

BI-STATE YOUTH FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Rev. July 2018

Age/Grade requirements

The following participation guidelines shall be as set forth below:

- To participate no **seventh graders, regardless of age.**
- To participate in the **sixth grade** league, a player must be in the sixth grade and cannot be 13 years old prior to September 1.
- To participate in the **fifth grade** league, a player must be in the fifth grade and cannot be 12 years old prior to September 1.
- To participate in the **fourth grade** league, a player must be in the fourth grade and cannot be 11 years old prior to September 1.
- To participate in the **third grade** league, a player must be in the third grade and cannot be 10 years old prior to September 1st.

Exceptions

- A) With approval of their association a player may play up one grade level only. A player shall not play down a grade level. *BSYF* participants shall only play for one team during a scheduled season.
- B) A player may play up if the upper class only has 13 players or fewer. No player shall play up in consecutive weeks. Teams will only bring players up to get to 16 players maximum.

Head coaches will maintain a file or binder with a copy of all of their player's proof of age. These must be made available to the league official and/or the opposing coach upon request.

Eligibility

Players must play in the school district they live in. If they do not live within a district which participates in this conference they must play for the team which is nearest where they live, even if that team is not in the Bi-State League. They may play for a team in our league 11 man football if the other option is 8 man or less. In the case of a private school the player must be enrolled in the school or be in the same public schools district as the school is physically located. Exception: The conference is aware there are some hardship cases which can apply. A family may apply to the conference for a hardship case which will be addressed on case by case bases.

The Bi State League is organized as a competitive but developmental league for the school systems of its members. Players must attend the school district for the team they play. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by League Co-Presidents prior to August

15th, 2018. Waiver request will be reviewed and approved or denied by August 15th, the authority to approve or deny rest entirely with the League Co-Presidents.

To be a member of *Bi-State Youth Football League*, the organization asking to be admitted must request admission to the League Co-Presidents and explain the structure of their organization, their mission and goals, and agree to support the goals of the Bi State League. The league Co-Presidents will approve participation, participation may involve a probationary period of 1 to 2 years for new programs. Members on probation may be removed from the league by the League Co-Presidents and not require a majority vote to remove membership.

Expulsion of a member organization shall require only majority vote by secret ballot of the remaining member organizations.

Initial Rosters must be submitted to League Co-Presidents by August 15th, 2018. Final frozen Rosters must be submitted by 5:00PM August 31st, 2018. Additions to the roster after August 31st will require a waiver request to League Co-Presidents.

Roster must include Name, school grade, birthday and school in which the player attends.

Please list all players in numerical order. These will be used for press box as well.

Format should be Excel Spreadsheet or PDF.

Transfers, Releases & Waivers

Request

- a) A player requesting to be transferred from one BSYF organization to another must first obtain a release in writing from the organization in which he is requesting the release. The signed form must then be sent to the one of the Co-Presidents to be reviewed. The committee may then hold a meeting with the parents of the child in question, where as a decision will be made to either grant or deny the release. The Co-Presidents will have the deciding vote on release issues.
- b) *BSYF* release request must be completed and turned-in no later than August 15 of the current year.
- c) Players that are granted transfers must be placed in the draft. Players that are granted transfers after the draft will be assigned by the Co-Presidents.

New Player

A new player will not be permitted to join an association within *BSYF* or participate with a team after the first game. If a player moves in from an area outside of the *BSYF*, the Co-Presidents may grant an exception. The request must be made prior to first practice and within two weeks of moving into the school district.

Transfer

A player, having signed with a particular member organization, is the exclusive property of that organization. Unless released by the member organization and then the Co-Presidents of the league.

District

A player that resides in a territory that is shared by organizations will become the exclusive property of the organization in which the player plays his/her first season. Exceptions must be sought through the release process

Practices

Practices will be a maximum of 2 hours in length. Two practice periods in one day is not allowed. No practices are allowed on game day. There is a maximum of 4 practices per week in pre season and 3 practices per week within the season.

A parents meeting should be scheduled sometime within the first week of practice to give parents needed information concerning team rules, practices and games schedules, etc.

