

SEQUOYAH YOUTH FOOTBALL CONFERENCE RULES FOR THE 2008 SEASON

Updated 3/09/2008

1. MEMBERSHIP:

THE CONFERENCE WILL CONSIST OF TEN (10) MEMBERS: POLK CO., VONORE, MADISONVILLE, SWEETWATER, CENTRAL, GREENBACK, LOUDON, RICEVILLE, LCYFO AND MIDWAY.

2. OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE:

TO FURTHER THE IDEALS OF FOOTBALL; TO INFLUENCE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAMWORK, COMPETITIVENESS, HIGH MORAL, PHYSICAL FITNESS; THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOLARSHIP AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL; AND TO PROVIDE A MUTUAL BASIS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PLAYERS AND THE ADULTS OF THESE COMMUNITIES USING THE MEDIUM OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL AS A CATALYST.

3. PLAYERS:

- A. NO PLAYER SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM REGARDING RACE, CREED, GENDER, OR FINANCIAL SITUATION.
- B. EACH PLAYER MUST BE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, (OR HOME SCHOOL).
- C. EVERY PLAYER MUST PLAY WHERE THEY LIVE OR ATTEND SCHOOL. THIS RULE CAN BE WAIVED WITH A SIGNED WAIVER BY THE INVOLVED COMMISSIONERS. ONLY ONE WAIVER IS REQUIRED. (REFER TO RULE 10E).
- D. THE INTENTIONAL PLAYING OF AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER SHALL RESULT IN FORFEIT OF ALL GAMES, (**SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE DECISION**), AND ALL BENEFITS OF THE CONFERENCE, DURING THE SEASON INVOLVED. NON-INTENTIONAL PLAYING OF AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER SHALL RESULT IN A 15-YARD PENALTY FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE. NEXT OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN FORFEIT OF ALL GAMES IN WHICH THE INELIGIBLE PLAYER PARTICIPATED. ANY PERSON CAUGHT ALTERING A BIRTH CERTIFICATE WILL BE BANNED FROM THE LEAGUE INDEFINITELY.
- E. A NEW PLAYER MAY BE APPROVED ON GAME DAY BY THE OPPOSING COMMISSIONER. THE PLAYER MUST THEN BE REGISTERED WITH THE LEAGUE PRESIDENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.
- F. ALL PLAYERS MUST SHOW PROOF OF AGE BY BIRTH CERTIFICATE, BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE, OR OTHER LEGALLY ACCEPTED PROOF TO THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE LEAGUE'S FIRST SCHEDULED GAME.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES ARE PREFERRED. ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS USED TO SHOW AGE MUST BE SIGNED BY THE ISSUING AGENT.

- G.** PLAYERS ON THE OFFICIAL ROSTER ARE BOUND TO THAT TOWN AND CANNOT PLAY OR PRACTICE WITH ANY OTHER TEAM, UNLESS THEY ARE A NEW RESIDENT OR HAVE A WAIVER FROM COMMISSIONERS INVOLVED.
- H.** NO PLAYER MAY BE ADDED TO THE ROSTER AFTER THE SECOND GAME, UNLESS THEY ARE A NEW RESIDENT, OR THE TEAM FALLS UNDER 15 PLAYERS. NO PLAYER MAY BE MOVED UP UNLESS THE TEAM FALLS BELOW 11 PLAYERS. (REFER TO RULE 5-G). NEW RESIDENTS MAY NOT BE ADDED AFTER THE FIFTH GAME.
- I.** A ROSTER BY TEAM MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT BY THE SUNDAY PRIOR TO THE FIRST GAME. TEAMS WITH DIFFERENT HOME AND AWAY JERSEYS MUST REGISTER BOTH JERSEYS (ROSTERS) WITH THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT.
- J.** RAINOUTS WILL BE PLAYED ON MONDAY AND/OR TUESDAY.
- K.** A "CHEAT SHEET" OF RULES, SPECIFIC TO OUR CONFERENCE, SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE REFEREES ON GAME DAY.

4. EQUIPMENT:

- A.** ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR AN ATTACHED MOUTHPIECE.
- B.** TENNIS SHOES OR MOLDED CLEATS ARE PERMITTED. NO SCREW-ON, SHARP, OR METAL POINTS ALLOWED. IF ILLEGAL CLEATS ARE USED ON THE FIELD, THE PLAYER WILL BE EJECTED FOR THAT GAME AND THE NEXT).
- C.** GAME BALLS: ALL TEAMS MUST USE EITHER WILSON K2, TDY,TDJ; BADEN 500PW, 500Y, 500JB; OR A BROWN LEATHER EQUIVALENT OF EQUAL SIZE.
- D.** CLEAR VISORS ARE ALLOWED IF BOLTED ON WITHOUT WIRE-TIES.

