

2019

**MIAMI-DADE XTREME
YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC.**

BYLAWS

LEAGUE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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PARLIAMENTARIAN

AYANA HARRIS-BRINSON
CHEERLEADING DIRECTOR

KENO DEMPSEY
MEDIA RELATIONS



To: MDXYFL Football and Cheerleading Commissioners and Coaches,

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Miami-Dade Xtreme Youth Football League. We are committed to be South Florida's most outstanding Youth Football and Cheerleading League as judged by our parents, our peers, and the communities in which we serve. We strive to develop the best football and cheerleading experience possible and that starts with developing the best commissioners and coaches in Miami-Dade County. This is your opportunity to serve as role models to our youth as reflected by your decisions and actions, and to work to build their self-esteem and moral foundation so that they can confidently pursue and achieve their academic, athletic, and life goals. I wish you all the very best this season.

Richard Raphael
President

LEAGUE HISTORY



The Miami-Dade Xtreme Youth Football League was founded in 2000 by Mr. Jose A. Regalado, a Football Commissioner who had a vision of creating a league that would look after the best interest of children.

Prioritizing the adult/child relationship, the environment under which competitions take place and child safety in equipment and proper fundamentals are the foundation of our League. These are the ideals that define our League as we enter another season. With an initial league size of four teams, the Xtreme has steadily grown to become the best youth football league with its roots in Miami-Dade County, and continues to entertain yearly applicants as it attracts the attention of community based organizations with like-minded goals.

Since the league's inception, the League has provided financial support to member parks by means of direct donations, equipment and grants. In addition, this relationship has given our league a platform upon which we've been able to promote the hard work and dedication our volunteers perform for our kids year round.

The Leagues' ongoing contractual relationship with South Florida Football Officials Association provides our coaches, players and parents the highest level of game officiating. This organization ensures a professional environment upon which we, as a league, can assure that our games are safe and entertaining events. We also boast in being the only league that provides member parks with professional sports trainer services for all games. Through this kind donation by the Miami Dolphins and Baptist Hospital, trainers have been on our sidelines since 2006.

LEAGUE HISTORY CONTINUED

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Today the League is comprised of fifteen different member parks with locations from as far north as North Miami Beach, as far south as Homestead, to the east in Miami Shores and as far west as West Miramar, Florida. There are over 3,500 football players and approximately 1,500 cheerleaders currently enrolled in our League. Children from ages five through fourteen participate in our football season from July through our championships in November.

We host the best Cheerleading Competition at the end of our season. Our Cheerleading Champions go on to represent us in the annual Orange Bowl Cheerleading Competition and the Miami Dolphins Championship Series Cheerleading Competition, as well as, have come away with numerous top awards throughout the years.

As we enter our second decade, the League intends to continue its expansion outside of Miami-Dade County with immediate goals on Broward County parks. We envision the day when our League will be the largest in South Florida and eventually host State Championships in both football and cheerleading.

We are a strong and proud organization that looks forward to serving our youth for years to come.

CHAPTER I – ORGANIZATION

I-1.0 IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Name – This organization shall be known as the “**Miami-Dade Xtreme Youth Football League,**” (MDXYFL) or the “**Xtreme Youth Football League,**” conducts official business as “**Miami-Dade Extreme Youth Football League, Inc.**” and shall be referred to in this document by the above names or as the “**League**” or “**MDXYFL.**”

I-1.2 Logo – The MDXYFL Logo is the property of the League. The Executive Board encourages the use of the logo to promote the goals and ideals of the League. The Executive Board must grant prior written permission when the MDXYFL or the Orange Bowl Youth Football Alliance (OBYFA) logo are to be used in conjunction with other sports, events or activities not sanctioned by the MDXYFL. No member, park, entity, individual, or person may use the name of the League, its logo or any duplicate, copy, reproduction of any part of the name or logo for any reason without first securing written approval from the League Board.

I-2.0 PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

I-2.1 Purpose – To provide a Football League that is to benefit children by establishing rules and regulations governing games, contests, competitions, and exhibitions classifying those who participate therein; determining and defining awards and prizes for winning contest, defining and awarding championships, determining and defining breaches and infractions of its rules and regulations, and imposing penalties as set forth in the bylaws and accordance with the law.

I-2.2 Mission Statement – To provide youths an opportunity to play football and cheerleading in a supervised, organized and safe environment, and to promote the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship and physical fitness. To aid and assist in combating juvenile delinquency by providing and promoting the physical and emotional well-being of young athletes and encourage academic success.

CHAPTER II – ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

II-1.0 MEMBERSHIP

II-1.1 Members – Membership in the League shall consist of Not-for-Profit Corporations, Municipal Recreation Programs that have been duly elected to membership in the manner prescribed by these Bylaws. No single or group of individuals may constitute a valid entity. Members shall be referred to in this document as “**Member**,” “**Program**,” or “**Park**.”

II-1.2 Benefits – A member shall be entitled to all said rights duties and privileges. A member shall have voting privileges at all league meetings. Membership affords affiliation with the OBYFA with all privileges thereunto.

II-1.3 Board of Directors – A Park President or Park Commissioner compose the Board of Directors as the principal governing body of the League. A Board of Director shall attend all meetings and have **one** voice on all matters before them.

II-1.4 Board Representative – Only **one** Board Representative is allowed per membered park. A Board Representative is allowed to speak at League meetings on behalf of their Board of Director for their associations. A Board Representatives may be changed or replaced as needed upon notice; hearing and vote from the Board, excluding the vote of the representative to be replaced. Written notice must be given to the League 30 days prior to the effective date of the change for approval, if a representative desires to retire from the Board.

II-1.5 Park President and/or Commissioner – Park President and/or Commissioner are directly responsible for staff and park conduct of their respective program. Failure to control conduct may result in the disciplinary action as determined by the Executive Board. A Park President or Commissioner shall serve as a Board of Director for their respective park.

II-1.6 League Admission – Each year in January the Executive Board will discuss whether the league will expand the number of members or parks for the upcoming season, and if desired set a limit on the number of Parks that may be permitted into the League. A limit does not obligate the League to accept Parks.

New members shall be admitted to the League in the following manner:

- A. Proposals for new membership shall be submitted to the President in writing prior to the **May** board meeting of each calendar year and accompanied by a check for the amounts of the annual membership fees and the \$500 for the reserve account along with any recent financial statements of the park member
- B. The President shall refer all such proposals to the Executive Board for investigation. The Executive Board shall screen all applicants and present their recommendation to the Board of Directors.
- C. The Executive Board shall inspect the playing fields and required sanitary facilities for access, safety and security.
- D. The Applicant will be afforded the opportunity to make a presentation within 30 days to the Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting.
- E. Thereafter, all members will have an opportunity to express objections and discuss the merits of the Applicant. Approval for membership shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of

all Members in good standing. Checks accompanying the League application shall be returned in the event the applicant is denied admission to the League.

- F. New Members to the MDXYFL will be on probation for one (1) season, WITHOUT voting privileges. The conditions of membership include strict adherence to these bylaws. Permanent status shall be voted upon following the second season of probation, and must pass by a two-thirds vote of all Members in good standing. A straight vote for either Permanent Member status or expulsion will occur at the first League meeting in January.
- G. No duplication of team colors shall be allowed, unless approved by the Board of Directors.
- H. New Members to the MDXYFL must field at least five (5) teams and should have Cheerleaders.
- I. The League in its sole discretion without limitation may deny or accept new applicant or member to the League. No statement, opinion, suggestion, prediction from any current or past Board Member, member park, official shall in any way be relied upon any applicant or considered by any applicant relating to the possibility or probability of the applicant's chances, or likelihood to gain admission or rejection into the League

II-1.7 Transfer of Member Entity – Currently recognized members are as per Table 1.0 – Member Entity and Seniority, in the Appendix. Membership is not transferrable.

II-1.8 Annual Fees – Each Member shall pay an annual membership fee, as established in the Annual Budget. Fees are due at the February meeting. A \$100.00 late fee will be charged per month for late dues, and Members who fail to pay their dues on time are not considered to be in good standing until dues are paid in full.

II-1.9 Reserve Account – It is mandatory for all Members to have a minimum deposit in the Reserve Account in the amount of \$500 for the purpose of paying fines and officials not paid on the field. Members waive their right to vote until the full balance is restored.

II-1.10 Insurance – Each Member must be covered by medical and liability insurance. Proof of said mandatory insurance must be turned by the League's meeting in **June** in order to hold practices. Each park must have as additional insurers the MDXYFL, the OBYFA and any other location or entity with amount of coverage to be determined by the League. Failure to comply will prohibit the member from participating in practices accompanied with a fine of \$50 per week.

II-1.11 Membership Renewal – Every park must submit a letter of intent to remain in the MDXYFL by the **February** meeting along with the name of the Board Representative and alternate to the Board of Directors for approval by the Executive Board; no voice will be allowed on the floor until then. Failure to submit the letter of intent will result in a \$100 fine, payable by the March meeting. Failure to submit the letter of intent by the March meeting will be interpreted as resignation, resulting in the loss of reserve funds, and re-admission must follow the same rules as those applicable to a new applicant seeking initial admission.

II-1.12 Membership Probation – Members shall be placed on probation as the first step of disciplinary action for conduct unbecoming or for any act prejudicial to the best interest of the League.

II-1.13 Membership Suspension – Members shall be placed on suspension as an additional step of disciplinary action. Members in suspension shall have no voice in League matters, forfeit all rights, and all scheduled games until suspension is lifted by the Executive Board. While on

suspension, Members must continue to pay dues. Failure to do so will result in termination from the League.

II-1.14 Membership Termination – Any member charged with conduct unbecoming or with any act prejudicial to the best interests of the League, and whose charges are sustained after having the opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors, may be recommended for termination from membership by at least two-thirds of the Board of Directors. Terminated Members shall forfeit all rights and benefits associated with the League including the use of the Logo. Reference chapter IV-6.0. Member must be notified by certified letter.

II-1.15 Membership Resignation – Members may resign from the League prior to March, provided that all debts to the League are current. Reserve accounts will not be refunded unless resignation is submitted in writing prior to March. The resigning member will be prohibited from reapplying to the League for a minimum period of **five** years. If the re-applying park/member is under new administration, an exemption may be granted by the Executive Board.

II-1.16 Membership Reinstatement – A terminated member will be prohibited from reapplying to the League for a minimum period of five years. If the re-applying park/member is under new administration, an exemption may be granted by the Executive Board.

II-1.17 Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement – By virtue of its membership in the MDXYFL, every member agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the MDXYFL's Officers and Board Members against any claims, disputes, causes of action, judgments, decrees, actions, decisions taken by the League. Said indemnification and hold harmless agreement shall include, but not limited to, any reasonable attorney's fees and costs, including appellate attorney fees and costs, witness fees, stenographic expenses, expert witness fees and transportation expenses, together with any monetary judgment expense or awards that the court might enter against the League; as well as any cost or expense associated with the running of any game exhibition, or contest including any stadium rental, referees fees, food, or any cost or expense associated therein. In consideration for being allowed into the League, each Member shall hold harmless and defend at the cost of Member, the League, its Board, Officers and member parks against all claims, demands, suits, charges whether from civil suit or arbitration, regardless of the nature of any such claim, demand, suit, charges, and/or the basis thereof. Each Member or park that receives notice or service of any legal action or arbitration ("Claims") demand shall immediately forward same to Member's insurance carrier with copy to the president of the League. In the event the League is compelled to institute legal action to enforce this indemnity provision, the League shall be entitled to recover its trial and appellate legal fees and expenses from the non-complying Member if League prevails.

