



**2018**  
**Official Rules**  
**Book**

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# Part 1 – The SOYFAI Structure

## Article 1- League and Their Duties

**Section 1:** Southern Ohio Youth Football Association Inc. (hereinafter “SOYFAI”) will play under Ohio High School Football rules with the exception of the rules stated in this Rule Book.

**Section 2:** SOYFAI will maintain a board of directors which will consist of one (1) individual from each member organization belonging to SOYFAI.

**Section 3:** SOYFAI board of directors responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- a. Ensure the league is ran honestly
- b. Promote youth football in the Greater Cincinnati area
- c. Vote on the election of the Executive Board
- d. Vote on all rules and rule changes
- e. Communicating all SOYFAI information back to respective Organizations

**Section 4:** Member organizations of SOYFAI consist of the following organizations:

- a. Deer Park Youth Football
- b. Milford Youth Football and Cheerleading
- d. West Clermont Youth Football and Cheerleading
- e. Harrison Youth Football
- f. Norwood Little Indians Football
- g. Reading Youth Football
- h. Three Rivers Youth Football Association
- i. Wyoming Youth Football Association
- k. Indian Hill Football Club
- l. New Richmond Youth Football

**Section 5:** Executive board of director responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Article 1: Enforce the rules contained herein

Article 2: Make ruling on all issues not clearly defined in the rules

Article 3: Board officers must be represented at the weigh-ins, Playoffs, Superbowl and Cheerleading exposition

**Section 6:** SOYFAI meetings will be determined by the Executive Board of Directors. If an organization fails to have an Organizational Representative present at the monthly board meetings, the organization will be fined \$25.00.

## **Article 2 – Definition**

**Team** – A team is the universal, basic unit of organization. A team will consist of a group of participants organized under the direction of a coaching staff in a given grade division. Not less than fourteen (14) players shall constitute a legal football team. If the team roster falls below fourteen players after the League official weigh-ins, the legality of the team is not affected providing no other rule applies. Any deviation to this team requirement will be brought before the S.O.Y.F.A.I. Executive Board of Directors for review and decision.

**Organization** – Associations or organizations that sponsor and administer one or more teams. They raise money, buy equipment, secure fields, etc. Each organization shall have a representative who is an equal voting member of the SOYFAI Board of Directors. Organizations are characterized by boundaries.

**Boundaries** - specific geographical coverage composed of public elementary school districts and SOYFAI approved areas.

**Practice** - Any gathering of non-related players or spirit participants, without minimum numbers, in the presence of at least one (1) coach, where one or more of the following activities take place.

- a) Chalk talk/Skull Session
- b) Viewing of fundamentals film
- c) Group conditioning
- d) Individual skills sessions (QB, Receiving, Blocking, Tackling, Kicking, etc.)
- e) Group skill Sessions
- f) Dummies and other inanimate contact
- g) Play run through without pads (shorts & T-shirt)
- h) Group skill Sessions
- i) Play run through with equipment, but without contact
- j) Intra-squad scrimmage with full pads and equipment
- k) Flag Football coaching must be approved by the S.O.Y.F.A.I. Executive Board of Directors for review and decision.

A so-called “party” at a coach’s home, where films are shown, or where football or spirit teams are talked about, can be deemed as practice session, as can a “party” at a parent’s home where one or more coaches are present. Use of a football field is not required to satisfy the definition of a practice session.

**Fighting** - Fighting is a flagrant act and can occur when the ball is dead or live. Fighting includes but is not limited to combative acts such as:

Article 1: An attempt to strike, punch or kick by using a fist, hands arms, legs or feet regardless of whether contact is made.

Article 2: An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsporting act that causes a person to retaliate by fighting.

Article 3: Any fighting on the field of play, in the stands, in the parking areas or anywhere within visual distance of anywhere from the facility is subject to the penalties contained within these rules.

**Filming** - There will be absolutely no filming of football games, unless your team is participating in said game, in which case each team is allowed one adult videographer permitted in the press box pertaining to the home's field discretion.

Penalty 1: Automatic one-week suspension from practice, including the following game and a \$200.00 fine Payable to SOYFAI.

## **Part 2 – SOYFAI Regulations**

### **Article 1 – Power/Authority of League**

**Section 1:** The League has among its powers, the obligation and authority to enforce the league rules. The league will follow the OHSAA rules with the exception of the rules printed in this rule book.