5. GAMES:

- A.** THE HOST TEAM SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEING THAT DOWN MARKERS AND YARD MARKERS ARE ON THE FIELD. THEY MUST HAVE SOMEONE TO WORK THE GAME, AND MAKE SURE THE PLAYING FIELD AND SIDELINES ARE CLEAR OF ANY DANGEROUS OBJECTS.
- B.** EVERY PLAYER SUITED AND PHYSICALLY FIT TO PLAY, MUST PLAY AT LEAST ONE PLAY PER GAME. (FIRST OFFENSE WILL REQUIRE COUNSELING BY THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. SECOND OFFENSE WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC ONE GAME SUSPENSION, WITH COUNSELING BY THE CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS).
- C.** ALL TEAMS WILL HAVE EIGHT (8) MINUTE QUARTERS, TEN (10) MINUTE HALFTIME, AND FIVE (5) MINUTES BETWEEN GAMES. A 25 SECOND PLAY CLOCK WILL BE ENFORCED FOR ALL TEAMS EXCEPT FOR THE CRICKETS, WHO WILL HAVE A 35 SECOND PLAY CLOCK. THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.
- D.** CLOCK WILL STOP AT QUARTERS AND ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION.
- E.** ALL TEAMS HAVE THREE (3) TIME-OUTS PER HALF.

- F. ALL TEAMS MUST KICKOFF (EXCEPT CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS, BALL TO BE PLACED ON THE 35 YARD LINE).
- G. A PLAYER CAN MOVE UP ON A TEAM IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH PLAYERS TO FILL THAT TEAM; WITH PARENT'S AND COACHES' PERMISSION. OPPOSING COACH MUST BE NOTIFIED.
- H. THE CRICKET, GRASSHOPPER, AND GRASSCUTTER TEAMS HAVE THE OPTION ON FOURTH DOWN TO RUN A PLAY, TO PUNT, OR TO ADVANCE THE BALL 25 YARDS. HOWEVER, THE BALL CANNOT BE ADVANCED INSIDE THE OPPONENTS 20-YARD LINE.
- I. IF A TEAM IS 28 POINTS BEHIND AFTER THE THIRD QUARTER, THE GAME WILL BE CALLED.
- J. THE CRICKET GAME WILL START AT **4:00 P.M.** CRICKET TEAMS CAN HAVE TWO COACHES ON THE FIELD DURING PLAY. GRASSHOPPER TEAMS CAN ONLY HAVE ONE COACH ON THE FIELD DURING PLAY, AND TWO DURING TIME OUTS.
- K. CRICKET AND GRASSHOPPER COACHES ON THE FIELD CANNOT MAKE ANY SOUND AFTER THE BALL IS SNAPPED. (10 YARD PENALTY). COACH MUST BE BEHIND THE DEEPEST PLAYER AFTER THE BALL IS SNAPPED.
- L. POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWNS, KICKED OR RUN, WILL BE AWARDED TWO POINTS.
- M.P.A. ANNOUNCER IS TO DESCRIBE THE PLAY AFTER THE PLAY IS OVER, BY TELLING THE BALL CARRIER, TACKLER, YARDS GAINED OR LOST, OR ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING PLAY OR PLAYERS; BUT IS IN NO WAY TO DESCRIBE ACTION DURING THE PLAY.

6. **TEAMS:**

CRICKETS 110lbMAX NOT EIGHT YEARS OF AGE BEFORE **AUG. 1, 2008.**

CHILD MUST BE FIVE YEARS OLD BY **AUG. 1, 2008.**

WEIGHT=85 lbs., ADD 25 lbs. TACKLE TO TACKLE.

(FIVE YEAR OLDS WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF

PARENTS AND COACHES). "GREEN STRIPERS" HAVE

NO WEIGHT LIMIT.

HOPPERS 140lbMAX NOT TEN YEARS OF AGE BEFORE **AUG. 1, 2008.**

WEIGHT=115 lbs., ADD 25 lbs. TACKLE TO TACKLE.

"GREEN STRIPERS" HAVE NO WEIGHT LIMIT.

CUTTERS 170lbMAX NOT TWELVE YEARS OF AGE BEFORE **AUG. 1, 2008.**

WEIGHT=135 lbs., ADD 35 lbs. TACKLE TO TACKLE. GREEN "STRIPERS" HAVE NO WEIGHT LIMIT.