II-2.0 ELECTED OFFICERS

II-2.1 Executive Board – The Executive Board will be the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Executive Assistant, and Cheerleading Director. The Executive Board shall act as the Corporate Officers of the League. The Executive Board shall act as the official League representative on all business matters and shall execute the Bylaws in a professional and businesslike manner. The Executive Board decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

II-2.2 Duties – The Executive Board shall be present at all League Meetings and report all business to the Board of Directors. The Executive Board shall prepare the annual League budget by the **March** meeting.

II-2.3 Composition – The Executive Board is comprised of up to nine officers as follows:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- North Vice President
- South Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parliamentarian
- Cheerleading Director

II-2.4 Eligibility – To be eligible for nomination to a seat, the candidate must have attended 75% of the scheduled meetings or by decision of the executive board, and must have been a Park Commissioner within the past two consecutive years prior to being nominated.

II-2.5 Elections – The Executive Board shall be elected in the following manner:

- A. The Elections Committee is to solicit applications for the Executive Board seats from the Board of Directors. The Elections Committee shall compile a slate of all applicants and present the preliminary ballot in the 2nd **November** meeting every other year. At this meeting, the floor will be open for additional nominations.
- B. Election will be held at the **December** meeting of the corresponding year by a ballot prepared by the Secretary. The candidate with the most votes for each seat shall be declared the winner.
- C. In the event of a temporary vacancy, the League President, at his discretion, shall appoint a temporary replacement.
- D. A special election shall be held at the League meeting following the announcement of a vacancy in order to fill said post.

II-2.6 Terms of Office – Elected officers shall serve for a period of two years or until their successors are duly elected and have taken office on **January 1st** of the election year.

II-2.7 No Confidence – At any point during an Elected Officer's term, the MDXYFL Board may issue a "Vote of No Confidence" to remove the Officer from his/hers responsibility with a 75% of eligible voting members approval. All officers are subject to removal by the Board, in its sole discretion, after "Vote of no Confidence". Every Board Officer serves at the discretion of Board.

II-2.8 Duties of President – The President's duties are as follows:

- A. The President's first responsibility is to the MDXYFL. Therefore, he/she must resign from any affiliation with their respective association during their term as President.
- B. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the League, manage all League business and implement policies established by the Executive Board and Board of Directors.
- C. The President will act as the official League representative at all times, and has the final say on all league matters as they pertain to the League.
- D. The President shall preside over all League meetings, call special meetings and hearings, appoint all committees, and perform duties commensurate to the office.

- E. The President shall represent the League in all relations with the OBYFA, Miami Dolphins, and Sponsors.
- F. The President must be an authorized co-signer of League checks for disbursements and shall not co-sign a check without the full knowledge of what the disbursement is for, and without the instrument being otherwise completed as to the amount and payee.
- G. The President will enforce all rules, regulations, and policies of the League and the National Federation of High School Football (NFHS) Rules, but shall not have power to release, excuse, modify, permit, exempt, or change any part of its Bylaws, Rules, Competition Rules under Chapter III and/or Rules under Chapter IV in favor or against any Member, park, team, coach, or player, and any such action or decision is null and void, without legal effect or force and shall be relied upon anyone.
- H. The President along with the Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget and present it to the Board of Directors for approval at the **March** meeting.
- I. The President will vote only to break a tie on any issue voted on by the league.
- J. The President's primary duty is to work to improve the MDXYFL.
- K. The President shall not have the authority or power to release, modify, exempt, excuse compliance with all Rules, regulations, and Bylaws of the League or any other matters subject to Board approval, including without limitation, no power or authority to exempt any Member, player, team or park from any rules, disciplinary action, regulation, Bylaws.

II-2.9 Duties of the Executive Vice President – The duties of the Executive Vice President are to act as the Chair in the event of the President's absence and to share the duties with the other Vice Presidents, and no other power or authority is vested in the Executive Vice President

II-2.10 Duties of the Vice Presidents – The duties of the Vice Presidents are as follows:

- A. The Vice President shall perform such duties ordinarily pertaining to the office as well as duties assigned thereto.
- B. The Vice Presidents may be authorized to be co-signers of League checks for disbursements and shall not co-sign a check without the full knowledge of what the disbursements are for and without the instrument otherwise being completed as to the amount and payee.
- C. Chair the Bylaw and Scheduling Committees.
- D. Establish time and date of book certifications for coaches and player rosters and said officer shall have no other power or authority.

II-2.11 Duties of the Secretary – The duties of the Secretary are as follows:

- A. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all League and Committee meetings.
- B. The Secretary shall be responsible of all meeting notices and communications, maintain all correspondence and records of the League.
- C. The Secretary shall keep record of all Members' information; verify eligibility to vote, and record attendance of all meetings.
- D. The Secretary may be authorized to be a co-signer of League checks for disbursements and shall not co-sign a check without the full knowledge of what the disbursement is for and without the check being completed as to the amount and payee.

- E. The Secretary shall communicate a meeting notice to all Members approximately one week prior to the next scheduled meeting and secretary shall have no other power or authority.
- F. Send via mail and/or email the letter of intent template in January.

II-2.12 Duties of the Treasurer: The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

- A. The Treasurer shall receive and record all monies belonging to the League and follow accounting duties as described in Section II-4.0, Fiscal Administration.
- B. The Treasurer shall provide a written financial report each month to the Board of Directors. The report will include all monies, balances, deposits, expenditures, Member's Reserves and fines.
- C. The Treasurer must be authorized to be a co-signer of League checks for disbursements and shall not co-sign a check without the full knowledge of what the disbursement is for and without the instrument otherwise completed as to the amount and payee.
- D. The Treasurer shall also maintain a petty cash fund in the amount of \$200 for incidental League expenditures.
- E. The Treasurer, along with the President, shall formulate the annual budget for approval by the Executive Board.
- F. The Treasurer shall present a final written financial report by the last Executive Board meeting in December of the current year.
- G. The Treasurer along with the League accountant shall make all reports to the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Florida, within the deadline scheduled by these agencies.
- H. The treasurer will not make any cash withdrawals without prior approval from the president, but Treasurer shall have no other power or authority.

II-2.13 Parliamentarian or Sergeant at Arms – The President may appoint positions to keep order of the meeting proceedings as needed. The Parliamentarian shall act as the league's rule enforcer and/or rule interpreter.

II-2.14 Cheerleading Director – The duties of the Cheerleading Director are as follows:

- A. The Director's first responsibility is to the MDXYFL.
- B. The Director shall be the Presiding Officer for cheerleading and shall manage all business and implement policies established by their Cheer Board of Directors.
- C. The Director shall reside over all cheerleading meetings, call special meetings, appoint all committees, and perform all duties commensurate to the office.
- D. The Director shall represent the League in all cheerleading business with the OBYFA.
- E. The Director will enforce all rules, regulations, and policies of the MDXYFL.
- F. The Director will communicate and report all matters regarding Cheer directly to the League President.
- G. The Director shall prepare a projected budget for the upcoming year and present it to the League Executive Board, prior to the Cheer Committee for approval at the March meeting.

II-3.0 COMMITTEES

II-3.1 Committee Appointments – In addition to the Executive Board members, additional members may be appointed by the President to sit on various committees.

II-3.2 Elections Committee – The President shall appoint a Park Representative from a park in good standing to form the Elections Committee along with the two Area Directors at the **October** meeting. The Elections Committee shall perform its duties as described in Section II-2.4, Elections.

II-3.3 Bylaws Committee – The Bylaws Committee shall be chaired by an appointed Vice President. The committee shall entertain all proposed amendments, verify conformity with the existing Bylaws, and prepare a revised draft for review by the Board of Directors.

II-3.4 Scheduling Committee – The Scheduling Committee shall be chaired by an appointed Vice President and shall establish the Master and Final Schedule. The Committee shall be responsible to verify home team game times and report scheduled games to the Officials Association for assignments. Scores shall be reported to the Scheduling Committee as needed for championship seeding. This Committee will be responsible for all items described in Chapter III-12.0, Game Scheduling.

II-3.5 Cheerleading Committee – The Cheerleading Committee is formed at the direction of the MDXYFL Executive Board to preside over the general operation of the MDXYFL Cheerleading Program and Cheerleading Competition. The Cheerleading Director shall serve as the chair of the Cheerleading Committee and shall duly report all cheer business to the MDXYFL Executive Board.

II-4.0 FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

II-4.1 Bank Accounts – The Treasurer shall administer the League bank account and report to the Board the current monthly balance and shall make transaction to the same according to all federal and State regulations.

II-4.2 Authorized Signatures – All checks shall require two signatures. The President or the Treasurer must be one of the signatories to all checks.

II-4.3 Revenue – This League shall operate as an organization for social, welfare, civic improvement, and other similar non-profit purposes. Any income received shall be for the purposes and objectives of the League only and no income shall benefit any individual.

II-4.4 Annual Budget – An annual budget shall be prepared by the President and Treasurer to be presented to the Executive Board and then presented to the Members for ratification by the **March** meeting. Any non-budgeted expenditure must be submitted in writing for the Executive Board's approval, prior to the commitment of funds.

II-4.5 Annual Membership Fees – Fees shall be applied to the General Operating Funds of the League as disclosed in the Annual Budget.

II-4.6 Other Fees – The Executive Board may impose fees deemed necessary.

II-4.7 Alternative Sources of Revenues – The League may plan or recommend the raising of revenue from sources other than those stated in this Article, provided such methods or sources have been approved by the Executive Board.

II-4.8 Prohibitive Sources of Revenue – No park, coach, or adult shall allow minors to collect funds from motorists at street corners or in traffic. Fine will be assessed as per Table 2.0.

II-4.9 Fines – Administrative or Disciplinary fines may be imposed by the Executive Board as part of the enforcement of these Bylaws. Failure to pay fines or restore Reserve Accounts will result in loss of Membership privileges.

II-5.0 BYLAWS

II-5.1 Bylaws – These Bylaws shall be the highest level of governance for the League and any interpretation shall be determined by the Executive Board in the exercise of its sole discretion.

II-5.2 Administrative Rules – Section of Bylaws that regulates all issues of operation, administration and governance.

II-5.3 Competition Rules – Section of Bylaws that regulates competition and championship administration. The Competition Rules can only be modified, relaxed, changed by the Board and not by any one officer or person.

II-5.4 Amendments – An amendment to these Bylaws must be submitted to the Bylaw Committee for review. Draft amendments shall be presented by the **March** League meeting for ratification in the **April** League meeting. No Administrative Bylaw amendment shall be voted upon at the same meeting in which it is introduced, but shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting. The written amendment shall be part of the next meeting's agenda. Approval by two-thirds of all the Members in good standing is necessary to carry an amendment.

