfinal contests. If the best record park turns down the opportunity to host, the choice will fall to the next best **overall record order District Champions** from within the division, then to the wildcard winners.
4. The division quarter-final host will have the option to host the wildcard games. If they choose not to, the opportunity will fall straight to the wildcard teams, by order of overall record.
5. Semi-final playoff sites will be combined as follows:
 - a. Mighty-Mite, Mini-Mite and Mite at one (1) site and Midget and Juniors at one (1) site.
 - b. The best overall record from the 3 or 2 previous sites will determine the host site for semi-final contests. IF the host site has been eliminated, the other division host sites will have first choice (by overall record). If all host site teams are eliminated from their prospective division playoff or choose not to host, the Park(s) with the best records will be offered the opportunity to host.

NOTE: In the event of identical records, a draw will determine which park has first choice in any of the Host site selection process.

FR 7.5.4 The **Football Commissioner** will select a site for the Championship games.

FR 7.5.5 The five Division Championship games may be hosted at an area high school. The Championship games, if hosted by a **GCYSA** Park, **MUST** be held at a neutral park, with no team in any of the Championship games.

FR 7.5.6 If a Park cannot commit to hosting playoff games when offered at the meeting, it will forfeit its right to host that time and the next park in line will be given the opportunity.

FR 7.5.7 The Alliance reserves the right to re-assign jamboree and playoff sights in the event local governments or Parks deny the **GCYSA** permission to charge the nominal admission fee for hosting fund raising events such as the jamborees and playoffs.

FR 7.6 Special Events will be selected by the **GCYSA Football Commissioner** for the best interest of the event and the League members. These will be rotated as best possible as accommodations permit.

NOTE: The Football Commissioner will have final say over any disagreements in any site selection.

FR 8.0 TEAM COMPOSITION AND LIMITATIONS:

FR 8.1 Member parks are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before they participate in any practice or contest. Parks are required to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all contact, participation and contests until eligibility issues are resolved. No Student-athlete may be added to a roster until he/she has been registered in his/her park and certified by the Alliance.

FR 8.2 Team composition:

The GCYSA recommends the optimum team size to be 25 student-athletes.

FR 8.2.1 A team must meet all the requirements outlined in FR 4.0 & 5.0.

FR 8.2.2 Maximum roster/team size will be 40 student-athletes. **A team may practice more than 40 registered student-athletes up to the date they file their Jamboree Roster. After that, no non-rostered student-athletes may participate in contact practice.**

FR 8.2.3 Minimum roster/team size is **18** student-athletes to start a team for a new park entering the GCYSA.

If a tenured parks team's roster drops below 15 players during the regular season, they may certify new players to bring their roster up to 20. No new players will be allowed to register and play after the regular season.

FR 8.2.4 No team shall have less than 11 players on the field at any time. If a team has less than 11 players able to play, It will forfeit the game to its opponent. No further play will be allowed for that contest.

FR 8.2.5 A maximum five (5) student-athletes currently attending High School shall be allowed on any one

GCYSA team.

FR 8.2.6 A maximum of 2 play-down players will be allowed on any one team, **from the Midget Division and Below.**

FR 8.2.7 A team will have one Head Coach and up to 8 Assistant Coaches. **A Park President or league official will not count against these coach numbers.**

FR 8.2.8 **Head Coaches will be ultimately responsible for the accuracy of their team roster.**

FR 9.2.9 Head Coaches must have their team's roster received in the Alliance office no later than 12 midnight the Tuesday night prior to the weekends game.

FR 8.3 Team Practices:

FR 8.3.1 Teams will limit their practices to no more than 2 hours of active, exertive practicing and 2 ¼ hours total time per day.

FR 8.3.2 No practice will extend past 9pm.

FR 8.3.3 No team shall practice on Sunday

FR 8.4 Sunday Games:

No GCYSA game will be held on Sunday except under emergency conditions. A Sunday game be agreed upon by both parks, both head coaches and approved by the Football Commissioner.

FR 9.0 RULES OF COMPETITION

FR 9.1 All games of the **Gulf Coast Youth Sports Alliance** will be played under current Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Guidelines and National Federation of State High School Football NFHS Rules, with the exception of the GCYSA Rules contained here in.

The Gulf Coast Youth **Sports Alliance Football Commissioner reserves** the right to interpret, add, amend, revoke, suspend, or delete any rule contained herein in the spirit of fair competition, at any time.