JUNIORS UNLIMITED NOT FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE BEFORE AUG.1, 2008.

TO WEIGHT=170 lbs., NO WEIGHT LIMIT TACKLE TO TACKLE. NO "GREEN STRIPERS" ON JUNIORS. **EXCEPTION:** ANY SEVENTH OR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT WHO DOES NOT TURN 15 YEARS OF AGE PRIOR TO **DECEMBER 1, 2008**, AND HAS NOT REPEATED THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WILL BE ELIGIBLE. (SCHOOL RECORDS MAY BE REQUIRED).

7. OVERWEIGHT PLAYERS:

- A. OVERWEIGHT PLAYERS, WHICH ARE REFERRED TO AS "STRIPERS", MUST PLAY TACKLE TO TACKLE! DEFENSIVE "STRIPERS" MUST BEGIN PLAY WITH A HAND ON THE GROUND. OFFENSIVE "STRIPERS" MUST BE IN A SET POSITION. (HAND ON GROUND NOT REQUIRED).
- B. FIVE "STRIPERS" ON OFFENSE AND KICKOFF RETURN TEAM. **STRIPERS ON THE KICKOFF RETURN TEAM MAY ADVANCE THE BALL**, FOUR "STRIPERS" ON DEFENSE OR KICKOFF TEAM.
- C. ALL OVERWEIGHT LINEMEN MUST WEAR ORANGE TAPE, (UPSIDE DOWN "T") ON THE FRONT OF THEIR HELMET, PROVIDED BY THE CONFERENCE.
- D. PLAYERS WHO ARE OVER THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR THEIR AGE CATEGORY MAY WEAR A GREEN STRIPE ON THEIR HELMET TO PLAY. ONLY ONE OF THESE MAY TAKE THE FIELD AT A TIME, AND THEY COUNT AS ONE OF THE "STRIPERS."
- E. ANY OFFENSIVE "STRIPER" MAY NOT RUN OR ADVANCE THE BALL IN ANY FASHION. HOWEVER, A DEFENSIVE "STRIPER" MAY ADVANCE THE BALL.
- F. STRIPERS MAY KICKOFF OR PUNT, BUT MAY NOT ADVANCE THE BALL.

8. OFFICIALS:

- A. THREE TSSAA OFFICIALS MUST BE USED AT ALL CONFERENCE GAMES. FOUR MUST BE PROVIDED DURING PLAYOFFS.
- B. IF OFFICIALS DO NOT SHOW UP, BOTH COACHES MUST AGREE ON REFEREES FROM THE STANDS. THERE IS A FIFTEEN (15) MINUTE WAITING PERIOD ON OFFICIALS.
- C. ALL OFFICIALS MUST BE IN UNIFORM.
- D. OFFICIALS MUST USE TSSAA PLAYING RULES, EXCEPT FOR CONF. RULES.

9. WEIGH-INS:

- A.** EACH MEMBER MUST USE A SET OF BALANCED SCALES FOR WEIGH-INS.
- B.** EACH PLAYER MUST BE WEIGHED TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH WEIGH-IN COMMISSIONERS. ONLY TWO WEIGH-IN COMMISSIONERS ALLOWED FOR EACH TEAM. (NO COACHES ALLOWED AT WEIGH-INS.)
- C.** WEIGH-INS WILL BE AT HALFTIME OF THE PREVIOUS GAME. (THERE WILL BE ONE WEIGH-IN PER PLAYER, BUT A PLAYER MAY BE ALLOWED TO REMOVE PADDING, CLOTHING, AS NECESSARY FOR ADDITIONAL WEIGH-IN). THREE POUNDS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR GAME PANTS ONLY. (PANTS MUST BE GAME READY). **A PLAYER CANNOT BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH AFTER 2:30 ON GAME DAY.** ALL TEAMS MUST BE AT WEIGH-IN BY THE START OF HALFTIME OF THE PREVIOUS GAME.
- D.** NO COACHES OR PARENTS AT WEIGH-INS, (UNLESS THEY ARE THE OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN COMMISSIONER, OR IF THEY ARE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER).

