



2017 Season

PANHANDLE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BY LAWS (Final Draft)

I. The Association

A. Organization: This organization shall be known as the **Panhandle Youth Football Association (PYFA)** and shall be governed by these By-laws.

1. Initial adoption of By-laws - These By-laws shall be deemed adopted when signed by the Representatives of all present Areas.

2. Amendment - These By-laws may be amended by vote of a majority of the Representatives of all participating areas.

B. Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to foster the sport of football and regulate activities among the youth of Northwest Florida, and to educate adults to be youth leaders through involvement in the Association of youth football program. **The PYFA is a participant in the USA Football “Heads Up” Program and is committed to the principles and techniques prescribed in the program.**

C. Management: The management and administration of the Association shall be conducted by the Board of Directors and one Area Representative from each area in the association. The Board of Directors shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Officials Representative. Each participating Area may designate an alternate Area Representative who may cast that Areas vote at meetings and exercise all other powers of a Director on the absence of the regular Area Representative for that Area. The president shall not be an Area Representative or Alternate Representative.

1. The participating areas in this organization are: **WALTON, DESTIN, NICEVILLE, PANAMA CITY BEACH, SOUTH WALTON, SHALIMAR, CRESTVIEW, FREEPORT, LYNN HAVEN, VERNON, and FT. WALTON BEACH.** All organizations are resident in the Panhandle of Florida.

2. Participating Areas may remove an Area Representative or designate a new representative at their discretion and may establish their own individual procedures for doing so. If a participating Area fails to designate an Area Representative during the regular season then the Board of Directors may designate an acting representative for that area. No area will be deemed participating in the Association unless it is represented by a designated Area Representative prior to the meeting at which the regular schedule for that year is adopted. An Area Representative shall continue to serve in that capacity until he resigns, or until a new Area Representative is designated by the participating area, or until he is removed by the Association for violation of these By-laws.

D. Meetings:

1. Annual Meetings: There shall be an Annual Meeting of the PYFA Board in January to review the results and issues of the previous season. At the February annual meeting, an election of officers will be held.

2. Scheduling Meeting: There shall be a meeting each year during the month of August at which meeting the Regular Season Schedule shall be adopted. Such meetings shall be referred to in all notices as the Scheduling Meeting. The Scheduling Meeting shall be held on 14 days' notice. Any other necessary business may be transacted during the Scheduling Meeting.

3. Regular Meetings: Regular Meetings for the transaction of necessary business shall be called on 7 days' notice.

4. Emergency Meetings: Emergency Meetings to transact only such emergency business as is set forth in the notice of the meeting must be conducted with a minimum 48 hour notice. Only, Board Members, Area Representatives, and the effected parties may attend this meeting. These meetings can be held by emails or conference calls if a face-to-face meeting is not possible.

5. Rules Infractions Meetings: Infractions of these By-laws may be determined to have occurred, and sanctions imposed for such infractions only at an Infraction Meeting which shall be conducted with a minimum 48 hour notice. Such Notice shall state that the meeting is an Infractions Meeting and shall state the date, times, place. The PYFA board will preside at the infraction meetings but other attendees will include the individuals involved in the suspected infraction as well as to the Area Representative of teams involved. All players and coaches of a team shall be deemed to have been given such notice if such notice is given to the Head Coach of the team. No sanctions may be imposed at any meeting on any person, team, or Area which was not given notice of the meeting as required by this paragraph. All infractions must be brought before the area representative prior to requesting an infraction meeting.

6. Complaint Process: Parents and Coaches that have complaints will direct those complaints to their Area Representative for consideration. In the event the Area Representative cannot properly address the complaint, the Parent/Coach can bring the complaint to their Area Board of Directors. The PYFA will not be part of the area complaint process and will only provide assistance as requested from the Area Representative.

7. Notices: Notices of the Annual Meeting, Scheduling Meeting, Emergency Meetings, and Infractions Meetings shall be by the secretary to each Area Representative in advance as required above. The Secretary shall also send additional notices of Infractions Meetings as required above. It is recommended that written notice of Regular Meetings be given, but an email notice is sufficient.

8. Calling Meetings: The President may call Board meetings with minimum notice as required and direct the secretary to send required notices to Board members.

E. Quorum:

At any meeting of the Association, a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 4 Board Members and four Area Representatives. An alternate Area Representative present in lieu of that Areas regular Representative shall count towards a quorum.

F. Voting:

At each Panhandle Football Meeting, each Board Member and Area Representative shall be entitled to cast one vote in the affairs of the Association; such vote to be cast by the Area Representative or, in his absence, the alternate Area Representative. The President may vote only to break a tie. However, the President shall not vote on any resolutions to impose penalties for violation of these By-laws; nor shall the President vote in the election of a new President.

G. PYFA Monthly Meetings:

1. All areas will be represented at the monthly PYFA board meetings. This may be the designated area representative or any person appointed by the area representative in their absence. An area can be represented by a PYFA Board of Directors member from that area with the exception of the PYFA President.

2. Any Area in the association may miss one meeting during the year. A \$50.00 fine will be charged for every meeting missed after the first missed meeting. This fine is payable when team fees are collected prior to the start of the season. If any area refuses to pay any fine, they will not participate in the post-season playoffs the current year.

H. Board of Directors:

All board members shall be elected by a majority of Directors and Area Representative voting at the Annual Meeting, and shall serve until their successors are elected at the next annual meeting. The Association shall have the following Officers:

1. President - The chief executive officer shall be the President who shall call and preside at all meetings and have primary responsibility for the administration of the Association. The President is a voting position.

