



as of 4/20/09

BY-LAWS

B.I. ASSOCIATIONS

A. OFFICIAL HCYFL WEBSITE **EFFECTIVE 2/20/08**

As of the 2008 season, beginning this date, our web site is official for all information.

- 1) All requested information, including jersey #s and 'unlimited' player notation, must be submitted in accordance with the established timeline.
- 2) Fines will be assessed for failure to meet timeline.

B. OFFICIAL HCYFL INFORMATION EXCHANGE TIMELINE **EFFECTIVE 4/15/09**

1) For the 2009 season, the Information Exchange Timeline will be:

Prior to AUG 28 All Player and Coach Registration completed on-line
Week of SEP 7 Certification Information gathered and/or delivered:

- 1) Photos of **all** players (2 of each)
- 2) Birth Certificates for all **new** players
- 3) **All** Home and Away jersey numbers
- 4) Letter of address confirmation for all **new** private school attendees
- 5) Approved medical clearance form for **all** players

Week of SEP 7 Distribution of Coach Contracts for signatures

Beginning SEP 7 Individual Certification Meetings w/ Commissioner:

- 1) Printing and Distribution by of Player Registration Forms (2)
- 2) Attach all player photos (2 of each)
- 3) Turn in all new player Birth Certificates, address confirmation letters, Medical forms
- 4) Return completed Coach Contracts
- 5) Posting of rosters online

SEP 18 Season Begins

A fine of \$5.00 will be assessed for late, missing, or incomplete paperwork.

B.I. ASSOCIATIONS *continued*

C. PAYMENT OF ALL FINES **EFFECTIVE 2/20/08**

All fines must be paid in full by the Friday prior to the offending Association's next game.

D. CHAMPIONSHIP SITE

The site of the HCYFL Championships will be held within the boundaries of Hudson County, NJ

E. CO-CHAMPIONS **EFFECTIVE 3/14/01**

Regular season Co-Champions will be recognized in each division.

F. HOME FIELD CRITERIA

- 1) During the regular season an Association must provide the following at its home field:
 - 1) A field separated from the stands by a permanent fence or wall
 - 2) Suitable stands for seating of all spectators
 - 3) Locker rooms (or another indoor facility) available for each team
- 2) During the regular season an Association should try to provide the following at its home field:
 - 1) An operational concession stand or similar facility
 - 2) A working P.A. system and scoreboard
 - 3) A facility for official clock operator and announcer
 - 4) Suitable parking accessible to game facility
- 3) During the playoff season an Association must provide the following at its home field:
 - 1) A field separated from the stands by a permanent fence or wall
 - 2) Suitable stands for seating of all spectators
 - 3) An operational concession stand or similar facility
 - 4) Locker rooms (or another indoor facility) must be available for each team
 - 5) A working P.A. system and scoreboard
 - 6) A facility for official clock operator and announcer
 - 7) Suitable parking accessible to game facility
 - 8) There must be working field lights
- 4) An Association hosting any game must provide professional police and ambulance services.

G. PROTEST

Only protest involving the eligibility of a player will be considered.

- 1) The protest should be lodged at the first knowledge of a player's questioned eligibility.
- 2) The HCYFL Commissioner should be notified immediately by telephone.
- 3) Within 24 hours, the Commissioner must receive the protest in writing via email.

B.I. ASSOCIATIONS *continued*

H. **ADMISSION CHARGE EFFECTIVE 1/18/05**

No admission fee may be charged at any HCYFL game.

I. **ELECTRONIC SCOUTING EFFECTIVE 3/14/01**

- 1) Any person affiliated with any HCYFL Association may not use visual electronic media (video, cameras, etc.) to scout or assist in the scouting of any HCYFL opponent's practice or non-HCYFL game.
- 2) Anyone discovered in violation of this rule will be liable to censure, fine and/or expulsion as per the penalties for failure to adhere to the Coaches Performance Guide.