FR 9.1.1 The Gulf Coast Youth **Sports Alliance** rules will supersede all others. This is to ensure stricter rules and fair play are in place for younger student-athletes.

FR 9.2 Age Divisions:

FR 9.2.1 **July 31st/August 1st** will be the Alliance age **cut-off/start** date as for determining what age group a child will compete in.

FR 9.2.2 With the exception of Play-down players and players playing up due to weight, children will be divided into the following divisions:

- League 5 and 6 year olds - Mighty-Mite Division
- League 7 and 8 year olds - Mini-Mite Division
- League 9 and 10 year olds - Mite Division
- League 11 and 12 year olds - Midget Division
- League 13 and 14 year olds - Junior Division

FR 9.3 Certification and ID cards:

FR 9.3.1 All players in the **GCYSA** will be certified by the **GCYSA** Football Commissioner or its designees prior to playing in any regular season or post-season contest. Each child will provide the **GCYSA** certifying official one or more of the following:

1. An **original** State or Federally certified Birth Certificate.
2. An **original** Birth Certificate of a foreign country.
3. Any **court certified** document stating the child's complete Birth Certificate name, birth-date and parents/legal guardians name.
4. Military dependent ID card.
5. Any State or Federally issued ID card, which includes the child's full name, current picture and birth date.

****COPIES OR NOTORIZED COPIES OF ANY OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS PROOF. ****

FR 9.3.2 The **GCYSA** reserves the right to request further proof of any child's age, grade, school attending or identity at any time during the season if it deem necessary. Said proof must be provided within 3 days or student-athlete may be declared ineligible.

FR 9.3.3 Each player will have an identification card made and certified by the **GCYSA**. This Certification Card will have listed on it, the following and information:

1. Child's name as it appears on his/her birth certificate
2. Child's park and team name
3. Child's birth date and league age
4. A current recognizable photograph of the child
5. The jersey number of the child
6. Special playing status such as red card player (if applicable)

FR 9.3.4 The ID cards will be placed on a secure ring, chain or book in roster order for ease of use during the pre-game weigh-ins and verifications.

FR 9.3.5 All Child ID cards are the property of the **GCYSA** and must be turned in to the respective, if requested, Park President upon the completion of the team's final game of the season. Park Presidents will ensure that the cards are turned into the Alliance Office.

FR 9.4 Cheerleading Guidelines on field:

FR 9.4.1 Cheerleaders shall extend from 5yard line to 5yard line. Cheerleaders should avoid football teams if possible by occupying the area from the 25 yard line to the 5 yard line.

FR 9.4.2 Cheerleaders will be allowed coaches on the sideline to act as a guard against contact with football players running out of bounds.

FR 9.4.3 Cheerleading coaches will not coach, signal or communicate with any football player on the field or coaches on the sideline.

FR 9.5 Electronic equipment:

FR 9.5.1 The use of sideline electronic communication equipment during GCYSA contests will be prohibited. Sideline Coaches and personnel will be allowed to carry their cell phones however if they take a call, (that means the phone comes off his/her hip or out of their pocket) they must leave the sideline and field IMMEDIATELY. Phone, communication or other surveillance devices placed in or near the ear are prohibited. Repeated interruptions of cell phones can be interpreted as cheating and it is recommended that if sideline personnel are repeatedly using a phone during a game he/she should remove themselves from the game or shut the phone off.

FR 9.5.2 Text messaging and the use of **Blackberry's type devices are strictly forbidden**

FR 9.6 Extra point rules:

Extra points for the "Try for Point after Score" will be:

- 1 point if the ball is run or passed into the end-zone
- 2 points if the ball is kicked through the goal posts

FR 9.7 Failure To Appear:

FR 9.7.1 A team must give the Alliance office 48 hours notice prior to game day that it cannot make its scheduled game. The team must give its reason for not being able to man a team for its game. **A \$200 donation (per team) will be paid to the opposing park. This donation must be paid with-in 7 days.**

FR 9.7.2 If a team fails to give proper advanced notice, its park will be fined. Repeated offenses of this nature will result in stiffer fines and punishment.

FR 9.8 High School Students:

FR 9.8.1 Any team may have up to five (5) players currently enrolled in High School.

FR 9.8.2 Student-athlete must not have, or be participating on any middle school football team or any high school athletic team or program.