2. Vice - President- May be an Area Representative and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President, but shall not be entitled to cast the President’s tie breaking vote. The Vice President shall have such other duties as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Vice President is a voting position.

3. Secretary- Shall keep the minutes of all meetings, be the official custodian of Association position and may be occupied by an Area Representative. The Secretary is a voting position.

4. Treasurer - Shall be the custodian of the funds and bank accounts of the Association. The office of Treasurer is a voting position and may be occupied by an area Representative.

5. Officials Director - The Officials Director will govern all the Officials Activities and monitor any problems with them. Any protest or problems will be handled by the Officials Director. The Officials Director is a voting position.

6. Cheerleading Director - The Cheerleading Director shall coordinate all cheerleading activities within the PYFA with area cheerleading advisors including cheerleading competitions and fund raising activities. The Cheerleading Director is a voting position.

II. Participating Areas:

Any city or community which deems itself capable and interested in supporting a youth football program may apply to the Association at any time to become a participating Area. To qualify for admittance the Area must be able to field at least one team in three divisions of play. Approval will be by a majority vote of Area Representatives at a meeting conducted with a minimum ten day notice of such application. No newly admitted Area may include a geographical portion of an Existing Area without the expressed written consent of the Area Representative from the existing effected Area. A newly admitted Area shall be entitled to have an Area Representative in the Association and to the same privileges as are held by existing Areas.

1. Scope of Participation - An Area may participate by fielding one or more teams in three divisions of play under these By-laws. The Area must show proof of home field, insurance, equipment and roster of 16 or more players.

2. Maintaining Area Status - Once an Area is granted admission to the PYFA they will retain area status even if they drop below the three divisions of play participation requirement.

3. Renewal of Area Status - Any Area that was previously a PYFA member in good standing can reapply for admission to the PYFA. The Area must be able to provide at least one team in three divisions of play by the Scheduling Meeting. Any Area may reapply for admission to the PYFA at any time.

4. New Areas: Any future areas that want to join the PYFA must be in place by the April PYFA Board Meeting.

III. Funding

A. Each Area shall generate their own funding to operate their own teams.

B. Board of Directors shall require each area to pay an annual fee not to exceed \$50.00 per team (Boomers included). In addition, all fines imposed on any area during the year must be paid when Area Team Fees are paid. **Failure to pay the required fees by this date will result in penalties (additional fees, loss of play-off participation, etc.) as directed by the Board.**

C. Matters of financial assistance must be addressed to the President and Board of Directors in writing. The board will thoroughly investigate upon request. The board will present its findings and recommendations, to include a repayment schedule to the Association for approval. Any loan exceeding 90 days shall bear interest at the current CD rate.

D. There will be NO SOLICITATION for the PYFA. The PYFA MAY NOT be used as a means for requesting funds.

E. PYFA Board will coordinate collecting the gate for all Playoff Games and Super Bowl. The PYFA will pay for the officials at these games. The gate fee is \$3.00 per spectator over the age of 6.

IV. Injury Policy and Procedures. The PYFA, as an independent sanctioning authority, has established policies and procedures for injuries to players which are as follows:

A. General Policy and Procedures. The PYFA requires that all participating areas maintain equipment and facilities that meet standard safety requirements for all players and coaches. This requirement is monitored on a regular basis by the PYFA board members. General procedures for all injuries are as follows:

1. Any player sustaining an injury in practice or during a game will be immediately removed from that activity.

2. The parent or legal guardian will be contacted as soon as possible. However, player safety and first aid (if required) will be the priority before contact is attempted.

3. The head coach will ensure that an injury incident report form is filled out and returned to the area representative within 48 hours of the incident.

4. If the injured player visits an ER or physician, written permission from a physician is required before that player can return to any activity.

B. Head Injuries. Additional procedures for head injuries are as follows:

1. The PYFA will adopt guidelines to educate coaches, players, and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury.

2. Each area will require the parent or guardian of a player who participates in athletic practices or competitions of the PYFA, before the player participates in a competition, practice, or other activity, to sign and return a consent form that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after a concussion or head injury has occurred. This form should be available as part of the registration process for that area.

3. Each area will require youth athletes who are suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be immediately removed from the activity.

4. Each area will ensure a youth athlete who has been removed may not return to practice or competition until the youth receives written clearance to return from a licensed physician.

PANHANDLE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES AND PROCEDURES

I. Regular Season Schedules and Playoffs.

A. Regular Season. Each year the Association shall conduct a regular schedule of games for each division.

1. A Jamboree, if applicable will be played prior to the first game of the season.

2. The schedule shall provide for games by teams fielded by participating Areas only.

3. Each division schedule shall result in each team within that division playing the same number of games, when at all possible. The schedule shall require each team to play a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 regular games. Each team shall be home team for one half of its scheduled games when at all possible.

4. Each team shall play one game per week unless approved by the PYFA Board. Games canceled due to weather will not be normally be rescheduled unless approved by the PYFA Board. Games shall normally be scheduled for play on Saturday and shall not be played from Sunday through Friday unless approved by the Board. Two games may be played during the week including back to back games with Board approval. If two games are played back to back, each team participating will have a mandatory off day the following day.

5. Practice will not begin prior to 31 July of the current year. The official start of the PYFA season is the first day of practice. Games shall be scheduled for play during August, September, October and November; however, post-season play may be scheduled during December. Non-sanctioned PYFA games are prohibited. Games played with teams outside the PYFA during the season are prohibited. The season is considered over when your team is out of the Playoffs.