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

- A.** ADMISSION TO ALL GAMES WILL BE \$3.00 PER ADULT, AND \$1.00 FOR STUDENTS.
- B.** EACH CONFERENCE MEMBER HAS 35 PASSES ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE. NO ADULT, INCLUDING COACHES OR CHEERLEADERS' SPONSORS, WILL BE ADMITTED FREE OF CHARGE UNLESS HE OR SHE SHOWS, AT THE GATE, AN OFFICIAL PASS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT, OR IS ON THE OFFICIAL PASS LIST SUPPLIED BY EACH COMMISSIONER.
- C.** HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - 1.** FURNISH AND PAY THREE TSSAA OFFICIALS FOR CONFERENCE GAMES.
 - 2.** NOTIFY CONFERENCE PRESIDENT OF GAME RESULTS.
 - 3.** NOTIFY VISITING TEAM AT LEAST FOUR HOURS PRIOR TO GAME TIME OF CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT.
 - 4.** RECEIVE 100% OF GATE RECEIPTS.
 - 5.** HAVE A POLICE OFFICER AT EVERY GAME. MEDICAL PERSONNEL SHOULD BE PRESENT OR READILY AVAILABLE.
- D.** VISITING TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - 1.** PAY ALL EXPENSES INCURRED IN TRAVELING.
 - 2.** FURNISH PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM WITH LINEUPS AND A SPOTTER, IF POSSIBLE.
 - 3.** VISITING TEAMS CANNOT SELL ANY GOODS AT THE OPPONENT'S HOME FIELD.
 - 4.** NO COOLERS ALLOWED IN STANDS (WITH FOOD AND/OR DRINKS.)

- E. NO RULES WILL BE CHANGED OR ADDED WITHOUT TWO/THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS IN FAVOR OF THE RULE. (7 VOTES ARE REQUIRED).
- F. ALL GRIEVANCES SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE, AND A DECISION RENDERED WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS AFTER ALL INFORMATION IS RECEIVED IN WRITING BY THE PRESIDENT. (ALL GRIEVANCES TO BE FILED BY THE COMMISSIONER TO THE SEQUOYAH YOUTH FOOTBALL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT.)
- G. THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE.
- H. THE TSSAA RULES CONCERNING NUMBERS OF JERSEY WILL BE WAIVED BY THIS CONFERENCE.
- I. THERE WILL BE NO RULES CHANGED OTHER THAN IN THE FEB. MEETING.
- J. PLAYERS OR COACHES EJECTED FROM A GAME WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED FROM THE NEXT GAME, UNLESS A GRIEVANCE IS FILED AND RESOLVED BY THE SEVEN COMMISSIONERS NOT INVOLVED. EJECTED COACHES MUST LEAVE THE STADIUM UNTIL THAT GAME ENDS.

11. JAMBOREE AND PLAYOFFS:

- A. EVERYONE WILL PAY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE JAMBOREE, EXCEPT FOR PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS. THIS INCLUDES ALL COACHES, SPONSORS & COMMISSIONERS. PROCEEDS ARE TO HELP PAY FOR LEAGUE TROPHIES AND OTHER EXPENSES. **CHEERLEADERS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ALL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A LEAGUE TROPHY.**
- B. CHEERLEADING SQUADS FROM EACH TEAM (IN EVERY TOWN) MUST COMPETE IN THE CHEERLEADING REGIONAL AND CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SEQUOYAH CONFERENCE. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A \$100.00 FINE FOR EACH TEAM NOT PARTICIPATING, IF TWO WEEKS NOTICE IS GIVEN. FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE WILL SUBJECT EACH TEAM TO REIMBURSE THE HOST TOWN FOR UNUSED PARTICIPATION AWARDS.
- C. PLAYERS MUST HAVE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO PLAY IN THE JAMBOREE.
- D. EACH TEAM WILL HAVE TWO TIMEOUTS IN THE JAMBOREE. TWO COACHES WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE FIELD DURING THE CRICKET AND HOPPER GAMES AT THE JAMBOREE, OR AS AGREED UPON BY THE OPPOSING COMMISSIONERS.
- E. HOST TEAM OF PLAYOFF OR CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WILL PROVIDE FOUR (4) 18" MVP TROPHIES PER GAME. ONE BACK MVP, AND ONE LINEMAN MVP FOR EACH TEAM. (FOUR MVP TROPHIES PER GAME). THE SAME PLAYER CANNOT RECEIVE BOTH TROPHIES.
- F. LEAGUE WILL PROVIDE FOUR (4) CHAMPIONSHIP, AND FOUR (4) RUNNER-UP TROPHIES.
- G. PLAQUES WILL BE AWARDED FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

H. IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF A TOWN DOES NOT SHOW UP AT A MEETING, THAT TOWN WILL BE FINED \$250.00 PER MEETING NOT ATTENDED.