Because of the possibility of student-athletes participating in high school programs then trying to hide that fact by saying it was a camp or class, The Football Commissioner will reserve the right to disqualify any student-athlete he/she deems to have violated the intent of this rule. The definition of what is a "camp" and what is actually a football or weight lifting practice will be determined by the Football Commissioner on a case-by-case basis.

If an 8th or 9th grade student-athlete wishes to participate in high school camps, training or sports classes lasting more than 2 weeks (excluding P.E.) then he/she shall forfeit their eligibility to participate as a player in youth league football.

Note: If requested by the **GCYSA**, a student/athlete has 3 days to provide the League proof of his/her eligibility or be declared ineligible.

FR 9.9 Inclement weather: Officials or Park Presidents on site may cease play and get the children to a safe location until their parents or coaches can take them home.

After this, the officials and Park Presidents/representatives will decide whether to delay or suspend the game(s).

An Attempt to contact the GCYSA Football Commissioner and consult with him/her should also be done.

The safety and welfare of participants and fans is paramount.

FR 9.10 Making up games:

In the event of a game postponement or suspension, the GCYSA Football Commissioner will determine the

Make update, time and location.

FR 9.11 Mercy Rule:

FR 9.11.1 Once a 30point spread between teams has been reached; the game will be officially over.

The referee will start the clock and let it run continuously until the end of each quarter and again until all 4 Quarters have been played.

The score will be recorded and scoreboard scores placed at zero (0) to zero (0)

****The GCYSA highly recommends that Coaches allow children that don't normally get an equal amount of playing time to compete at this time.****

In the event a team has a 25 point lead with less than 5 minutes left in the game. The officials may call the game "Officially Over" If players, coaches or spectators become unruly.

FR 9.11.2 In playoff contests, once the 30 point spread has been reached, the game is over and no further play Will continue.

FR 9.12 Mighty Mite Division rules variations:

FR 9.12.1 In Mighty Mite division games, teams are allowed to have 1 coach on the field to assist with play calling, lining up, and huddling.

The offensive/kicking team coach must be 10 yards behind the deepest offensive player at the snap of the ball.

The defensive/receiving team coach must, at the snap of the ball, stay 5 yards behind the deepest defensive player.

Neither on field coach may coach nor give directions or gestures once the huddle is broke. He/she may however assist with players lining up as long as he/she does not make blocking assignments or delay the game and is clear of the immediate playing area prior to the snap of the ball.

On field coaches will make all attempts to avoid interfering with the play.

On field coaches will not attempt to deceive the opposing players between or during plays i.e. being involved in a trick play.

FR 9.12.2 No defensive player may line up "head-up" on the Center.

No defensive player shall directly engage or rush the Center. Defensive player(s) may line up in either Center/Guard gap and rush from that position.

FR 9.12.3 Offensive line formations will remain basic i.e. Tackle/ Guard/ Center/Guard/ Tackle. Backs, Ends and Receivers may line up in any legal position.

FR 9.12.4 In lieu of a punt, the ball may be placed 25 yards up field and turned over to the opposing team.

The ball may not be placed inside an opponent's 20 yard line if a punting team chooses to punt inside the Opponent's 45 yard line.

The original purpose of Mighty Mite division was to introduce youth to the very basic fundamentals of football. Trick plays, complicated plays, higher level formations and practice drills are highly discouraged

The GCYSA encourages all Mighty Mite coaches to focus on the fundamental basics football

FR 9.13 Moving Down in age Divisions:

No student-athlete shall be allowed to move down in age division once he/she has certified, practiced, or played in a higher age division.

FR 9.14 Moving Up in age Divisions:

Any student-athlete may be allowed to move up one (1) age division prior to the third week of regular season games.

FR 9.15 Play-down Player:

Eligible student-athletes who are league age 7, 9, 11, or 13 may play down from their normal age division provided the following conditions are met:

1. Must be 35 lbs below the maximum normal weight for the age division he/she will participate in.
2. May only play down 1 age division.
3. Only two (2) play-down players will be allowed to be certified and rostered on any one team.
4. Play-down players will be issued an ID card that is different than the normally issued card. It will be printed on a red card or have large red letters PD or RS designating the player as a play-down player.

FR 9.16 Player Equipment:

FR 9.16.1 The FHSAA guidelines shall govern the student-athletes equipment with the exceptions here in.