6. Open dates are permitted to balance the rotation of the schedule; however, no team shall have two consecutive open dates unless agreed to by the Area Representative.

7. Game sites or playing times may be changed only by mutual agreement of the Area Representatives of the two teams involved, with the approval of the President. Except for a true emergency, approval of the President must be obtained at least 72 hours prior to the earliest of either the originally scheduled game time or the revised game time. In case of emergency, such as power outage at a night game, severe weather, or other conditions, approval of the President may be obtained on the spot or on reasonable notice to both teams.

8. Area games may not be started before 9:00 am unless cleared by the PYFA Board.

9. A game is considered completed if the teams complete the first half.

10. Any area may field more than one team in each division. Final team rosters must be provided to PYFA by the designated date each year.

11. Players will sign up in the area which they reside to the maximum extent possible. A player may sign up in another PYFA area if his home area team roster has been filled and is agreed to in writing by the area representative in which the player resides. The written agreement must be provided to the PYFA Board of Directors and maintained by the PYFA Secretary. That player may only play in the area that they sign up in for the current year and areas cannot be changed within the season. The player has the option to sign up in his home park the following season. A player's home park is determined first by the area of residence and second by the first park they register in. **For 2017 only, Shalimar and Ft. Walton Beach players may sign up in either area. At that point the area they sign up in for the 2017 season will be considered their "home" area and the sign up rules in this paragraph apply.**

12. No out of area recruiting will be allowed for any area. This applies to all representatives of the area including board members and coaches. Out of area Recruiting Violations will go to the Board of Directors for resolution. Penalties will include as a minimum, forfeiture of all games which the player or players participate. Other penalties will be determined by vote of the Board of Directors and Area Representatives and can include but are not limited to coaching suspensions, loss of playoffs for the team or area, or fines to the PYFA.

B. Playoffs: Divisions that have 14 teams or less. The eight teams with the best overall winning percentage in each division will advance to the post-season playoffs.

1. If there is a tie at the bottom of the playoff division, the tie will be broken by using head-to-head record. If a tie still exists, a blind draw will be used. Once the top eight teams have been determined, the playoff schedule will be drawn.

2. There will be two brackets [Bracket A & Bracket B] in which the top two teams will be placed in separate brackets. If there is a tie for 2nd, after comparing both winning percentage and head-to-head record, the tied teams will be placed in bracket B but will not play each other in the first round. A blind draw will complete the brackets with the first draw going to bracket A.

3. In the event fewer than eight teams are available for the playoffs, the top seed(s) will be placed on a bye for the first round of the playoffs. For example, if seven teams are in the playoffs, seed #1 will be on a bye in the first round. If six teams are in playoffs, seeds 1 & 2 will both be on a bye in the first round.

4. Procedures for Standings Tie Breaker: All ties for playoff seeding will be broken using the following guidelines: In the follow order:

- a. Winning Percentage
- b. Head-to-Head Record
- c. Blind Draw

5. There will be five referees provided by PYFA for playoff games and super bowl with the fifth referee running the game clock.

BRACKET A	PYFA		PLAYOFFS		BRACKET B
First Seed					Second Seed A
	Winner			Winner	
Blind Draw 1					Blind Draw 2
		A-Champion	B-Champion		
Blind Draw 3					Blind Draw 4
	Winner			Winner	
Blind Draw 5					Second Seed B or Blind Draw6

II. Area and Team

Organization

A. Subject only to the limitations and requirements expressly set forth in these By-laws; each Area may conduct its affairs, as it shall deem appropriate.

B. Area Representative is deemed by the Association to be fully authorized to act on behalf of, and to make decisions binding upon, the Area he represents. All coaches, parent directors, athletic directors, cheerleading sponsors and coordinators shall be familiar with and abide by all rules, regulations, and by-laws of the Association.

C. No team may participate in the Season Schedule, practice, or scrimmage unless that team has been registered with the Association as a participating Area. Individuals may participate in the Associations affairs or programs only as an officer, an Area Representative, Alternate Area Representative.

D. Team Coaching Requirements: Each team must have one registered Head Coach and registered assistant coaches. **All coaches will complete USA Football “Heads Up” Level 1 certification prior to the official league start date.** Head Coach and assistant coach’s registration will be held during the preseason mandatory Coach’s Clinic. All coach’s attending the clinic will have an I.D. card area, and date issued prior to the first official game. Only coaches with identification cards may address the officials during the course of a game. If a coach does not have a current ID card in his possession, he is considered an “active” coach but is limited to PYFA Respects (cannot address officials, PYFA playoff individual entry fee will apply). All Head Coaches and assistants must have background checks for the current year completed and on file with their Area Board. A copy will be provided to the PYFA Secretary with the final team rosters. If a current background check is not provided, that coach will not be eligible to coach until it is provided to the Area Board. Each Area is responsible for determining how to fund background checks for their coaches.

1. HEAD COACH: The Head Coach has total authority over the preparation and discipline of his team players, and over the responsibilities and conduct of his team’s Assistant Coaches, parents, and spectators. All details of practices, game preparation, travel arrangements, and similar procedure are under the authority of the Head Coach.

- a. No person may serve as Head Coach of two PYFA teams.
- b. In the absence of the Head Coach during a game, one Assistant Coach of the team shall serve as Acting Head.
- c. No game shall be forfeited because of the absence of a Head Coach.
- d. A team may have 4 additional coaches, all of whom shall be Assistant Coaches. The names and addresses of all Assistant Coaches shall be registered as Assistant Coaches with their respective Area Board.
- e. The Head Coach or his designee must be at all weigh ins.
- f. The Head Coach is responsible for the actions of the assistant coaches, players, parents and spectators. Failure to enforce good sportsmanship values during any game will result in an Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty on the Head Coach.

