



TITLE III: RULES AND REGULATIONS

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3:1.0 OBLIGATION TO AND ENFORCEMENT OF RULES

All franchises, their officers, coaches and members are expected to be fully knowledgeable of these Titles and Regulations including Rules, and are expected to enforce them within their organization. The same applies to the American Youth Football (AYF) National Rulebook.

3:2.0 REGISTRATIONS

- A.** Member franchises must actively recruit and register participants for their programs annually; from within their assigned territories. The first Registrations whether set-aside, or new, shall not begin earlier than January 1st, nor later than April 15th annually.
- B.** Associations may hold one “closed” registration for returning players and spirit squads prior to accepting new registrants. All Registration must be placed on a PRELIMINARY TEAM OR SQUAD ROSTER at this time. This must adhere to dates above. Once the “closed” registration is over, there are no places remaining as reserved for returnees. All returnees at the “closed” registration must be taken on a first come basis. All registrants at the open registrations must be taken on a first come basis whether returnee or new registrant. All registrants must be placed on a team or squad at this time.

3:2.1 REGISTRATION – RECORDS

- A.** All participants must complete an AYF All American Player TRAC Registration Record, which shall be designed and distributed by the NJAYF Executive Board annually.
- B.** This record must include:
 - a.** Annual parental consent signature.
 - b.** Proof of age (Certified Copy of Birth Certificate with raised seal for all new registrants or, passport, Military ID, Baptismal Records). Parents must bring the ORIGINAL birth certificate and a copy. The copy will be stamped and certified using a League stamp by a franchise official. The original birth certificate will be returned to the parent. The original birth certificate must be available at any time during the season for inspection by AYF Officials.
 - c.** Copy of final report card.
 - d.** Insurance policy and number or parent social security number.
 - e.** Mandatory AYF Medical History (Physical) Form, dated no earlier than January 1st of the current season of play.
 - f.** The AYF National Consent Form.

3:2.2 REGISTRATION – ASSOCIATION OBLIGATIONS TO ASSIGNED BOUNDARIES AND TERRITORIES

- A.** Any participant in NJAYF programs shall play football or cheer in the assigned franchise Territory in which they actually live or where they would normally attend public high school in relation to where they live. In those instances where a franchise’s territory does not coincide with the sending district of the area’s high school, participants must reside within the territorial boundaries of the franchise of which they intend to participate.
- B.** Participants must indicate on the Registration Record, the name of the school that they will be attending in September, of the actual playing season. Each franchise President shall ascertain whether or not the school indicated for each participant on their Registration Record, is within the legal boundaries of their permanent or temporary residence and if not a full detailed explanation must be provided to the NJAYF Executive Board, so that a determination can be made with regard to the eligibility of that participant to continue with that franchise.

3:2.3 REGISTRATION – WAIVERS

- A. A franchise may petition the NJAYF Executive Board and at their discretion the NJAYF Executive Board, depending on each individual situation, may grant an administrative waiver to allow any participant in a franchise other than where he or she would normally be required to participate; as required in the AYF National Rulebook.
- B. Associations must hold registrations on a first come basis, for participants within their assigned territory and boundary, and placed on a preliminary roster, number 1 through 36.
- C. Associations may sign up POTENTIAL WAIVERED PARTICIPANTS during open registrations only; however, they may not take the place of a participant from within the assigned territory.
 - a. **PARTICIPANTS MUST FIRST REGISTER AT THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THEIR ASSIGNED TERRITORY.** When registering in the franchise outside of their territory, these participants seeking waivers will be placed on slot 37 and below on the preliminary roster (waiting list).
 - b. No fees are to be collected at this time for any potential waived participant.
 - c. There are to be no guaranteed positions given on any team/squad at this time to any participant seeking a waiver.
 - d. Associations will continue registering participants from within their territory, and place these individuals on slots prior to 37.
- D. Waiver requests must be filled out completely and approved by both franchise Presidents with the approval of the participant's parent or guardian. No waiver request shall be submitted without parent or guardian approval. It is the responsibility of the franchise President to ensure the parent or guardian approves of said waiver request.
- E. Completed waiver requests are to be submitted to the NJAYF Secretary, not prior to June 15th annually. Any waivers received after July 15th will be considered on a case by case basis and may not be approved.
- F. The Waiver Committee with the advice and consent of the NJAYF Executive Board, will either approve or deny any waiver at this time.
- G. Approved waivers will be returned to the appropriate franchise. Each waived participant's Tracking and ID Card will have a Waiver Approved stamp.
- H. Administrative waivers are good for only one (1) year; must reapply if so desired for the following year.

3:2.4 REGISTRATION – PROOF OF SCHOLASTIC FITNESS REQUIRED

All participants shall be required to provide proof of satisfactory scholastic fitness in school as set forth by the AYF National Office.

3:2.5 REGISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Each franchise is responsible for the accuracy of their registration records. Any franchise that is found to have knowingly filed incomplete, false or misleading information on the registration records, roster, etc. shall be charged with "cheating". Both the franchise and the individuals found guilty will be subject to appropriate penalties.
- B. All Registration Records are official League documents and each member franchise shall be required to keep these documents on file, in a safe and secure location until exactly one year after each participant has ceased their continuous participation in that franchise's programs. Failure to produce these records when requested or required by either the NJAYF Executive Board, or Hearing Authority, shall result in an automatic fine in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES".

