



*Blue Springs Athletic Association
Football League*

2011

Bylaws & Rule Book

BSAA Football Board of Directors 2011

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PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT

I Hereby Pledge To Provide Positive Support, Care and Encouragement for My Child Participating In Youth Sports By Following This Code of Ethics.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or league event.
- I will place the emotion and physical well being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all league sporting events.
- I will remember the game is for the children and not for the adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fan, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with the coaching, being respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.
- I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach agrees to the youth sports coach's Code of Ethics.
- I will read the NYSCA National Standards for Youth Sports and do everything in my power to assist all youth sports organizations to implement and enforce them.

COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

I Hereby Pledge To Live Up To My Certification As A NYSCA Coach By Following The NYSCA Coaches' Code of Ethics.

- I will place the emotion and physical well-being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotion and physical development for the same age group
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players
- I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and that I will teach these rules to my players
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach
- I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for the children and not adults.

-TABLE OF CONTENTS-

PART 1.....	BYLAWS.....	2
PART 2.....	LEAGUE RULES.....	14
PART 3.....	KINDERGARTEN 7on7 FLAG RULES.....	22
PART 4.....	FIRST GRADE 11on11 FLAG RULES.....	26
PART 5.....	TACKLE RULES.....	29
PART 6.....	DIVISION 1 RULES.....	30
PART 7.....	APENDIX.....	33

BSAA FOOTBALL LEAGUE
BYLAWS and LEAGUE RULES
Version 051111

PART ONE – BYLAWS

ARTICLE I
Name

The name of this organization must be Blue Springs Athletic Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as the "League").

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE AND POWERS

The Purpose of the League must be:

- A To give all Blue Springs area youth, grades Kindergarten (K) through seven (7), the opportunity to play football in an organized and controlled manner;
- B To teach the basic fundamentals and rules of football;
- C To develop a sense of belonging and team spirit;
- D To develop an attitude of fair play and good sportsmanship;
- E To teach players how to be good sports when winning and how to accept defeat but not give up, through the examples of coaches and parents;
- F To insure that all players who attend practice regularly are enabled to play in every game;
- G To further the knowledge of the sport of football in the community through the involvement of the player's family as coaches, cheerleaders, and spectators;
- H To be a feeder program and supporter of local school district football;
- I To foster amateur sports competition and educate children regarding the sport of football.
- J To operate as a qualified public benefit corporation.

The Powers of the League must include:

- A) The power to exercise any and all powers which a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation organized under the General Not for Profit Corporation Act of Missouri may exercise to fulfill the purposes of this corporation as set out in R.S.Mo. 355.131 (1995).
- B) Increment of Income. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
- C) Legislative or Political Activities. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to

influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

D) Operational Limitations. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE III **QUORUM**

A Quorum is defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the current filled Board Member positions and that at any regular or special meeting a quorum is necessary for an approval/passing of a vote. In the event a Quorum does not exist, decisions must end and meeting must be adjourned. A new Board meeting time must be set when a Quorum can be met.

ARTICLE IV **Bylaws**

The League shall have the authority to amend these Bylaws by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall only accept recommendations for bylaws changes on a bi-yearly basis; these years are and shall remain odd calendar years. However, if a bylaw adversely affects league business or is deemed not to be "For the good of the league" it can be altered or deleted with three fourths (3/4) majority vote by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V **FINANCIALS**

The League must be operated exclusively as a non-profit organization and maintain section 501 (c)(3) tax status.

Budget;

A proposed budget must be prepared by the Board of Directors and submitted to the general membership for approval at the 1st general membership meeting of the year.

Insurance;

The League shall provide supplemental insurance protection for players and coaches and maintain recommended insurance coverage for the league including its board members. All insurance coverage will be approved by a vote of the Board.

Sponsor Fees;

The Board of Directors shall determine if a sponsorship fee is deemed necessary for the current year. If it is determined to be necessary, the Board of directors will set the fee amount per team. All sponsorship money must be turned in by the start of the regular season or the Team Manager will be suspended until the fee is collected. Sponsorship fees go into the general operating fund for the League operating expenses and equipment. The sponsors are recognized by the announcement of the company and/or sponsorship before, during and after each of their team's league games.

Fund-raiser;

All players and coaches must be required to participate in any fund-raiser held by the League. This money will go into the general league fund to support the league. Teams may ask team members to help in team fund-raiser but cannot require their participation.

Treasurer’s Financial Report;

A written financial report will be provided at every General Membership meeting. A financial report will be provided at Board meetings when requested ten (10) days prior to the meeting. An audit of the financial report will be done in January of each year by two Board members other than the Treasurer. After the audit is complete the financial books will be given to a CPA for tax preparation.

Means of Payment;

The Treasurer will do as few cash transactions as possible, and request a receipt for said transactions. The payment of choice will be electronic payment. In the event a paper check is written it will require both the Treasurer’s and the President’s signature.

Capital Improvement/Emergency Fund;

The League shall set up and maintain an investment account for the purpose of capital improvements and/or League emergencies which must be kept in an interest bearing account separate from the League’s operation funds. A majority vote of the General Membership must be required to withdraw funds from said account. The initial investment must be \$10,000 which was established in 2005. The annual contribution to the fund will be an amount equal to the balance in the cash account on December 31st, less the anticipated amount need to fund the league until signups.

League Closedown-Dissolution;

In the event the league shall ever end doing business, the board of directors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. It is the intent of the League that all remaining assets will be donated to a non-profit football league in the immediate area which qualifies as a section 501 (c) (3) corporation. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. As a result of the dissolution, no board member, coaches or players or members shall personally benefit from the assets of this non-profit football league.

ARTICLE VI
GOVERNANCE

The governing body of this league will be the Board of Directors. All League business must be conducted under "Robert's Rules of Order" and the duties of the officers must be described therein, except as noted herein.

A Executive Board shall consist of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, and two (2) League Commissioners (K-3rd Commissioner and 4th-7th Commissioner). The Executive Board must be voted into office with a majority vote of the League Team Managers in attendance of the election meeting. Executive Board members will serve two year terms, starting January 1st of even number calendar years.

B Division Representatives shall consist of one representative per division. Division Representatives must be vote in by a majority of League Team Managers in attendance of the election meeting in said Representative's division. Division Representative will serve one year terms, starting January 1st each year.

Voting Conflict of interest;

If any Board Member has a conflict of interest on any board vote or ruling they will be asked to remove themselves from the conversation and/or vote. This includes but not limited to Board member's team, coach, player or spectator. Or if a Board member is also an on-field official, and there are discussions and/or decisions that pertain to administrative or disciplinary issues regarding Officials.

Removal from the football field;

Any Board member that sees inappropriate behavior by anyone at the football fields has the authority to ask them to leave the football facility. If a person is asked to leave the fields, there must be two Board Members present. In the event they refuse to do so, the Board member shall call the police and have them remove the offender. The Board member is not to get into a conflict with the offender. If said Board member feels the offender is or will be a threat to anyone in the league, the Board member can call for an emergency board meeting. At which time the offender can be temporally suspended pending a full Board review of the event.

Replacement of a Board Member;

The President will appoint a replacement for any vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors between annual elections meetings, pending a majority vote of the remaining board at the scheduled Board meeting. If the Board does not approve the appointee, the process will start over with a new appointee.

Replacement of the League President;

In the event the President cannot complete the term, the Team Managers will vote a new President into office within the 60 days of the old President's departure. The time of the vote will be determined by the Acting President.

Removal of a Board Member;

A member of the Board may be placed on probation or removed from his/her position for failure to fulfill their responsibilities, missing three (3) meeting "unexcused" by the President, or conduct unbecoming a league representative by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Board of

Directors present at any Board meeting . Excused absence maybe, but not limited to; work, illness, and disaster.

Field duties;

Commissioner must be present at the fields during any games being played from his/her grades. If the Commissioner cannot attend any game they need find an Executive board member to be the acting Commissioner in his absences (it can even be the other Commissioner).

Division Representative must be present at the fields during any games being played in his/her division. If they cannot attend a game they need to notify their Commissioner to fill-in for them in their absences.