II-5.5 Suspension of Rules – The Executive Board has the authority to suspend the Competition rules only in the event of a natural disaster or a declaration of emergency.

II-6.0 BOARD MEETINGS

II-6.1 Meeting Schedule – The League will meet on the first Tuesday of each month from December through June, and bi-monthly from July through November. The President may call special meetings and will provide the time, place and purpose. **Each park is allowed to miss ONE board meeting per calendar year.** The deadline for guests to appear on the meeting agenda is 6:00 p.m., the Friday before the League meeting. Fine will be assessed as per Table 2.0 for non-attendance.

II-6.2 Communication Devices – All cell phones/electronic devices must be placed on silent during meetings and all calls should be taken outside. A fine of \$25 will be assessed to anyone on communication device during a meeting, payable at meeting's end. No one may record the meeting by use of cell phone or any other device unless expressly allowed by Board.

II-6.3 Rules of Order – All proceedings shall be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order." The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian.

II-6.4 Order of Business – The regular order of business for all meetings shall be as follows:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Guests

- D. OBYFA Report
- E. Official's Report
- F. Cheer Report
- G. Previous Minutes
- H. Treasurer's Reports
- I. Committee Reports
- J. Announcements
- K. Unfinished Business
- L. New Business
- M. Adjournment

II-6.5 Quorum – The minimum number of members required for a vote on the floor shall be two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors. Meetings may proceed without quorum, but no votes may take place.

II-6.6 Voting – All items on the floor other than amendments will require a simple majority (50 percent of the present members, plus one) to carry.

II-6.7 Hearings – The Executive Board shall set a time and place for administrative or disciplinary hearings. The park commissioner shall be contacted both telephonically and electronically w/read receipt, if their presence is required at a hearing and a copy of the officials report shall be advanced to said parties. A minimum of **three** Executive Board members must be present for Quorum. Outcome of Hearings shall be communicated to Board of Directors in a timely manner.

CHAPTER III – COMPETITION RULES

III-1.0 CLASSIFICATION

III-1.1 Divisions – The League will be composed of two divisions as follows:

- A. North and South.
- B. Parks will then be distributed into equally balanced divisions by geographical areas.

III-1.2 Member Colors – Team colors are part of the approval at the time of admission to the League. Seniority is prevalent during all scheduled games and it is the responsibility of the newer or revised team alone to avoid conflicts in jersey color. Refer to Table 1.0, Team Entity and Seniority. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action as per Table 2.0, Penalties and Fines.

III-1.3 Age Classifications (on/or after August 1st) with the exception of the Pee wee Division – In season classification are as follows:

CLASS	AGE	BIRTH YEARS	MAX. SKILL	MAX. LINEMAN	LENGTH OF QUARTERS
PW	5 & 6 (Calendar)	2013 & 2012	75 lbs.		8 Min.
7U	7 & 8	2011 & 2010	80 Lbs.	Unl.	8 Min.
8U	8 & 9	2010 & 2009	90 Lbs.	Unl.	10 Min.
9U	9 & 10	2009 & 2008	100 Lbs.	Unl.	10 Min
10U	10 & 11	2008 & 2007	110 Lbs.	Unl.	10 Min
11U	11 & 12	2007 & 2006	120 Lbs.	Unl.	10 Min
12U	12 & 13	2006 & 2005	135 Lbs.	Unl.	10 Min
13U	13 & 14	2005 & 2004	150 Lbs.	Unl.	10 Min

III-1.4 Football Sizes – Each team shall provide its own leather Game Ball in an acceptable condition to the game officials and shall be inflated to the recommended pressure Classes will only use football sizes as follows:

CLASS	BALL SIZE
PW, 7U, 8U & 9U	Wilson (Including GST) K2, Nike 2000K, Riddell RDK, Spalding 5K
10U & 11U	Wilson (Including GST) TDJ, Nike 2000J, Riddell RDJ, Spalding 5J
12U & 13U	Wilson (Including GST) TDY, Nike 2000Y, Riddell RDY, Spalding 5Y

Substituting game balls for a different size or composition will result in disciplinary actions as referred to in Table 2.0.

III-1.5 Player Equipment and Apparel – All teams must be properly equipped during all practice contact sessions, scrimmages, and games with equipment that meets safety standards according to National Federation of High School Football (NFHS) Rules. Helmets should be reconditioned in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation. All player uniforms shall be subject to League approval. All uniforms must match and represent the color scheme of the member park. Players wearing a hard cast, splints, etc., will not be allowed to participate in any contact session or scheduled games. White and clear mouthpieces are prohibited. Mouthpieces must be attached to the facemask of the helmet during game play.

III-1.6 Helmet Restrictions – Player helmets shall be limited to team decals on sides, strips on top, small numbers on back, a USA flag and League issued decals in approved location. Decals

shall be subject to League approval and award decals shall not be permitted. Helmets shall be uniform for all players in the same team. **No other adhesives or decal, permanent or temporary, may be affixed to the helmet, facemask, chinstrap or visors.** Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action as per Table 2.0, Penalties and Fines. Face guard and clear shields only are allowed on helmets and do not need to be uniform, unless head official determines face guard or shield presents an imminent risk of harm or injury to player or other participants in the game.

III-2.0 TEAM CERTIFICATION

III-2.1 Team Rosters & Mandatory Play Rule Logs – All Rosters and Mandatory Play Rule (MPR) Logs must be computer generated and once certified, may not be altered. Blank rows or columns will not be accepted. Any tampered document will be considered illegal.

III-2.2 Book Certification – Only Executive Board members will be allowed to certify teams. Two copies of the rosters with current player contact information and MPR log (one for the League and one for the Park), will be brought to Book Certification. Any team failing to present their books at their scheduled certification time will be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0. Certification cards are the property of the League and must be surrendered upon request.

III-2.3 Book Copies – After the third week of the season a copy of all rosters and all Player Identification Cards must be submitted to the OBYFA.

III-2.4 Roster Size – All teams, except the PWs, must have a minimum of 16 players on their roster to be certified. The PWs must have a minimum of 11 players on their roster to be certified.

III-2.5 Roster Moves – Players not making weight can transfer to the appropriate weight division by revising both rosters and MPR Logs and having them re-certified by the Wednesday prior to the third game.

III-2.6 Roster Number Changes – Any permanent number change will require a revised roster and MPR Log and submittal of the required number of copies to the League for approval.

III-2.7 New Players – There will be no certification of additional players after the third week of the season.

III-2.8 Lost Books – Eligibility of teams with lost books will be determined by the Executive Board.

III-2.9 Dropping Teams – A park dropping teams during the season will be fined as per table 2.0. If a team is dropped before week 3 of the season, a fine of \$300 will be assessed. A park that drops a team after week 3 of the season will incur the \$300 fine as well as a \$100 fine per game that is forfeited. Extraordinary circumstance will be handled by the Executive Board on a case by case basis.

III-2.10 Roster Certifications – All roster certifications must take place no later than the Thursday before the game.

III-3.0 PLAYER CERTIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

III-3.1 Player Registration – A player can only be certified and officially play on one tackle football team, including school football programs, during the entire season. Once a player registers with a

team/park, the player must remain with that team/park for the duration of that season, unless that player is released. Failure to comply will classify player as illegal as per III-3.10 and applicable penalties and fines as per table 2.0, III-3.11. A player is ineligible to play in a game and the season if the player has played in a scheduled game or officiated game for a public or private school or other MDXYFL park. The League has determined that playing officiated games for both League Park and another program poses a health risk to player.

III-3.2 Player Identification and Documentation – All football players must have an OBYFA Color Coded Identification Card. Certification cards can be typed or hand written. Cards that are not legible or neatly written will not be accepted at time of registration. All cards must be completed and must include the following:

- A. **Notarized Parents Signature in Blue in ink both front and rear side.**
- B. **Recent 2" X 2" passport-type photo clearly and easily identified as the player and properly attired. (Glued)**
- C. Copy of **Original Birth Certificate (Glued)**
- D. Recent Physical Examination Form with clearance to participate in tackle football and must be dated within the calendar year of the current season.
- E. A signed parental consent and release from liability certificate for sudden cardiac arrest and concussion.
- F. A signed insurance waiver form provided by the league.

III-3.3 Player Age Verification – Original birth certificates and current passports are the **only** proof of age documents allowed. Original documentation must be made available upon request by Executive Board or become an illegal player.

III-3.4 Player Game Verification – If there is any doubt on any player's identity or eligibility during a game, the opposing coach may approach the officials and park commissioner to request a, **one time only**, visual book check.

III-3.5 Illegal Participation – A player that does not appear on a certified roster, crosses the scale, and/or participates in a game will be considered an illegal player as per III-3.10 and applicable penalties and fines as per table 2.0, III-3.11.

III-3.6 Player Eligibility – Only the players certified up to the Monday before week one will be allowed to play in the first game. Only players certified by the 2nd certification will be eligible to play the remainder of the season. Eligibility for players who fail to weigh-in by the team's scheduled second game will be determined by the Executive Board. A player must meet the Age and Weight requirements of Division to be eligible to play in that division. Any player whose League Age is below the requirement for that Division, must only meet the weight requirement to be eligible to participate in that Division. League Age is defined as the player's age on/or after August 1st of the current year. For example: If a player turns 13 on July 31st of the current year, he is considered to be League Age 13. If he turns 13 ON or AFTER August 1st of the current year he is considered to be League Age 12, because he was 12 on August 1st.

III-3.7 Ineligible Players – Players who are admitted to halfway houses, detention facilities and/or correctional facilities during the season. Any player determined by the MDXYFL Executive Board not to be currently attending school: **NOTE: A player that has a signed, authorized MDXYFL roster and/or Orange Bowl card will not be deemed ineligible if it is determined by the Executive Board there was an administrative error by the MDXYFL or one of its Board Members.**

III-3.8 Playoff Eligibility – All players who are on a Certified Team Roster must make weight in at least one of the scheduled games of the team to be eligible for the post season.

III-3.9 Player Transfer – Players who fail to return equipment issued to them are ineligible to participate at any other MDXYFL park until such equipment is returned to the appropriate park **by December 31st of the current season**. A player may only transfer from one Member Park to another with the appropriate Player Release Form signed by the previous commissioner before the first **Monday in August**.

III-3.10 Cutting of Player – The League does not condone the cutting of players who have in good faith signed-up to play; therefore, no participant shall be denied a place to play. Players may only be released to play at another park as per Article III-3.9. Fine will be assessed as per Table 2.0. However, a Member park or team may recommend a player to another park when a commissioner of park determines that the particular team has sufficient number of players.

III-3.11 Illegal Player – Illegal Players will be **BANNED** from the League. The illegal player's team will forfeit all games the illegal player participated in MDXYFL. Fine will be assessed as per Table 2.0

III-3.12 Reporting of Illegal Players – If a park official or Coach is determined to have knowledge of an Illegal Player, they must report it immediately to the Executive Board and follow the protocol. Failure to do so will result in a one (1) year suspension.

