



## WHITFIELD COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES 2018

### I. Purpose

The Whitfield County Youth Football Program is organized to provide a wholesome recreational activity for the youth of Whitfield County. The program is designed for the following purposes:

1. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
2. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of football.
3. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and character.
4. To teach good attitudes and discipline.

### II. Organizational Structure

#### 1) Governing Authority

- a) The governing body of this league will be composed of one (1) Community Leader or representative from each community forming a rules making body with the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Department (W.C.R.D.)
- b) The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Recreation Department with the assistance from Community Leaders.

#### 2) Governing Rules

- a) The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Football League will be governed by the current rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School Associations, with the exception of the local league rules, which supersede any rule in the current edition of the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- b) The League Rules will be developed and governed by the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

### 3) Coaching Requirements

- a) A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
- b) A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of football.
- c) A coach should never use profanity, drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, vape, or use tobacco during any activity with players.
- d) A coach must never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
- e) A coach should not be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child has fun and learns the fundamentals while participating.
- f) A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings or have an approved coach present.
- g) A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player (especially the weaker players) interested and participating throughout the season.
- h) *Each team shall have a Head Coach and may have a maximum of three (3) Assistant Coaches .Only players and coaches allowed on sidelines.*
- i) A coach is now be responsible to report suspected child abuse to their local authority. This is a state law CCGA 19-7-5.
- j) *Head Coaches must be certified by NYSCA (to be considered).* (www.nays.org)
- k) *Head Coaches also must take an online concussion test and turn in a certificate.* (<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>)

### **III. Player Eligibility**

1. A legal aged player participating in the football program may only play up one age with approval only from The Recreation Department. Size and weight will be considered in this decision.
2. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form for each individual participant must be on file before any team is eligible to complete in regular season games.
3. Each participant must have insurance.
4. Playing an ineligible player(s) shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal player(s) participated. Any coach that knowingly allows an illegal player(s) to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one (1) year time period.
5. Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks & Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.

#### IV. League Rules and Regulations

1. Rules not mentioned in the League Rules are found in the National Federation of State High School Associations Football Rule Book or the current GRPA Manual.
2. The age division shall be as follows:
  - a. Pee Wee                      Ages 5-6
  - b. Bantam Division        Ages 7-8
  - c. Mite Division            Ages 9-10
  - d. Midget Division        Ages 11-12
  - i. Cutoff date prior to September 1st.
  - ii. Players cannot be on a middle school team.
  - iii. Adopted August 12, 2009 PLAYERS MOVING UP IN AGE DIVISIONS: WHITFIELD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION FOOTBALL PROGRAM CONSIST OF FOUR DIVISIONS: 5&6 TACKLE BANTAM AGE 7 & 8; MITE AGE 9 & 10 AND MIDGET AGE 11 & 12. AGE CUTOFF DATE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS IS AGE PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> OF CURRENT YEAR. A PARTICIPANT THAT HAS NOT REACHED THE AGE OF 5 YEARS BY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THE CURRENT YEAR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE W.C.R.D. FOOTBALL PROGRAM.
3. Team rosters shall consist of no more than 20 players per team. Once a roster is submitted to the Recreation Department it becomes official. An official roster cannot be revised unless permission is granted by the Recreation Department.
4. **Short Handed Rule: A team can start and/or finish a game with 10 players. The opposing team must play one player short also when necessary. If a team cannot field 10 players the game will be considered a forfeit and the teams will play a scrimmage game with an equal number of players if possible.**
5. The playing field shall be 100 yards in length for 11-12, 80 yards for 7-8 & 9-10 and **60 yards (30 yards wide) for 5-6.** Kick-offs will be from midfield which is the 40 yard line in 9-10 division, and the 50 yard line in 11-12 division. There will be no kick-offs in the 7-8 division. The ball will be placed on the 20 yard line to begin offense. **In the 5-6 Division play will start on the 15 yard line.**
6. All players must start each series in the 1<sup>st</sup> half and must play 4 plays in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. These plays must be live scrimmage plays and may not be punt and/or kick off situations. A coach that does not comply with this rule will be subject to forfeit the game. Any coach that violates this rule a second time will be dismissed from the program. A coach may hold a player out of a game for disciplinary reasons if announced to the opposing coach before the game.
7. Any player to receive a snap, hand-off or pass from scrimmage **or any designed play must not weigh more than 75 pounds in Pee-Wee division;** 100 pounds in Bantam, 125 pounds in Mite, nor 150 pounds in Midget Divisions. Maximum weight players (players not eligible to run the ball must play on the line on both sides of the ball, tackle to tackle) and must be in a three or four point stance. (Does not apply to players of less weight). Participants must be weighed before their first game and weight will be recorded on the team roster.
8. The 5-6 Pee Wee and the 7-8 Bantam Division defensively will not be allowed to line up over the center. As a result of this rule there will be no quarterback sneaks. The quarterback must be led by a Running

Back if running up the middle unless they are in the “SHOTGUN POSITION” (Instead of the Quarterback receiving the snap with his hands directly under the center, he stands farther behind the line of scrimmage. At least two (2) yards and receives the direct snap). The quarterback may run outside the guards. Penalty(s): same as illegal formation. In Pee-Wee, the centers have a free zone. Linemen must line-up off the ball at least two (2) yards and linebacker’s line-up four (4) yards off the ball. QB must take a step back or be in a shotgun position, at least two (2) yards behind center to run over center.