Coaches

All coaches must be willing to consider the player first, the team second and winning third. The coaches must be able to remain calm under pressure and always show respect for officials, the opposing team and other coaches. The coach must be a strong leader who is consistent throughout the season in their attitude. Coach needs to be a positive role model for both the players and the entire program. Coaches may not use any form of tobacco or alcohol during to practices or games.

Any violation of the rules can result in disciplinary action and a coach may be suspended or removed from the program. Volunteers assigned to the down marker crew are exempt from this rule. These volunteers must be aware they are a part of the officiating crew and are under the authority of the referee and/or Town Directors or League Presidents.

See rules regarding ejection of coaches, spectators, and players in the Rules Violations section.

During a 3rd grade game one coach from each team is allowed on the field. (One on offense and one on defense). The coaches are encouraged to keep the flow of play going and not delay the game with lengthy additional coaching points. An official may remove a field coach at any time if the official feels the coach is a disruption to the game. The head coach may assign another coach to replace the coach which has been removed. The

purpose of this rule is to speed up play and allow for more plays per game and improve the instructional purpose of the league. 3rd grade coaches must be 10 yards behind the deepest player when the ball is snapped. There is no coaching on the field, once the ball is snapped the coach must remain quite. Failure to follow these rules will result in the coach being move to the sideline.

Coaches and players on the sidelines must stay between the 35-yard lines during the games. Exception: (4th through 6th grades) one coach and one player may go the full length of the field for the purpose of sending in either offense or defensive plays. The purpose of this rule is to speed up play on the field. No more than 4 coaches on the playing field at anytime during the football game. The head coach will receive a verbal warning first and if the additional person is not removed from the playing area (field or sideline) the team will receive a 15 yard penalty for unsportsmanship like conduct. A third offense will result in forfeiture of the game.

No volunteer will physically or verbally abuse any player or official. The league will not tolerate excessive hollering, abusive language or sarcastic actions by any coaches. **These actions could result in removal from the program by the league directors.**

Coaches Certifications

Each head coach of each coaching staff shall be certified in football by USA Football and show proof upon request. All certifications shall be issued by **USA Football**. The President of each member club will turn in to the *BSYF* Co-Presidents a list of all coaches involved in their program along with their card number and contact information prior to the first regular season game.

Exception to USA Football certification would be:

- A. Another form of certification approved by the Commissioner
- B. School Certified Coaches

Coaches Background Verification

All coaches must undergo a background verification through the member for which they are coaching. Each individual member is responsible for establishing their criteria.

Coaches

The head coach is responsible for their sideline. They will ensure all assistant coaches and players on their sideline follow all rules and demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their parents. Parents making derogatory remarks about players on their own team or the other team will be removed from the stadium, area of play, or spectator view.

The number of non-player personnel on each football team's, sideline shall not exceed a total of eight (8). This eight (8) include all coaches, manager, play counters, or water aids. There will be a maximum of four (4) coaches.

Coaches Passes

The Bi-State League will provide coaches passes for Football coaches (4 total coaches) and Cheerleader Coaches (2 Total coaches). Any attempt to use another person's pass will result in expulsion from the league. These passes will be good for use at any Bi-State regular season or playoff game.

Equipment

Size of footballs (composite, leather):

Teams must start with and use the same size ball throughout the entire game for their appropriate grade level.

3rd, 4th and 5th grades — equivalent of Wilson Junior size

6th grade - equivalent of Wilson TDY (Youth size or larger)

Arkansas and Oklahoma High School rules regarding player jersey numbers will not be enforced except that no two-team members with the same jersey number can participate in the game at the same time.

Football cleats must be rubber. Steel, aluminum, or nylon with metal caps are illegal.

Playing fields must be maintained in a safe condition. The *BSYF* has the right to inspect playing fields and require that they be maintained to a safe condition. Failure to comply will result in moving the games to another location until such time the field is in compliance.

Football Rules

National Federation High School football rules will be utilized in conference play with the exceptions noted below.

Center Protection; no defensive player shall line up directly over the center unless down in a 3 or 4 point stance. Any player standing shall be a minimum of 3 yards off the ball, violation of this rule will result in a 15 yard penalty.