**Article 2:** The league is responsible to verify accuracy of all scores/results prior to start of League play-offs. If an error is found in reporting, the league is responsible to correct and advance the proper team.

### **Article 2 – Boundaries**

**Section 1:** Football districts are composed of public elementary school districts, and SOYFAI approved areas. Youth will play in the football districts so designated. Youth in private schools are classified according to the public school district in which they reside and alternate districts as designated by the Board of Directors. Any youth residing in an area that is not within a designated district may play for any franchise they choose.

**Section 2:** Any youth residing in an area that is not within a designated district and who has played for an established franchise cannot change franchises without sitting out one (1) year unless they have moved into a designated area.

**Section 3:** Any youth playing with an established franchise who moves out of the district designated to the franchise and into another designated district, may stay with the previous franchise if the player so desires. If the youth chooses to move to the new franchise, they may do so without sitting out one (1) year, however they cannot move back.

**Section 4:** There will be no release of any player from one organization to another SOYFAI organization without approval of the SOYFAI Executive Board.

**Section 5:** The SOYFAI executive board shall have final non-appealable authority over any/all league boundary disputes

**Section 6:** Every team will be required to have at least 70% of their teams players reside within their organization defined boundaries. Any team not meeting the 70% participation rule will not be eligible for playoffs that year. Players who have moved out of district but still play for that organization are still considered to be in district players.

Penalty 1: Any player found to be playing outside of the boundaries is subject to Rule 14- Ineligible Player

Penalty 2: Any player found to have transferred without sitting out the mandatory 1 year is subject to Rule 14- Ineligible Player

Penalty 3: Any coach knowingly playing a player outside of the boundaries is subject to Rule 14- Ineligible Player

Penalty 4: Any coach knowingly playing a player not sitting out a mandatory 1 year is subject to Rule 14- Ineligible Player

### **Article 3 - Restrictions against Dual Membership**

**Section 1:** No SOYFAI member may enter into any other youth football or cheerleading program.

Penalty 1: Any team in violation of this rule shall be immediately dismissed from SOYFAI.

### **Article 4 – Variance**

**Section 1:** All rules contained within are subject to change annually based on a vote of the SOYFAI Board of Directors

**Section 2:** SOYFAI will contribute a maximum of \$1,000 for reimbursement for rental charges for the following events; Cheerleading Exhibition, Football Super Bowl. Reimbursements will only be paid for those organizations submitting a valid invoice, from the lessor.

**Section 3:** All Association fees, if any, must be paid to the league treasurer on or before the first game or you will forfeit all games until paid.

### **Article 5 – Coaching Requirements**

**Section 1:** A coaching staff is in complete charge of the team and parents whenever it is together on the practice or playing field, or together for any team function. The coaching staff is under the direction of the Head Coach; other coaches are called assistant coaches.

**Section 2:** All head coaches and assistant coaches are required to fulfill the requirements of Ohio House Bill 143 concerning Concussion training and complete Lindsay’s Law.

**Section 3:** All head coaches and assistant coaches are required to complete the SOYFAI Coaches Code of Conduct

**Section 4:** A Head Coach must be at least 21 years of age.

**Section 5:** An Assistant coach must be at least 18 years of age.

**Section 6:** Teams are permitted to carry Junior Coaches under the age of 18. These coaches are not permitted to supervise practices, games and functions.

**Section 7:** Coaches do not make league policy. Rather they carry it out. However on the playing field and practice fields, the coaching staff is in complete charge and shall not be interfered with except in cases of rules violations and any other conduct deemed by higher authority to be contrary to SOYFAI rules and policies.

**Section 8:** The official team Head Coach will be held responsible for the correct eligibility information including: birth date and permanent address being shown on players agreement as well as birth certificates, proof of grade and current picture of all players.

**Section 9:** Each Head Coach is also responsible for the conduct of the team's fans.

**Section 10:** There will be no verbal confrontation between coaches and players of opposing teams during the course of a game. Infraction will result in an unsportsmanlike penalty. This rule does not apply in an injury situation.