2. The Head Coach may impose suspension or benching of a player as a disciplinary action for missing practice, failure to participate, refusal to follow instructions, or other breaches of the good order and discipline of the team. The Head Coach may allocate responsibility among Assistant Coaches as he deems fit. All coaches must have their PYFA photo identification card displayed or they will not be allowed to address the officials during the game.

3. ASSISTANT COACH: The Assistant Coaches shall carry out the instructions of the Head Coach, and shall have authority over practices and team discipline subject only to those instructions. An Assistant Coach may recommend benching or suspension of a player, but only the Head Coach may impose such measures.

4. No more than five people on the field in the coaches box at a time including the Head Coach. This can be three assistants and a maximum of one other person (team mom, water, etc.). Enforcement will be limited in City Parks but will be strictly enforced in stadium setting.

5. Coaches ejected before, during, or *after* a PYFA game must release their identification card to the Area Representative. The Head Official will report the circumstances of the ejection to the area representative prior to leaving the field. The Area representative is responsible for providing a written statement to the PYFA Board addressing who was ejected and the circumstances. Coaches ejected during a game will be suspended for

the following game but will be allowed to prepare his team during the week. Coaches ejected a second time in the same season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

A. A player may only move up one age group due to reasonable circumstances and must be first approved by area representative with the PYFA Board as the final approval authority. However, if a child moves up one age group there must be a written consent from the player's parents provided to the area rep and PYFA Board. That player must remain with the team he moved up to for the duration of the season.

B. Minimum Number: A team must have a minimum of 11 eligible players on the field for game play. If 11 players are not available, that game may be played with consent of both coaches but the team with less than 11 will receive a forfeit.

C. Maximum Number: Peewee, Junior, and Senior teams may not have more than 30 players on its roster with a minimum of 16 on the roster. Boomer teams will have a maximum of 22 players with a minimum of 11 on the roster.

D. Players will be placed on teams on a first come basis. Any area that has filled a team and does not have enough players to split into two teams **MUST** notify the additional players of other participating areas that may have space available for play. Registration forms must have a date and time of registration listed for verification.

E. Restricted Players- Any player over the set run weight but does not exceed the maximum weight restriction in that division will be considered "RESTRICTED." Restricted players can be identified by wearing a yellow bonnet over the helmet, different color helmet or clearly visible stripe on helmet. The restricted player can play between the tackles on the line of scrimmage but cannot be the last man on the line in an unbalanced formation. **(DEFENSE: DT NG DT) (OFFENSE: LT LG C RG RT)**. Restricted players are not eligible on a free kick (**KO or KO Return**). NOTE: The identification marking method used will be identified to the Head Official prior to start of game.

F. Player ejected before, during, or after a PYFA game must release their identification card to the Head Coach. The Head Coach will report the incident to the area representative prior to leaving the field. The area representative is responsible for providing a written statement to the PYFA Board addressing who was ejected and the circumstances. Players ejected during a game will be suspended for the following game but will be allowed to practice during the week. Players ejected a second time in the same season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

IV. Common Playing Rules:

ALL PLAYING RULES WILL BE THOSE SET UNDER THE CURRENT FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES EXCEPT AS AMENDED BELOW.

A. BOOMERS:

1. Age: 5 & 6- Must be 5 or 6 as of August 1st of calendar year
2. Weight/Player Cards: 75lbs. to run and unrestricted to play. **Restricted Player rules (pg.10, Section III, parag.e.) apply to players over the run weight.** All players will have ID cards and be weighed in prior to game start.
3. Field:
 - a. 50 yard field
 - b. No field goals required
 - c. No kicking game
 - d. No first downs
4. **Only one Coach** from each team can be on the field during game play
5. Practice: 6 hrs a week until first game and 4 hrs a week after first game
6. Number of Players: **22 max per team with a minimum 14 players on the roster. – Standard play is 11 players on the field for both teams.** Teams can agree to play with less if an opposing team does not have 11 present.
7. Ball: 6 PSI and must be traditional brown. K-2 ball can also be used.
8. **Game Day:**
 - a. Games are divided into four 7 minute quarters with one time out and a 5 minute half time. Water Breaks will be given at the end of each quarter. Each team will play 7 minutes of offense then 7 minutes of defense in a half. The amount of plays attempted are unlimited within that time period. Total game time will not exceed one hour.
 - b. A coin toss by the Head Official will determine which team selects offense or defense to start the game. **Team winning the toss can choose either offense or defense to start the game and will play that option to start the second half. No team shall have possession in two consecutive quarters.**
 - c. Scoring: A team is rewarded one point for each touchdown. No safeties. No extra points. No Field Goals.
 - d. **During a single game with two teams playing,** the ball will be spotted on the 45 yard line to start play. The ball will be reset to the 45 yard line if a touch down occurs or if a player does not make forward progress pass the 45 yard mark. No safeties. Clock will stop after each touchdown until ball is reset at the 45 yard mark.
 - e. **During a dual game with four teams playing, the ball will be spotted on the 40 yard line to start play. The ball will be re-set to the 40 yard line if a touch down occurs or if a player does not make forward progress pass the 40 yard mark. No safeties. Clock will stop after each touchdown until ball is reset at the 40 yard mark.**

f. Penalties: Obvious holds and block in the backs on any play will result in replay of the down. Two defensive penalties (off-sides, facemask, etc.) in a quarter will result in the player being removed from play for that quarter.

g. No blitzing. (Defined: No movement towards the line of scrimmage inside the Free Blocking Zone (<3yd of LOS).