III-3.13 Reporting of Injuries- Each member park must report all injuries at practice, in a scrimmage or in a game to the Miami Xtreme with **48** hours of said incident. Each member park must complete the appropriate injury incident report and send it via email to the Miami Xtreme Executive Board with 48 hours of an injury incident.

III-4.0 COACH AND VOLUNTEER CERTIFICATIONS

III-4.1 League Certification – It is **MANDATORY** that all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team Parent volunteers attend the MDXYFL Coaches and Volunteer Clinic to be eligible to coach and be on the sidelines. Attendance is an acknowledgement that all coaches have received and will comply with the Bylaws. The League recommends that at least one coach in each staff be Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation certified. All coaches must complete the USA Football Level 1 Certification and recertification exam.

III-4.2 Code of Conduct – All coaches and volunteers shall sign the League Code of Conduct and abide by all its stipulations at all times.

III-4.3 Background Check – All coaches, Executive Board Members, Board of Directors and volunteers **MUST** pass a national background check by an authorized vendor of the league and must be cleared in order to interact with minors and/or participate in any MDXYFL event or contest. Any offenses found in the background check must be cleared by the vendor, through the national standards set forth by the league, Miami-Dade County, and the State of Florida. All commissioners, Coaches, and parent volunteers must notify the Executive Board immediately if arrested during the season. Failure to do so will result in a one (1) year suspension. Effective 2015, all red-lighted individual background checks will **NOT** be eligible to participate in the MDXYFL.

III-4.4 Coaches and Staff Identification – League issued identification cards shall be worn by all certified coaches during all practices, games and any League activities with children. League issued identification cards must be surrendered upon request by any Executive Board member. Failure to do so will result in a fine as per Table 2.0 and repeated offenses will result in suspension.

III-4.5 Coaches Release – Any coach who leaves one park to coach at another must have left the previous park in good standing, to the extent of having returned all equipment to the park and supplied documentation along with a Coach's Release Form that must be signed by the Commissioner of the previous park. The transferred coach may not bring players who previously played for him/her in the previous League Park unless the player(s) desires to go to a new park and obtain the proper release to the extent a release is required under the Competition Rules. However, if the Board determined that player(s) has/have been recruited to transfer to new parks, the transfer will be disallowed and the player declared ineligible. The transferred coach **MUST** coach or be a parent volunteer, including MPR personnel, two weight classes up or down from the previous weight class he coached or volunteered. If a team at the new park is not available two weight classes up or down, the transferring coach or volunteer must coach or volunteer the next weight class up or down. Failure to disclose said move shall be construed as illegal recruiting and subject the coach to penalties and fines as per table 2.0. The Commissioner will also be fined \$250.

III-5.0 PRACTICE

III-5.1 Practice Fields – Practice fields shall be free and clear of any hazardous materials, shall be adequately illuminated and are subject to League inspection at any time during the season. Only approved fields or areas may be used for practice during the season. Failure to comply with regulations in this section will result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-5.2 First Practice Date – The week of the first Monday in **July** will be reserved for the start of full contact provided player has completed the 10 hours of conditioning before full contact. Three (3) weeks before the first Monday in July, teams will have the opportunity to condition. Said conditioning may include use of footballs and helmets **ONLY**. No contact practice may start before the first Monday in July.

III-5.3 Pre-requisite to Contact – Ten hours of non-contact conditioning is required before any player may participate in contact practices. If a park is found in violation of this rule, it will be fined \$100 for the first incident and \$200 for every offense thereafter.

III-5.4 Practice Hours – Practice shall be limited to ten hours a week during July thru the first day of school and eight hours during the school year. No practice shall last more than 2 hours.

III-5.5 Hydration Requirements – Fluids shall be readily available at all practice sites with a maximum of 30 minutes between fluid breaks and fluids shall be available at player's request at all times.

III-5.6 Contact Practices – Full contact is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per practice and a maximum of 4 days in the pre-season and 3 days during the season. Jamborees, pre-season games and park to park scrimmages are exempt.

III-6.0 GAME FIELD

III-6.1 Field Location – No organization shall change their home game field location without approval from the Executive Board. All evening game sites shall be subject to approval by the

Executive Board. Failure to comply with regulations in this section will result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-6.2 Field Conditions – All game fields are subject to inspection and approval by the Executive Board, as deemed necessary.

III-6.3 Field Dimensions – Field dimensions shall comply with the NFHS Rules. The PW Class shall be limited to 80 yards in length and 40 yards in width with 10 yards deep end zones.

III-6.4 Field Markings & Pylons – All fields shall be roped or fenced on all sides including end zones. Ropes lying on the ground do not comply and coaching staffs must keep fans behind the ropes/fence. **Game fields must be properly marked with numbers on both sides of the field and pylons for the end zones. Failure to comply will result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.**

III-6.5 Chain & Down Markers – Parks must inspect their field equipment to ensure that it meets the minimum standards set forth by NFHS Rules.

III-6.6 Public Facilities – Parks must have access to sanitary facilities.

III-7.0 WEIGH-IN FACILITY

III-7.1 Weigh-In Area – Park weigh-in areas shall be clearly defined, covered, and screened off for visual privacy. Failure to provide a proper Weigh-In Area will result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-7.2 Scale Certification – Each Park is responsible for providing their digital scale at all times in good working order. Proof of certification set to expire after the end of the season must be presented by the first Board meeting in **July** for approval of the scale. Updates of replacement of the approved scale shall require new proof of certification submitted to the League Secretary at least 48 hours prior to use. Failure to comply with this section will result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-8.0 PREGAME PROCEDURES

III-8.1 Arrival – Teams shall arrive and be ready to weigh-in at least **90** minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff at game sites. Failure to arrive and be ready to weigh-in on time will result in Penalties and Fines for each team as per Table 2.0. An exception to this rule will apply for **weeknight games and early morning games before 9 am.**

III-8.2 Weigh-In – Weigh-in must occur at all League sanctioned games. Home team shall start weigh-in **90** minutes before scheduled kickoff and the visiting team shall weigh-in immediately after. Commissioners are authorized to weigh-in their own teams when the opposing team is not ready to weigh-in **60** minutes before scheduled kickoff. **Only one team is permitted near the weigh-in room.** The awaiting team shall wait away from the weigh-in room until called upon. Failure by teams to weigh-in will result in Penalties and Fines for each team as per Table 2.0.

III-8.3 Weigh Master and Witness – Park Commissioners or Coaches will conduct the weigh-ins and are responsible for the scale being set correctly prior to each game. The Weigh Master shall be the representative signing the books and can use any or all information from the certification card to verify the identity of the player. The Witness shall be the representative who releases the

player from the scale once the scale has determined the player's weight. **No more than these two representatives, per team, will be allowed in the weigh-in area.**

III-8.4 Weigh-In Procedure – Players shall bring their own game jersey and helmet to Weigh-In. Once the Weigh-In begins Players are not allowed to leave and re-enter the area. No player shall strip to weigh-in and must have at least **one** waistband during Weigh-In. Players will be allowed one chance to make weight during their team's Weigh-In as follows:

- A. Players will state name and number when asked by the Weigh Master.
- B. Player shall step on the scale when instructed to do so by Weigh Master.
- C. Players shall remain still on the scale until the Witness has determined the outcome and instructs player to step down. Player will then be considered weighed-in. Linemen will remain in the Weigh-In room in order to affix 3"x3" Neon identification labels to helmets, both on the front and back of the helmets.

III-8.5 Weight Requirements – All players must weigh-in without exceeding the team's designated Skilled Player weight prior to each game in order to be eligible to participate unrestricted or the Weight-restricted Lineman weight in order to participate with lineman rule restrictions.

III-8.6 Weigh-In Outcome – Player's Weigh-In results shall be recorded on the Certification Card before the player exits the Weigh-In area regardless of the outcome. The Weigh-In is officially concluded when the last player card has been signed by the Weigh Master of the second team weighing in. A tardy player must report to the weigh in facility prior to the last player of the second team being weighed in, in order to be part of the official weigh. After the weigh in has concluded, the rule for late arrivals applies. The outcome will also be recorded on the MPR Log and linemen will be identified with a circle around the player number.

- A. Additional players may not weigh in a **make-up game**, if the original weigh in took place on the day of the scheduled game.

III-8.7 Late Arrivals – A maximum of two players shall be allowed to weigh-in after the official Weigh-In has concluded as per III-8.6 and up to but not after the opening kickoff concludes, but said player will not be eligible to play the first half of the game. If the Player weighs in before opening kickoff concludes, which shall mean before the receiving team lines up for the first play of the game. Players who arrive after the opening kickoff shall be deemed ineligible to play.

III-8.8 Game Number Changes – Only **four** number changes are permitted per game and should be noted on the MPR Logs submitted to the opposing Coach and the Officials. If a player permanently changes number, the roster needs to be recertified as per III-2.6, Roster Number Changes.

III-8.9 Roster & MPR Submittals – A certified copy of the latest Official Team Roster must be **present** in the Book. **A total of two (2) MPR Logs are required for each game.** A copy of the MPR Log shall be submitted to the Referee prior to kickoff and two MPR logs shall be submitted to the opposing coach at weigh-in. Failure to supply MPR Logs will result in Penalties and Fines for each team as per Table 2.0. At the end of the game, each team will return to the opponent the completed, signed and approved MPR log.

III-8.10 Pregame Warm-Up – The 15 minutes prior to kick-off shall be reserved for player stretching and game warm-up.

III-8.11 Teams on Field – Teams must be weighed-in, warmed-up, and ready to take the field at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff. Failure to do so will result in Penalties and Fines for each team as per Table 2.0.

III-8.12 Pregame Handshake – The MDXYFL handshake ceremony will be conducted **before** the start of each game.

III-8.13 Start of Game – Officials are authorized to start the game only if both teams are weighed-in, warmed-up, and ready to play. Teams not ready at game time will forfeit game.

III-9.0 GAME

III-9.1 Rules of the Game – Games shall be played under the National Federation of High School Football (NFHS) Rulebook except those modified by these Bylaws. It is the responsibility of each Park Commissioner to have rulebooks available to all coaches.

III-9.2 Lineman Restrictions – Where Age Classifications have a Weight Restricted Lineman Bracket, the following shall apply:

- A. A Weight-Restricted Lineman is identified as a player that is over the max skill weight as defined in Chapter III-1.3.
- B. All Weight-Restricted Linemen shall be identified by a visible league label on the front and back of the helmet. If league communicates that labels are not available, the players may be identified by a letter “H” in a contrasting color tape not less than three (3) inches by three (3) inches square.
- C. Failure to affix or maintain Weight-Restricted Lineman label on helmet will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to the Head Coach, see IV-2.6, Cheating. Players whose label fall off or become defective during play shall be removed until correction is made.
- D. A maximum of five (5) Weight-Restricted Lineman will be permitted on each side of the line of scrimmage.
- E. On Kickoffs, a maximum of four (4) Weight-Restricted Lineman are allowed, the kicker is included in the maximum four (4) restrictions.
- F. Having more than the allotted weight-restricted lineman in D or E on either side of the ball will be enforced as a dead ball foul, encroachment.
- G. All Weight-Restricted Lineman Players must be on the front line during kickoff returns.
- H. On offense, Weight-Restricted Linemen must be covered by an eligible receiver and be on the interior line (i.e. Guard, Center or Tackle).
- I. On defense, Weight-Restricted linemen must line up on the defensive line NO more than 3 yards outside the offensive tackle. On an unbalanced line the tackle box will be extended. The Weight-Restricted linemen must NOT line up at a skilled position, i.e. cornerback, safety or linebacker.
- J. Failure to line up correctly on either side of the ball in H and I will result in illegal formation for the first offense. Subsequent offenses will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty charged to the player.
- K. No play may be designed for a Weight-Restricted Lineman Player to handle or advance the ball.
- L. A Weight-Restricted Lineman may be the punter but may not advance the ball.