J. **ASSOCIATION'S FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A FORFEIT EFFECTIVE 1/18/06**

- 1) Any Association forfeiting a game, will assume the responsibility for reimbursing the HCYFL for the cost of the game official's fees for the forfeited game. The reimbursement must be paid prior to the Association's next game, or the first HCYFL meeting if the forfeit occurs on the last week of competition.
- 2) Associations will be exempt from payment if they notify the HCYFL Commissioner or Administrative Assistant by the Thursday evening prior to the game, in order for the officials and opponent to be notified.

K. **SCALE CERTIFICATION and READING EFFECTIVE 2/20/08**

- 1) All scales must be certified for the current year and shall be a manual style doctor's scale, not electronic.
- 2) The scales must be certified no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of the season. A copy of the County Division of Weights and Measures certification must be submitted to the HCYFL Administration on the day of certification.
- 3) Any failure to present a certification of the scales authenticity will result in a \$100 fine.
- 4) Any failure to have the appropriate scale available for the weigh-in will result in a \$100 fine.
- 5) The arm on a Doctor's scale must remain at the top of its slot for a player to be overweight.

B.I. ASSOCIATIONS *continued*

L. SIDELINE PASSES EFFECTIVE 2/20/08

- 1) Sideline passes for coaches will be distributed at our final HCYFL Certification Meeting. The passes will have each coach's name, level, and Association listed.
- 2) Two (2) passes will be available, per level, for water boys.
- 3) Guest passes will be available upon request. Guests may not be in the area of the coaches' box during the game.

M. CHEERLEADING COACHES/CHEERLEADERS EFFECTIVE 1/18/05

Cheerleading coaches and cheerleaders are to remain in assigned sections during the games. Cheerleaders and their coaches do not belong in the team box.

N. PLAYOFF POSITION TIE-BREAKER

- 1) Winner of game between the two teams tied for position ("head to head")
- 2) Comparison of points scored against playoff teams
- 3) Comparison of points allowed against playoff teams
- 4) A coin toss by HCYFL Commissioner, with Reps from tied Associations present

B.II. COACHES

A. COACH REGISTRATION **EFFECTIVE 2/20/08**

- 1) All coaches must be registered with the HCYFL through the online registration portal on the HCYFL website, in accordance with the HCYFL Information Exchange Timeline.
- 2) Sideline passes will be printed, and distributed, based solely on the online registration of coaches. A coach working at more than one level must register for EACH level.

B. COACHES REQUIREMENTS

- 1) All organization personnel directly involved with the players (coaches, trainers, equipment managers, etc.) must have a coaching certification by an HCYFL approved source, preferably the Rutgers University S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic. A copy of each certification must be on file with the HCYFL prior to the first day of tryouts or practice. Associations allowing participation by non-certified personnel will be liable to censure, fine and/or expulsion as per the penalties for failure to adhere to the Coaches Performance Guide.
- 2) Head coaches must be at least 21 years old, and assistant coaches must be at least 18 years old.
- 3) **EFFECTIVE 1/17/01** Each HCYFL Coach must sign a yearly Coach's Contract, which will be kept on file by the HCYFL. The final HCYFL Certification Meeting is the last date for all Coach's Contracts to be returned signed to the HCYFL. A fine of \$5.00 per coach will be charged for each late or unsigned contract. An HCYFL Sideline Pass will be printed only for each coach returning a completed contract.