Board of Directors' Roles and Responsibilities;

- A The League President must be elected by registered Team Managers. To be a candidate for President, you have to of served on the Board of Director previously. The President must be the overall coordinator, facilitator, and communicator of the League. Committees shall report to the President and keep him/her up dated on activities, decisions, and direction of the committee. The President shall not inhibit other Board members from fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. The President shall study and be knowledgeable of Robert's Rules of Order. The President must be the Chair Person in all League meetings. The President runs the meeting but cannot make a motion and only votes as a tie breaker. The President will be the league representative at all City meetings. The President is the liaison between the league, and game Official. The President will appoint all Committee Chairman. The President will sign off on all correspondence and release of information to any media source. In the absence or inability of the President to meet the requirements stated, the Vice President shall serve in the President's capacity.

- B The League Vice-President must be elected by registered Team Managers. The Vice President shall conduct all business in the League President's absence or inability. The Vice President will accompany the League President at all City meeting. The Vice President must be the liaison to the High School for administrating the "Walt Tolson Scholarship Fund", including overseeing and reviewing applicants. The Vice President will be the Chairman of the fund raising committee.

- C The League Secretary must be elected by registered Team Manager. The Secretary's duties must be as followed but not limited to;
 - a. Maintain an accurate and current role of members holding voting rights.
 - b. Maintain a record of Board meeting minutes.
 - c. Responsible for creating a league flyer and distribution of the flyer to local businesses and the Blue Springs School District.
 - d. Create a master game schedule for the league once an approved game schedule is submitted by the Commissioners.

- e. Responsible for creating draft sheets and supplying each team one list of available players prior to the draft.
 - F. Responsible for collecting all registration forms and organizing player/parent information into a spread sheet or database.
 - g. Create a system for the collection of registration forms and with the assistance of the treasure the collection of fees.
- D The League Treasurer must be elected by registered Team Managers. The Treasurer's duties and responsibilities are as follows, but not limited to, work with the Board of directors to create a budget based on outlook projections and previous years' actual. Maintain accurate and current financial records, pay all invoices on behalf of the league, and be prepared to account for League funds at the request of the Association. The Treasurer will follow bylaws activities outlined in "Article V Financials".
- E The League Commissioners must be elected by registered Team Managers. One must be designated "K-3 Commissioner" and shall administer the Kindergarten and First Grade flag divisions and the 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade tackle football divisions. The other must be designated "4th - 7th Commissioner" and shall administer the Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, Sixth Grade, and seventh Grade tackle football divisions. The responsibilities of the Commissioners are as followed but not limited to:
- h. A point of escalation for the Division Representatives
 - I. With feedback from the Division Representatives create the game schedule and makeup game schedules
 - j. Oversee and address any game day issues, and customer (parents/spectators) complaints that does not require a Board of Review
 - k. Will assist with weigh ins or any other game day duties (booth duty, field set-up and clean up)
- F The League Division Representatives will be elected by their division's Team Managers. Responsibilities of Division Representatives shall include but not limited to:
- l. Provide a positive attitude, open to all ideas by everyone, respectful of other board members and their insights and ideas.
 - m. Represent a non-biased fair position with a high commitment to a root-cause investigation and complete communications within the BSAA organization as necessary for all divisional conflicts brought to his/her attention.
 - n. Provide a safe a fun atmosphere for all players and parents.
 - o. Provide and assist coaches in respective division all league forms, handouts, equipment distribution and collection
 - p. Maintain accurate team manager or assistant fill-in coach's attendance in all league functions (Meetings, Draft, equipment handout, booth duties, and conduct weigh-ins and field duties)
 - q. Maintain and record all team freezes, and or new team rosters with players/parents' names including phone and e-mail addresses if provided
 - r. Assist with NYSCA coordinator that all coaches are up to date and registered, including background checks and coaches cards

- s. Assist league secretary with accurate collection per team for any and all league fee/fees collected from any fund raising sponsored by the league
 - t. Maintain accurate scores, win/loss record of each team throughout the playing season
 - u. Attend all games of representative's division; assist any division that may be in need of help
 - v. Provide adequate booth duty in case of absence of assigned team, or in case his/her team is involved in post season play
- G) The League Equipment Manager(s) is/are appointed by the Board of Directors. The Equipment Manager(s) responsibilities will include but not limited to:
- a. Maintain an equipment inventory that is acceptable to industry guild lines for youth contact sports with respects to meeting a given acceptable safety criteria.
 - b. Provide the League Treasure with the equipment budgetary needs for the upcoming season, based on prior years' run rate and current projection by March 1st.
 - c. Responsible for procurement, distribution, and collection of all league equipment.
 - d. Work with Board of Directors approval for all equipment purchases.
 - e. Responsible for creating and maintaining a list of who received equipment and what they received, and all returned equipment.

ARTICLE VII **MEETINGS**

League meetings will be set by the Board of Directors and must be scheduled as necessary to maintain and conduct league business. Special meetings can be convened by the Board of Directors with a five (5) day notice to team managers by division representative. Members may convene a special meeting by a written petition of at least fifty (50%) percent of the members holding voting rights within the League. Notice of a special meeting stating the purpose of said meeting, agenda, place, date and time must be delivered personally or by mail/e-mail to each member holding voting rights not less than five (5) days prior to said special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII **MEMBERSHIP**

All coaches (Team Managers and Assistant Coaches) will be subject to Board approval before allowed to manage or coach in the League. All members (Board Members, Team Managers, and Assistant Coaches) must pass the league background check yearly. Before a coach is approved they will be reviewed for any prior code of conduct violations, and all members will be held to the strict code of conduct defined by the NYSCA Code of Conduct Pledge*. There will be no discrimination to any protected groups in approving coaches, accepting players, or appointing board members. No one under the age of 18 years of age by March 1st of the current year can be a Team Manager or on the Board of Directors. If a coach is denied to coaching card he/she will be notified in writing through mail or e-mail and will be afforded an

opportunity to speak to the Board of Director's.
attachments for code of conduct

** See appendix*

All teams are expected to have one representative at every general membership meeting. If a team misses three (3) general membership meetings; the Team Manager will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season. He/She may re-apply the following year to be a coach. It will be expected that each division representative keep an attendance log. The division representative will inform the Board of Director's when a team fails to meet this expectation. The Division Representative will notify the team manager of his/her suspension. The league Secretary will follow up with a letter to the team manager explaining the league's position. In regard to this issue the team manager will not be afforded an opportunity to address the Board of Director's after a decision has been made.

General Membership/Team Manager;

General membership will consist of one Team Manager per team. Only the Team Manager and Board of Director members will have a voting right on elections and rules. In the absence of the Team Manager he/she may appoint someone to represent their team and cast the vote for the team.

Team Managers will be required at their expense, to take NYSCA training and keep his/her membership at NYSCA current each year. The Board of Directors may deem it necessary for a team manager or all team managers to retake NYSCA training at any time.

- A All potential Team Managers shall register their team at the first general membership meeting of the year. This is done by submitting one check (no cash will be accepted) and all coach's background check forms to said submission process of either online entry or league secretary (or other executive board member if needed). All lists of members are null and void on December 31st of each year.
- B The Secretary shall register sponsors and their agents. They shall not vote in League business unless they should hold team-voting rights.
- C All declared team managers and coaches must pay for and turn in background forms by May 15th. New managers or coaches after May 15th will be taken by a case by case basis and must pay and submit all background forms and related information before first game.

Coaches;

Each Manager may have four assistant coaches on the team to assist them on game day. The Team Manager and the assistant coaches must pass a League background check paid for by said team. The manager and coaching staff is the only non-player allowed on the sideline during the football game.

Parents should communicate opinions and recommendations thru their team manager who has the responsibility to bring team opinions, recommendations, and votes to the board.

Participants & Volunteers;

All participants of the League including but not limited to Parents, Spectators, Players, Coaches, Team Managers, and Board of Directors will be held to the League's code of conduct*, "Zero Tolerance Policy"* , and League's Youth Protection Policy & Guidelines* at all League events which shall include but are not limited to Board Meetings, General Membership meetings, practices, scheduled games and all other functions held by the League.

** See appendix attachments for said listed policies and introduction for Code of Conduct*

A Prohibited Substances;

- 1 All alcoholic beverages must be prohibited at all league sponsored functions. Including but not limited to, Board meeting, Membership meetings, Draft meetings, Equipment handout/turn-ins, Games (including the parking lot), and League sponsored Tournaments.
- 2 All tobacco products including but not limited to cigarettes, and chewing tobacco, must be prohibited immediately before, during and after all practices, and scheduled league games until all players have left the event.
- 3 All illegal substances are prohibited at all league sponsored functions. Including but not limited to, Board meeting, Membership meetings, Draft meetings, Equipment handout/turn-ins, Games (including the parking lot), and League sponsored Tournaments.