- M. Weight-Restricted Linemen advancing the ball in K and L foul enforced as illegal touching the penalty 5 yards from the previous spot and loss of down. Exception; if a Weight Restricted Lineman gains possession of a fumble or interception, the ball is dead at the spot of recovery.

III-9.3 Authorized Conference – During a charged or officials time out where a conference is authorized, only conference allowed is one or more coaches with one or more players from their respective hash mark to their sideline including bench area. There will be no authorized conference allowed between the hash marks as this area is intended to be a neutral area free of coaches, players and attendants.

III-9.4 Try for point/scrimmage kick exception – No rush for U7 and U8 declared scrimmage kicks (punts and field goals) or declared try by kick. Declared unsuccessful field goal attempts will be returned to the previous spot or 20 yard line if a touchback results.

III-9.5 Kickoff Participation and Alignment – At the kick of any free kick play, no fewer than four players shall be lined up on either side of the ball.

III-9.6 Mandatory Play Rules – The MDXYFL shall assure that it fulfills its philosophy that all children should participate in the game of tackle football by means of enforcing the Mandatory Play Rule (MPR). All eligible players must participate in a minimum of six (6) legal plays during each game; failure to log an MPR shall result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

- A. Exception – all eligible players in the 7U division must participate in a minimum of four (4) plays during each game.

III-9.7 Mandatory Play Rule Enforcement – The MPR shall be enforced as follows:

- A. Each team shall provide an MPR Enforcer and an MPR Spotter to aid the Enforcer of the opposing team. **Failure to provide an MPR enforcer before the kickoff means teams have waived the MPR enforcement of the opposing team and will be fined \$50.**
- B. MPR personnel must not coach, **must be outside of the Team Box** and may not use any communication devices. Violations will be considered Cheating as per Article IV-2.6.

III-9.8 Mandatory Play Rule Compliance – The MPR will be checked as follows:

- A. Head Coaches, enforcers, and spotters will meet during half-time to discuss any player who has not met the MPR and acknowledge reviewing the MPR Logs by signing it.
- B. Officials will meet with both Head Coaches at the end of the 3rd quarter to acknowledge that both teams have complied with their MPR. Any player who has not met the MPR requirement must be inserted into the game at the start the 4th quarter and shall remain in the game until they have met the MPR.
- C. Once the MPR is completed, it must be immediately signed by both Head Coaches and team will keep their **respective MPR Log**.

III-9.9 Mandatory Play Violation – The MPR Log shall be considered the FINAL WORD and may not be overruled by any Coach or Commissioner. Failure to immediately insert players who have not met the MPR at the beginning of the 4th quarter is grounds for protests under Article IV-5.2 and opposing team's MPR Logs must be kept by the offended team in case of a protest.

III-9.10 Mercy Rule – Games with lopsided scores will be declared when a 24 point differential exists and games will be subject to the Mercy Rules.

III-9.11 Mercy Rule Enforcement – In the event of a Mercy Rule game, the following takes effect: Officials Shall:

- A. Continue to play under MDXYFL and NFHS Rules.
- B. Keep a running clock.
- C. Assess all penalties to trailing team as five yard infractions.
- D. No longer enforce numbering restrictions.

Leading team must:

- A. Remove skill players from the game or if removal is not possible, move skill players from skill positions to non-skilled positions.
- B. Run the ball and is prohibited from throwing the ball either beyond or behind the line of scrimmage.
- C. Not kickoff after they score or after halftime if they are the kicking team.
- D. Not blitz, defined as a defensive player moving towards the line of scrimmage at the snap.

Trailing team will:

- A. Continue to play under the MDXYFL and the NFHS Rules.
- B. Kickoff after they score.
- C. Start their offensive drives at the 50 yard line after being scored upon.

Once the Mercy Rule is in effect, the MPR rule is no longer applicable.

III-9.12 Mercy Rule Exception – Once there is less than a 24 point differential, the game will return back to standard rules, with the exception that the clock will remain as a running clock.

III-9.13 Game Suspension – Games stopped by game officials due to lightning, weather, darkness or other condition requiring stoppage for the safety of all involved not under the control of the respective teams may be resumed as soon as practical that day or at a later time as agreed by the team with league approval. Games stopped by Officials due to interruptions by players, coaches, staff, parents or fans, **WILL BE FINAL**, not completed and declared suspended. In this case, the Executive Board will decide the final outcome.

III-9.14 Game Cancellation – Any Park that cancels a game without notice due to the field being deemed “not playable”, may have the game(s) re-scheduled at the visiting Park’s field. In addition, the team that cancels the game(s) is responsible for payment of the Officials for the cancelled game(s), and the re-scheduled game and a fine.

III-9.15 Absent to Game – Teams who fail to appear at any scheduled competition without a satisfactory explanation will be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0 and be responsible for Official’s fee. The visiting team will reimburse the Home team.

III-9.16 Game Ejections – Players ejected from games are to leave the roped area for the rest of the game and are subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0. Coaches ejected from games are to leave the park/facility for the rest of the game and cannot participate in any way during the remainder of the game and are subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0 for violating this Rule.

III-9.17 Abandonment of Game – Any team abandoning a game already in progress shall be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-9.18 Rescheduled Games – Games interrupted, suspended, or canceled can only be rescheduled with League approval. If not rescheduled, the Executive Board has the right to declare a winner.

III-9.19 Non-Scheduled Contests – All practice games, scrimmages, jamboree or games not scheduled by the League must have prior approval from the President. The request must be in writing from the Park Commissioner and include the time, location, and opponent. Failure to do so will result in Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-9.20 Music and Noise – Music shall only be played between games and at the half time of a game. Any music or sound effects played at these times must be played at a level that will not interfere with the football game. Music / noise must not contain obscene/vulgar language at any MDXYFL event. Violations of this section shall be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-9.21 Bull Horns/Air Horns – No Park, its coaches, players, parents, relatives or fans, will be allowed or will allow the use of a P.A., air horn or bull horn from within the **stands**, sidelines, or surrounding areas of the field of play. Violations of this section will result in the party being removed from the area and park be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

III-9.22 Game Score Reporting – Commissioners are responsible for reporting the game scores no later 10pm Saturday. Game officials are responsible for reporting all game scores by Sunday at Noon. In Mercy Rule games, the score will be reported as a maximum of 24 points more than the trailing teams' score.

III-9.23 Water Break – At the first clock stoppage nearest the midpoint of each quarter, there will be a water break.

III-9.24 Targeting – If a player is penalized for targeting (as per NFHS rules), the player will be ejected and suspended for the following game. The subsequent suspension may be subject to Board review for consideration and review of the official's decision to eject, which the Board may overturn in its sole discretion.

III-10.0 SIDELINES

III-10.1 Identification – All League Certified Coaches and Volunteers shall display their League issued Badges at all times in order to be present inside the Team Box or be subject to Penalties and Fines for each person as per Table 2.0. No personnel, other than Players for the current game, may be inside the Team Box without current League Identification.

III-10.2 Dress Code – All League Certified Coaches and Volunteers shall be dressed in official team apparel in a uniform matter or be subject to Penalties and Fines for each person as per Table 2.0. Team apparel is subject to League approval, tank-top type shirts will not be permitted. The chain crew is part of the Officials and is required to dress appropriately. **Proper shoes must be worn by the chain crews and all sideline personnel. No sandals or any open toed footwear is allowed.**

III-10.3 Illegal Field Presence – No Coach or Volunteer may enter the field of play prior to an officially awarded timeout. Any unauthorized entry onto the field of play will be subject to immediate ejection and be subject to Penalties and Fines for each person as per Table 2.0.

III-10.4 On-Field Incidents – In the event of an on-field incident, including but not limited to flagrant hits, fighting or taunting, coaches, players and volunteers shall remain on their sideline and refrain from rushing the field. All spectators shall remain outside the roped or fenced area. **Anyone entering the field of play during an incident shall be subject to immediate ejection from the facility and be subject to Penalties and Fines for each person as per Table 2.0. Commissioners and Coaches are ultimately responsible for their sidelines and spectators.**

III-10.5 Communication Devices – No Cellular phones or communication devices are permitted on the sidelines during a game. Anyone caught on the field of play with a cellular phone or communication device shall be subject to immediate ejection from the field and be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0. Commissioners and Coaches are ultimately responsible for their sidelines and spectators.

III-10.6 Parent Volunteers – A maximum of **three (3)** certified parent volunteers per team are allowed on the sidelines during a game. This will include but it is not limited to, Team Moms, Team Dads, and/or volunteers to distribute water.

III- 10.7 Coaches' Roster- A maximum total of **ten (10)** personnel will be allowed on the coaches' roster. These may consist of coaches and a maximum of **three (3)** volunteers, including MPR personnel. In the post season, only the personnel on the certified coaches' roster, including MPR personnel, will be allowed on the sidelines. The coaches' rosters are locked after week three, all roster moves must be completed by week three.

III-11.0 PEEWEE RULES

III-11.1 Rules of the Game – This Class will follow the NFHS Football Rulebook except as delineated in this Section.

III-11.2 Officials – No less than two officials shall be present at the start of any game.

III-11.3 Numbering – No numbering restrictions shall apply for this Age Classification

III-11.4 Peewee MPR Requirements – All eligible players must participate a minimum of four legal plays during each game.

III-11.5 Eight Man Rules – The game shall be played between two teams consisting of eight players each as follows:

- A. At least five offensive players must be on the line at the snap.
- B. **Only a player on the field can call cadence during the snap of the ball.**
- C. Only backs and players at the ends of the line are eligible as pass receivers.
- D. No kickoffs, offense starts from their own 30 yard line.
- E. Declared punts will be 20 yards from the line of scrimmage or half the distance to the goal line when inside the 20 yard line.
- F. One coach per team is permitted on the field and must be clear of all players at the snap of the ball.

- G. Teams will have two timeouts per half.
- H. No blitzing, defined as moving towards the line of scrimmage at the snap, will be permitted when on defense.
- I. Defensive line must line up one yard off of the offensive line. They can also line up on the center as they are one yard off the ball
- J. Pee wee teams must adhere to a 40 second play clock.
- K. All fumbles are declared dead once either the defensive team or the offensive team recovers it. A stripped ball is considered a fumble.
- L. An interception can be advanced by the intercepting team.
- M. On a safety, after the change of possession, the ball shall be placed on the offense's own 30 yard line.