C. COACHES PERFORMANCE GUIDE

- 1) Every coach in the league (HCYFL) is expected to conform to the league's performance guide, as indicated by signing a Coach's Contract.
- 2) Attempt to have all aspects of participation serve as a training ground for life experiences, with emphasis on development of good mental and physical health.
- 3) Stress the relationship between a sound body and mind.
- 4) Emphasize that winning is the result of extra effort and teamwork.
- 5) Always remove athletes from practice or games if there is any question about their health until competent medical advice is available.
- 6) Never publicly criticize officials, or your opponent's players, coaches, and fans.
- 7) Refrain from using abusive language or profanity in public.
- 8) Avoid 'running up the score' when you have a commanding lead.
- 9) Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages, using drugs and smoking or chewing tobacco in the presence of your players, both during practices and at games.
- 10) Never permit an ineligible player to participate in a game or practice.
- 11) Accept decisions of the game officials on the field for being honest and called in fairness.
- 12) Never display actions which incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 13) Control your team & fans...their conduct will usually reflect yours.

B.III. COACHES continued

D. FAILURE TO ADHERE TO PERFORMANCE GUIDE

Failure to adhere to the Coach's Performance Guide can result in league (HCYFL) censure, fine, suspension, and/or expulsion for individuals and Associations as follows:

- Official written reprimand
- Official written reprimand and fine
- Suspension from the HCYFL
- Suspension from HCYFL and fine
- Expulsion from the HCYFL
- Expulsion from the HCYFL and fine

E. COACH EJECTION **EFFECTIVE 2/7/07**

A Coach's ejection from an HCYFL game will result in:

1st ejection: 1 game suspension (next available game)

2nd ejection: 4 game suspension (may carry to next season) and a \$100 fine which must be paid before return to the HCYFL participation.

F. LIMIT TO COACHES FROM OUTSIDE ASSOCIATION'S BOUNDARIES **EFFECTIVE 2/20/08**

- 1) An Association may have no more than 1 out-of-town player per level allowed to participate because his/her parent is a coach at that level. The parent must coach the team on which the child participates.
- 2) An 'out of town' parent must coach the year prior to their child's participation as an 'out of town' player.
- 3) An exception is made for any certified coach with 3 consecutive years experience with the Association immediately prior to the first year of his son's participation.
- 4) Unusual circumstances will be ruled upon, on an individual basis, by the HCYFL Commissioner, with advisement from the executive board, if deemed necessary.

G. ADDING COACHES AFTER ROSTERS ARE SUBMITTED **EFFECTIVE 2/20/08**

Associations may not add coaches to their staff after the final HCYFL Certification meeting. Any coaches added after this date must be certified by an HCYFL approved source, preferably the Rutgers University S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic, and must be registered online by the HCYFL Commissioner or his designee.

B.III. PLAYERS

A. NEW PLAYER REGISTRATION EFFECTIVE 2/20/08

- 1) All new players must be registered with the HCYFL through the online registration portal on the HCYFL website, in accordance with the HCYFL Information Exchange Timeline.

B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 1) A participant's legal address for league (HCYFL) purpose is that address that appears on his/her official school enrollment papers.
- 2) A participant may play for Association B (other than his home Association A), if his parent is coach for an Association B at the level (LW, MW, HW) in which the child participates. Association teams are those which play in the HCYFL.
- 3) A participant may continue to play for his original Association after the participant has moved within another HCYFL Association's boundaries, as long as there is continuous play. Continuous play would be broken if the participant sits out a season, attends try-outs or practice for his new Association, or indicates in writing the intent to switch Associations.
- 4) No player attending school beyond the 8th grade may participate in the HCYFL.
- 5) All participants must pass a physical administered by, and documented by, an accredited medical doctor within 30 days prior to his/her involvement in any practice or tryout. The documentation should appear on the back of the official registration form.
- 6) **EFFECTIVE 2/20/08** A participant's most recent Report Card may be requested by the Commissioner as a means of establishing true residence.

C. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AGE / WEIGHT SCHEMATIC

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION	AGES	CERTIFICATION	
		MAXIMUM	MAXIMUM
LIGHTWEIGHT	8, 9, 10*	105 LBS.	109.5 LBS.
MIDDLEWEIGHT	10*, 11, 12*	125 LBS.	129.5 LBS.
HEAVYWEIGHT	12*, 13, 14	155 LBS.	159.5 LBS.