Failure to abide by these substance restrictions will result in one of the following; probation, three (3) game suspension with probation, or complete ban from the league and league events.

B Inappropriate Behavior;

Inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to the use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, profanity, violence and any behavior deemed detrimental to the League or its participants, will result in one of the following means of punishment:

- 1 Probation
 - o Mandatory attendance of anger management class will be required for all acts of violent behavior, including but not limited to physical altercations and verbal abuse of participants. All participants will be required to register within one week of being notified of the Board's request and participants will be responsible to pay for any counseling.
- 2 Game suspensions and probation
 - o Mandatory attendance of anger management class will be required for all acts of violent behavior, including but not limited to physical altercations and verbal abuse of participants, All participants will be required to register within one week of being notified of the Board's request and participants will be responsible to pay for any counseling.
 - o Three (3) game suspension with probation for violators of our substance policy detailed in Article XII Meetings, Prohibited Substances.
- 2 Life time ban from the League and all events

Probation and game suspensions require a majority vote of the board.

Permanent termination from the League requires a two thirds (2/3) vote of the board.

Any participant being reviewed by the Board for inappropriate behavior will be given the opportunity to come before the Board of Directors for a review of the incident(s) in question.

- 1 Removal from a game by an official is not considered to be a reviewable offense. Any removal by an official is an automatic suspension for the next game as well as the next week of practices. The Board will have the right to review this matter for further discipline should the conduct be considered detrimental to the League and its participants. At which time the offending party will be given the opportunity to come before the Board of Directors for a review on an ADDITIONAL punishment or discipline by the League.

Punishments handed down by the Board of Directors must be fair and consistent with similar offences and punishments.

Any disciplinary action handed down by the Board of Directors is considered binding and therefore, non-reviewable by the General Membership of the League.

ARTICLE IX **Rules**

The League will operate under "Missouri State High School Rules", unless otherwise stated in our league rules.

New rules will be voted on in the spring, every two years (odd calendar years) by the General Membership after they pass the Rules Committee and a Board of Directors review. Changes to existing rules can only be voted on every four (4) years. Rules will be submitted by Team Managers and Board members. Parents and coaches should submit recommendations through their Team Manager.

The President shall appoint a Rules Committee chairman. The chairman will then appoint one representative from each division to sit on the rules committee.

The purpose of the Rules Committee is to consolidate like rules and fix any spelling and grammatical issues. The Committee will determine if any submitted rules are already within the rulebook or if submitted rule conflicts with any bylaw or other rule in the rulebook. Then determine which rule change submissions will enhance the league in a positive manner.

The Rules Committee will present all rules to the Board of Directors for review. On rules not being recommended for vote the Committee will provide an explanation as to why it was rejected. The Board of director will review the rules and make sure the rule is legal, does not contradict League bylaws. Then the Board will vote on recommended rules based on if it is for the good of the League, not just one team's agenda. Then they will be submitted at the next General Membership meeting for vote.

Team Managers and the Board of Directors will vote on each rule change for acceptance or refusal. All passing rules will be effective the current year's football season. The Board of Directors may overturn any rule by a vote of three fourths (3/4) of the Board of Directors present at any scheduled board meeting if it is deemed "for the good of the League".

ARTICLE X **WALTER TOLSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In honor of Coach Walt Tolson a sum of 500.00 dollars per Blue Springs R-IV High School must be awarded each year to the college bound graduate that best demonstrates, in the classroom as well as field of play, the enthusiasm and vigor for life that embodied Coach Walt Tolson.

The Vice President will contact each school by February 28 each year to confirm the League will be doing the scholarship. The school will contact the Vice President when all of the applications have been submitted. The Vice President and two other volunteer Board members will review and select a winner of the scholarship from each school. The Vice President will fill out the appropriate paper work and return them to the schools.

ARTICLE XI **LEAGUE WEBSITE**

If the League has a website, the ownership of the site must be retained by the League. Website can be maintained and/or operated by an outside source but ownership of the domain remains League property.

ARTICLE XII **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The League will adhere to all State and Federal laws regarding conflict of interest for non-profit organization, by use of the League's "Conflict of Interest Policy" attached in Appendix A.

ARTICLE XIII **NOTIFICATIONS**

Board Meetings;

Board Members will be notified of the first Board meeting of each season and/or any unscheduled Board meetings via email from the League President. If a Board member does not have access to email, they will be notified by phone. It is the Board member's responsibility to notify the League Secretary of lack of email access.

All scheduled Board meetings will be on a master schedule and posted on the website.

General Membership Meetings;

Team Managers will be notified of the first General Membership meeting of each season and/or any unscheduled General Membership meetings via email from their Division Representative. If a Team Manager does not have access to email, they will be notified by phone. It is the Team Manger's responsibility to notify their Division Representative of lack of email access.

All scheduled General Membership meetings will be on a master schedule and posted on the website and/or posted at fields.

Equipment Handout and Return;

Equipment handout and return will be on the master schedule and posted on the website. Coaches will be notified of any date changes, in the general membership meeting and/or posted on the website.

Signups;

At a minimum, signup dates and location will be posted on the website and on signs placed around Blue Springs prior to signup dates.

Board of Review;

Anyone coming before the Board for a review of their actions will be notified by a Board member of the location, date and time. At which time the person may ask for a postponement of no less than 5 days. If a postponement is requested the Board will set a new date and time, then notify the person attending the review in the same manner as outline earlier in the paragraph.

Disciplinary Actions;

Board approved disciplinary actions will be documented and by the league disciplinary form, communicated by a board member in-person and with a second witness whenever possible for signature from the offender, and kept on lasting record by league secretary. The disciplinary action starts upon notification. The League Secretary will follow up the disciplinary notice, by mailing a letter through general U.S. mail, detailing all action taken. Failure to receive a letter from the Secretary does not dismiss any disciplinary actions taken by the Board of Directors.

PART TWO – LEAGUE RULES

Version 051111

ARTICLE I

SEASON

A season shall be defined as Declaration night to end of Super bowl.

ARTICLE II

TEAM MANAGERES

Team managers will be permitted one team only. In the past, coaches have attempted to control more than one team and given the time constraints involved, we have had numerous problems collecting equipment, fundraising monies, performing required booth duty, participating in work assignment, etc. This is neither in the best interest of the players or the League. They may assist another team in another division but not as team manager.

Existing coaches within a division has a right to a team as that division progresses even if a tenured coach with more seniority wants to move into that division with a new team.

If/When a team participated in BSAA the previous year and declares for a team in the current year that team must play in BSAA for that current year's football season. If said team decides not to play in that current year ALL COACHES on record for that team may not coach in BSAA for a period of two (2) consecutive football seasons. All contract players for that team for the previous year who leave with said team and choose not to return to BSAA in the future must participate in the current year's hat picks.

The BSAA board to approve out-of-area teams (outside rules book listed boundaries) to join any BSAA participation divisions. Out of area teams must fill a full declared in-community only roster and would not be assigned hat picks. Out-of-area teams with equipment pay a flat fee of \$1200.

ARTICLE III

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Within all BSAA divisions players will be required to provide Birth Certificate, Grade Card, and Photo ID documentation.

Any player whom resides in or around the Blue Springs RIV School District. In or around is defined as follows:

- A) Only those school districts that share a common border with the Blue Springs School district (Lee's Summit, Grain Valley, Independence and Fort Osage)
- B) Any player residing outside the eligible area that wishes to play in the league must enter the league through the draft. After a player has participated for one full year, said player shall be eligible to be contract Frozen on a team, per league rules.

There will NOT be a maximum number of players per team. If and when every team's roster in said division reaches 16 players, a new team may be formed, if there is a coach available and the majority of the current coaches in said division agree to add the additional team.

A player's age must correspond with the grade division in which said player wishes to participate in. In the event the player is too young/old for the corresponding division said player must move either up/down a division to comply with League rules. No players' age may exceed the maximum age for their division prior to Nov. 30th of the current season. Players who will exceed the maximum age prior to Nov 30 must move up to the next eligible division.