FR 9.16.2 Mouth-pieces: Must be any color except clear and must be attached to the helmet or face mask at all times.

FR 9.16.3 Shoes: Must be of the one piece molded type in the Mighty-mite, Mini-Mite, and Mite age divisions.

NO DETACHABLE SCREWS IN CLEATS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE MIGHTY-MITE, MINI-MITE NOR MITE AGE DIVISIONS

Shoes must not have any metal spikes or cleats or hard or sharp materials.

FR 9.16.4 Sponsor/advertising: Teams may add sponsors names or logos to the shoulder and sleeve areas of the jersey. The front and back of the jersey should only have the park or mascot name, student- athletes name and/or number

FR 9.16.5 Uniforms: Teams will have matching uniform pants and jerseys. Parks that have multiple teams with-in the same age division that use the same color scheme, must have alternate uniform colors (different pants and/or jerseys) in the event their teams play each other.

Any changes in team colors must be approved by the **Football Commissioner** PRIOR to competition.

Jersey numbers should be 6" to 8" on the front and 8" to 10" on the back.

Each team is permitted to use a "0" and "00" number for emergency uses such as torn, lost or forgotten jerseys.

Each student-athlete will only be assigned 1 jersey number per season. If that jersey becomes lost or unusable the student-athlete will use the "0" or "00" jersey until his/her original jersey is replaced.

The jersey number must be secure and readable on the front and behind at weigh-in. If a number is not readable, the jersey/number must be repaired before the game.

FR 9.16.6 All Visors & eyewear MUST be clear to allow referees/first aid personnel to see the student-athletes eyes.

FR 9.17 Pre-game warm-ups:

After the pre-game weigh-in all warm-up and resting areas shall be in "camera-view" of the field or stands to ensure integrity of the pre-game weigh-in and player verification.

If a host facility has indoor or other special facilities and wishes to use them, the host facility must provide like facilities to opposing teams to include matching amenities of water, toilet facilities, heating/air-conditioning and chalk boards/dry erase boards if the host team has them.

An opposing coach or attendant must be allowed/given the opportunity to accompany team while out of camera view to ensure the validity of the pre-game weigh-in/ and player verification.

On field warm ups will be between the end zone end line and their own 40 yard line.

****Except under emergency conditions, the removal of jerseys should be refrained from following the weigh-in until the game is over****

FR 9.18 Red stripe player

Eligible student-athletes whose body weight exceeds the normal weight limits for their age division but fall within the Red-Stripe weight requirements may play provided they are restricted to the following rules:

1. Red stripe players must meet the weight requirements for their Age Division.
2. Red stripe players will be issued an ID card that is different than the normally issued card.

3. Red Stripe players will have a 1" red stripe applied down the center line of his/her helmet from the front to the back of the helmet.
4. All red stripe players must play the interior line positions, either the center, guard, or tackle position. This means a red stripe player may not be lined up more than two (2) positions from the center, Offensively or Defensively.
5. Red stripe players must line up **within 1 yard** of the line of scrimmage and **their helmet** cannot exceed the outside shoulder of the offensive tackle.
6. Defensive red stripes must be in a 3 or 4point stance at the snap of the ball
7. Offensive players may maintain a 2point pass blocking stance at the snap of the ball in addition to the 3 or 4point stance.
8. A red stripe player may play on the extra point team, field goal team and Punt teams (including 4th down defense but are restricted from playing on the Kickoff/Receiving team.
9. Red striped players may not possess the ball at any time on offense or defense with the exception of the center snapping the ball, pass interception or fumble recovery. In the case of interception or fumble recovery, the ball is dead and the referee's whistle is blown.
10. No ball advancement or laterals are permitted by the red stripe players.
11. In the Junior division, only league age 13 year olds and younger, and 14 year old 8th grade student-athletes and below will be allowed to be red striped.
12. League aged 14 year olds in the 9th grade or higher may not be red striped.
13. Once a student-athlete has been certified as a red stripe player, he/she cannot be re-certified as a normal weight student-athlete if he/she loses weight.
14. Any team found illegally using red stripe player or illegally lining up red stripe players will be assessed a 15 yard penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct
15. (Mighty-Mite, Mini-Mite & Mite Red stripes only) Because on declared kicks there are no fakes, runs, passes or botched snaps allowed, a red stripe player MAY act as a holder, kicker or punter.