Officials:

Three **certified** high school officials will be required for each game. The home team is responsible to pay all officials. Only those officials that are eligible to referee Arkansas or Oklahoma High School games will be allowed to referee *BSYF* games. No coach, team official or other organizational member will be allowed to referee a conference game unless mutually agreeable to both participating teams. If a game is rescheduled and the referees are not notified, the home team may be subject to forfeiture of said game. If only two officials are present to officiate a game, the game will be played. Less than two officials will require notifying one of the Co-Presidents.

Schedule: The season schedule will come out as soon as reasonably possible. Each team travel will be balanced as much as possible.

Length of Games: Eight minute quarters will be utilized for all conference play games. There should be 10 minutes allowed between games, if time permits. Every effort should be made to stay on schedule.

Unsportsmanlike Kick: At which time the Kicking team achieves a Mercy Rule and attempts to onside kick against the Receiving team; the Kicking team coach will receive an unsportsmanlike penalty and the ball will be awarded to the Receiving team on the Kicking teams 25-yard line with a new series of downs.

Kick-Offs: Players on the kicking team must be equally spaced across the **entire field starting within 5 yards of the sideline for safety purposes. All players on the kickoff team must be within 5 yards of the ball, except for the kicker(i.e. if the ball is kicked off from the 40 yard line, all players except the kicker must be in front of the 35 yard line)**

There will be no kickoffs in the 3rd or 4th Grades.

At the start of the game, 2nd half and after scores the receiving team will start from their own 35 yard line.

5th and 6th Grade: The kick off will take place from the kicking teams own 40 yard line. Kick offs are live kicks same as National Federation rules.

ALL GRADES: On 4th down the offensive team can declare a punt. The ball will be spotted 30 yards downfield from the line of scrimmage, but no further than the receiving team's 20 yard line.

Field Goals will be awarded 3 points. Kicked extra points will be awarded 2 points and run extra points will be awarded 1 point. From the 2.5 yard Line.

Field Goal and Extra Point Rules:

1. A field goal or kicked extra point attempt must be placed on the ground or a kicking block and held by a holder 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage.
2. Teams will be allowed “No Rush” protection. The defensive team will line up but are not allowed to cross the line of scrimmage. If the defense crosses the line of scrimmage, the offense has the option of re-kicking the ball.
2. The ball must be snapped by the center and kicked within 5 seconds from the time of the center snap or the play is to be whistled dead by the referee. The holder **can’t** leave from his position to retrieve a ball which is snapped off line (uncatchable ball). If so, the play is to be ruled dead by the official immediately.
3. The offensive team must declare to the referee their intent to kick a field goal or extra point. There can’t be a fake field goal or extra point.
4. Blocked field goals or extra points can not be advanced or returned. Missed or blocked field goals will be turned over to the opposing team either at the line of scrimmage or 20 yard line if the line of scrimmage was inside the 20.
5. **ALL GRADES—After a touchdown a team may elect to spot the ball on the ten(10) yard line and go for two(2) points and it can be either a run or pass play. This is only from the Ten(10) yard line. If a run or pass play starts at the 2.5 yard line it will be worth one(1) point.**

It is important for games to start on time. A team must forfeit if they are unable to play within ten minutes after the scheduled start time. This can be waived due to travel problems with the permission of both team coaches and league representatives. Delays from previous games and overtimes do not apply.

A team must have at least 10 players available to start a game.

MERCY RULE: High School mercy rule will apply. (35 point lead anytime within the second half). **LEAGUE ADDITIONAL RULE:** A team leading by 20 points or more in the 4th quarter. The clock will run continuously for the remainder of the game.

CLOCK WILL STOP ONLY:

1. Official time-out.
2. A charged time-out is called.
3. At the end of a period
4. A score occurs

A team leading by 20 or more in the 4th quarter cannot call a time out in the last 2 minutes of the game. Exception: Officials time out for injury. Coaches are encouraged to substitute their non starters freely during this time.

Games may be called by the Town Director for inclement weather or dangerous or poor field conditions. The home Town Director is encouraged to inform the visitor Town Director as soon as possible.

