

MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

**Revision 9.0
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MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

1. The name of this organization shall be the *Morris County Youth Football League*, hereinafter referred to as **MCYFL**.

ARTICLE II: MISSION STATEMENT

1. The purpose of the **MCYFL** is to provide youth with supervised sports programs that teach the fundamentals of athletics, promote physical and mental strength, and instill the values of fair play. Through these experiences, participants will grow into responsible citizens who support democratic ideals and the spirit of American community.

ARTICLE III: BASIC POLICIES

1. The **MCYFL** is a noncommercial, nonreligious, and nonpolitical organization. It will not support or promote businesses or political candidates.
2. The **MCYFL** will not take part in any political campaigns or activities.
3. League funds must only be used for referees and other official league expenses. Funds cannot be donated or used for events not directly related to the league.
4. If the league shuts down or is dissolved, any remaining money or debts will be split equally among all current and active franchises that have paid their dues in full. Any franchise that has paid ahead will be refunded before any other funds are distributed.

ARTICLE IV: LEVELS OF PLAY / BY CONFERENCES

1. **MCYFL** offers two levels of play to support player growth: Competitive and Instructional.
2. **Competitive** Levels
 - Freedom and National Conferences: Varsity, Junior Varsity, Pee wee, and optionally Super Pee wee (SPW).
 - American Conference: Varsity and Pee wee only.
 - Standings are kept for all competitive levels.
 - Note: Super Pee wee may be included in the Competitive Level only if chosen by the Freedom or National Conference.
3. **Instructional** Levels
 - Freedom and National Conferences: Super Pee wee (only if not competitive), Clinic, Pre-Clinic, and Rumble.
 - American Conference: Clinic and Rumble only.
 - No standings are kept at the instructional level.
 - Note: Super Pee wee is instructional only if not placed in the Competitive Level by the conference.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

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- 1. Regular Meetings:** The league holds regular meetings at least eleven (11) times per year—on the first Wednesday of each month from February through December.
 - A. Meetings will begin at 7:00 PM, except in August, September, October, and November, when they will start at 7:30 PM.
 - B. Meeting dates and times may be changed if approved by a league majority vote.
- 2. Special Meetings:** Special meetings may be called by the President or upon request by at least two (2) team representatives from different teams. All teams must be notified of any special meetings.
- 3. Annual Meeting:** The March meeting shall serve as the Annual Meeting, during which league officers are elected.
- 4. Quorum:** A quorum is defined as one more than half of the total number of league teams.
- 5. Attendance Requirements**
 - A. Each team representative must attend at least 11 meetings from February to December.
 - B. Missing more than two (2) meetings will result in a \$10 fine per additional absence and loss of voting rights until the fine is paid.
 - C. Arriving more than 30 minutes late results in no attendance credit for that meeting.
- 6. Executive Board Participation:** Each program must have at least one Executive Board member attend the meetings from February through June.
- 7. Team Representation**
 - A. Each team is allowed two (2) representatives, who must be officially declared by the Annual Meeting (March).
 - B. Only designated representatives may speak at league meetings unless the presiding officer grants permission to a non-representative.
- 8. Instructional Level Meetings**
 - A. Two (2) Instructional Level meetings will be held each year: one before the season and one during the season.
 - B. These meetings are organized by the league officers and must be attended by:
 - i. League Officers
 - ii. Each team's representatives
 - iii. One representative from each Instructional Level coaching staff
 - C. These meetings count toward attendance and are subject to fines for unexcused absences.
- 9. Rules of Order**
 - A. The presiding officer will call the meeting to order and provide a prepared agenda.
 - B. Votes on constitutional/by-law changes, infractions, penalties, or major league issues may be conducted by secret ballot if required.
 - C. Minor matters, such as housekeeping items or small payments, may be approved by consensus without a formal vote.
 - D. For all motions requiring discussion and vote (unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or By-Laws):
 - i. A motion must be made and seconded.