9. Defensive lineman must be in 3 or 4 point stance, any player tackle to tackle is considered a lineman on the line of scrimmage. Linebackers (tackle to tackle) must be off the line of scrimmage, depth must be back of furthest lineman position, and penalty is same as a defense being off-side.
10. The Crack Back Block is illegal in ALL DIVISIONS of play within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage. (Penalty 10 yards)
  - a. The Crack Back Block shall be defined as a block by a Flanker, Wide Receiver or Offensive player in motion that returns in the opposite direction that the ball carrier is going and performs a block on a defensive player within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage.
  - b. The Crack Back Block is also defined as a block made on an inside defender against the flow of the play. (Example) Offensive team places Wide Receiver 10 yards off heel of Right End or sends player in motion to right. After ball is snapped and with the offense flowing to the right, Wide Receiver or player that was initially in motion, reverses direction and comes back to perform unexpected block on defensive player (Usually the Defensive End or Linebacker)
  - c. (Penalty): Penalty from Basic Spot, except if foul occurs behind the Basic Spot, in which case the Penalty is administered from the spot of the foul. (Penalty 10 yards)
11. The offensive team must verbally state their intention of punting before leaving their huddle. After a verbal declaration of punting, the clock will stop until the change of possession. Mite 9/10 Division Punts will be a dead ball kick; all defensive players will take a knee during the kick except for one defensive punt receiver. The ball will be spotted where receiver catches or controls the ball. There will be no punts in the 5-6 and 7-8 division, the ball will be marked 25 yards from the line of scrimmage or half the distance from inside the 20 yard line by the referee. The ball cannot be spotted deeper than the ten-yard line. Delay of game can be called even though punts are dead ball. In Midget 11-12 division the defense must have seven men on the line of scrimmage and two players who cannot be more than 5 yards off the line of scrimmage. All punts must be long snap formations and play will become live once the official whistles in that the punter has control of the snapped football which at that time makes punts returnable or gives the defense the opportunity to block the punt. **No fake punts allowed.** (Failure to comply is a 5 yard penalty)
12. Each quarter will be a twelve (12) minute running clock in length, ten (10) minutes for Pee-Wee, with the last two (2) minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter being run by regulation start and stop time except for Pee-Wee. Half time will consist of six (6) minutes. If a team is ahead by twenty-one (21) points the clock will continue to run the last two (2) minutes of the game.
13. Each team shall be awarded 3 time outs per half. (1 Minute)
14. *Touchdowns will count as (6) six points and extra points will be (1) one point for running it in and (2) two points for passing it in. Mite and Midget divisions may kick for extra points but Bantam division*

*may not. Kicks will count as (2) two points. The snapper will be at the goal line, and the holders will be at the (5) yard line. There will be no rush. Midget Teams must kick field goal off of kicking block. The defense can raise hands and try to block extra point kick or field goal attempt. No Jumping.*