FR 9.19 Roster

FR 9.19.1 There will be 3 types of rosters used by the **GCYSA** for league play, "Certification", "Game" and "Coaches".

FR 9.19.2 The **Certification roster** will contain date, park and complete team name, the child's name as it appears on his/her birth certificate, child's residential address, child's birth date and league age, the school the child attends, the grade in school, the child's jersey number and designate if the child is a new player or played in the **GCYSA** the previous year. This roster will be used for league purposes such as certification and data base information.

FR 9.19.3 The **Game roster** will contain date, park and complete team name, child's name as it on his/her birth certificate, child's birth date and league age, the school the child attends, the grade in school and the child's jersey number. At the bottom coaches and attendants will be listed. This roster will be used for game purposes such as weigh-ins, exchanging with opposing coaches and press box announcers.

FR 9.19.4 The **Coaches roster** will contain date, park and complete team name, coaches, home address and phone number. This roster will be used for league purposes such as certification and data base information.

FR 9.19.5 Only the approved **GCYSA** Roster formats will be allowed. All others will be considered illegal and not valid. **All rosters must be typed; hand written rosters are not allowed and are considered void.**

FR 9.19.6 All rosters will have players listed by numerical jersey number in order starting with red card players first. Play-down 1st, red stripe listed 2nd and other players listed after.

FR 9.19.7 Upon the Tuesday night prior to the third week of regular season games, at 7 pm, all rosters will be frozen and the final game roster received by the Alliance Office will be declared the team's final roster.

FR 9.19.8 A team whose roster number of players falls below 15, will be allowed to certify and add qualified new players to its roster at any time prior to the Tuesday night at 7pm prior to the teams 8th regular season game. No team will be allowed to add players after the last regular season game for the playoffs.

FR 9.20 Scheduling:

FR 9.20.1 The **GCYSA** Football Commissioner will be responsible for making a working game

schedule. In scheduling, attempts should be made to keep entire parks together at home and away.

FR 10.20.2 The **GCYSA** Football Commissioner can create Conferences and Districts to aid in scheduling.

FR 10.20.3 Only the **GCYSA** football Commissioner can make a change in scheduling. This is to include date, time, & locations.

FR 10.21 Scouting:

FR 10.21.1 Scouting is allowed, however all Head Coaches must ensure compliance with all regulations regarding scouting.

FR 10.21.2 An opposing team may scout ONLY **GCYSA** Jamboree, regular season & post season game(s). This is to include the charting of plays and hand written notes or use of video equipment.

1. Under no conditions will an opposing team's practices or practice scrimmages be scouted.
2. The act of scouting is not restricted to the team's coaching staff, but can be committed by anyone (player, fan, friend, parent, etc.). All Head Coaches will be held accountable for any violation following this guideline.
3. Coaches may exchange game film between teams.

FR 9.22 Snapping from Center for kicks/punts: Midget & Junior divisions

FR 9.22.1 A Center snapping the ball to a holder (long snapper) in an attempt for extra point or field goal shall not be directly engaged by the defensive players. Defensive player(s) may line up in normal defensive alignments but shall "shoot the gap" avoid direct 1st contact, ie the offensive guard may block the defensive rusher into the Center.

Snapping from Center for non-kicks/punts: All divisions

FR 9.22.2 A Center direct snapping the ball to the Quarterback or other eligible receiver shall have no special protection rules.

If coaches wish to utilize a shot-gun offense, they should ensure their Centers are properly trained in "head-up" blocking techniques for shot-gun snaps.

FR 9.23 Tie games:

Tie games will be decided by a "10-yard line tie breaker" as printed in the NFHS rule book.

FR 9.24 Time Limits:

Mighty-Mites- 8 minutes per quarter

Mini-Mites- 8 minutes per quarter

Mites- 8 minutes per quarter

Midgets- 8minutes per quarter

Juniors- 10 minutes per quarter

FR 9.25 Un-safe weight loss:

No student-athlete shall voluntarily or involuntarily engage in any method of weight loss. This is to include pills, excessive exercise, body suits, or saunas

FR 9.26 Weigh-in procedures:

The host park will ensure that there is a park representative knowledgeable in weigh-in procedures present at each weigh-in. There should also be a representative of the opposite sex readily available for any opposite sex players wishing to strip down to make weight in accordance with strip down procedures. This/these persons should be knowledgeable in those procedures also.