*Ages 10 and 12 overlap Divisions. If a participant is above the certification maximum, they can move up to the next level, or they may stay at the original level and be declared an 'unlimited' player.

D. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY LEAGUE AGE SCHEMATIC

ANY PLAYER BORN IN **2001** IS A LEAGUE AGE **EIGHT (8) YEAR OLD**
ANY PLAYER BORN IN **2000** IS A LEAGUE AGE **NINE (9) YEAR OLD**
ANY PLAYER BORN IN **1999** IS A LEAGUE AGE **TEN (10) YEAR OLD**
ANY PLAYER BORN IN **1998** IS A LEAGUE AGE **ELEVEN (11) YEAR OLD**
ANY PLAYER BORN IN **1997** IS A LEAGUE AGE **TWELVE (12) YEAR OLD**
ANY PLAYER BORN IN **1996** IS A LEAGUE AGE **THIRTEEN (13) YEAR OLD**
ANY PLAYER BORN IN **1995** IS A LEAGUE AGE **FOURTEEN (14) YEAR OLD**

B.III. PLAYERS continued

E. WEEKLY WEIGHT GAIN ALLOWANCE CHART

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEIGHT GAIN ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>LW</u>	<u>MAXIMUM MW</u>	<u>HW</u>
9/27 Week 2	0.5 LBS	105.5	125.5	155.5
10/4 Week 3	1.0 LBS	106.0	126.0	156.0
10/11 Week 4	1.5 LBS	106.5	126.5	156.5
10/18 Week 5	2.0 LBS	107.0	127.0	157.0
10/25 Week 6	2.5 LBS	107.5	127.5	157.5
11/1 Week 7	3.0 LBS	108.0	128.0	158.0
11/8 Rain Date	3.5 LBS	108.5	128.5	158.5
11/15 Playoffs	4.0 LBS	109.0	129.0	159.0
11/22 Championship	4.5 LBS	109.5	129.5	159.5

F. PLAYER WEIGH-IN EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT WEIGHT ALLOWANCE</u>
LIGHTWEIGHT	8 LBS.
MIDDLEWEIGHT	9 LBS.
HEAVYWEIGHT	9 LBS.

G. PRE-GAME PLAYER WEIGH-IN AND CREDENTIAL CHECK

- 1) Each team will have its players weighed and their credentials checked prior to each game during the season to ensure HCYFL weight standards are being maintained.
- 2) A player who weighs-in with equipment (to take advantage of the weight allowance) must step on the scale with football shoes or sneakers, football pants with the appropriate pads, (kneepads, thigh pads, hip pads, tail pad), as well as shoulder pads and a jersey.
- 3) Any player not weighed-in prior to the first-half kickoff must wait until halftime to be weighed-in. The weigh-in will take place in the presence of a designee of the opponent Association. After meeting HCYFL criteria, that player may participate in the 2nd half.
- 4) Any player not weighed-in prior to the 2nd half kick-off may not participate in the game.

H. DEADLINE TO PASS INITIAL CERTIFICATION WEIGH-IN

A participant has until the second game to be certified.

- 1) If for any reason (sickness, on vacation, etc.), a player is not certified at the first game, he or she has until game two to be certified.
- 2) If they are not certified at that time they can only be added to the roster if the roster falls below 22 members.

B.III. PLAYERS *continued*

I. FAILURE TO PASS INITIAL CERTIFICATION WEIGH-IN

A player failing the initial certification weigh-in:

- 1) Will be considered an 'unlimited' player and will remain as such for the entire season. To identify an 'unlimited' player, his/her helmet will be taped across the top, from ear to ear.
- 2) 'Unlimited' players do not need to be weighed pre-game each week.
- 3) May be moved up to the next division, if the age requirements are met.

J. FAILURE TO PASS PRE-GAME WEIGH-IN

- 1) A player failing a pre-game weigh-in cannot participate in that game, and must turn their jersey inside-out.
- 2) No player can be added to the 'unlimited player' category after the initial certification.