**Section 11:** If a coach is ejected out of a game he is suspended for one game immediately following the suspension and the coach is fined \$200.00. If ejection is the last game of the season (includes Playoffs and Superbowl), suspension carries over to the next SOYFAI game. The coach will not be allowed to coach until the fine is paid. When a coach/parent or spectator is ejected from a game, they must leave the facility, parking area and property in its entirety for the remainder for the day. If the individual refuses to leave the appropriate authorities will be called.

**Section 12:** All coaches are required to sign and abide by the Coaches Code of Ethics Agreement which needs to be signed and turned in by the regular weigh-in. The agreement is valid throughout the season.

**Section 13:** All Head Coaches must have at every game the following:

- a. SOYFAI Stamped Roster for their team
- b. SOYFAI stamped picture for each player on the roster
- c. Birth Certificate for each player on the roster

#### **Article 6 – Formation of Teams and Squads**

**Section 1:** Tryouts of any kind within SOYFAI are prohibited. Tryouts are defined as any means used to ascertain the level whereby a participant is placed on a team.

Penalty 1: Any team found to have conducted a tryout will be ineligible to compete in Superbowl and playoffs for one year.

**Section 2:** In the event an organization cannot field a team, the players can play up or move to another SOYFAI organization based on need or to the nearest location pursuant to SOYFAI's decision.

#### **Article 7 – Mandatory Cuts**

**Section 1:** Any participant must be cut from the league who:

- a) Refuse or cannot furnish the required items as mentioned in Part 2 Article 8
- b) Is found to be simultaneously trying out for a tackle football team
- c) Is a member of another organized tackle football organization
- d) Is a recurring discipline problem

Penalty 1: Any player found to be in violation of this article, the team will forfeit all games the participant in question has participated in.

#### **Article 8 – Certification**

**Section 1:** Certification is that process whereby the team or association will file with the league a complete roster of players for the regular season.

**Section 2:** A roster is certified, as evidenced by the official SOYFAI stamp, once the SOYFAI Executive Board of Directors have approved the roster through official weigh-ins and review of the appropriate documentation.

**Section 3:** To be certified onto a team roster, a participant shall qualify under the following:

- a) Eligibility according to residency via both school report cards and registration
- b) Eligibility according to grade/age via both school report card and birth certificate
- c) Eligibility according to weight via certified scales
- d) Once the roster has been certified, no player shall be added to a roster without written request and approval by the executive board.

Penalty 1: Any team found to be using a player not meeting the requirements will be subject to the penalty defined in Rule 14 – Ineligible Player

### **Article 9 – Practice**

**Section 1:** Pre-season practice shall not begin until July 16, 2018.

**Section 2:** The first week of practice shall be restricted to no physical contact. (Helmets only)

**Section 3:** Each player must complete three days of practice before physical contact (acclimation period) before wearing equipment (helmets only) and having physical contact.

Penalty 1: Any team found in violation of the rule in article 9 will be ineligible to compete in Superbowl and playoffs for one year.

### **Article 10 – Camps**

**Section 1:** No SOYFAI organization shall require or mandate that a SOYFAI organization or team in part or in whole, with or without coaches to attend football camps prior to date Pre-season practice may begin. There shall be no exceptions. However, a SOYFAI team may in part or in whole attend a camp if they choose to, providing:

- a) Coach or other team affiliated personnel does not make it mandatory.
- b) The camp does not take place prior to the allowable start of practice.

Penalty 1: Any team found in violation of the rule in article 10 will be ineligible to compete in superbowl and playoffs for one year.

### **Article 11 – Charging Admission**

**Section 1:** Admission of \$3.00 per adult and children 13 and under free gate admission to all SOYFAI regular season games. All Coaches must pay at the gate. The host organization will be responsible for paying the game officials. Two teams playing at a neutral site will split the cost for officials if no gate is collected for that day.

**Section 2:** Admission of \$5.00 per adult and children 13 and under free gate admission to all SOYFAI Division Playoffs games, Cheerleading Exhibition & Superbowl. Money collected by SOYFAI is to be used for paying game officials and the purchase of trophies and awards.



## **Article 12 – Protests**

**Section 1:** Protest must be filed in writing within 60 hours from game time with the Executive Board; the President or designee will send a copy to the other team involved in the protest. The protest must be accompanied by a Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00) check which will be returned if the protest is allowed. The protest will be ruled on within ten (10) days of the filing by the Board of Directors excluding the organization involved in the game in question. Protests will be heard for alleged violations of league rules and any conduct detrimental to the league. No protest on official's decisions will be entertained. Video evidence is encouraged but is not required.