(Example 4th grade division 9-11 yrs., no player may turn age 12 prior to the end of the current season; those who do must play in the 5th grade division).

NOTE: Grade will continue to take precedence. Division rep and the board will review on a case by case.

Age brackets:	K division 5yrs-7yrs	1st division 6yrs-8yrs
	2nd division 7yrs-9yrs	3rd division 8yrs-10yrs
	4th division 9yrs-11yrs	5th division 10yrs-12yrs
	6th division 11 yrs-13yrs	7th division 12yrs-14yrs

A player may play up one division, if approved by the Board of Directors. If a player is playing up and wishes to drop down a division he shall be allowed one exemption to drop down as a free agent providing he has a signed release from his team manager or if his original team has folded. All other players must go through the draft when dropping to their original division.

ARTICLE IV **PLAYER CONTRACT FREEZES**

In the kindergarten instructional division only coaches' children will be allowed to be frozen players. Coaches' children are always considered and counted as an automatic contract Freeze(s).

In the 1st– 7th grade divisions each team will be allowed to have under “Contract Freeze” or retain the following number of players from the previous year with written authorization from the players’ parents or legal guardian:

- 1st grade – 14players
- 2nd grade –14 players
- 3rd grade – 14 players
- 4th grade – 14 players
- 5th grade – 14 players
- 6th grade – 14 players
- 7th grade – 14 players

Each team is required to have a minimum number of Contract Freezes. The minimum number shall be set at the first whole number equal to or greater than 50% of allowable freezes per division. (I.e. 50% of 10 equal 5 so the minimum would be set at 5 freezes, 50% of 11 equal 5.5 so the minimum would be set at 6 freezes.). Teams that do not meet the minimum number of required freezes will not be allowed to fill their minimum shortage at the beginning of the draft. Instead they will be assumed to have the minimum amount of freezes and draft accordingly within the normal draft rules and then such teams will select players to fill their minimum shortage at the end of the draft prior to the hat pick round(s).

All “CONTRACT FREEZES” must be turned in at the last meeting prior to the first sign-up date each year. Failure to turn in the “CONTRACTS” at this meeting will result in the loss of those players in question. All players not in the “CONTRACT” will be required to participate in the Hat Picks. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. It is the coach’s responsibility to have contract freezes signed by the parents and/or legal guardians of the players by the turn-in date. If brothers want to play together and at least one is a contract player they must be signed to a contract now or risk not playing on the same team. In short and as harsh as it may seem, if they are not turned in as contract freezes at the above meeting they must go through the league hat picks.

The only players a team is eligible to make a “Contact Freeze” shall be players from that teams previous years roster or new players to the league who meet the eligibility requirements (Article III, A.). Players not frozen by their previous year’s team will participate in the hat picks.

A team is considered a returning team when the team manager returns, or when the team manager does not return and said team is taken over by an assistant coach who was a card carrying coach for same said team the previous year.

Returning team's rosters are controlled by the declared "Team manager" at the leagues declaration meeting. If neither the team manager nor a card-carrying assistant coach from that team will be returning then that team is considered dissolved and those players may either contract with another coach within the respective division or participate in the hat picks. Every coach of record on a "New" team must be a new coach to the league or said team will be considered a returning team and will only be allowed to freeze each coach's son and/or daughter along with any new players to the league. A new team may not have under contract those players who played for another team the previous year unless that team was dissolved.

ARTICLE V **REGISTRATION**

A registration fee is required to play football. The fee is required for equipment, insurance, mouth guard and other miscellaneous items for the players. The Board of Directors will determine the registration fee at least one (1) week prior to the beginning of registration. All players must provide copies of the following: previous year's grade card, birth certificate, Photo Id Documentation and a signed physical that was completed during the same calendar year as the current season.

The fee must be paid prior to the first practice session of the team, or the player shall be defined as a late sign up.

Hardship cases may be referred to the Board of Directors, who shall administer a fund for this purpose.

ARTICLE VI **GAME EQUIPMENT**

Cleats must have rubber molded soles. Metal or removable cleats will not be permitted.

The following equipment will be furnished by the League:

- A) Helmet with ear pads, chin-strap, and initial mouth guard
- B) Shoulder pads
- C) Practice pads with hip, buttock, thigh, and knee pads

If any team wishes to purchase uniforms without burden to league or players, they may do so if the following is adhered to: All pants and jerseys must be approved by the Board of Directors. All equipment not issued by the league must meet League safety standards. Failure to adhere will result in automatic forfeiture of any and all games said team has participated in.

All equipment that is furnished by the League shall remain the property of the League (except mouth guards)

The Team manager will be responsible for all equipment that is issued to his team by the League. EACH TEAM PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRES A \$250.00 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT. Without prior written approval all equipment must be returned no later than the last day posted as determined by the league equipment manager.

FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:

- A Forfeiture of deposit.
- B Current team manager will be permanently banned from being a team manager in the league. He may act as an assistant coach and carry out the duties of an assistant coach, but he may never again assume the role or duties of a team manager as outlined under (Article III: Team managers)
- C A card carrying assistant coach, in good standing with the league, may take over the team and its team manager position the following year. All rules will apply as they would under any other

situation in which the current team manager doesn't return and an assistant coach takes over the team.

- D The team itself will be placed on a permanent "Equipment Violation" probation. Any further violation of related equipment rule and deadlines will immediately result in a permanent banishment from the league of all teams' current card carrying coaches, and the team itself will be dissolved.

Any team using decals or insignias on helmets must remove and clean helmets at the end of the season or the team manager will forfeit the \$250.00 equipment deposit. "Pants and Jerseys" should be returned in clean condition also, or the team manager will be charged an appropriate cleaning fee to be deducted from the deposit check.

All players in the league must wear molded rubber cleats; no steel or nylon cleats permitted.

ARTICLE VII

Draft

Draft Pick position/order for kindergarten and 1st grade divisions will be determined by hat pick.

Draft pick positions/order for 2nd – 7th grade divisions will be by previous year's record with the team achieving the worst record attaining 1st slot in pick order and 2nd worst record attaining 2nd slot and so on to the last two slots being occupied by the Super bowl runner-up and Super bowl winner, respectively.

- A In case of identical records, draft spot will be determined by flip of a coin.
- B Any new teams with no previous years' record will be slotted in between returning teams and Super bowl participants. "Teams dropping down in divisions will be slotted after Super Bowl participants."
- C Multiple new teams will be slotted in said position before Super bowl participants and order will be by pick out of the hat.

New teams entering the League shall receive an equal number of available players as the team with the fewest number of "Contract Freezes". This will be accomplished by allowing new coaches to pick first until their roster equals the team with the fewest number of "Contract Freezes".

A new team cannot have "Contract Freeze" players who played for another team but chose not to return to the team they played for the previous year.

If there are brothers available in the picks that are in the same grade, and their parents have requested the brothers play together, that coach forfeits his/her pick selection in the following round.

For the purposes of the picks, brothers who play on the same team will constitute two (2) contracts instead of one (1).

The picks continue as above until all registrants are assigned.

The League Secretary shall maintain a list of the picks and a list of ALL LATE SIGN-UPS. The program Commissioners shall assign additional players (late sign-ups) to teams per pick number as openings occur. There MUST BE AT LEAST THREE (3) PLAYERS on the waiting list before a drawing will occur after the picks have taken place. No new players will be added on any team after the beginning of school. In no case can a coach recruit a player when his pick number comes up.

Any player that drops out of the League program must turn in all League issued equipment before any refund will be issued.

No refund will be issued except for injury as determined by the Board of Directors after the first game of the season.

ARTICLE VIII PRACTICES

Attendance at practice sessions is mandatory. Any player that attends less than fifty percent (50%) of the practices, or for other disciplinary reasons, may be benched by the team manager by informing the Program Commissioner and or the Vice Commissioner. The player being benched will wear the game jersey without pads or helmet. The following people must be informed of a benching prior to a game:

- A Program Commissioner or Vice Commissioner
- B Opposing Team manager
- C Head Referee

Any player who fails to attend fifty percent (50%) of the practices and or games in a three-week period, unless excused from attending by the team manager may be dropped from the team. The Team manager shall inform the Program Commissioner and or the Vice Commissioner of his decision. The Program Commissioner and or Vice Commissioner may rule on the decision.