K. PLAYERS NOT PARTICIPATING THAT DAY

A player not participating in the game, should

- 1) Be in street clothes with their jersey over their clothing or,
- 2) Dressed in a uniform with their jersey inside out.
- 3) Injured players on crutches should remain near the bench and away from the sidelines for their safety.

L. USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

League (HCYFL) definition of an ineligible player, for which there is no appeal, are:

- 1) Enrolled in school above the eighth (8th) grade
- 2) Overage or underage for league division of participation
- 3) Residing outside the Association's legal boundaries
- 4) Falsification of information supplied to league (HCYFL)
- 5) Participation in another tackle football league in this season

M. PENALTY FOR HAVING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS ON ROSTER EFFECTIVE 2/20/08

- 1) The penalty for having an ineligible player on your roster will be a forfeit of every game played while the offending player was on the roster.
- 2) There will be a progressive monetary fine assessed to the offending Association (payable on, or prior to, the Friday before the Association's next scheduled game). The fines will be assessed as follows:
 - 1st individual ineligibility violation = \$100.00 fine
 - 2nd individual ineligibility violation = \$250.00 fine
 - 3rd individual ineligibility violation = \$500.00 fine
 - All subsequent individual violations = \$500.00 each
- 3) Timely self-reporting of ineligible players, by the Association to which they belong, would be a reason for leniency in determining a punishment. This is an area where the Commissioner will retain the ability to make decisions based on individual cases.

B.III. PLAYERS continued

N. PLAYER ROSTER SIZE and ADDITION OF PLAYERS EFFECTIVE 2/20/08

- 1) There is no restriction on the maximum number of players that may be certified to a team roster.
- 2) An Association may apply to add players to the roster of any of their teams during the regular season, as per the following criteria:
 - a. If the number of players on a roster drops below 22, players may be added, up to a maximum of 22, providing:
 1. The new players being added meet all certification criteria for participation in their division of the HCYFL.
 2. All new players are certified online through the HCYFL certification process.
 3. All players who have left the team have officially been removed from the team's roster on the HCYFL website.
 - b. No player may participate in contact drills until their 4th practice session.
 - c. No player may participate in a game until they have had 3 practices involving contact.

O. PLAYER EJECTION EFFECTIVE 2/7/07

A player's ejection from an HCYFL game will result in:

- 1) 1st ejection: 1 game suspension (next available game)
- 2) 2nd ejection: 4 game suspension (may carry to next season)
- 3) A \$50 fine (must be paid before return to the HCYFL participation).

P. MINIMUM PLAYER ROSTER SIZE AVAILABLE TO PLAY GAME

A minimum of 16 certified players must be dressed and eligible to play at each game. If Team A has less than 16 certified players available to play, Team B will be awarded a forfeit victory (2-0) if the game has not started.

S. PLAYER LATENESS EFFECTIVE 2/03/99

Any player not weighed-in prior to the first half kickoff must wait until half time to be weighed-in. The weigh-in will take place in the presence of a designated representative of the opposing Association. After meeting HCYFL criteria, that player may participate in the second half.

T. PLAYER IN NON-ROSTER NUMBER EFFECTIVE 3/14/07

If a player participates in a jersey number (#) not listed on the official roster, the opposing Head Coach may ask the officials to stop the game, and have the officials approach the other team's bench and have the player in question matched to the photo in their certification book. If the player does not match, or the certification book is unavailable, the player is ejected from the game. No time out will be charged.

U. ELIGIBILITY BY POSITION and JERSEY NUMBER EFFECTIVE 12/9/97

- 1) Offensively, from tackle to tackle #'s must be correct (#'s 50-79)
- 2) These players are ineligible by position and jersey number - no tackle eligible
- 3) The #'s 1-49 and 80-99 only are eligible to catch a forward pass