## **Article 13 – Post Season**

**Section 1:** Playoff games, tournament games and Super Bowls will be considered Post Season Play.

**Section 2:** PLAYOFFS – Playoff facilities do not require artificial turf or lighting. Participants will be determined by the SOYFAI Board. All teams participating must be in good standing at the end of the regular playing season.

**Section 3:** SUPER BOWLS will be held at a facility with artificial turf and proper lighting. The SOYFAI Board will approve the location of the Superbowl prior to the start of the season.

**Section 4:** All photographers and videographers must obtain permission from SOYFAI Executive Board to be allowed within the field area on their side three yards off the field.

Penalty 1: Any individual within the field area without the proper approval will be ejected for the game and not permitted to return for the day.

**Section 5:** Since hosting the post season is a fund-raising opportunity for the host team, the SOYFAI board will make every effort to fairly distribute the opportunities to host the events.

**Section 6:** Each team must check in prior to each playoff game and Superbowl. The check in will consist of a verification of the documentation certified at weigh-in prior to the season. The check-in will consist of a review of the player, player's SOYFAI stamped picture, the player's SOYFAI stamped birth certificate and a roster in numerical order by player to be turned in to the press box as the official game roster. Check in will be scheduled 1 hour prior to the regular scheduled start of each age group game time. Any player participating in the game on the date must be checked in prior to the regular scheduled start of their scheduled game time. Coaches must have paperwork with them the entire day.

Penalty 1: Any player not checked-in prior to the scheduled start time of the playoff/superbowl, will be ineligible for that day's game.

## **Article 14- LEAGUE STANDING.**

**Article 1:** Standing will be determined by the following system: Three (3) points for a win and zero (0) points for a loss. Two way ties within the standings are broken using the results of Head to Head matchups. Standings will be determined by total number of points awarded each team in conference games. An official from each team (home & away) must call, text or e-mail the League Secretary or designee with the weekly game results no later than 8:00 a.m. the Monday morning immediately following the games for that week.

Penalty 1: There will be a \$25.00 fine per organization for scores not provided to the League Secretary. The League Board will publish a weekly copy of standings for each organization.

## Part 3 – Enforcement Policy

**Article 1: Minimum Mandated Penalties** – Minimums are established to assure that the punishment for listed offenses will occur in a uniform fashion. More severe penalties may be levied where circumstances warrant or for repeat offenses.

### Section 1- Adult Offenses (Non-coaches)

- a) Ejection from game – Automatic one-week suspension from practice, including the following game.
- b) Fighting – Automatic 1 calendar year suspension from all SOYFAI events.
- c) Threats - Automatic 1 calendar year suspension from all SOYFAI events.
- d) Falsification of Official Documentation – Suspension for 1 year. This would include, but not be limited to, Parental consent, proof of age, proof of scholastic eligibility, proof of residency.

### Section 2 – Adult Offense (Coaches)

- a) Ejection from game – Automatic one-week suspension from practice, including the following game and a \$200.00 fine Payable to SOYFAI. The coach is not permitted to be on the sidelines until the suspension and fine have been met. In the event the coach is ejected in the final game of the year, the organization is responsible for paying the fine or the organization is ineligible for any future playoff games until the fine is paid.
- b) Fighting – Automatic 1 calendar year suspension from all SOYFAI events and may be subject to permanent expulsion subject to the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.
- c) Threats - Automatic 1 calendar year suspension from all SOYFAI events and may be subject to permanent expulsion subject to the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.
- d) Referee Intimidation - Any striking or offensive touch not in the normal course of a football game by a player, coach, or head coach of a referee before, during or after a football game shall result in a minimum one year calendar suspension of said participant or may be subject to permanent expulsion subject to the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.
- e) Falsification of Official Documentation – Suspension for 1 year. This would include, but not be limited to, Parental consent, proof of age, proof of scholastic eligibility, and proof of residency.
- f) Ineligible player – Suspension for 1 year if proven coach is aware of the ineligibility
- g) Restricted Weight player not playing permitted position – 1 game suspension, forfeiture of game.
- h) Restricted Weight player playing without designated marking unless mutually agreed by both coaches and officials – 1 game suspension, forfeiture of game

### Section 3 - Juvenile Offenses

- a) Ejection from game – Automatic one-week suspension from practice and the suspension from the next game. Any players ejected from a game for any reason other than fighting, shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests until one regular season/tournament contest is played. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the participant shall be ineligible for the first game of the next year. Any player who is ejected for the second time in the season shall have their eligibility subject to the Executive Board of Directors.