The defensive player involved and Coach on the field will be removed from the field of play for one quarter after the first warning by the official.

h. No defensive player will line up in the A or B gap prior to the snap. Inside defensive linemen will line up no closer to the ball than “head up” with the Guards. Any player taking a direct snap not under center cannot run through A or B gaps. If the player runs through the A or B gaps, the ball will be re-spotted to the original line of scrimmage. Running plays may go through the A or B gaps if the ball is handed off prior to entering the A or B gaps.

i. Coaches cannot make adjustments after the QB engages with the Center. All coaches will be behind the play of scrimmage.

j. Defensive coaches cannot talk when QB engages with the Center.

k. A maximum of 6 players may be played on the defense line. The only exception to this rule will be in a goal line situation (inside the 10 yard line) and there should be man to man coverage on the line of scrimmage.

l. All linemen must be in a down position in either a three or four point stance if they line up inside of the of the “free blocking zone” boundary. (<3yds of the Line of Scrimmage)

m. Turnovers: If a player fumbles or throws an interception recovered by the defense, the ball is re-spotted to the **40 (Dual game) or 45 (Single game) yard** line. No defensive points are rewarded for turnovers and the offense will continue.

n. All overhand passes must be completed rather it is a lateral or a forward pass.
i.e.; an incomplete lateral will be treated as an incomplete pass.

o. No over-time in regular season. A game is complete in a tie.

9. BOOMER BOWL:

a. Selection Process. All Boomer teams will be selected to participate in the Boomer Bowl. The top 4 teams will be selected by the PYFA President based on record and comparable talent level. The top seed will play the number four seed and number two and three will play the last two games of the Boomer Bowl. The Boomer Championship will be played during the second round of the play-offs between the winners of these games.

b. One coach on the field at a time.

c. Overtime;

(1) Each team will get each four downs from the 10 yard line.

(2) The winner goes to deepest penetration

- (3) If the offense scores; the ball goes back to the 10 yard line to continue their four downs.
- (4) If a turnover occurs the ball will get re-spotted on the 10 yard line and the offense will continue until they get their four downs.
- (5) If a player fumbles or throws an interception recovered by the defense, the ball is re-spotted to the 10 yard line. No defensive points are rewarded for turnovers and the offense will continue.

10. **Awards:** Each player will be awarded a participation medal but must be present to receive it.

B. PEE WEES:

1. Age: 7 & 8, As of August 1st of calendar year
2. Weight: **140lbs (MAX WEIGHT) - Max run weight is 95.** - Any player over the weight of 95 lbs. cannot advance the ball at any given time.
3. Common Playing Rules:
 - a. 80 yard field
 - b. (4) 8 min quarters (Game cannot exceed 90 min)
 - c. Leather K-2 Wilson or compatible (Regulation Football)
 - d. Live kick off from the 40 yard line, (mid-field.)
 - e. Restricted players cannot participate in a "Free Kick"
 - f. Punting- 25 yard assessment on punts ½ the distance to the goal inside the 30. The referees will run 20 seconds off the clock for walk off punts. Optional "no rush" punt is available.
 - g. Scoring: (6) Touchdown (1) EP run in (2) EP Forward Pass (2) EP Field Goal. **If an Extra Point kick is attempted there will be "no rush" by the defense. If the ball hits the ground at any point during the kick attempt (other than the holder spotting the ball) the play will be ruled "dead".**
 - h. 25 second play clock will be enforced by the officials.
 - i. All pee-wee coaches will be on the sidelines during the regular season and playoffs.
 - j. NO BLITZING (Referee Discretion) (Defined): No movement towards the line of scrimmage prior to the snap inside the Free Blocking Zone. (< 3yds of LOS) – **All linemen will be in a three-point or four point stance between the tackles.**
 - 1st INFRACTION: 5 YARD PENALTY "DELAY of GAME"
 - 2nd INFRACTION: If the officials deem that a team is using this penalty in order to run the clock out then that team can be charged with an unsportsmanlike conduct foul. That foul will be charged to the Head Coach.

k. Shotgun Formation- No defensive player will line up in the A or B gap prior to the snap. Inside defensive linemen will line up no closer to the ball than “head up” with the Guards. Any player taking a direct snap not under center cannot run through A or B gaps. If the player runs through the A or B gaps, the ball will be re-spotted to the original line of scrimmage. Running plays may go through the A or B gaps if the ball is handed off prior to entering the A or B gaps.

B. JUNIORS:

1. Ages: 9& 10- As of August 1 of calendar year
2. Weight: **170 lbs (MAX WEIGHT) – Max run weight is 125 lbs. Any player over the weight of 125 cannot advance the ball at any given time.**
3. Common Playing Rules:
 - a. 100 yard field
 - b. (4) 10 min quarters after a change of possession, the clock shall start with the ready-for-play signal, unless the action which ended the down also caused the clock to be stopped, i.e. out of bounds, incomplete pass, delay of game penalty.
 - c. Leather TDJ Wilson (Regulation Ball) or equivalent
 - d. All kicking game LIVE (40 yard line)
 - e. Restricted players cannot participate in a “Free Kick”
 - f. Scoring: (6) touchdown (2) EP field goal (1) EP conversion (run or pass)
 - g. 25 second play clock will be enforced.
4. Nose Guard over Center Rule;
 - a. Nose Guard cannot be over the center when QB is in shotgun formation, punt, field goal, or extra point.
 - b. Nose Guard must slide into gap in a pre-snap situation. If QB is under center then he cannot shift into shotgun formation.