If a player has participated in fifty percent (50%) of the practice sessions; he must be allowed to participate as per program and divisional rules. Failure to allow this participation may be cause for forfeiture of the game. The Program Commissioner and or Vice Commissioner and the Board of Directors shall review any reported violations, and shall rule on a forfeiture of a game accordingly.

Once a team has declared and freeze contracts have been turned into the league, said team is not permitted to conduct an organized practice session with any of its freeze players of record before the team picks selection. Unless said team is already participating in an organized program. Penalty will result in forfeiture of first League game.

Under no circumstances will lights be used without approval of the Board of Directors prior to September 15th. This is to ensure that all teams have equal opportunity to practice under lights.

Players from one team are not allowed to practice with any other team. The penalty is suspension of both coach and player for one game. This is to ensure that a player does not exceed the maximum number of practices each week before or after the football season begins. Players who are asked to play for another coach outside of the League (i.e. tournaments before or after the season) must insure that both his league coach and the coach he will play for are notified before he may do so.

Under no circumstance will teams be allowed to practice on our game fields at Hidden Valley Park without permission from the Board

No practice will be held on a Sunday.

No practice session shall exceed two (2) hours.

Teams may not practice on the same day they play a game.

Flag divisions will be limited to a maximum of three (3) practices per week prior to the start of the school year, and a maximum of two (2) practices per week after school starts.

Tackle divisions will be limited to a maximum of four (4) practices per week prior to the start of the school year, and a maximum of three (3) practices per week after school starts. Eight (8) hours of conditioning (4 practices) is mandatory prior to the usage of shoulder pads. Helmets may be worn during conditioning.

All practices must be held within the Blue Springs R IV School District or, at the Boards discretion, at pre-determined and approved locations. All locations must be approved by the board of directors prior to any practices being held at said location(s). 1) For the safety and well being of all players, no teams shall be allowed to scrimmage teams outside of their own division's grade/age requirements. Violation of this rule will result in a 3 game suspension of both teams team managers.

ARTICLE IX GAME BOOTH DUTY

Game booth personnel (see below) are the only personnel allowed in the booth.

- A Referee has the right to stop the game until the other people leave the booth
- B All personnel MUST BE SIXTEEN or OLDER
- C Absolutely no coaching is allowed from the booth
- D No personnel will be allowed to film games from the booth without approval from league board of directors

A team's assigned booth duty consists of two (2) coaches or volunteers

- A) One (1) clock operator
- B) One (1) announcer.

A team's game booth duty assignment consists of one (1) coach or volunteer assistant

- A) One (1) spotter assistant

If a team fails to serve its required booth duty, two coaches of said team will be suspended for the next game.

- A) The Board of Directors will determine the coaches who will serve the game suspension.

ARTICLE X GAMES

All games will be scheduled to meet the needs of the leagues capacity. No games will be scheduled later than 8:00pm CST. No games will be scheduled on Sunday unless needed due to unforeseen circumstances as make up games only. No teams shall play more than one regularly scheduled game per week.

If there are not enough time slots to fill necessary games in a given Friday or Saturday then one evening of the week may be utilized. No team will play more than one week night game per season.

All games that are canceled due to unforeseen circumstances will be rescheduled as soon as possible to prevent further extension of the League's season into colder weather.

All games will be played with an official (see below) league provided game ball

- A Kindergarten and 1st divisions must use Nike Pee Wee as their official league game ball
- B 2nd – 4th grade divisions must use a Nike 1000 Spiral Tech Football Youth (size 6) as their official league game ball
- C 5th– 6th grade divisions must use a Nike 1000 Spiral Tech Football Youth (size 7) as their official league game ball
- D 7th grade division must use a Nike 1000 Spiral Tech Football Youth (size 8) league game ball

Teams must field a minimum of eight (8) players at kickoff time or forfeit. Five of the eight (8) players must be lineman.

Free substitution is permitted; substitutions shall not delay the game.

A touchdown is worth six (6) points. A point after touchdown (PAT) is worth one (1) point by running or two (2) points by passing or successful kicking ball in-between the field goal uprights.

A safety is worth two (2) points and the offensive team must kick to the defensive team from the twenty (20) yard line.

Only the losing team may stop the official clock after entering the third quarter of play and one team has a lead of 35 points, or after entering the fourth quarter of play and the lead is 21 points. The winning team may call a timeout as desired but the official clock will continue to run. Any team losing by these margins will have the ball placed at midfield after each touchdown scored by winning team.

In the event the game is tied at the end of regulation, the victor will be determined using Missouri High School overtime rules, with the exception of our league-specific rules. If overtime is necessary, the ball will be placed on the ten (10) yard line and each team will get an equal series of plays until one team scores and the other team does not.

Playoffs and Super bowl games played in wet/colder November weather (i.e. 40°, wet rain) may be postponed by a majority vote of at least seven (7) Board Members.

Tie breakers for teams involved in the playoffs will be determined first on head-to-head records then on the Missouri High School Tie Breaker system with a maximum of a + or – 13 points awarded for games played during the regular season

- A Overtime games will only count +1 for the winning team and -1 for the losing team.
- B If three or more teams are tied and points eliminate one or more teams, any remaining team will start the tie breaker over at head-to-head.

ARTICLE XI **PARTICIPATION**

All players on a team roster must be assigned a starting position on either offense or defense and the bench shall be cleared after each change of possession. Each player must continue to play said position unless injured or assigned a different starting position on the other side of the ball. Special teams shall not constitute a starting position.

Failure to clear the bench and failure to allow each player to participate with the unit in which he is assigned a starting position shall result in the team manager of said team to be suspended 3 games for the 1st offense and to receive a lifetime ban from coaching in the league for the 2nd offense. Assistant Coach's who take over for a suspended coach is subject to the same penalty should the violation occur while the team is under their supervision. All ineligible players must be reported per Article IX

*****THE INTENT OF THIS RULE IS TO ALLOW EACH PLAYER THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN APPROXIMATELY 50% OF ALL PLAYS DURING A GAME.***

ARTICLE XIII
GAME OFFICIALS

The League will be responsible for furnishing the officials. Officials will be hired and paid on a contract basis by the League.

Unless approved by the Board of Directors, game officials will be Missouri High School approved officials.

Unless approved by the Board of Directors, game officials will not be from out of town.

The referee has ABSOLUTE charge of the game, and takes his position behind the offensive team.

The linesman has charge of the Down Markers and the Time Clock, and takes his place on the line of scrimmage.

The umpire shall take his position behind the defensive team and shall rule as per the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations, except as defined and excepted herein.

For each game one team shall be designated as the "Visiting Team" this team shall provide 3 adults to run the down markers.

PART THREE – FLAG RULES

Kindergarten 7on7

ARTICLE I **DIVISIONS**

BSAA Kindergarten 7on7 Flag Football will be a Kindergarten only instructional division. The Kindergarten instructional division will have an objective to establish an even number of teams to maximize the number of games and playing time each player receives. Kindergarten division will be played 7 on 7 (7 offensive players and 7 defensive players). Each team will be allowed one (1) Team Manager and four (4) coaches of record to start the season. All games in the Kindergarten division will not keep game scores with the exception of each team's final game of the season. All games will be regularly scheduled to play on Friday nights.

Kindergarten division – BSAA will provide each team game T-shirts for each player. These T-shirts will consist of the following: Team name, player # and BSAA Logo. BSAA requires that all players wear SOLID BLACK shorts/pants. The SOLID BLACK shorts/pants will be required.

GAME FLAGS: Game Flags will be provided by BSAA. The colors will consist of RED, YELLOW and/or BLUE. These Game Flags will remain at the fields and ONLY be used for games.

ARTICLE II **FIELD**

Length; eighty (80) yards, width; at least forty (40) yards, end zones; ten (10) yards.

Spectators shall not come closer than fifteen (15) feet from the sidelines of the field.

ARTICLE III **GAMES**

Kindergarten games will consist of two (2) 20 minute halves and a five (5) minute halftime. The clock can only be stopped for timeouts and by the official in the event of an injury. Kindergarten division will have (2) timeouts per half.

The clock will run continuously except for; timeouts, points scored penalties, and injuries. At the two (2) minute mark of each half, there will be a 2 minute warning to each sideline and an official time (just like a team timeout). The remainder of the half the clock will be ran like tackle football rules.

In case of player shortage each team will adjust equally down to a minimum of seven (5) players. In the event one team falls below five (5), said team must forfeit the contest.