1. Prior to any **GCYSA** sanctioned contest, an official weigh-in shall be held.
2. The scales at all weigh-ins will be certified annually by a **GCYSA** authorized company/person.
3. The transportation and moving of scales should be held to a minimum.
4. Weigh-ins should start approximately 45 minutes prior to game time as to not delay the normal start of the game.
5. Each Head Coach assumes responsibility for the actions of his/her coaches in the weight room.

6. Each student-athlete will be allowed a maximum of 2 attempts to make weight.
7. If a student-athlete fails to make weight on his/her first attempt, he/she may not leave the weigh-in room. Student-athlete will not be subjected to any type of physical exercise between weigh-ins.
8. All weigh-ins will be conducted as follows:
 - a. The home team should weigh-in first, followed by the visiting team.
 - b. A minimum of 1 coach or a maximum of 2 coaches per team will be allowed in the weight room during weigh-ins.
 - c. Student-athletes will line up and weigh in roster order, play-down players first, followed by the red-stripe players and then the remainder of the team.
 - d. Coaches will provide a copy of their game roster to each other.
 - e. Coaches will exchange certification card rings/books for review and weigh-in.
 - f. Coaches will use an Official **GCYSA** Weigh-in Form contained in a park weigh-in logbook to record the weigh-in procedure.
 - g. The weight will be set at the appropriate weight and verified by each team representative.
 - h. The student-athlete shall step on the scale. Once the indicating arm of the scale settles, if it does not contact the upper range tab of the scale the child has made weight.
If the indicating arm settles and remains in contact with the upper tab of the scale. The child has failed his/her 1st attempt to make weight. He/ she will step off the scale and stand to the side to be reweighed at the end of his/her teams weigh-in. SEE Strip-down rules below in this section.
 - i. Any student-athlete that fails to make weight on his/her 1st attempt will make his/her 2nd attempt immediately following the last player of his/ her team.
 - j. Once all student-athletes from both teams have weighed in, each team weigh-in representative will sign the others teams weigh-in log.
 - k. If there is a contested weight or procedure, both team representatives will still sign the log to indicate that they were the individuals conducting the weigh-in. The grievance will be written on the weigh-in document and the park representative in charge of the weigh-in will ensure that the document is given to the **GCYSA** office no later than the following Monday 10am.
An attempt should be made to contact the **GCYSA** Football Commissioner during the weigh-in or as soon as possible to resolve the problem.
9. Any type of agreement made by 2 opposing coaches/representatives to allow an ineligible student-athlete to participate will be viewed upon by the Alliance as cheating and will result in double forfeitures, suspensions, fines and may lead to coaches being banished from the league.
10. Any late player who missed the pre-game weigh-in has until the end of the 1st quarter to notify the opposing coach he/she is late and wishes to weigh-in. Both coaches must have the player weighed by the start of the 2nd quarter to weigh-in any late players. The game will not be held up to weigh in late players. Coaches are advised to use time outs if they have to notify an opposing team of a late weigh in. When the **first Quarter** horn blows, it's too late.

FR 9.27 Weigh-in Strip down Procedures:

Male: A male student-athlete may voluntarily strip down to his underpants/shorts. Under no circumstances is he to disrobe beyond that, whether voluntary or not. Female weigh-in officials are restricted from the weigh-in facility while the male student-athlete(s) is/are stripped down.

The minimum weigh-in representative requirements for both teams remain the same.

Female: A female student-athlete may voluntarily strip down to her shorts and sports bra. Under no circumstances is she to disrobe beyond that, whether voluntary or not.

Male weigh-in officials are restricted from the weight-in facility while student-athlete(s) is/are stripped down. The minimum weigh-in representative requirements for both teams remain the same.

It is recommended that Park Presidents have a female representative trained in weigh-in procedures to act as the weigh-in official. This person can act as the home team representative AND park representative.

A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WILL BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILD THROUGH THE STRIP DOWN PROCESS IF THEY CHOSE SO. THEIR PRESENCE IS ONLY FOR MORAL AND ETHICAL PURPOSES, AND THEY HAVE NO IMPUT INTO THE PASS OR FAILURE OF THEIR CHILD MAKING WEIGHT.