- b) Fighting –Any players ejected or disqualified for fighting shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests until one regular season/tournament contest is played. If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the participant shall be ineligible for the first game of the next year. Any player who is ejected or disqualified for fighting for the second time in the season at a minimum shall be ineligible for all contests for one “Calendar” year or may be subject to permanent expulsion subject to the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.

#### **Section 4 – Team and Association Offenses**

- a) Fighting/Rioting/Incitement to Riot – Game related: Forfeiture of the game for the first offense, Forfeiture of the season for second offense within the same season.
- b) If any organization violates any OHSAA or SOYFAI rule, there will be a fine issued of \$200.00 and up to a one (1) year suspension as determined by the SOYFAI Board.
- c) Any organization which does not have a team show up for participation for a scheduled SOYFAI game will forfeit and be assessed \$100.00 per game. The fine will be assessed in the current season, payable to the organization that the team was scheduled to play.
- d) There will be up to a 20-minute allowance for a delay of scheduled start time for any team experiencing not having the required number of participants to start the game.
- e) Any organization which does not work assigned playoff, weigh-in, superbowl games or cheerleading exhibition be assessed \$100.00 per game. The fine will be assessed in the current season, payable to the SOYFAI.
- f) Any team not showing up to a SOYFAI sponsored event that has told SOYFAI of their participation, shall be fined the amount of any trophies purchased for said team and the \$100.00 no show fee.

#### **Section 5 – Additional Offenses**

- a) Any and all other offenses which are committed by any party will be subject to the penalty imposed by the Executive Board of Directors.

## **Part 4 –Rules**

### **Rule 1 – Ages and Weights**

**Article 1:** SOYFAI is a grade-based League with a maximum age limit. Each participant must play in the grade they will be entering in the 2017 school year and have a birth date which falls in the range listed below:

- 6th Grade – must be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and not turn 13 by September 30 of the season
- 5th Grade – must be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and not turn 12 by September 30 of the season
- 4th Grade – must be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and not turn 11 by September 30 of the season
- 3rd Grade – must be in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and not turn 10 by September 30 of the season
- 2nd Grade – must be in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and not turn 9 by September 30 of the season
- K/1 Grade – must be 5 years of age and not turn 8 by September 30 of the season

**Article 2:** Weight: SOYFAI is a weight limit control league with a maximum weight limit for certain positions. Each participant must meet the required weight limit for their grade to play any and all positions. The weight requirements are listed below.

6th Grade – 138 pounds  
5th Grade – 126 pounds  
4th Grade – 114 pounds  
3rd Grade – 100 pounds  
2nd Grade – 90 pounds  
K/1 Grade – 80 pounds

**Section 1:** In the event a participant does not meet the required weight limits listed above, they will be required to have a SOYFAI provided designated sticker or stripe placed on the helmet and will be permitted to play Center, Guard or Tackle on the Offense, they are not permitted to be an eligible receiver. (They must be covered on the line) They are permitted to play Tackle and Nose tackle on Defense. The participant must be in a 3-point stance or Pre-set position on offense and 3 point or 4 point stance on defense at the snap of the ball.

**Section 2: A restricted player on defense is allowed to advance a fumble or interception.**

**Article 3:** No player may play up at a higher-grade level regardless of their weight. Any player exceeding the specified weight limits are required to play the designated positions and are not permitted to move to a higher-grade level. **No player may play up.**

**Article 4:** There will be no increase in weight limit consideration in any grade group until the year 2019.

## **Rule 2 - Weigh-in**

**Article 1: Weigh-ins** - There will be a mandatory weigh-in of all participants on or before the first game of the season. Each player will be weighed by a League Official and representative of each team (No Spectators). The League Official is responsible for weighing the players, checking the contract for proper age and grade level and stamping the contract. It will be the responsibility of the League Official to insure that electronic type scales, calibrated in pounds, are provided at the weigh-in site.