III-11.6 Center – The Center must:

- A. Snap the ball between his legs.
- B. First stand up before blocking.

III-11.7 Blocking- Blockers shall abide by the following:

- A. All linemen, except the center, shall **not** assume the three-point stance or otherwise spring from a coiled or crouching start. Instead, must simply stand at the line of scrimmage and await the snap.
- B. Blockers must be on their feet while making contact with defender

III-11.8 Dead Ball – Fumbles cannot be advanced. Mishandled Center-Quarterback exchanges are considered muffs, whether they touch the ground or not, and can be advanced only by the Quarterback.

III-11.9 Scoring – Extra Points shall be via run or pass; no kicks are allowed. Successful Tries will be awarded **one** point from the 3 yard line and **two** points from the 10 yard line.

III-11.10 Handoffs Penalties – Illegal Handoffs will be penalized as follows:

- A. If the ball is handed forward beyond the line of scrimmage: five yards and loss of down.
- B. Handing or snapping a ball to a lineman: five yards from spot of foul.

III-11.11 Flagrant and Personal Fouls – No single foul shall be assessed for more than 10 yards.

III-12.0 GAME SCHEDULING

III-12.1 Scheduling Process – The Scheduling Committee is responsible for scheduling game times and dates. Parks with lights will be limited to a maximum of one Friday night game or two games provided the first game is a K ball sized game.

III-12.2 Minimum Teams per Park – Parks with less than **four** weight classes will be grouped with other parks for the purpose of scheduling. Said parks will not be guaranteed any more than **two** home games.

III-12.3 Master Schedule – The Master Schedule will be presented at the first League meeting in **May**.

III-12.4 Participating Weight Classes and Game Times – Members must declare their participating weight classes and submit all their game times from the Master Schedule at the meeting in **June**. Once the times are recorded by the league they are considered **final** for the duration of the season. The schedule game times will only be changed for exigent circumstances (weather) and with the approval by the league president.

III-12.5 Final Schedule – The Final Date Schedule will be presented at the second League meeting in **July**.

III-13.0 CHAMPIONSHIPS

III-13.1 Qualifying Teams – The top eight teams from each age and weight classification will qualify for the playoffs to determine the League champion.

III-13.2 Seeding & Tie-breakers – The teams will be seeded one through eight in each weight class. The seeding of the teams will be determined by the Executive Board in accordance to the playoff bracket. Teams with identical regular season records are subject to the following tie-breaker to determine higher seed:

- A. Head to Head result
 - Winning team is higher seed
 - If all teams have same the record they all move to Common Opponents. Team(s) with inferior records will not.
- B. Common Opponents
 - The team with the best win/loss record against **all** the same common opponents is the higher seed.
 - If all teams have the same record they all move to a Kansas Tie-Breaker. Team(s) with inferior records will not.
- C. Overtime Tie-Breaker
 - Played at a neutral site chosen by the Executive Board on the Monday after the last game of the season.
 - In a Two Team Tie-breaker, teams will play head to head to determine winner. In a Three Team Tie-breaker, rounds ending in all teams tied at 1-1, will require subsequent rounds until teams finish with records of 2-0, 1-1 and 0-2. In a Four Team Tie-Breaker, teams will be paired up by draw to play each other with winners in the first round moving on to play for first and second place while losers of the first round will play to determine third and fourth place.
- D. If both tied teams' coaches and their park commissioners agree, a coin toss may be used to determine the tie-breaker.

III-13.3 Playoff Brackets – The top seeded team will play the lowest seeded team and the second seeded team will play the second lowest seeded team and so on, until all teams have been scheduled to play. Higher ranked teams will host games and set kickoff times. Winners will move on to the successive round until a champion is determined. **Once playoff brackets have been set, there will be no reseeding between rounds.**

III-13.4 Championship Games – League hosted games will have Home teams determined by the team with the best record and they may select the sideline of their choice.

CHAPTER IV – DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

IV-1.0 CONDUCT

IV-1.1 Code of Conduct – All participating programs and individuals, including players, coaches, staff members and spectators are subject to the League’s Code of Conduct. Behavior detrimental to the League will be subject to disciplinary actions by the Executive Board. All coaches must complete a league Code of Conduct form prior to being issued a League Identification Card.

IV-1.2 Executive Board & Board of Directors – All Executive Board members and Board of Directors must abide by the League’s Code of Conduct in the appendix and shall have **all parents and/or legal guardians sign a Code of Conduct form.**

IV-1.3 Coaches and Volunteers – Head Coaches, their staff of Certified Coaches and all Certified Volunteers shall sign and agree to the League’s Code of Conduct as part of their certification. In addition Head Coaches are directly responsible for their assistant coaches, players, volunteers, cheer squads, cheer coaches and spectators.

IV-1.4 Players – All players, once certified, understand that they are to adhere to the League’s Code of Conduct. Coaches are to inform them that failure to comply may lead to disciplinary action by the Executive Board.

IV-1.5 Spectators – Are not considered part of the Member program but are to abide by the Code of Conduct and are subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board.

IV-1.6 Game Officials – Officials shall be treated and addressed with the upmost respect. Failure to do so will be treated as the most flagrant offense to game sportsmanship and will be dealt with the harshest penalties by the Executive Board.

IV-2.0 ADULT OFFENSES

IV-2.1 Recruiting – Anyone affiliated with a park be it as Commissioner, Staff, Coach, or Booster from any Member shall not:

- A. Solicit players who played at another League Park, the previous year
- B. Offer a player any form of compensation, either direct payments or with personal equipment, trips or any other perks with the intent to sway the player to transfer to a new park.
- C. Any recruiting must be directed at all new boys and girls while promoting the League. A member organization can send out any type of advertisement (radio, television or printed media) it desires. Documented cases of recruitment will be subject to Penalties and Fines for each player and offending adult as per Table 2.0.

IV-2.2 Videotaping – Videotaping of any official game and/or Jamboree is acceptable. A Jamboree is defined as a preseason game with an official. Individuals videotaping opponents must remain **outside of the ropes or barrier**. Individuals videotaping their own teams must also remain **outside of the ropes or barriers and on their team’s side of the goal posts**. Videotaping practices and scrimmages where one’s own team is not participating is a violation and will be subject to Penalties and Fines for each incident as per Table 2.0. All official media personnel need to obtain Board approval in order to be inside of the roped area.

IV-2.3 Child Endangerment – Deliberate practices of a Coach, Assistant Coach, Volunteer or Staff which places the health, welfare, and safety of juveniles in jeopardy or exploits or threatens them in any manner will be considered Child Endangerment.

The practice of forcing weight loss of a player by any artificial means and includes but is not limited to, sweating down; use of steam rooms or cabinet; weight reducing or appetite suppressing drugs or diuretics (water pills); sitting in a vehicle with the heater on; sitting in an enclosed building/structure without proper ventilation; and wearing non-breathable material (such as a plastic or nylon bag). Teaching prohibited offensive and defensive techniques and/or encouraging techniques which can or are likely to physically hurt opponents, is also considered endangerment and be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

IV-2.4 Alcohol and Drug Use – All games must be played in a DRUG and ALCOHOL FREE environment. The use of ALCOHOL and DRUGS are strictly prohibited at any league function, practice, game, on the field, at the park or within the adjacent parking areas within 500 feet of the field. Coaches and Park Commissioners shall take every action possible to ensure that the above listed activities do not take place or are stopped as soon as they become known. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-2.5 Gambling – Gambling on games in the park creates a dangerous environment and is prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-2.6 Cheating – Cheating of any kind, including but not limited to; forging birth certificates, falsification and/or tampering of roster cards or a player's card, shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-2.7 Verbal Offenses – Threats of a verbal or physical nature or otherwise against any Player, Coach, Official, Team, Park, or League Authorities shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-2.8 Physical Offense – Physical altercations or fighting among same or opposing teams, adults or fans shall result in a permanent ban from the MDXYFL.

IV-2.9 Lack of Sportsmanship – Directing or participating in any act contrary to good sportsmanship including but not limited to running up score, cursing, taunting, or excessive celebrations, shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-3.0 PLAYER OFFENSES

IV-3.1 Alcohol and Drug Use – Players shall not be involved in Alcohol or Drug use. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-3.2 Gambling – Gambling on games, shaving points or attempting to influence the outcome of games will be subject players to disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-3.3 Cheating – Cheating of any kind, including but not limited to; forging birth certificates, falsification and/or tampering of roster cards or a player's card, shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-3.4 Verbal Offenses – Intimidation, threats of a verbal or physical nature to players or disrespect to authorities such as, Coaches, Officials, Park, or League Authorities shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-3.5 Physical Offense – Physical altercations or fighting among same or opposing teams, adults or fans shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0. With exception to the Peewee division players. Peewee players ejected for a physical offense will not be suspended from future games. The Executive Board reserves the right to discipline a Peewee player with multiple offenses.

IV-3.6 Lack of Sportsmanship – Any act contrary to good sportsmanship including but not limited to cursing, taunting or excessive celebrations shall result in disciplinary actions by the Executive Board.

IV-4.0 TEAM OFFENSES

IV-4.1 Team Offenses – Participating in, directing others to or instigating disorderly behavior such as rioting or any other type of altercation of any kind and against any other group or single individual shall be subject to disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines Table 2.0.

IV-5.0 PROTESTS

IV-5.1 Competition Protests – Protests will be **ONLY with respect to violation of the MPR and Illegal Players** and will be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0. The protest procedure is not available with regards to interpretation of an application of any rules of play.

IV-5.2 MPR Protests – Unsigned MPR logs shall serve as protest evidence for lack of participation by a player.

IV-5.3 Protest Procedure – Procedure for protests shall be as follows:

- A. A protest may only be initiated by providing the Executive Board with a Protest Form which clearly states the rule(s) allegedly violated and the facts surrounding the alleged violation. An email must be addressed to all members of the Executive Board.
- B. The Protest Form must be delivered to the President no later than 5:00 PM on the **Tuesday** following the game in question.
- C. The Protest Form must be accompanied by a protest application fee of \$250 (which will be refunded if the protest is successful) and signed by the Park Commissioner submitting the protest.
- D. The protest fee can be paid with a deposit of \$100, with the balance due within 3 days.
- E. The President shall promptly notify the Park Commissioner against whom the protest is lodged. The Executive Board shall conduct an appropriate investigation and determination shall be reached within five days. Parks may appeal the decision of the Executive Board by introducing new evidence. A request shall be made in writing within 48 hours of the Board's ruling and shall be delivered together with an appeal fee (which will be refunded if the appeal is successful) to the President. The Executive Board will review the new evidence and set a new hearing if deemed necessary.