FR 9.28 Weight limits:

League 5 and 6 year olds	Mighty-Mite Division	75 lbs
League 5 and 6-year-old Red Stripe	Mighty-Mite Division	85 lbs
League 7 year olds red card	Mighty-Mite Division	40 lbs
League 7 and 8 year olds	Mini-Mite Division	100 lbs
League 7 and 8-year-old Red Stripe	Mini-Mite Division	110 lbs
League 9 year olds red card	Mini-Mite Division	65 lbs
League 9 and 10 year olds	Mite Division	125 lbs
League 9 and 10-year-old Red Stripe	Mite Division	135 lbs
League 11 year olds red card	Mite Division	90 lbs
League 11 and 12 year olds	Midget Division	145 lbs
League 11 and 12-year-old Red Stripe	Midget Division	160 lbs
League 13 year olds red card	Midget Division	110 lbs
League 13 and 14 year olds	Junior Division	175 lbs
League 13* old 14* year old Red Stripe	Junior Division	200 lbs

*No student-athlete in high school will be allowed to Red Stripe

The GCYSA strongly discourages coaches/parks from practicing any student-athlete that does not meet the official GCYSA weight requirements. The GCYSA requires each member park to set a, and abide by it's own practice weight policy.

FR 9.29 Special kicking rules for the Mighty-Mite, Mini-Mite, and Mite age divisions:

On 4th down only, an offensive player may notify the official that his/her team wishes to kick or punt. This notification must be done BEFORE the team breaks the huddle. The official will notify the defensive team and notify/gesture to the defensive coaches that the offensive team wishes to kick or punt of 4th down. The no rushing rule also pertains to P.A.T.'s.

Defense/Receiving Team

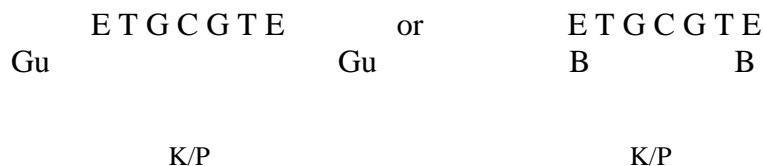
1. There will be no rushing of any declared place kick, PAT or punt by the defense.
2. The Defense/Receiving team must have a minimum 7 players lined up on the line of scrimmage at the snap of the ball and not to extend more than approx. 5 feet past the offenses core formation.
3. If a defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage, the defense will be penalized with an off sides penalty.
4. On punts, defensive players may block the kicking team members as they cross the line of scrimmage and release downfield.

Offense/Kicking Team

1. There will be no fake or "botched" kicks allowed on any declared place kick, PAT or punt in the Mighty-Mite, Mini-Mite or Mite age divisions.
2. The Offensive team may not advance the ball by running, throwing, or fumbling the ball on a declared kick or punt.
3. The kicking team has 5 seconds from the snap of the ball to get the kick/punt off. If the ball is mishandled, fumbled or the kick is not away in the five seconds the ball will be placed at the spot of the snap (and turned over on downs if applicable)
4. The Offensive/Kicking team must form in 1 of the 2 basic kicking formations seen in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1

Allowable offensive/kicking "core" formations



Note: The remaining players may line up in any legal position.

5. On punts, the kicking teams core formation must not cross the line of scrimmage until the kick is away.
6. Because there are no fakes, runs, passes or botched snaps allowed, a red stripe player MAY act as a holder, kicker or punter.

NOTE: The Mighty Mite rule to spot the ball 25 yards down field in lieu of a punt still applies for teams that wish to continue utilizing the rule. **Not to be inside the opponent's 20 yards line**

COMMISSIONERS NOTE:

These kicking rules are intended to encourage and develop a better kicking program for our youth. I am asking all of our coaches to teach the fundamentals of kicking and punting to include proper stances even though there is no contact on the line.

Things such as holding position, releasing, going to a lane on the punting team and dropping back and forming a wedge on the receiving team need to be taught 5 seconds is plenty of time for our youth to (even bobble or drop a snap) get a kick away. Help them to relax and focus on the ball...They're not going to get hit!

FR 10.0 CODES OF CONDUCT

FR 10.1 Player Code of Conduct

1. **DISRESPECT FOR AUTHORITY:** Student Athletes will have respect towards other players, cheerleaders, Coaches, League Officials or other teams.
2. **FIGHTING:** Student Athletes will not engage in any act of fighting or otherwise abusive behavior at all.
3. **INTIMIDATION:** Student Athletes will not engage in any verbal or physical intimidation of opponents outside of the normal across the line talk. This is to include threatening gestures.
4. **PROFANITY:** Student Athletes will not use profane language or gestures at any Alliance activities.
5. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:** Student Athletes must display good sportsmanship, follow the rules of competition and abide by the **GCYSA** Players Code of Conduct before, during and after every contest.
6. **DRUGS:** Student Athletes must avoid the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, tobacco products, drugs and performance-enhancing drugs at all times.