ARTICLE IV **DOWNING THE BALL CARRIER**

Pulling either flag from the ball carriers belt. If flags fall off on their own runner shall be downed by 2-hand touch below the waist by any defensive player.

Ball carriers knee touches the ground.

If a player catches or intercepts a pass, or otherwise legally gains possession of the ball, and said player does not have both flags showing in the correct manner, he shall be declared down by a two (2) hand tag below the waist.

After being warned by an official, if a ball carrier wears his flags incorrectly, the ball will be called back to the original line of scrimmage.

The ball carrier shall not protect his flags with his hands; if a ball carrier protects his flags he will be whistled down at point of infraction and a ten (10) yard penalty will be assessed.

ARTICLE V **FUMBLES**

A fumble on a kickoff or punt may be recovered by either team but may only be advanced by the receiving team. If the kicking team recovers the fumble it will be blown dead at the point of recovery.

A fumble from scrimmage may be recovered and advanced by either team.

ARTICLE VI **OFFENSE**

Kindergarten division will have up to but not succeeding of forty-five (45) seconds between plays.

The time will begin once the official has set the ball for play.

There are (2) Coaches allowed on the field on the offensive side of the ball and (2) Coaches on the defensive side of ball. They shall remain silent from start of cadence or silent snap until the end of the play.

Cadence or snaps should not commence until coaches are at least 5- yards behind the furthest player.

No more than four (4) players will be allowed to line up off the line of scrimmage

ARTICLE VII **BLOCKING**

Kindergarten Blocking Rules 7 on 7:

BLOCKING

1. Only brush blocks and open hand blocks may be used by all players.
2. All brush and open hand blocks must meet the following requirements:
 - a. The blocker must never strike a blow with any part of his body and must never throw an elbow or forearm.
 - b. At no time may the blocker make contact with the ground except with his feet. He must remain on his feet at all times while blocking.
 - c. The blocker must not initiate contact with an opponent above the opponent's shoulders.
 - d. A blocker must not grasp, pull, or hold an opponent in any way.

PENALTY: Articles a, b, and c - Personal foul - 9 yards. If the infraction was flagrant, the offending player will be warned. If the same player commits another flagrant foul under Articles a, b, or c, that player will be ejected from the game

3. Brush Blocking

- a. The brush block is thrown from a standing position using the chest area. Contact is made by the chest area and not by the shoulder.
- b. during a brush block, the elbows must be kept against the body and NOT extended. The hands must be kept on the jersey.

- c. A brush block may be used anywhere on the field by any player.

4. Open Hand Blocking

- a. An open hand block is a block using the hands to ward off or push an opposing player. The hands must be open and in advance of the elbows and the fingers extended.
- b. An open hand block may be used anywhere on the field by any player.

ARTICLE VIII ADVANCING THE BALL

Kindergarten Advancing the Ball Rules 7 on 7:

RECEIVING

- * All players are eligible to receive passes (including the quarterback if the ball has been handed off behind the line of scrimmage).
- * Only one player may be in motion, but not in motion towards the line of scrimmage at the snap.
- * A player must have one (1) foot inbounds when making a reception. (A receiver cannot return on to the playing field from an out of bounds position).

RUNNING

- * To start the play, the ball must be snapped between the legs of the snapper.
- * The center is the player who gives the ball to the quarterback via a snap (no center sneak plays).
- * The quarterback is the player who receives the ball directly from the snap.
- * The quarterback cannot run with the ball past the line of scrimmage.
- * Once a player has possession of the ball beyond the line of scrimmage, any loss of possession will be blown dead by the official.
- * The player who takes the handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- * All defensive players are eligible to rush once the ball has been handed off.
- * Spinning is allowed, but offensive players cannot leave their feet to avoid a defensive player (no diving).
- * The ball is spotted where the ball carrier's hips are when the flag is pulled, not where the ball is. Ball and flags must break plane for a 1st down and touchdown.
- It is up to the ball carrier to avoid contact with the defender.

SCORING

Touchdown: six (6) points – running or passing
Point after one (1) point – running or passing

ARTICLE IX DEFENSE

Kindergarten Rushing the Quarterback Rules 7 on 7:

RUSHING the QUARTERBACK

All players who rush the passer must be a minimum of seven yards from the line of scrimmage. A rusher must maintain his direct path to QB. Also, he must avoid all contact with the QB.

Any number of players can rush the quarterback. Players not rushing the quarterback may defend on the line of scrimmage. Once the ball is handed off, the seven-yard rule no longer is in effect and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. A special marker, or the referee, will designate seven yards from the line of scrimmage.

ARTICLE X

KICKING GAME

Kindergarten Kicking Rules 7 on 7:

There will be no kicking off or punting. Each team will start from their 20 yard line. If offensive team wishes to forfeit their 4th down the defensive team will take possession at their 20 yard line. If offensive goes for it on the 4th down defensive team will take possession on the spot of the ball or previous line of scrimmage.

ARTICLE XI PENALTIES

Ten (10)-yard penalties

- 1 Use of hand on helmet or facemask
- 2 Offensive or defensive holding. If ball carrier is being held an automatic first down will be assessed.
- 3 Spearing or using helmet to initiate contact
- 4 Tackling the ball carrier. Infraction is also an automatic first down.
- 5 Unnecessary roughness.
- 6 Roughing the passer
- 7 Cross body or reach blocking
- 8 Deliberate protection of flags by the ball carrier. Shirttails and belt ends must be tucked into pants. Penalty will be assessed from the point of foul.
- 9 Straight arming or hacking
- 10 Un-sportsman like conduct
- 11 Coaches on field instructing team after offense begins cadence or play

Five (5) yard-penalties

- 1 Offside or encroachment
- 2 Delay of game
- 3 Illegal formations including defensive "A-Gap" infraction as outlined in Article XIII-A.
- 4 Illegal procedure including defensive "A-Gap" infraction as outlined in Article XIII-A.
- 5 Spectators within fifteen (15) foot line
- 6 Failure to announce punt. Infraction also result in loss of down
- 7 Applying adhesive substance to the hands of a player to aid in the pulling of flags.

PART FOUR – FLAG RULES

FIRST GRADE 11on11

ARTICLE I **DIVISIONS**

BSAA Flag Football First Grade divisions will be a competitive division. Number of players on the field for each game will be determined by registration numbers with 9 being the minimum and 11 the maximum with the intent being to establish an even number of teams and 10 minimum and 12 maximum per team in the Kindergarten division. The First Grade competitive division will have an objective to establish an even number of teams to maximize the number of games and playing time each player receives. Each team can have a maximum of one (1) Team Manager and four (4) coaches of record for the season. The First Grade Division will culminate in an 8-team playoff to a Super Bowl event with all games being regularly scheduled to play on Friday nights.

GAME FLAGS: Game Flags will be provided by BSAA. The colors will consist of RED, YELLOW and/or BLUE. These Game Flags will remain at the fields and **ONLY** be used for games.

ARTICLE II **FIELD**

Length; eighty (80) yards, width; at least forty (40) yards, end zones; ten (10) yards.

Spectators shall not come closer than fifteen (15) feet from the sidelines of the field.

ARTICLE III **GAMES**

First grade games will consist of four (4) ten (10) minute quarters and a ten (10) minute halftime. First Grade division will have (3) timeouts per half.

The clock will run continuously except for; timeouts, points scored penalties, and injuries. At the two (2) minute mark of each half, there will be a 2 minute warning to each sideline and an official time (just like a team timeout). The remainder of the half the clock will be ran like tackle football rules.

In case of player shortage each team will adjust equally down to a minimum of seven (5) players. In the event one team falls below five (5), said team must forfeit the contest.

ARTICLE IV **DOWNING THE BALL CARRIER**

Pulling either flag from the ball carriers belt. If flags fall off on their own runner shall be downed by 2-hand touch below the waist by any defensive player.

Ball carriers knee touches the ground.

If a player catches or intercepts a pass, or otherwise legally gains possession of the ball, and said player does not have both flags showing in the correct manner, he shall be declared down by a two (2) hand tag below the waist.

After being warned by an official, if a ball carrier wears his flags incorrectly, the ball will be called back to the original line of scrimmage.

The ball carrier shall not protect his flags with his hands; if a ball carrier protects his flags he will be whistled down at point of infraction and a ten (10) yard penalty will be assessed.