C. SENIORS:

1. Ages: 11& 12- Cannot obtain the age of 13 years old prior to August 1st.
2. Weight: **210 lbs. (MAX WEIGHT) Maximum run weight is 150 lbs. Any player over the weight of 150 lbs. cannot advance the ball at any given time.**
3. Common playing Rules:
 - a. 100 yard field

b. (4) 10 min quarters After a change of possession, the clock shall start with the ready-for-play signal, unless the action which ended the down also caused the clock to be stopped, i.e. out of bounds, incomplete pass, delay of game penalty.

c. Leather TDY Wilson (Regulation ball)

d. All kicking game LIVE

e. Restricted players cannot participate in a “Free Kick”

f. Kick off from the 40 yard line

g. Scoring: (6) touchdown (2) EP Field Goal (1) EP conversion (Run or Pass) (3) Field Goal

h. 25 second play clock will be enforced.

4. Middle School Player Restrictions: Middle School Players are not allowed to play on any team in any area that is a member of the PYFA. The exceptions to this rule are as follows:

a. Any area that cannot field one Senior Team with a minimum roster of 16 players may petition the PYFA Board in writing to add Middle School Players to participate to make the minimum roster of 16 players.

b. Middle School Players in this case can only play for a team in the area which they reside.

c. Any Middle School Player on a team roster under these circumstances must be approved by the PYFA Board prior to the Middle School Player participating in any game. If additional non-Middle School Players sign up prior to the final roster approval date, those players will be put on the team and the MS Players will be taken off the team and their registration fee will be refunded.

5. Nose Guard over Center Rule;

a. Nose Guard cannot be over the center when QB is in shotgun formation, punt, field goal, or extra point.

b. Nose Guard must slide into gap in a pre-snap situation. If QB is under center then he cannot shift into shotgun formation.

D. 14U- Florida High School Football Association rules apply with no modifications. JV-5 football will be used.

V. GAME DAY:

A. The hosting area representative and both Head Coaches or their designees will be present and conduct weigh-in and verify player cards eligibility at all games.

1. **Weigh- in will be conducted no sooner than 1 hour and no later than 30 minutes** before game time. Any player not at original weigh-in will wait and be checked at half time. No player may be in the bench area in uniform unless he is eligible to participate in that game. Over weight players may sit on the bench with a jersey, but no shoulder pads or helmet. All age groups including Boomers are required to weigh-in. **Digital scales will be standardized and will be available for purchase thru the PYFA. Areas may buy more than one scale.**

2. **If the digital scale shows any amount over the maximum player weight, the player is overweight and not allowed to play in the game for that day.** (Players are allowed to strip down if necessary to weigh-in)

3. Each player that will weigh-in must have his numerical game jersey in his possession.

4. A coach will not be allowed to change team members/ numbers after official weigh-in.

5. All players will be weighed-in prior to each game and each player must physically stand on the scale.

6. ID cards must be presented to the opposing team at the time of the official weigh-in before the game. If player ID cards are not provided at the weigh-in, final roster can be used in place of ID cards. The area representative will have in his possession the final rosters of his teams during game day. If the ID cards and final roster are not available the game can be played under protest. Teams ID cards or final roster will have to be provided to the PYFA President at a later date for verification. All PYFA players will have ID cards including Boomers.

B. Each area may introduce their football team and cheerleaders prior to game, but game start time will not be held up to allow this to occur.

C. The designated HOME TEAM must furnish three **3 people over the age of 14** for the chains and down markers.

D. The officials used will be those secured by **each Area**. Florida High Schools Rules are to be used unless specifically amended by the board.

E. Penalties are 5, 10,&15 yards for all age groups.

F. No audio assistance allowed from coach- to- coach or to coach- to- player during the game.

G. No coolers brought into facility hosting schedule games or play-off except for the team's refreshment coolers.

H. All games will consist of 4 quarters.

I. Season games ending in a tie will be broken by each team having one set of four downs from the 10 yard line. If there is still a tie, the game will end as a tie.

J. Playoff games ending in a tie will be broken by each team having two sets of four downs from the 10 yard line. If there is still a tie, the third OT will be from the 5 yd line. In all cases, each team will have the opportunity to go for the extra point conversion of their choice after scoring.

K. Any team behind by 32 points will be given the option:

1. Third quarter coach has option of running clock.
2. Fourth quarter coaches have no option on running clock. The only time the clock stops is for official's timeouts, this includes injuries and water breaks.
3. Kicking game is nullified. After score the receiving team will start on their 30 yard line. Punts will be marked off 30 yards, but will not go past the receiving teams 20 yard-line.

VI. EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS:

A. Game balls will be provided by the offensive team.

B. Each player will be furnished the following as a minimum; N.O.C.S.A.E. approved helmet and shoulder pads, pants with thigh, hip, and knee pads, tail bone pads, and a game jersey.

C. Players and candidates will obtain and use approved mouthpieces and rubber cleats or the equivalent. No metal cleats!

D. All players will be furnished a game jersey and games pants.

E. All mouthpieces must be attached to the helmet at all times. **No clear mouthpieces.**

F. Visors: Clear Visors only can be worn. "Tinted" Visors of any color are not allowed.

X. GENERAL.

A. Players and cheerleaders that participated during the previous season for a particular area have the option to return to that area. If more than one area was played for, then the option only applied to the last area played for in previous season. Once this choice is made it cannot be changed.