## **Rule 3 – Roster Size**

**Article 1 - Maximum Roster Size** – There is no limit to the maximum number of players on a legal football team. The maximum will be determined by the different organizations.

**Article 2 - Minimum Roster Size**- Not less than fourteen (14) players shall constitute a legal football team. If the team roster falls below fourteen players after the League official Weigh-ins, the legality of the team is not affected providing no other rule applies. Any deviation to this team requirement will be brought before the S.O.Y.F.A.I. Executive Board of Directors for review and decision.

## **Rule 4 – Mandatory Play Rule**

**Article 1** – There will be no mandatory playing time required by SOYFAI. Mandatory playing time will be determined by the different organizations.

## **Rule 5- The Field and Markings**

**Article 1** – The home team is responsible for the preparation of the playing field and all required accessories for a game. All fields will be equipped and marked in accordance with High school standards. Lime and other caustics shall not be used.

**Article 2** – The bench area is reserved for players, coaches and authorized team personnel only.

**Article 3** – Home team must be on the press box sideline.

## **Rule 6 –Game Ball**

**Article 1** – The ball shall be of a good grade of leather or composite material. The leather Rawlings R5PW, Wilson K2 (or equivalent in size) or synthetic of equal size will be the official football for grades 1st through 4th. The Leather Rawlings R5JR, Wilson TDJ (or equivalent in size) or synthetic of equal size will be the official football for grades 5th and 6th. No rubber footballs allowed.

Penalty 1: Any team found to be using an illegal size ball will be penalized as a 15-yard penalty.

**Article 2** – The use of stick-um on the football or the application and use of such on any player's hands is not allowed.

Penalty 1: Any player found to be using Stick-um will be removed from the game and will not be permitted to return until the stick-um has been removed from hands.

## **Rule 7-Player Designations**

**Article 1** – Each player shall wear a number between 00 and 99 inclusive. Duplicate numbers shall be permitted in the event of a participant does not make weight and has to play up. SOYFAI does not follow NFHS rule for numbers; therefore any number between 00 and 99 can be worn for any position.

**Article 2** – In the event a participant does not have the jersey as defined on the roster, it the responsibility of the head coach to get the agreement with the opposing head coach the player can participate by provide the SOYFAI approved picture.

## **Rule 8 – Required Equipment**

**Article 1** – The following items shall be worn by players beginning with physical contact in practice sections.

- a) Helmet – Only helmets bearing the NOCSAE deal of certification may be worn.
- b) Shoulder Pads
- c) Pants
- d) Hip pads
- e) Tail pads
- f) Thigh Guards
- g) Knee pads
- h) Jersey
- i) Mouth Guard – Clear or white are not permitted to be used
- j) Shoes – Shoes must either be gym shoes or cleats, no metal spikes allowed. No screw on metal cleats are allowed
- k) Optional equipment permitted will be rib pads or other blocking pads, arm or leg elastics worn under the pants, neck yokes and cup.

**Article 2** – Failure to have the above required equipment during a game shall subject the participant to be removed until such time as the required equipment has been repaired, replaced or added. The use of any altered equipment shall result in player disqualification if in a game.

**Rule 9 – Start times, except as deviated by schedule, are:**

**Article 1:** KDG\1st GRADE LEAGUE – 9:00 A.M.

**Article 2:** 2nd GRADE LEAGUE - 10:15 A.M.

**Article 3:** 3rd GRADE LEAGUE - 11:30 A.M.

**Article 4:** 4th GRADE LEAGUE - 12:45 P.M.

**Article 5:** 5th GRADE LEAGUE - 2:00 P.M.

**Article 6:** 6th GRADE LEAGUE - 3:15 P.M.

**Article 7:** It is imperative that the first game start on time. No game will start early without both teams in agreement.

**Article 8:** A minimum of 2 sanctioned or approved OHSAA officials must be present. The game will not start until a minimum of 2 officials are present. A one-hour delay for grace period for start of game due to late officials.

**Article 9:** There will be up to a 20-minute allowance for a delay of scheduled start time for any team experiencing not having the required number of participants to start the game.