The Referee may suspend or call a game at his discretion due to weather conditions during a game. **His decision is final.** If a game is into the 4th quarter (4th quarter has started) the game will be considered complete if the referee suspends the game and feels it cannot be continued within what he feels is a reasonable time.

If a game is suspended within the first half and cannot be completed at that time the entire game will be rescheduled for a later date. If the game is suspended at halftime or before the start of the 4th quarter the game will be rescheduled and the play will start over at the beginning of the 3rd quarter. Same score & possession as if the 2nd half had never started.

Every effort will be made to complete unfinished games or to reschedule games at a later date. However, if an unfinished game cannot be rescheduled or by agreement of the two Town Directors it is not reasonably feasible to reschedule the completion of a game the game can be deemed completed by the agreement of both directors and the score considered final.

Overtime

Overtimes will be conducted the same as high school rules with both teams having the opportunity to start at the 10 yard line. There will be a maximum of **three overtimes**, except for playoff games which must be played out. If the game is still tied at the end of the third overtime the game will be considered as a completed game and the score will remain tied.

Draft

Each conference team is responsible for the conduct of their own draft. The league strongly encourages the teams to be as equal as possible (no loaded teams should be purposely arranged).

Headsets or any device used to communicate to a coach or person on the sideline must be agreed upon by each team. If one team uses any device than the other team has the option to use also, But if one team chooses not to use a communicating device Then the team

that is wanting to use the device must get it okayed by the opposing team to use the device.

Chain sets will be moved to the HOME side of the field.

Players Rules and Participation

One of the primary goals of the league is the introduction of football to our youth grades 3 – 6, as such, **no team shall hold tryouts and or cut anyone wanting to play.**

The league requires the active participation of all players. Each player is required to play a minimum of 6 plays per game.

Any play including a Dead Ball Foul, Time-Out and/or Kneeling play (such as in a “Victory Formation”) will not be considered or counted as a participation play.

The team in the lead must meet all player participation requirements prior to the *BSYF* mercy rule taking effect. Failure to do so will constitute a violation of *BSYF* participation rules. Upon review of unusual game time circumstances the Commission may rule that circumstances prevented full participation and that the coach involved was acting in good faith.

Any player on disciplinary action attending an *BSYF* game cannot be suited-out for play. The player may wear his team jersey. Any player who refuses to participate during the game must be brought to the attention of the head official and the opposing coach. The coach must remove the helmet and shoulder pads from the player.

Should the Officers determine that a coach was in violation of the participation rule, League presidents will determine the severity of punishment. Intentional or repeated offenders may be suspended from coaching.

A team with fewer than 13 players may elect to bring up players from a younger age group to make up a team of 16. This should be agreed upon before the game by the coaches and league representatives from both teams. The same player or players cannot be brought up two weeks in a row

Insurance

Each town or group participant in the conference is responsible for carrying their own insurance.

Disputes

Will first be heard by League Presidents with an attempt to completely resolve. If the issue can't be resolved then it will be heard by the appointed member directors. The parties in dispute will not participate in voting, only in presenting their side of the dispute. They will then be excused for discussion prior to voting on the resolution. The league Presidents will only cast a tie breaking vote, but will participate in all discussions. The appointed member director must be in attendance to vote, no proxy or absentee vote will be counted.

Each voting member will have one vote per team and the Co-Presidents will have one tie breaking vote if necessary.

Attorney fees

If *Bi State Youth Football League* prevail in any litigation brought arising from any dispute, then the *BSYF* shall be entitled to recover all costs, expenses and attorney's fees associated therewith.

Association with the Bi State League is completely voluntary and no fees are required to be a member. Therefore, there are no implicit or implied financial benefits or penalties associated with membership.

Bi-State Youth Football League Officers

The Officers of the *BSYF* shall be referred to as the "Town Directors" and shall be comprised of a 2 Co- Presidents and one designated Town Director from each member.