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- ii. The presiding officer will lead discussion, maintain order, and may limit or end debate if it becomes off-topic or excessive.
- iii. Motions may be resolved in one of three ways:
 - 1. A vote has been taken
 - 2. The motion is tabled
 - 3. The motion is withdrawn by the person who made it
- E. All debate must be respectful, even in disagreement, and directed through the presiding officer.
- F. The presiding officer is responsible for enforcing the league's Constitution and By-Laws.
- G. The presiding officer will call for a motion to adjourn at the end of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIPS

1. **President and Executive Board:** The President shall preside over all meetings of league representatives. At the December meeting, the President will appoint a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers for the upcoming year. This slate must include individuals who have been involved in the MCYFL for at least two years and will consist of the following Executive Board positions:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Rules Interpreter

The Nominating Committee will present its selections at the March meeting, during which nominations from the floor are also permitted. By the end of the April meeting, the President must appoint members to all standing committees, which should include equal representation from each conference.
2. **Duties of Officers** The responsibilities of the Executive Board officers follow *Roberts' Rules of Order*. Additional roles and clarifications:
 - **President:** Will submit a monthly reimbursement request for any league-related expenses.
 - **Rules Interpreter:** This is a non-voting, non-seated board member role. Attendance at league meetings is not required. The Rules Interpreter must be well-versed in all MCYFL rules and procedures, serves as a resource for resolving rule-related issues, can approve player additions to rosters, and may participate in board committees.
 - **Board Advisors:** The Executive Board may appoint up to three (3) Board Advisors to support board and committee activities. These advisors may also be authorized to approve player additions to team rosters.
3. **Team Representatives (Membership)** Each team must designate a representative who is:
 - A good faith member of a team currently in the league.
 - At least 18 years old.
 - Not an active participant (player) in any MCYFL-sponsored sports program.
4. **Annual Dues:**
 - Each team must pay \$400 in annual league dues.

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- Charity Dues- Each team must pay \$300 annually toward league charity efforts.
 - Payment Deadline: All fees or vouchers must be submitted no later than the April meeting. These fees are retained by the league.
 - *Note:* Any team that fails to make payment or submit a voucher by the deadline will lose its voting rights until payment is received.
5. **Voting Rights**
- Teams in *good standing* are entitled to vote on league matters.
 - They may also vote on specific conference-level rules for the 2024 season, such as the number of tackle-to-tackle players on the line and whether the Freedom and National conferences will participate in Super Peewee playoffs.
6. **New Team Applications**
- Applications for new franchises must be submitted by the May meeting. A \$200 franchise fee is due at that time. No new teams will be accepted after this meeting until the next calendar year.
 - Territorial rights must be submitted with the application.
 - New teams in the 3-team division, and all existing teams, must field at least two Competitive Level teams (Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Peewee).
 - Once approved, the team will receive a certificate stating its team name, sponsor, territorial rights, and team colors.
7. **Voluntary Withdrawal and Franchise Reserve:** A team may voluntarily withdraw from the league. Upon payment of the \$400 annual dues, the league will reserve that team's franchise and rights for one (1) season.
- This option may only be used once every five (5) seasons.
 - *Note:* Franchises on reserve status are not eligible for any refunds outlined in Section 10.
8. **Dissolution of the League**
- If MCYFL ceases operations or dissolves, any remaining funds or debts will be divided equally among all current and active franchises, provided all dues and other financial obligations have been paid in full.
 - Any pre-paid dues or fees will be refunded first, prior to any equal distribution of remaining funds.

ARTICLE VII: RULES

1. **Official Rulebook:** The official rules of play shall follow the current *National Federation of High School Rulebook*, in accordance with NJSIAA in-game regulations, except where specifically modified by this Constitution and By-Laws.
 - a. **Scoring After Touchdown (P.A.T.):**
 - i. 1 point for a successful run or pass.
 - ii. 2 points for a successful kick.
2. **Season Schedule:** The season may begin at the discretion of the league, typically the weekend following Labor Day, and must conclude by the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
3. **Rule Infractions and Disciplinary Action:** Any violations of league rules (as outlined in the Constitution, By-Laws, or regarding conduct) will be reviewed and investigated by the Ethics Committee and reported to the Executive Board.