ARTICLE V **FUMBLES**

A fumble on a kickoff or punt may be recovered by either team but may only be advanced by the receiving team. If the kicking team recovers the fumble it will be blown dead at the point of recovery.

A fumble from scrimmage may be recovered and advanced by either team.

ARTICLE VI **OFFENSE**

Teams have twenty-five (25) seconds to place the ball in play. (35 seconds first game, and 30 seconds second game) The time will begin once the official has set the ball for play. There are (2) Coaches allowed on the field on the offensive side of the ball and (2) Coaches on the defensive side of ball. They shall remain silent from start of cadence or silent snap until the end of the play. Cadence or snaps should not commence until coaches are at least 5- yards behind the furthest player. No more than four (4) players will be allowed to line up off the line of scrimmage

ARTICLE VII **BLOCKING**

Shoulder and hand blocking only. No reach or body blocks.
The use of hands by a defensive player is restricted to the body and shoulders of the offensive blocker.
"Straight arming" is illegal
Clipping is running or diving into the back of an opponent

ARTICLE VIII **ADVANCING THE BALL**

First Grade Division: Teams have twenty-five (25) seconds to place the ball in play.
A) First and second games will allow 35 and then 30 seconds respectfully.
Offensive teams have four (4) downs to advance the ball to the next twenty (20) yard line

No interior lineman shall be allowed to carry the ball except on a fumble recovery.
Under no circumstances shall a coach call out the cadence signals.

SCORING

Touchdown: six (6) points – running or passing
Point after one (1) point – running or passing

ARTICLE IX **DEFENSE**

A defensive player shall not be allowed to line head up or in the center-guard "A" gap on the defensive line of scrimmage. Defensive players shall not make initial contact with the offensive center unless they started 3-yards back from the line of scrimmage

There is (1) Coach allowed on the field on the defensive side of the ball. They shall remain silent from start of cadence or silent snap until the end of the play. Defensive coach must have players set and ready before offensive team begins cadence or start of play. Coach should be at least 5-yards behind safety or linebackers whichever are furthest from line of scrimmage before offense begins each play

ARTICLE X **KICKING GAME**

A kickoff must be a place kick.

Receiving team lines up a minimum of ten (10) yards away from the kicking team.

The football must travel ten (10) yards before the kicking team can regain possession.

Fumbles may be recovered by either team. There will be no "piling on", and the ball will be blown dead when the recovering player's knee touches the ground. Only the receiving team may advance the ball.

When a team elects to punt, they must announce their intention before the offensive huddle breaks.

When a punt is announced, both teams must hold their positions until the ball is kicked.

A poor snap from the center may be picked up and kicked.

ARTICLE XI **PENALTIES**

Ten (10)-yard penalties

- 12 Use of hand on helmet or facemask
- 13 Offensive or defensive holding. If ball carrier is being held an automatic first down will be assessed.
- 14 Spearing or using helmet to initiate contact
- 15 Tackling the ball carrier. Infraction is also an automatic first down.
- 16 Unnecessary roughness.
- 17 Roughing the passer
- 18 Cross body or reach blocking
- 19 Deliberate protection of flags by the ball carrier. Shirttails and belt ends must be tucked into pants. Penalty will be assessed from the point of foul.
- 20 Straight arming or hacking
- 21 Un-sportsman like conduct
- 22 Coaches on field instructing team after offense begins cadence or play

Five (5) yard-penalties

- 8 Offside or encroachment
- 9 Delay of game
- 10 Illegal formations including defensive "A-Gap" infraction as outlined in Article XIII-A.
- 11 Illegal procedure including defensive "A-Gap" infraction as outlined in Article XIII-A.
- 12 Spectators within fifteen (15) foot line
- 13 Failure to announce punt. Infraction also result in loss of down
- 14 Applying adhesive substance to the hands of a player to aid in the pulling of flags.

PART FIVE – TACKLE RULES

BSAA Tackle Football will consist of six divisions, Second Grade through Seventh Grade all being competitive and subject to the same rules of play. Note a necessary ruling not specifically listed in this book will follow MO High School rules.

ARTICLE I **GAMES**

Each game shall consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.

ARTICLE II **WEIGHT and POSITION RESTRICTIONS**

The following weight restrictions for each division shall be met before a player may line up in a ball carrying position. (i.e. Position of running back, wide receiver or tight end)

- 1 2nd grade – 80lbs or less
- 2 3rd grade – 100lbs or less
- 3 4th grade – 115lbs or less
- 4 5th grade – 120lbs or less
- 5 6th grade – 130lbs or less
- 6 7th grade – 150lbs or less

Players are further defined as:

- A Ball carriers: A player who meets weight restrictions shown above in this Article.
- B Lineman: A player who does not meet weight restrictions shown above in this Article.

All Players must weigh in before every game. The Board of Directors will designate a weigh-in Committee to oversee weigh-ins

Each team is required to provide a team roster at each weigh in to ensure that all players are weighed in. Any player who does not weigh in will not be eligible to participate in that week's game.

Each team must weigh in ALL players together, no sooner than 90 minutes before game time and no later than 30 minutes before game time. **NO PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO WEIGH-IN INDIVIDUALLY.**

All players who are over the ball carrying weight will have a decal applied to their helmet. These decals shall not be removed until the next official weigh in date. Only a league official may remove a decal from a player's helmet. If a player or coach removes a decal the penalty will be forfeiture of game and one game suspension of team's team manager.

Players may weigh in without any equipment.

A player that does not meet the weight limits may punt the football if he in no way tries to advance the ball in front of the line of scrimmage by running or passing, however he may move behind the line of scrimmage to protect himself and to get the punt off. The ball is dead at the line of scrimmage and loss of down results if the overweight player advances the ball beyond it.

PART SIX – DIVISION 1 RULES

BSAA Division I (competitive) Tackle Rules

ARTICLE I

ROSTERS

All competition teams must team declare and turn in team rosters by said date(s) set forth by the BSAA Board of Directors. Team try outs can be held anytime in between December 31st and roster hand in date.

Teams will consist of 15-18 players with an open formation format.

Non-BSAA teams (separate organization charter) who want to participate in the D1 league but not needing equipment will be allowed to do so for a fee of \$1200.

Practice time allotment will be limited to 6hrs of full contact and 2 additional hours of non-contact practice within a weeks time.

All teams must provide a team packet at every game which includes identification photo ID badge, original birth certificate, and grade card for each player. If a player does not have said packet the player will not play in the game.

There will be no restriction on the amount of time any one player must play.

Players are only allowed to play on ONE team time at one of any division or league. Teams will be allowed to play in other tournaments. Teams are not restricted to only play in the BSAA Football League.

Competition teams will not be allowed to add players to any roster past the said date set forth by the BSAA Board of Directors.

Teams folding post DI declare date and DII date; all players will become free agents and will participate in Division 2 (DII).

All free agent players (see BSAA league definition in 2011 rule book) can sign a freeze form with any team they wish to play for in 2011 season. Any 2011 DII card carrying coach that does not wish to participate in the Competition Division retains the rights to remaining players on said team in DII unless said player is on DI roster.

All DI teams will be allowed to scrimmage any DII teams with said grade division.

All players will be free agents upon end of 2011 season and can sign a freeze form with any team they wish to play for in 2012 season.

ARTICLE II

EQUIPMENT

DI teams will be allowed to use self provided equipment. League equipment will be available if needed for an additional registration fee.

ARTICLE III **REFEREES**

We will enforce a no-tolerance rule for unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind. Only the Team manager from each team is allowed to request a conference regarding a conflict with an official. If the head coach has a question regarding a rule interpretation, he may ask for a conference with the official and a member of the tournament committee to determine the proper application of the rule. Any abuse of this policy will result in a delay of game penalty enforced on the team requesting the conference.

Judgment calls may NOT BE CONTESTED. Any person or persons can and will be ejected from the Hidden Valley Complex if any flagrant abuse or inappropriate behavior is committed. Players and or parents who commit any flagrant acts toward officials will be ejected and not allowed to return for any further games. Each head coach is responsible for the actions of the assistant coaches, players and spectators/fans for their own team. All NYSSO officials will be MSHSAA certified.