15. All coaches are required to stay within the boundaries of the coaching box with one exception – for Bantam and Mite Divisions one coach is allowed in the huddle of the offensive and defensive team. **In Pee-Wee Division, two (2) coaches are allowed in the huddle of the offensive and defensive teams.** For Midget Division coaches are not allowed on the field except for time outs. There shall be no more than 4 coaches in the bench area of each team. The team sideline box extends from 30 yard line to 30 yard line. All coaches should wear the same color shirts.
16. The time allowed snapping the ball after it has been declared ready for play is 40 seconds in Bantam and Mite League, 30 seconds in Midget League and **45 seconds for Pee-Wee.**
17. All kickoffs out-of-bounds will be placed 20 yards from where it is kicked or at the point of out-of- bounds whichever is greater. If the receiving team fumbles the kickoff out-of-bounds the ball will be placed at that point.
18. Penalties are 5 yards for minor infractions, and 10 yards for major infractions for 7/8's and 9/10/ division and 5, 10, and 15 yards for 11/12 division. **In 5-6 Division all penalties are five (5) yards except Penalties for Unsportsmanlike Conduct (Player or Coach), Intentional facemask and Pass Interference will also be automatic first (1<sup>st</sup>) down.**
19. *In the event of a tie game at the end of regulation time, the official shall conduct a coin flip. The winner of the coin flip shall have the option of playing defense or offense. Ball will be placed on the ten (10) yard line for each team to have a four (4) down series to attempt to score. If neither team scores, the team that makes the deepest penetration will receive one (1) point and be declared the winner. Only one overtime period will be played.*
20. 7/8 and 9/10 divisions: Offensive coaches may receive **two 2 alignment requests** from the head official, which must be announced before speaking to a player after the huddle is broken. **NO DEFENSIVE ADJUSTMENTS. In the 5-6 Division coaches on the field may talk to players after the offensive huddle is broken. THEY CANNOT TALK TO THE PLAYERS AFTER THE BALL IS SNAPPED.**
21. **In 5-6 Division, interceptions will be counted as change of possession and may be advanced. Fumbles are dead ball and may not be advanced. If the defense recovers a fumble on the center/QB exchange it is a dead ball with NO CHANGE OF POSSESSION.**
22. Home team will furnish three (3) people to work the chains during each game and the home team will sit on the same side as the chain gang crew.
23. No participant or spectator of the Whitfield County Recreation Department should be on school property more than 30 minutes prior to a scheduled activity unless a school function offers sufficient reason for being present. Neither the Recreation Department nor the Whitfield County Schools will assume any liability for accident or injury when this rule is violated.
24. If a two-team tie exists for first or second place or for a spot in the Youth Bowl Championship, the tiebreaker will be the winner of the regular season game. If a three team tie exist and all three teams

defeated each other, a play-off will be held. Each contest will consist of two five-minute periods, followed by the 10 yard line procedure if the contest is tied. A coin toss will determine which team does not participate in the first play-off procedure. The winner of the first play-off procedure will compete in a second contest using the same rules against the remaining team.

25. **Concussion Rule:** Any player suspected of receiving a concussion during a game will be removed and not allowed to return until released to do so. Taking and passing the concussion test or doctors release will be the only way to return.

## V. Game Postponement

### A. Postponement for Inclement Weather

1. The Recreation Department will cancel games if fields are too wet.
2. If coaches, players and officials are not notified of a postponement, they must report to their designated field prepared to play.
3. If rain occurs before game time or during the game, the decision shall be the responsibility of the umpire to play or postpone the game.
4. Rained out games will be rescheduled by the Recreation Department.
5. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on the rain-out hotline 706-876-2570 or on our Facebook Page.

**Receive TEXT Alerts: Text “WCRDFOOTBALL” or “WCRDCHEER” to the phone number 84483**

### B. Postponement for Other Purposes

1. Any schedule conflict should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator before season schedules are complete. **Only school and/or church functions will be considered a conflict.**
2. Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.

## VI. Conduct

1. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. Offenders are subject to ejection from the game or the program.
2. There shall be no smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages permitted.
3. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for their team’s and fans’ conduct.
4. Any coach or player ejected from a game for abusive language or conduct will not in the next game that team plays. Any coach or player ejected a second time will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of the season and may be banned for a calendar year.

## VII. Equipment Requirements

1. Each child is required to furnish playing shoes (only rubber cleated shoes or tennis shoes will be

allowed).

2. The official should warn a player for the first mouthpiece violation and call it to the coach's attention. The next violation will result in a 5 yard penalty.
3. The 5-6 and Bantam 7-8 Division will use the PEE WEE ball. Mite 9-10 Divisions will use the Junior Ball and Midget 11-12 Division will use the Youth Ball.

### **VIII. Activities**

1. There will be three activities allowed per week including games and practices. No workouts will be allowed on Wednesday nights or Sundays. Practices should be limited to 1 1/2 hours and be finished by 9:00 p.m.
2. Practice sessions shall not be scheduled on PTA or Open House night.
3. No scrimmages will be allowed with teams outside the Whitfield Recreation program during the season schedule.

### **IX. Awards**

1. Each individual player on the regular season champion and runner-up teams will receive an award.
2. A revolving Team Trophy will be given each year to the Youth Bowl Champ to be kept for one year.

### **X. Youth Bowl Championship**

1. If there is only one league in an age division: At the conclusion of the regular season the number three team will play the number four team for the Silver Bowl Championship. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team will play the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team for the Gold Bowl Championship.
2. If there are two leagues in an age division: At the conclusion of the regular season the number two teams in each league will play for the Silver Bowl Championship and the two number one teams will play for the Gold Bowl Championship.

### **XI. Recreation Contacts**

**WCRD Office: 706-226-8341 or [wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com)**

**Director:** Brian Chastain/ Email- [bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com)

**Athletic Coordinator:** Ryan Hollingsworth/ Cell- 706-980-1722 or Email- [rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com)