**Article 10:** Games cancelled for weather need to be made up within 3 weeks of cancellation and during the regular season. A 90-minute stoppage is the maximum a team can wait due to weather before needing to reschedule.

**Rule 10 –Length of Periods**

**Article 1** – The length of the periods for all age/Grade will be 8 minutes.

**Rule 11 – Intermission Length**

**Article 1** – The length of time between 1st and 2nd; 3rd and 4th quarters will be 1 minutes.

**Article 2** – The length of time at half time will be 8 minutes

**Article 3** – There will be no warm up time between games.

**Rule 12 – Time clocks**

**Article 1** – The referee shall decide where the clock will be kept if the field is not equipped with a scoreboard timing device. In any event, the referee has final authority to have the clock kept on the field if in his judgment the home management's clock operator is not qualified.

**Rule 13 - Personnel on the playing field**

**Article 1:** Only the official Head Coach and the designated coaches and the participating players (per the official SOYFAI Roster) shall be allowed on the player's benches or on the playing field during the progress of an officially scheduled game.

**Article 2:** All downs markers, chain crews and clock must be manned by adult responsible personnel. The chain crew will be on the home sideline.

Penalty 1: Failure to comply with this rule can result in forfeiture of the game by action of the crew chief.

**Article 3:** Kdg/1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

- a. Two coaches per team permitted on field during play. Ten yards behind the deepest player and must remain silent and to stop coaching at the break of huddle.
- b. The huddle break is considered broken after two (2) players have left the huddle and have approached the line of scrimmage.

c.

Penalty 1: If the coach talks after the huddle is broken, the first penalty is a loss of 5 yards and if there is a second offense the coach is banned to the sidelines.

**Rule 14-Regarding ineligible players**

**Article 1** - There are Five (5) unequivocal definition of an ineligible player, from which there are no appeals. Further, these violations shall result in forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player was a member of the team and the ineligible player or players and Head Coach are suspended for the remainder of the season. There are no exceptions.

- A) Player not certified on the official Roster
- B) Player certified overweight and designated with League's overweight marking and not playing the designated permitted positions for multiple plays (Penalty applies only to the coach).
- C) Player certified overweight and not wearing the League's overweight marking and not playing the designated permitted positions (Penalty applies only to the coach).
- D) Player residing outside of the legal boundaries
- E) Falsification of any play certification and or registration documentation.
- F) Participation in school tackle football or any other non-affiliated football program in the same season.

Any situation not clearly defined above will be reviewed and ruled upon by the executive board. The decision is not appealable.

This clause may not be invoked after the League Supervisor has certified the regular season final standings.

**Rule 15 – Radios & Communication Devices**

**Article 1** - Any use of any type of two-way communication on the field is prohibited.

Penalty 1: If a team is determined to be using two-way communication, the team will forfeit all games the two-way communication was used.

**Rule 16 – Scouting**

**Article 1** – Scouting football teams is permitted in the form of written reports. Scouting is only permitted during a game situation. Scouting any type of practice is strictly prohibited

**Rule 17 – Practice**

**Article 1** – Preseason – The first week of practice shall be devoted entirely and exclusively to conditioning, not wearing pads; however, helmets shall be permitted.

## **Rule 18 – Tie Ball Games**

**Article 1** - All conference contests, playoffs and Superbowl that end in a tie at the end of regulation play will, without exception, play a sudden death overtime. This overtime will consist of each team attempting to score from 10 yards out from the end-zone. First possession will be determined by a flip of the coin. If the game remains tied at the end of this overtime, there will be a sudden death overtime beginning at the 5-yard line. If there remains a tie at the end of this sudden death, the ball will be moved to the 3-yard line until a winner is determined. There will be one time out per series with no time outs carried over from regulation play.

## **Rule 19 – Mercy Rule**

**Article 1-** Any team winning by more than 32 points is subject to the following penalties:

Penalty 1: First Offense, Coach is suspended for 1 game and fined \$250, the coach will not be allowed to coach until the fine is paid.

Penalty 2: Second Offense, Coach is suspended for 1 calendar year and fined \$500, the coach will not be allowed to coach until the fine is paid.

Penalty 3: Third Offense, the coach is banned from coaching in SOYFAI.