B. The final day for a child to be placed on the school program roster is the day before the first regular season game. At this time, the child may not participate in the Panhandle Youth Football Association.

C. Teams must have a minimum of three (3) practice days of physical conditioning before starting drills involving body contact or hitting. Helmet may be worn during these three days.

D. Four (4) practice sessions, each lasting not longer than two (2) hours for a combined maximum of eight (8) hours, per week will be allowed prior to the 1st game. However, sessions will not last more than two (2) hours or be held more than once a day. Six (6) hours is the maximum practice per week any team is allowed after the 1st game. If a team has a by-week they may have one additional two (2) hour practice session. The Area

Representative will submit to the Executive Board in writing a schedule of dates, times, and places of practices for the month of August by the July meeting.

E. Penalties for Violations of the PYFA Rules (unless covered in another section)

1st Offense-Suspension of coach for 1 game

2nd Offense-No Post season for that team

3rd Offense- Suspension of area league

F. Player qualifications will consist of parent signature on a League contract. Birth certificates or valid notarized copy or valid military I.D. card, or notarized statement on school letterhead signed by school principle will be accepted as proof of eligibility. Passports, Baptismal records, etc., will be accepted. All areas will be responsible for the accurate eligibility of their participants.

G. Any fraudulent act of cheating will result in the forfeiture of all games played to that date and suspension of a coach or the area rep for the remainder of the current season. This may be an indefinite suspension if any acts are found to be in conscious violation as ruled by the PYFA Board of Directors.

PYFA CHEER OFF BY-LAWS

➤ Section 1: General

1. All members of the cheer squad must be current members of the Panhandle Youth Football Association (PYFA) as defined by the PYFA bylaws, and have cheered at least 6 games during the PYFA season.
 2. Cheer-Off squads will be comprised of the cheerleaders that are on the squad's roster as of Sept. 1st of each season.
 3. Each individual league will make the choice:
 - a) Each cheerleader will stay in the age division of that squad.
- OR**
- b) Mixing squads to accommodate cheerleaders traveling with football siblings.
 4. Each individual league will fully understand once a cheerleader is placed on a squad's roster and the roster is submitted to PYFA on Sept. 1st of each season that cheerleader will participate with this squad at Cheer-Off. This gives each league one month of practicing together to see if any adjustments need to be made prior to submitting final roster.
 5. Each individual league will be responsible to inform parents of this rule prior to placing cheerleader on the roster.
 6. In the event a squad has less than 5 participants for Cheer-Off that squad can move up or down (1) one divisional level in order to be able to compete. They will compete at the level of the oldest cheerleader on the squad. The move up or down is the individual league's decision. Example: You have one Junior cheerleader to participate. If you move her to the Senior squad, that squad remains a Senior Squad. If you move the cheerleader down a divisional level to the Pee Wee division, that squad now becomes a Junior squad.
 7. Practices for cheerleaders will NOT exceed (8) eight hours per week prior to first game. After the first game of the season, practices will NOT exceed (6) six hours per week. Two (2) weeks prior to Cheer-Off practices can be extended to (8) hours per week.
 8. Each squad's presentation will be a minimum of three (3) minutes. Not to exceed five (5) minutes including the following:
 - a. One (1) Cheer
 - b. One (1) Chant
 - c. One (1) Dance
 9. Coaches may setup signs, props etc. but must exit to the sideline. The coaches may remain squatting on the sideline during the performance.
 - a. Coaches may step on the performance area as spotters only.
 10. Coaches are allowed three (3) minutes to set up props. A five (5) point deduction by each judge will be assessed if over the three (3) minute time limit.
 11. Timing of all routines will begin with a salute from the coach or their designee within your squad.
 12. If a team exceeds the time limit of five (5) minutes, a five (5) point per judge penalty will be assessed for each violation. If performance in under three (3) minutes a five (5) point penalty by each judge will also be assessed. ****Because penalties are so severe, it is recommended that all teams time their performances prior to attending the competition.**
 13. Each squad will be responsible for their music selection/mixes. Music per division/squad must be provided to the designated sound person at a minimum of one (1) hour prior to the competition time. Each squad or League/Area Cheer Coordinator should check with the hosting facility on time for music to be turned into sound personnel. This is to ensure your music is compatible with the equipment being used at the competition. Any music used that contains profanity will automatically disqualify that squad.

➤ **Section 2: Appearance**

1. Full uniform – must be neat and clean with athletic shoes only.
2. Props may be used in accordance with the rules set forth in this document.
3. NO jewelry. This is a safety hazard.
4. Make-up and spray glitter may be used.
5. Hair – must be neat and out of face.
6. Face tattoos/stickers may be worn.

➤ **Section 3: Interruption of Performance**

1. If the routine is interrupted because of failure of the official equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the squad, the squad affected should immediately stop their routine. The squad will be afforded the opportunity to present its routine from the beginning.
2. In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad's own equipment, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
3. In the event that an injury causes the squad routine to be interrupted, the squad must either continue with the routine or withdraw from the competition. The PYFA Cheer Coordinator, PYFA President or designee reserve the right to stop the routine if any injury occurs. At that time the squad should stop their routine immediately and will be afforded the opportunity to start from the beginning.

➤ **Section 4: Disqualifications**

1. Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of the PYFA Cheer-Off Rules will be subject to disqualification from the Cheer-Off and will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes, refunds or awards presented by the PYFA.