ARTICLE IV **FANS & SPECTATORS**

All fans will be required to stay off the sidelines during the game and follow all BSAA league guidelines and policies. The home team designated on the tournament bracket will provide three (3) persons for the chains. Coaches are responsible for the actions (per NYSCA guidelines) of their spectators/fans. Spectators/fans are not to enter the field of play at any time and are not to show unsportsmanlike conduct or any inappropriate behavior toward the officials or opposition.

ARTICLE V **RULES**

Missouri State High School Activities Association Rules will apply.

BSAA Commissioner will be responsible for working with the BSAA board and then communicating all disciplinary actions per BSAA league policy.

Some, but not all, actions that will warrant punishment are the following...

Fighting, intentionally trying to hurt, and foul language will not be tolerated during any game.

Inappropriate behavior will be warned for the first infraction and then game ejection leading to suspension and dismemberment will follow.

ARTICLE VI **Participation Age and Ball carrying weight**

We go by grades first and age second. Players must be of the proper age, not older than the following ages on Nov 30th, 2011 for the division level in which he/she expects to participate. BSAA still has the final say whether to allow players the right to play.

Division	Ball Carrying Weight	Birthday
6th Grade	Open	13

ARTICLE VII
BALL SIZE

All games will be played with an official (see below) league provided game ball. Ball brand may vary depending on annual board vote and will follow the following size guidelines.

- A) 6th grade: Nike Football 1000 Spiral Tech Football Junior Size 7

ARTICLE VIII
GAME LENGTH

There will be four (4) eight (8) minute quarters and a ten (10) minute half in each game.
SCORING

Touchdown	6
Extra Points	
Run	1
Pass	2
Kick	2
Field Goals	3
Safety	2

ARTICLE IX
DIVISION RANKINGS

- 1) Head to head
- 2) Defensive points allowed -13
- 3) Offensive points scored +13
- 4) Coin toss

PART SEVEN– APPENDIX

Youth Protection Policy & Guidelines

BSAA football board has developed the Youth Protection Program designed to help ensure the safety and well-being of all League members, particularly our youth. The Programs guidelines are aimed at eliminating any opportunities for abuse within our sports program. It is the responsibility of all League participants to ensure that these policies are followed.

It must be understood that our volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse, and should never attempt to do so, but they must take responsibility for promptly reporting any concerns to a BSAA board member.

All BSAA football coaches, referees and volunteers, who are working directly with children under the age of eighteen, are required to participate in, and adhere to, the Youth Protection Program which includes:

- 1 Background checks on all prospective volunteers to evaluate the individual's suitability to perform in a responsible leadership capacity around youth.
 - A sex offender
 - B criminal
 - C violence
- 2 Reading the BSSA football Youth Protection policy and guidelines as posted on our website.
- 3 Signing the Code of Conduct for Coaches Form.

Youth Protection Policy

The parents, families, relatives and members of the Community Athletic Association trust our program to provide a safe environment for all participants. The BSAA football Youth Protection Policy does not tolerate abuse in any form, whether it is emotional, physical, or sexual.

Adults who assume volunteer roles within BSAA football will have the opportunity for a rewarding experience. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position of trust that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behavior that fulfills this trust.

Youth Protection Guidelines

The following guidelines and expectations have been established for persons serving in volunteer roles with BSAA football:

- 1 Conduct yourself in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behavior appropriate for a positive role model for youth.
- 2 Demonstrate exemplary behavior at all times when dealing with parents, coaches, assistant coaches, referees and other personnel involved in the sport.
- 3 Encourage good sportsmanship by the players during both practices and games.
- 4 Treat all players with respect and dignity. Promote respect for all the participants including the opposition and game officials.
- 5 Put the welfare and well-being of the players first before winning. Kids first, winning second.
- 6 Create a positive environment for training and competition. Make football enjoyable and promote fair play.

- 7 Encourage and support players. Provide constructive feedback. Take time to offer praise whenever the youth does anything praiseworthy. Focus on the positive.
- 8 Where possible, avoid one-on-one situations with individual players. Meetings, discussions and drills should be conducted in view of other adults and/or youths.
- 9 Obtain parental consent to transport young players to and from practices and games.
- 10 While physical contact between an adult and a youth is not absolutely prohibited, as in high-fives when congratulating a youth for an accomplishment, adults must be very alert to the appropriateness of any physical contact.
- 11 Respect privacy. All youth are entitled to personal privacy from adults, and when necessary or appropriate, from other youth as well. A health and safety concern is the only exception. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- 12 Discipline used in youth programs should be constructive and reflect high values. Profanity and corporal punishment are never permitted.
- 13 Physical hazing, initiations, ridicule, inappropriate teasing or aggression are prohibited and may not be included as part of any youth activity.
- 14 Team managers, coaches, referees and League Representatives must ensure that BSAA football policies are followed.
- 15 Young players must not be left alone without guidance or supervision. Ensure that a child is not left alone at any time (such as waiting for his/her parents to pick them up after a practice or game).
- 16 Keep medical and emergency contact details for the players with you at all practices and games in the event of an emergency.
- 17 Comply with anti-discrimination laws. BSAA football offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.
- 18 The use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products is prohibited at all BSAA football practices, games, official meetings, and events.
- 19 Team managers and coaches should communicate all relevant league information to their teams. Details should include number, length and times of practices, games dates and other related League information.
- 20 If the event of an injury, immediately obtain or provide the appropriate medical assistance.
- 21 Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by BSAA football including all state laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Youth protection policies and procedures address issues of child abuse. Child abuse is deliberate emotional, physical or sexual injury of a child by an adult or older child. Neglect is harm caused by withholding life's necessities food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education.

Signs of Abuse

Any abrupt change in behavior that is maintained for a week or longer is a sign that the child is experiencing stress that could stem from a variety of causes including family disruption, illness, death of a pet, a move to a new neighborhood, or child abuse. Some of the possible specific signs for each kind of abuse are listed below:

Possible signs of Physical Abuse: Suspicious injuries that are different from those normally associated with childhood "wear and tear" such as burns, bruises, lacerations, abrasions and fractures.

Possible signs of Emotional Abuse: Emotional abuse of others, extreme sensitivity to criticism, self-destructive behavior, appears to be a danger to others, continuous unwillingness or inability to form trusting relationships, chronic rebellion against authority, constant socially disruptive behavior, lagging physical development, and in severe cases habit disorders such as thumb sucking or rocking.

Possible signs of Sexual Abuse: Difficulty in walking; torn, stained, or bloody clothing; pain or itching in the genital area; bruises or bleeding in the body's private areas; sexually transmitted diseases; an age-inappropriate

understanding of sex; reluctance to be left alone with a particular person; persistent and inappropriate sex play with peers; wearing excessive amounts of clothing; fear of touch; and abuse of animals.

Possible signs of Neglect: Child consistently shows up inappropriately or poorly dressed, shows obvious need of medical care, lacks personal hygiene, repeatedly borrows money for basic necessities, and is consistently overly hungry. If asked, the child will likely make excuses for his or her parent(s).

Your Responsibility

- 1 Show support and concern for any youth who might be affected
- 2 Do not jump to any conclusions. Act with all due diligence.
- 3 Ask the youth in indirect ways if "everything is all right." Be available for the child.
- 4 Consider stating your observations to the child's parents. Do not directly or indirectly accuse a suspected adult of child abuse.
- 5 Speak confidentially with other adult leaders who have contact with the child.
- 6 Handle the matter as discreetly as possible.
- 7 If necessary, remove the child from danger and obtain medical treatment as needed.
- 8** Report any League related concerns to the BSAA football President (or other executive board member if necessary). The law requires only that you have a reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused.

Reporting Procedures

BSAA football views the reporting of suspected child abuse as both a personal and ethical obligation. All League members should be alert to the physical and emotional state of all program participants.

- 1 If child abuse is suspected, report your reasonable suspicions to the League President who will immediately investigate the allegations. During the investigation period, the accused individual will be suspended from all activities involving the supervision of children. The suspension will continue until the person is cleared or allegations are proven. If the allegations are proven correct, the individual will be removed from all BSAA football activities.
- 2 When any BSAA football member suspects child abuse or neglect occurring outside of the BSAA football program, they are urged to report the situation to appropriate local authorities at the Department of Human Services at **((816) 228-0291)**.
- 3 All information regarding alleged child abuse will be maintained under strict confidentiality. Information will be communicated only on a "need-to-know" basis.