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- a. Possible penalties include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Monetary fines
 - ii. Loss of future home games
 - iii. Loss of league championship eligibility
 - iv. Forfeiture of games
 - v. Dismissal of a program, team, or individual from the league
- b. Refer to **Article VIII, Section j** for details regarding the Ethics Committee's role.
- 4. **Misconduct and Dismissal**
 - c. Any misconduct or violations—by teams, representatives, or coaches—of the Constitution or By-Laws may result in removal from the league, including the forfeiture of all rights and any monies paid.
 - d. The League retains the authority to make final decisions on dismissals during any regular or special meeting.
- 5. **Temporary Suspensions**
 - e. The Executive Board or the Ethics Committee may suspend any team, team level, representative, coach, or player for rule violations, pending a formal review at the next regular or special League meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS & SCHEDULING:

- 1. **Standing Committees:** The following committees shall be appointed annually by the MCYFL Executive Board. Their responsibilities & meeting frequency are outlined below:
 - A. **Banquet / Awards / Hall of Fame Committee**
 - a. Plans the annual end-of-season banquet and awards ceremony.
 - b. Oversees Hall of Fame nominations and selections every three (3) years.
 - B. **Competition Committee: Ensure a fair and balanced distribution of teams across the MCYFL conferences.**
 - C. **Schedule / Division Committee**
 - a. Develops yearly game schedules.
 - b. Reviews and recommendations of divisional alignments.
 - D. **Grievance, Ethics/ Protest Committee**
 - a. **Grievance & Protest Purpose:** Handles formal protests and grievances as outlined in **Constitution, Article VII, Item 3, 4 & 5.**
 - b. **Ethics Purpose:** Reviews and addresses formal complaints related to conduct by players, coaches, parents, or fans.
 - i. Membership includes three chairpersons—one from each conference (American, National, and Freedom).
 - ii. Each chair selects two additional committee members, subject to Executive Board approval.
 - iii. Committee term runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.
 - c. **Complaint Process & Authority:** Complaints must be submitted in writing to the MCYFL Executive Board by a program or game official.
 - i. The Ethics Committee may impose penalties including:
 - 1. Written warning
 - 2. Probation

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3. Suspension from game attendance
 4. Removal from team or league
 5. Censorship
 6. Monetary fines
 7. Elimination from playoff eligibility
 8. Dismissal of the complaint (no action taken)
 9. Penalties for false allegations
 - ii. The committee must meet within five (5) days of receiving a formal complaint, either in-person or virtually.
 - iii. If the complaint involves a specific conference, representatives from the other two conferences must hear the case, and a quorum must be present. Members from the accused conference must abstain.
 - iv. If the five-day window is not met, the complaint is considered affirmed, and the disciplinary authority transfers to the MCYFL Executive Board.
- d. **Charter:** The Ethics Committee is responsible for upholding the integrity and mission of the **MCYFL**. It will investigate and rule on allegations of unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct involving players, coaches, or spectators.
Emphasis is placed on preserving a positive environment for youth development and ensuring respectful behavior toward referees, players, and other participants.
- E. **Bylaw Committee**
 - a. Reviews league bylaws for clerical, grammatical, and formatting errors.
 - b. Meets biennially (every two years) on even-numbered years.
- F. **Weight Committee**
 - a. Research and recommend changes to player weight limits.
 - b. Meets biennially (every two years) on even-numbered years.
- G. **Roster Committee**
 - a. Collects, reviews, and verifies team rosters.
 - b. Ensures all players meet eligibility requirements.
 - c. Organized by division with representatives from each.
- H. **Nominating Committee**
 - a. Described in **Article VI: Officers and Membership, Section 1**.
 - b. Responsible for proposing a slate of officers for the coming year.
- I. **Officials Committee**
 - a. Reviews contracts and make recommendations regarding game officials and assigners.
 - b. Comprised of **MCYFL** Board Members.
 - c. Meets as needed based on contractual timelines.
- J. **Playoff Committee**
 - a. Determines playoff team eligibility, scheduling, venues, and other playoff logistics.
 - b. Functions as outlined in **By-laws, Article X: Playoffs**.

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ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution, or any part of it, may be amended through the following process:
 - Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing prior to a scheduled meeting.
 - Exact copies of the proposed changes must be distributed to all team representatives in advance of the vote.
2. Amendments shall be considered and voted on at the next scheduled meeting following distribution. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of teams in good standing and present is required for the amendment to pass.
3. Effective Date: Any amendment not approved by the June meeting will not take effect until February of the following year.