IV-6.0 HEARINGS AND RULINGS

IV-6.1 Ruling Body – The Executive Board will act as the ruling body for all disciplinary actions for the League. The Executive Board will deal with any behavior detrimental to the MDXYFL on an individual basis. It is proper for the MDXYFL to discipline and expel its own personnel, Member Association, Team, Certified Coaches or Volunteers or Spectators associated herewith, as the

need may arise. The Executive Board of the MDXYFL is empowered to demand an open hearing before the full Board of Directors. **Executive Board rulings are not subject to appeals.**

- A. Coaches and Volunteers may have an opportunity to appeal an ejection, only thru their Park Commissioner, by the Wednesday of the following week. The appeal shall only be heard if there is irrefutable evidence.
- B. Any video evidence must NOT be edited and should be provided in its entirety.

IV-6.2 Minimum Penalty – The Executive Board will enforce the minimum mandated penalties. Minimum mandated penalties for specific offenses are required. This will ensure that the punishment for the most serious infractions occur on a uniform basis. Any rule violation that occurs at the end of the season or playoffs will have the penalties carried over to the next game and or season.

IV-6.3 Obstruction – Lack of cooperation and obstruction with investigations or hearings shall result in disciplinary actions as per Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.

IV-6.4 Probation – Any program or team on probation may participate in League events with Board imposed restrictions and may be subject to further disciplinary action without warning or a hearing.

IV-6.5 Suspension – Any program or team on Suspension may not participate in League events or practices and shall not be present at venues altogether. Suspensions will carry over to the next scheduled game and to the following season if necessary.

IV-6.6 Individual Ban – Individuals banned from the League, may apply for reinstatement to participate as a volunteer or a coach at one of the member parks after five (5) years.

- A. Individuals banned from the league for theft of league funds may NEVER apply for reinstatement to participate as a volunteer at any park.
- B. Individuals banned from the league for sexual assault, physical offense or gambling on youth football may NEVER apply for reinstatement to participate as a volunteer at any current or future member park.

IV-6.7 Program Ban – Any Program banned from the League, regardless of offense, may apply for reinstatement after five years if all offending officers, commissioners and/or coaches are no longer part of the program, **at the discretion of the Executive Board.**

MDXYFL CHEERLEADING BYLAWS

CHAPTER V – CHEERLEADING

V-1.0 THE MDXYFL CHEERLEADING PROGRAM

The purpose of the MDXYFL Cheerleading Program is to support the football teams registered in the MDXYFL. The Program consists of cheerleaders that cheer, chant, crowd lead, and perform on the sidelines and during halftime at all football games. The MDXYFL also sanctions a cheer competition each season and participates in the Orange Bowl Youth Football Alliance cheer competition in order to provide registered cheerleaders an opportunity to participate in competitive cheer events; however, the MDXYFL Cheerleading Program is not a competitive cheer program which exists solely for the purpose of competition. The Program remains committed to teaching the fundamentals of cheerleading in a safe environment to the youth in our communities.

V-2.0 REVENUE

- A. Each cheerleading program of the MDXYFL shall pay an Annual Membership Fee of \$900.00, to be allotted to the administration of the MDXYFL Cheerleading Program. All dues will be due on or before the August monthly meeting. A \$50.00 late fee will be charged per month for late dues, and an organization will not be allowed to carry a vote until dues and/or late fees are paid.
- B. When any association or member is found guilty of violating any League Rule or Bylaw, the association shall be fined a sum of \$50.00 per occurrence for each violation.

V-3.0 MEETING

The MDXYFL Cheerleading Commissioners shall meet on the FIRST MONDAY of the month from March through December. Special Additional meetings may be called to order by the Cheerleading Director when necessary. Each commissioner shall be notified by telephone or e-mail of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting or of any cancellation.

- A. There shall be a maximum of TWO (2) representatives at monthly League meetings, and only ONE (1) of the following representatives shall be allowed to vote or speak on a park's behalf in any League matter: Head Cheerleading Commissioner, Assistant Cheerleading Commissioner, Park President, Football Commissioner or Assistant Football Commissioner.
- B. Each organization shall be allowed ONE (1) excused absence from a regularly scheduled meeting per year without penalty. A \$25.00 fine shall be levied against any organization that fails to have a representative at a Regularly Scheduled Meeting. Until outstanding fines are paid, said organization cannot vote at any future meetings.

V-4.0 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for all meetings shall be as follows:

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Roll call
- 3. Guests

4. OBYFA Report
5. Football Report
6. Previous minutes
7. Financial report
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Open Floor
11. Adjournment

CHAPTER VI – CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE

VI-1.0 CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The Cheerleading Committee is formed at the direction of the Miami-Dade Xtreme Youth Football League (MDXYFL) Executive Board to preside over the general operation of the MDXYFL Cheerleading Program and Cheerleading Competition. The Cheerleading Director shall serve as the chair of the Cheerleading Committee and shall duly report all cheer business to the MDXYFL Executive Board.

VI-2.0 MEMBERS AND VOTING

- A. Cheerleading Committee shall be comprised of the following members:
 - **Cheerleading Director**
 - **Assistant Cheerleading Director(s) – (At least 1, but not more than 2)**
 - **Administrative Assistant**
 - **Financial Officer**
 - **Executive Assistant (Appointed as necessary by Cheerleading Director)**
- B. The Cheerleading Director is a voting member of the MDXYFL Executive Board:
 - i. Voting for the position of Cheerleading Director shall take place at the December monthly board meeting, and the office shall take effect on January 1st.
 - ii. Nominees must be a Cheerleading Commissioner in good standing at a member park for at least two (2) years preceding nomination.
 - iii. All nominations shall be voted upon by the general cheer board.
 - iv. Each MDXYFL cheerleading member park in good standing shall have one (1) vote in all election proceedings.
 - v. The Cheerleading Director shall serve for a period of two (2) years, in accordance with the term of all MDXYFL Executive Board Members.
- C. The positions of Assistant Director(s), Administrative Assistant, and Financial Officer are members of the Cheerleading Committee:
 - i. Nominations for the each position (with the exception of Executive Assistant) shall take place at the December monthly board meeting, and the Cheerleading Committee shall take effect on January 1st.
 - ii. All nominations shall be voted upon by the general cheer board.
 - iii. Each MDXYFL cheerleading member park in good standing shall have one (1) vote in all election proceedings.
 - iv. Cheerleading Committee members shall serve for a period of one (1) year.

VI-3.0 DUTIES OF THE CHEERLEADING COMMITTEE

The Cheerleading Committee will execute the Bylaws and rules of this League in a professional and businesslike manner, at the direction of the Executive Board. The specific duties of each member of the Cheerleading Committee are as follow:

VI-3.1 CHEERLEADING DIRECTOR – The Cheerleading Director shall serve as the head of the Cheerleading Committee, and the chairperson at all monthly meetings. The Director shall enforce all rules, regulations, and policies of the MDXYFL, will act as the official League cheerleading representative at all times. The Cheerleading Director may hold a position at a member park as a cheerleading commissioner, assistant commissioner, and/or cheerleading coach, so long as said position does not present a conflict of interest or interfere with their duties and responsibilities as Director of Cheerleading for the League.

VI-3.2 ASSISTANT CHEERLEADING DIRECTORS – The Assistant Directors shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Cheerleading Director. The Assistant Directors shall preside at all meetings and perform all the required functions in the absence of the Director. The persons in this position shall work alongside the Director regarding all competition matters. The Assistant Director(s) shall set up all appointments and attend all meetings with vendors regarding the local competition, and attend all meetings for the Orange Bowl Youth Football Association (OBYFA) cheerleading competition.

VI-3.3 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – The Administrative Assistant shall maintain all regularly and specially scheduled meeting records and minutes; note the number of duly registered members and officials in attendance at any meeting; record votes on all MDXYFL Cheerleading matters; keep a record of fines assessed; and maintain a file of all reports. The Administrative Assistant shall also keep and distribute an updated record of the contact information of all administrative cheerleading staff for member parks.

VI-3.4 FINANCIAL OFFICER – The Financial Officer shall prepare and submit a projected budget for the upcoming year and present it to the Cheerleading Committee for approval. The Financial Officer shall collect and keep record of all cheerleading dues submitted by member parks, and provide a written financial report of the cheerleading account each month. The report will include all monies, balances, deposits, expenditures and fines. Any non-budgeted expenditure must be submitted in writing for the Cheerleading Committee to approve prior to the commitment of funds.

VI-3.5 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT – The Executive Assistant is appointed as necessary by the Cheerleading Director and shall aid in the administration of all business and duties of the Cheerleading Committee, including, but not limited to: website updates and maintenance, storage of electronic records related to the issuance of league badges, assistance with executive matters related to the MDXYFL Cheerleading Competition, and any and all additional duties assigned by the Cheerleading Director.

CHAPTER VII – TEAMS AND SQUADS

VII-1.0 FORMATION OF TEAMS AND SQUADS

- A. A participant may be between the ages of five (5) and fourteen (14), with the following special exceptions:
 - 1. Four (4) year old and participants are allowed at the sole discretion of each park's Head Cheerleading Commissioner, provided that they are authorized by the park's insurance company. Additionally, 4 year olds can ONLY be registered on the Mini cheer squad.
 - 2. Fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) year old and participants are allowed at the sole discretion of each park's Head Cheerleading Commissioner, provided that they are authorized by the park's insurance company. Additionally, 15 and 16 year olds can ONLY be registered on the Pro cheer squad.
 - 3. The MDXYFL Cheerleading 2018 Division Age Chart provides a complete breakdown of permitted competitive team configurations.
- B. The age cutoff date for eligibility to cheer in the MDXYFL is December 31st of the current calendar year. In order to cheer, a participant must turn four (4) on or before this date, and must not turn seventeen (17) on or before this date.
- C. Squad size: A cheerleading squad shall have a minimum of 8 (eight) and a maximum of 35 (thirty five) members. The determination of squad size (small/medium/large) for MDXYFL Cheerleading Competition purposes will be made by the Cheerleading Committee following final squad competition registration.
- D. The MDXYFL does not condone the cutting of any cheerleader who in good faith signs up to cheer. As such, tryouts or cuts of any kind are strictly PROHIBITED.
- E. No MDXYFL organization will be permitted to have cheerleaders on their sidelines or perform at games that are not registered, certified members of the MDXYFL Cheerleading Program. Any violation of this rule is subject to fine and penalty.

VII-2.0 CHEERLEADER CERTIFICATION

- A. A candidate cannot begin to practice with a squad until they have registered. In order to complete registration, each member program must have the following information on file:
 - 1. **PARENTAL CONSENT:** A notarized OBYFA certification card with a parent/guardian's signature in BLUE INK on the front and back sides.
 - 2. **PROOF OF AGE:** A legible photocopy of the participant's birth certificate, bearing the seal of the issuing office of the state of birth. A copy of a birth certificate is the most reliable form of verification of a participant's date of birth; however a passport is also sufficient.
 - 3. **RECENT PHOTOGRAPH:** A recent 2x2 passport-type photograph of the participant taken within the last six months. All photographs must be in color and on photo paper.
 - 4. **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** A signed statement from an examining physician, dated within six months of the certification date, indicating that the candidate is physically fit and that there are no observable conditions which would preclude them from cheerleading.