Co- Presidents: At least one of the Co-Presidents shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees, and administer and enforce all rules and activities of the *BSYF*. The Co-Presidents together will be empowered with all rights to make immediate rulings on questions of rule violations or questions raised from incidents not covered by *BSYF* rules and regulations. Their ruling will stand until which time the Officers making up the Town Directors can meet, during which they can then overturn the Co-Presidents or reinforce the Co-Presidents decision by a majority vote of the Town Directors.

Name	Position	Alternate
Johnny McKusker	Co-President	
Eric Carter	Co-President	
Justin McGrew	Sallisaw Director	
Trey Jackson	Fort Smith Catholic Director	
John Perry	Poteau Director	
Scott Strozier	Greenwood Director	
Matthew Marascio	Bentonville Director	
Johnny Gregory	Van Buren Director	

Each league officer will also be provided an all league pass.

Rule Violations

Violations of *BSYF* rules will be acted on and penalties assessed by the Co-Presidents with communication and counsel of the Town Directors. The penalty or penalties assessed against an organization, coach, parent or player can be one or more of the following:

- Forfeiture of game or games
- Suspension of coaches or individuals within an organization
- Probation
- Any action deemed appropriate by majority vote of the Officers including the permanent removal from the *BSYF*.

Assaults, verbal abuse, profanity, display of poor sportsmanship or rule violation by a coach, parent, participant, club official or guest at a *BSYF* function will not be tolerated. Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs will not be allowed by anyone at a *BSYF* function. Penalties will be dealt accordingly.

Any coach, player or spectator ejected from a *BSYF* game or scrimmage will be automatically suspended for the next *BSYF* scheduled game(that would result in that player, coach, or spectator attending, i.e. if there is a scheduled game and one grade does not have a team the suspension would carry over to the next game that play could actually take place). Suspended coaches and players will be allowed to attend team practice. Suspended players are required to attend the suspension game with their team but are not to dress out. Suspended coaches will not be allowed to attend the suspension game, even as a spectator. Failure to comply will result in team forfeiture of the game. *The BSYF Co-Presidents and/or Town Directors may, at their discretion, review the circumstances surrounding a coach or player's ejection and adjust BSYF penalties as they deem warranted.*

Player ejections may be reviewed by the head official immediately following the game and enforce or reverse the disqualification. Officials also have the authority to send a player to the sideline for a period of time without formally ejecting the player from the game. The player may only return to the game with the permission of the head official. If a player is ejected, disqualified, or decision reversed it is the responsibility of the coach to immediately following the game notify their Town Director. The Town Director will then need to immediately notify one of the Co-Presidents.

A coach ejected a second game will be suspended for the remainder of the season and will not participate in team practices. To return to coaching the coach must apply for approval with the league officers the next season.

A club **must** submit an incident report immediately to the Co-Presidents office involving team violations of the participation rule or any other violation of the Bylaws or be **subject to forfeiture and suspension of play.**

Protesting A Game: To protest an action or game by a coach to the Co-Presidents, the coach or persons involved in the incident must do the following within 24 hours of the incident:

- Submit a written statement on the incident in protest to their home club's *BSYF Town Director*
- *The parties involved may be asked to speak to the Officers of the league and provide evidence to support the complaint*

The Officers will then review the evidence and declare a ruling within Seven (7) days of the filing of the written incident statement.

Judgement calls made by officials will not be considered when protesting a game.

Reporting Scores: Every club/association is responsible to report the scores from all their teams each week. Those scores must be submitted to the *BSYF Co-Presidents* no later than 3:00PM Sunday.

Half Time Procedure: (Half time is 10 minutes; 15 minutes maximum if necessary and approved) Guest cheerleaders or drill team will perform first, followed by the home cheerleaders or drill team. Homecoming activities will not be an excuse to increase the time limit. Cheerleaders, drill teams, etc. are the responsibility of the member organization and are subject to all rules as set forth by *BSYF*.

Press Box Procedure: Rude remarks, bad behavior or biased announcing will not be permitted at a *BSYF* game.

Gate Admission Fee: The admission fee will be reviewed annually by the Conference.
The following uniform rates will be charged by all clubs/associations:

Gate Admission	Price
Adults	\$4
Students (6-18)	\$2
Children 5 and under	Free