FR 10.2 Coaches Guidelines and Code of Conduct

1. Head Coaches and the coaching staff participating in the program shall be held responsible for their knowledge of all FHSA, FHSAA and Alliance rules.
2. The Head Coach is responsible for the actions of his staff, team members, parents and fans because your actions will dictate the responses of those in your camp.
3. **GCYSA** has the right to suspend players or coaches from games for any un-sportsmanlike or eligibility infraction.
4. There shall be no more than eight (9) team staff members per team on a team's sideline. Head coach will ensure his/her sideline is clear of non-authorized persons. **Park Presidents and league officials do not count towards this number**
5. During games, all Coaches and players must remain in the designated Coach's Box. Fans must remain behind the barrier at all times. Failure to remain away from the playing field will result in the game being halted until all fans, players and coaches are in compliance. No one may sit or congregate in the back of the end zone to watch the games. Head Coach's are responsible to not allow parents to enter the game field during competition.
6. Coaches will show consideration for all personnel connected with the game. This includes **GCYSA** officers, officials, the opposing team fans and side-line personal at all times. Remember, this is little league!
7. **GCYSA** officials, Park officials, & game officials have the authority to eject any person, (i.e., Coach, Players, Cheerleaders, Parents and fans) from any **GCYSA** event at any time. Any person ejected from an **GCYSA** event will be given seven (7) minutes to leave the event. All game play will stop until the person has left the event. If the ejected person refuses to leave a **GCYSA** event, the official will notify the Security person assigned or call 911 to remove the person. The person may be charged with trespassing if they do not leave as asked. The team associated with the person may forfeit the game.
8. All certified adult members of the **GCYSA** must have current personal information on file with the **GCYSA** office to participate in the **GCYSA**.
9. All coaches will have a background check performed by his/her local law enforcement entity.
10. Problems in the background check must be cleared before being assigned a team
11. Any adult member, whose actions or activities are detrimental to the **GCYSA** are subject to disciplinary action or dismissal from the **GCYSA**.
12. The Gulf Coast Youth **Sports** Alliance reserves the right to accept, deny or revoke membership/certification to any adult in the league at any time.
13. No Alcohol, tobacco or drug use is tolerated at any **GCYSA** event, including practices.
14. No profanity will be tolerated by the **GCYSA**. Violators will be automatically suspended for 1 game for the first offense and up to 1 year for the second.
15. It is the Head Coach's responsibility in the event of an injury to meet with the parents or guardian of the participant (player or cheerleader) injured and to help assist the parent in any way to ensure the child is taken to receive proper medical care during/after a **GCYSA** event.
16. A Coach in good standing with the **GCYSA** will meet every criteria in the Coaches Code of Conduct. If a Coach is not found in good standing with the **GCYSA**, He/she may lose his/her right to return as a Coach in future seasons.
17. It is the Head Coaches responsibility to ensure that his/her teams roster is accurate and correct, and that it is received by the **GCYSA** office before its due time.
18. All student-athletes participating in the **GCYSA** must be registered with their park and certified by the **GCYSA**. Any coach found with non-registered or non-certified players participating in a **GCYSA** practice will result in a suspension(s). Any non-registered or non-certified player found participating in a **GCYSA** game will result in the forfeiture of the game by the offending team and will result in a lifetime ban from the **GCYSA** for the Head Coach. The Park will also be placed on a minimum 1 years probation and it's registration policies reviewed by the **GCYSA**
19. Coaches must re-apply for a position as a coach each year and must be approved by the **GCYSA** each year .His/her certification depends on good standing in the **GCYSA** and a review of disciplinary actions and/or grievances received by the **GCYSA** from the prior year(s).
20. In the event of grievance/protest involving team, if requested, a representative must attend any meeting(s) to resolve the problem or there will be a \$50.00 fine to the team for the first offense; second offense coach(s) will be removed from the team.
21. All coaches will refrain from handling any player by the facemask, snatching, grabbing or jerking of any part of a child equipment or body