➤ **Section 5: Procedural Questions**

1. Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the Cheer-Off will be handled by the League/Area Cheer Coordinator or designee of the squad in conjunction with the PYFA Cheer Coordinator or designee. Such questions should be made prior to the competition and the squad's performance.
2. Questions concerning the final scores or squad rankings must be handled exclusively by the League/Area Cheer Coordinator and directed to the PYFA Cheer Coordinator or designee. This must be done within five (5) days after the competition.

➤ **Section 6: Sportsmanship**

1. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the Cheer-Off. The League/Area Coordinator or designee for each squad is responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents, and any other persons affiliated with the squad conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.

➤ **Section 7: Scores, Ranking, and Judging Criteria**

1. There will be a minimum of four (4) judges that are not affiliated with PYFA. The judges are chosen by the League/Area Coordinator or designee hosting the Cheer-off in conjunction with the PYFA Cheer Coordinator or designee.

2. Individual judges score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge and will be available to the League/Area Cheer Coordinator or designee. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his/her final scores and ranking of each squad prior to the final tally of the scores for all areas. All scores are final upon submission by the judges to the PYFA Cheer Coordinator or designee. Scoring will be based on a 180 point system. **SEE APPENDIX A.**

➤ **Section 8: Interruptions and/or Rulings**

1. Any interruption of any aspect of the PYFA Cheer-Off Rules or involving any other aspect of the Cheer-Off will be rendered by the PYFA Cheer-Off Committee, which consists of the PYFA Cheer Coordinator or designee, PYFA President or designee and judges. The PYFA Cheer Committee will render a judgement in an effort to insure that the Cheer-Off proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the Cheer-Off. Examples: Injury, safety issues etc.

➤ **Section 9: Awards**

1. Each League/Area will compete for an Overall Spirit Award. Each league will receive individual scores per squad. The total of the individual scores will be tallied for an overall league score. The league with the highest score will be the winner.
2. Each League/Area will compete individual for a Divisional Squad winner. The scores for each age group will be reviewed. The squad with the highest score in their division will be the Divisional Winner as follows:
 - a. Boomer Divisional Winner
 - b. Pee Wee Divisional Winner
 - c. Junior Divisional Winner
 - d. Senior Divisional Winner
 - e. Elite Divisional Winner

➤ **Section 10: Hosting the PYFA Cheer-Off**

1. Hosting the Cheer-Off is rotated to a different League/Area each year. The hosting league must have participated in the cheer-off for a minimum of the past two (2) years.
2. The hosting League/Area Coordinator is responsible for:
 - a. Securing a location (gymnasium) to host the Cheer-Off.
*****The location must be large enough to accommodate a large number of people.**
 - b. The hosting League/Area Coordinator or designee in conjunction with the PYFA Cheer Coordinator or designee is responsible to acquire judges that are not affiliated with PYFA as set forth in the PYFA Cheer-Off Rules.
 - c. The hosting League/Area Coordinator or designee is responsible for a sound technician for the Cheer-Off.
 - d. The hosting League/Area Coordinator or designee is responsible to contact each area league with registration forms, team fees, judges score sheets etc.
 - e. The hosting League/Area Coordinator or designee is responsible to purchase all awards to be given out at the Cheer-Off as follows:
 - a. One (1) Overall Spirit Stick
 - b. One (1) Overall Spirit Trophy
 - c. One (1) Boomer Divisional Trophy
 - d. One (1) Pee Wee Divisional Trophy

- e. One (1) Junior Divisional Trophy
 - f. One (1) Senior Divisional Trophy
 - g. One (1) Elite Divisional Trophy
3. Each League/Area hosting the Cheer-Off can charge an admission fee of \$3.00 per person. Not to exceed the \$3.00 admission fee. Children 5 years old and under are free. Players wearing their PYFA jerseys are allowed in free. The proceeds raised from the door fee are kept by the hosting League/Area.
 4. The hosting League/Area can charge a \$50.00 per squad participating in the PYFA Cheer-Off . The hosting league keeps the proceeds raised.
 5. The hosting league can sell Cheer-off T-shirts as a fund raiser. Keeping the T-shirts PYFA oriented to be attractive to ALL leagues. All proceeds are kept by the hosting league. The hosting League/Area Coordinator or designee is responsible for t-shirt design, purchase, sell and delivery of the t-shirts.

PYFA CHEER-OFF SCORE SHEET

DIVISION: _____ **Team:** _____

CHEER: (40 Possible Points)

Voice (Loud, Clear, Energetic) **15Points:**_____

Showmanship (Engaging Crowd, Age Appropriate) **10 Points**_____

Motion/Technique **15 Points**_____

JUMPS: (Possible 40 Points)

Synchronization **15 Points**_____

Spacing/Technique **15 Points**_____

Difficulty/Type **10 Points**_____

DANCE: (Possible 40 Points)

Choreography **10 Points**_____

Synchronization **10 Points**_____

Spacing **10 Points**_____

Motion/Technique **10 Points**_____

STUNTS (40 Possible Points)

Visual Appeal **5 Points**_____

Difficulty for Age Division **5 Points**_____

Technique/Spacing **10 Points**_____

Stability/Execution **10 Points**_____

Position/Effectiveness of Spotters **10 Points**_____

OVERALL: (20 Possible Points)

Creativity of Routine

10 Points_____

Transitions

10 Points_____

Total Base Score:

180 Points_____

Deductions:

Music Deductions (Profanity)

5 Points_____

Over Time Limit (5 Minutes)

5 Points_____

Over Time Limit for Coaches to set up (3 Minutes)

5 Points_____