Organizations can appeal the 32 point rule if both organizations agree that the coach made every effort to keep the score within 32 points. This includes backing off on defense.

## **Rule 20 – Contact with Officials**

**Article 1:** Any striking or offensive touch not in the normal course of a football game by a player, coach or head coach before during or after a football game shall result in a minimum one year “calendar” automatic suspension and up to, based on the Executive Board’s review, permanent suspension.

## **Rule 21: SOYFAI Playing Season:**

**Article 1:** Is defined as the period from July 16, 2018 through the conclusion of the Super Bowl

**Article 2:** Consists of a game schedule that must be played during this time

**Article 3:** All organizations may start official practice on

**Article 4:** The dates, times and game fields will be set up by SOYFAI

## **Rule 22: Incomplete Game:**

**Article 1:** Any scheduled game stopped because of rain or darkness shall be considered an incomplete game and must be completed as soon as possible. Games stopped for any reason, will be replayed from the period it was stopped, until completed. The game can only be stopped for a total of 90 minutes before it needs to be rescheduled. Games need to be made up within 3 weeks of regular season. Officials are only paid for officiating the game, not for waiting.

**Article 2:** If an official needs to stop a game due to crowd control or fighting, the team leading at that time wins and a tie remains a tie.



## **Rule 23: Special circumstances:**

### **Article 1: Kdg/1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

- a. On the fourth down there is a free punt of 25 yards, but in no circumstance can the ball be placed inside the 10 yard line.
- b. There will be a 15 second run off on the clock on all punts.
- c. Teams will have 35 seconds to put the ball in play after the ball is blown ready for play

### **Article 2: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

- a. On the fourth down there will be a live punt per OHSAA rules.
- b. Teams will abide by OHSAA rules to put the ball into play after the ball is blown ready for play.

## **Part 5 – Adult Code of Conduct**

S1: In order to uphold the goals of SOYFAI and ensure that all participants have to benefit of a safe and fun learning environment, all parents, guardians and other adults and attendees of SOYAI events must behave accordingly in a respectful, courteous and sportsmanlike manner at all times.

S2; Any adult who is using alcohol, non-prescription drugs and/or appears intoxicated at a SOYFAI event and or who is flagrantly rude, attempts to intimidate, verbally abuse, heckles, taunts, ridicules, boos, throws objects and or uses vulgarity of profane language/gestures with an official, coach, volunteer, staff member, participant or other event attendee will be removed from a SOYFAI event for the remainder of the day. No game or activity shall continue until the offender or offenders have left, or all persons shall be cleared from the field and the game will continue with the spectator removed. Any adult who commits one or more of the above stated offenses a second time in a season will be banned from any and all SOYFAI events for a minimum period of one year from the date of the second offense.

S3: Any adult who physically or verbally assaults an official, coach, volunteer, staff member, or participant or threatens grave bodily harm may be banned from any and all SOYFAI events at a minimum for one year from the date of the offense. After the ban has expired, if the individual commits another offense of the adult code of conduct, the individual will be permanently banned from any and all SOYFAI events.

S4: SOYFAI reserves the right to suspend and/or remove any individual from the program or it's events in order to ensure the safety of its members and uphold its mission.

## **Part 6 – Member Code of Conduct**

All SOYFAI volunteers and participants will abide by a code of conduct which includes the following provisions. If any of these rules are broken, the SOYFAI Executive Board shall have the authority to impose a penalty including permanent removal from the league. Members shall:

S1: Not smoke and/or smokeless tobacco on the field

S2: Not criticize player/cheer participants in front of spectators but reserve constructive criticism for later in private or in the presence of team members if others might benefit.

S3: Accept decisions of the game officials and judges on the field and in competitions as being fair and called to the best ability of said officials.

S4: Not criticize an opposing team, its players, cheer participants, coaches or fans by word of mouth or by gesture.

S5: Not use abusive or profane language at any time

S6: Not permit an ineligible player or cheerleader to participate in a game

S7: Not possess or drink alcoholic beverages and/or use illegal substance(s) on either the game or practices fields

S8: Remove from a game or practice any participant when even slightly in doubt about his/her health, whether or not as a result of injury, until competent medical advice is available

S9: Refrain from engaging in any action within or outside SOYFAI which reflects negatively or causes embarrassment to the SOYFAI Program.