- B. Cheerleaders who participate in High School or All Star Cheerleading programs may register with an MDXYFL member program provided that the following conditions are met:
 - 1. Dual **participation** (participating in High School/All Star Cheerleading and Recreational Cheerleading) is authorized by the park's insurance policy.
 - 2. The cheerleader's dual participation is reflected on the current MDXYFL **cheerleading** roster.
- C. After a cheerleader has registered to cheer for an MDXYFL program during the current season, she/he must obtain a release from that program before being permitted to withdraw and join another member park during that same season. All releases must be completed within the League's designated registration period. Releases will not be granted unless the cheerleader seeking the release has returned all equipment to that program, and has no outstanding financial responsibilities.
- D. Illegal participants will be banned from the League. The illegal participant's team will forfeit any MDXYFL Cheerleading Competition trophies/placements that the illegal cheerleader participated in, and the teams head coach and/or Cheer Commissioner may be subject to disciplinary action.

VII-2.1 TEAM CERTIFICATION

Certification is the process whereby a member association files a complete roster of each team of cheerleaders with the League.

- A. Only members of the MDXYFL Executive Board or Cheerleading Committee will be allowed to certify teams.
- B. The following must be presented at team certification:
 - 1. Two copies of each team's cheerleading roster must be presented at certification. Both copies will be certified, with one remaining on file with the League, and one returned to each park.
 - 2. All Rosters and OBYFA Cards MUST BE in ALPHABETICAL ORDER.
 - 3. All spaces on the rosters and certification cards MUST be filled in.
 - 4. All photographs and copies of birth certificates must be affixed to the OBYFA card with glue – any other affixtures, such as staples, tape, or paper clips, will be rejected.
 - 5. All signatures on rosters must be in BLUE INK.
 - 6. ONLY HEAD CHEERLEADING COMMISSIONERS will present their park's teams at certification and are responsible for errors in the rosters and certification cards.
 - 7. If a member program's books are lost anytime during the season, the program must immediately notify the Cheer Committee. Eligibility of teams with lost books will be determined by the MDXYFL Executive Board.
- C. Any team failing to present their books at their scheduled certification time will be subject to Penalties and Fines as per Table 2.0.
- D. No team will be certified after final Book Certification for the season.
- E. Certification cards are the property of the League and must be surrendered upon request.

- F. If any MDXYFL member program fails to certify any football team to participate in the MDXYFL football season, that program will not be permitted to certify cheerleading teams in the MDXYFL under any circumstances.

VII-2.2 DROPS AND ADD-ONS

- A. A cheer squad may drop/add/change participants on its certified roster as long such changes are done by the certification deadline.
- B. The deadline to make roster changes shall not be later than the third week of the season.

CHAPTER VIII – COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

VIII-1.0 COACHING AND VOLUNTEER CERTIFICATIONS

A team's coaching staff is in charge of the team at all times, and responsible for its conduct. The coaching staff is under the direction of the Head Coach; all other coaches are called Assistant Coaches. The following applies to all cheer and volunteer staff:

- A. All park cheerleading staff including the Head Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Head Coach, or Assistant Coach must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the MDXYFL league badge certification.
- B. Junior Coaches must be 16 or 17 years of age at the time of coaching certification, AND must be at least five (5) years older than the oldest participant on the team/squad which they are assigned to. Junior Coaches must coach under the supervision of an MDXYFL cheerleading certified Head Coach at all times – NO EXCEPTIONS!
- C. A team may have a maximum of four (4) Assistant and/or Junior coaches combined.
- D. Every person who appears on an organization's roster, including all Commissioners, Coaches, Team Parents, and anyone who crosses the rope which separates spectators from the sidelines at any MDXYFL football game; goes into restricted areas at the League cheerleading competition; or otherwise presents themselves as park staff at any League sanctioned event; must have a League issued badge for the current season bearing the individual's photograph. In order to be certified by the MDXYFL and be eligible to receive a League badge, all organization staff must present the following:
 - 1. An MDXYFL Cheerleading Staff Roster;
 - 2. All coaches and volunteers, regardless of age, will be subject to a national background check by an authorized vendor of the league and must be cleared in order to interact with minors. All background checks must be initiated by the specified deadline and all background results must be received PRIOR to the issuance of a League ID badge;
 - 3. All head, assistant, and junior coaches must have a valid National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) certification for the current season.
 - 4. Each organization will be responsible for keeping this information on file and readily assessable throughout the season.
- E. All coaches and volunteers from each park must wear their League badge and park shirts at all GAMES, COMPETITIONS, and MDXYFL events to identify themselves. League issued identification cards must be surrendered upon request by any Executive Board or Cheerleading Committee member. Failure to do so will result in a fine as per Table 2.0 and repeated offenses will result in suspension.
- F. All Head Coaches MUST attend a coach's clinic scheduled and sanctioned by the MDXYFL to be eligible to coach. Attendance is an acknowledgement that Head Coaches have received and will comply with the Bylaws.
- G. The First 5 days of practice shall be devoted entirely and exclusively to conditioning. Coaches are not permitted to have their team stunting or building during that time.
- H. Jewelry is STRICTLY PROHIBITED for cheerleaders at all times and for coaches while coaching or assisting with cheer stunts.

VIII-2.0 RECRUITING AND CHANGING PARKS

- A. Any Cheer Commissioner, Coach, or other cheer staff member who changes parks from one year to the next must:
 - 1. Return all uniforms and equipment;
 - 2. Not have any outstanding financial obligations (i.e. coach's dues, sponsorship monies, fund-raising proceeds, etc.);
 - 3. Obtain a release from the program they are leaving stating that they are in good standing with no outstanding obligations.
- B. A coach who leaves one member park to join another may not:
 - 1. Recruit or solicit cheerleaders who previously cheered for him/her on an MDXYFL Cheerleading Team by ANY means of communication, including, but not limited to, written or telephonic communication or in person contact with the cheerleader or her parents;
 - 2. Offer a cheerleader any form of compensation for joining a team.
- C. Documented cases of recruitment will be handled by the Cheerleading Committee as a rule violation and penalties shall be assessed by due process.

Penalties applied for recruiting are as follows:

 - 1. Suspension of head coach and/or staff for ONE (1) Year. (Reviewed by Executive Board)
 - 2. Suspension of the park's cheerleading program. (Reviewed by Executive Board)
 - 3. Forfeiture of competitions Recruited Player participated in. (Reviewed by Executive Board)
 - 4. Any combination of the above.

CHAPTER IX – FOOTBALL GAMES

IX-1.0 REGULAR SEASON FOOTBALL GAMES

- A. A member park's cheerleaders shall cheer for all games for which they have a registered football team.
 - 1. If a park does not have a football team in the division that a squad is certified in, the squad must be assigned to cheer for another football team and is still required to cheer at every game played by that assigned team.
 - 2. In the event of a scheduling conflict where a park has games in different locations, the Head Cheerleading Commissioner shall make the final determination pertaining to which game a squad cheers for. However, the squad is still required to cheer for their game (or alternate game as determined by the Head Cheerleading Commissioner) and a scheduling conflict does not alleviate this cheering requirement.
- B. Head Cheerleading Commissioners shall be held responsible for maintaining control over their coaches, volunteer staff, and cheerleaders at all times.
- C. Head coaches must check in with one another prior to the start of each game.
- D. Half time shall be limited to a 3 minute performance per team, in the following manner:
 - 1. The home team crosses the field to watch the visiting team perform first to the visitor's crowd;
 - 2. After the visiting team performs, both squads shall again cross the field to the home team side to watch the home team perform to the home crowd;
 - 3. Each team shall exchange and sign books following the home team's performance, and cheerleaders may interact with a unity bonding cheer immediately thereafter. In the event that there is no other cheer squad cheering at a game, the team's head coach shall sign their own books.
 - 4. During halftime performances fans/spectators/football players must be **OFF** the field while the cheerleaders perform;
 - 5. Any organization that repeatedly has fans, spectators, football players, etc. on the field during halftime performances, or whose fans harass and heckle cheerleaders during a halftime performance, will be subject to a fine of \$50 per team in violation, with an organization's Cheerleading and Football programs being held equally responsible for payment of this fine.
- E. Cheerleaders are required to cheer for the entire game, with appropriate water bathroom breaks.
- F. At the discretion of the Cheerleading Committee, a \$50.00 fine shall be levied on any organization who fails to have at least 50% or more of the cheerleaders on their roster in attendance per squad per game. Failing to pay such fine shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges until paid.
- G. Instances of cheerleaders doing "in your face" gestures, cheers, motions and dances that are offensive, unsportsmanlike, or in otherwise bad taste, shall be addressed *immediately* with the Head Cheerleading Commissioner for that program. If the issue is not resolved at that time, it must be reported to the Cheerleading Director for further investigation by the Cheerleading Committee. Penalties for these violations shall be as follow:

- First Offense – NO HALF TIME PERFORMANCE (Reviewed by Cheerleading Committee)
 - Second Offense – PROBATION (Reviewed by Cheerleading Committee)
 - Third Offense – SUSPENSION (Reviewed by Cheerleading Committee)
- H. Any complaint of rule violations which involve any MDXYFL Bylaws or rules must be presented to the Cheerleading Director in writing within 48 HOURS of the occurrence. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the complaint.

IX-1.1 PLAYOFF AND SUPER BOWL GAMES

- A. A member park's cheerleaders shall cheer for all playoff, MDXYFL Super Bowl, and any other League sanctioned football games for which they have a registered cheerleading squad, unless there exists a bona fide scheduling conflict due to another League or OBYFA event.
1. In the event that a park does not have a cheer squad certified in the division of a football team playing in the playoffs, MDXYFL Super Bowl, or other League sanctioned football games, the Head Cheerleading Commissioner must make every reasonable effort to ensure that there are cheerleaders in attendance and cheering at that team's game.

CHAPTER X – MDXYFL CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

X-1.0 COMPETITION RULES

- A. All rules and regulations governing the League cheerleading competition are covered in the 2018 MDXYFL Cheerleading Competition Rules.
- B. Every MDXYFL member organization with certified cheerleaders must participate in the League Cheerleading Competition, and must compete in every division for which they have a certified team, with the exception of approved hardship situations.
 - 1. Any organization that fails to compete in a division for which they have a certified cheer team shall be fined the sum of \$250.00 *per team* that does not compete. Additionally, at the discretion of the Cheerleading Committee, an organization that pulls out of the League competition in an untimely manner may also be assessed additional fees associated with the costs of competition. Failing to pay such fines or assessed fees will result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges until paid.
 - 2. A “hardship” may be granted by the Executive Cheerleading Committee if a park has a team of less than eight girls due to members of the squad dropping from the squad’s roster after certification. The park’s Head Cheerleading Commissioner must contact the Cheerleading Director no less than 2 weeks prior to competition to advise of the hardship. Upon vote of the Executive Cheer Committee, the affected cheerleaders will be allowed to compete with the number of cheerleaders currently on the squad, or join a team immediately above or below their original division, and the new team will be placed into the division that corresponds with its average age. No hardships will be considered after the two week deadline or on the day of competition.
- C. In order for a team to participate in any competition outside of the MDXYFL and OBYFA cheer competitions, a written document must be on file with the League providing details of competition, number of participants from the member organization, and whether or not the team will be traveling out of town.

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