3:2.6 REGISTRATION – ASSOCIATION DECLARATIONS OF TEAM STRENGTH COMMITMENTS

At the June General Membership Meeting each franchise shall declare particulars with respect to fielding football teams for the upcoming season. Teams will only be allowed to add a team after June 15th with approval of the NJAYF Football Commissioner. Any franchise that drops a team after June 15th must appear before the NJAYF Executive Board and submit all registration material for review. Penalties will be assessed accordingly, up to and including forfeiture of participation in championship and post season play.

3:3.0 TEAM OR SQUAD PLACEMENT – PRELIMINARY SIGN-UP ROSTERS AND REQUIREMENTS

- A. All franchises will use a sign up roster that clearly depicts the order in which each registrant appeared at the registration as well as the order in which they were assigned a roster spot on a team. Registration must be on a first come basis. All preliminary sign up rosters must be kept on file for one year from the end of the season and made available upon request of NJAYF Executive Board. A roster will not be considered official unless there are a minimum of 16 participants.
- B. It is required that each team must have the minimum number of 13 players eligible and able to participate to start a regulation or playoff game. For the first games of National Championship play, each team must have a minimum of 16 players eligible and able to participate. If the number of players falls below 11 players, the game will be forfeited.

3:3.1 TEAM OR SQUAD PLACEMENT – ASSOCIATION WITH TWO OR MORE TEAMS IN ONE AGE DIVISION

A minimum of 18 players per team shall be required in order to form a second team. The method used to place participants on each team must be submitted along with rosters for approval by the NJAYF Football Commissioner.

3:3.2 TEAM OR SQUAD PLACEMENT – HANDLING REGISTRANTS

- A. All players must register at home base franchises when a team is unable to be formed, players registered at that level of play will be placed in a nearby town under the supervision of NJAYF.
- B. Excess registrants must be notified in writing that they shall be considered to be on “standby” status and are not permitted to practice, scrimmage, or otherwise participate in franchise team activities. If a franchise feels that there will be no vacancies on the team, or in fact there are none, on or before August 10, excess registrants have the option of being placed in the Player Pool.
- C. Associations that register in excess of the numbers allowed herein, per team, shall be determined to have attempted to circumvent this section if it can be established that said franchises arbitrarily registered participants with the intentions of selecting the “best” players, or if it is found that players were “cut,” or discourages in a manner so as to make them quit, shall be charged accordingly and upon a finding against the franchise, the NJAYF Executive Board shall impose a fine in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled “FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES” and the adults responsible shall be indefinitely barred from participating in any NJAYF activity.

3:3.3 – Football Age Division Placement

Adopted by vote of the NJAYF Franchise Representatives – March 3, 2026

A football participant may play up one (1) age year without prior approval from the NJAYF Executive Board, provided the participant otherwise meets all applicable eligibility and roster requirements.

Any football participant seeking to play up two (2) or more age years must receive prior approval from the NJAYF Executive Board before being placed on or certified to that team’s roster.

This provision applies to football participants only.

3:4.0 EXCESS REGISTRANTS

The President shall be responsible to establish an annual Player Pool to assure placement of any excess registrants.

3:4.1 EXCESS REGISTRANTS – PROHIBITIONS

Associations may not make private deals, or arbitrarily just send children to another team, without following the procedures outlined in this section. Failure to follow the rules, as set forth herein shall result in charges being filed against both offending franchises for having an “ineligible” participant.

3:4.2 EXCESS REGISTRANTS – TERM

The player pool term shall commence not earlier than August 10th, (except for placement under player pool – non serviced areas [WHERE AN AYF ASSOCIATION DOES NOT EXIST] or division of play), and shall be for one season.

3:5.0 REFUNDS OF REGISTRATION FEES

- A. A franchise shall refund the full registration fee to all participants that are “cut” under the provisions of what is considered a “Mandatory Cut.” Any other refunds shall be at the discretion of each member franchise.
- B. In the absence of a written policy with proof of distribution to program participants, member franchises shall return 100% of the full registration fee to all participants regardless of whether, or not their separation from its programs are considered “mandatory,” or voluntary.

3:6.0 CERTIFICATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS – TEAM ROSTERS

- A. All franchises must prepare an “Official Team Roster” annually and must deliver the same to NJAYF Football Commissioner and Cheer Commissioner before final certification is achieved. Failure to have a NJAYF Certified roster will be considered as the franchise using ineligible participants. Penalties normally associated with ineligible participants will apply. As per AYF National rules, all games shall be considered a forfeit if an ineligible player is used. All team rosters including coaches and players must be input into the MyAYF roster program prior to game 1 of the regular season. All team rosters will be closed and final as of Sept. 15th.
- B. The “Official Team Roster” must be signed by the franchise President or other authorized franchise official. Particulars relating to the make-up and submission of the rosters shall be determined and announced by the NJAYF Executive Board annually. Once the rosters have been certified by the NJAYF Football Commissioner and Cheer Commissioner, franchises shall be required to keep one copy on file with their team at all NJAYF and AYF/C Events in the front of their player book.

3:6.1 CERTIFICATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Before any team is allowed to engage in any Pre-season Exhibition or Regular Season Play, each participant must be certified. The certification process includes receiving and reviewing the “Official Team Roster” and checking the Registration Records.

3:7.0 APPOINTMENTS OF ASSOCIATION COACHES – APPLICATION RECORD AND REQUIREMENTS

- A. The head Coach must be at least 21 years of age. Assistant Coaches must be no younger than 18. Football Coach Trainees must be at least 15 years old or in high school. Must pass the Coaching Youth Football or Cheerleading The AYF/AYC Way online training course.
- B. Must have completed a Safety Orientation and Training Program Course as mandated by AYF Nationals. Further, franchises shall maintain on file proof of the certification of each coach.
- C. Must have completed and submitted a Volunteer Application, with photo, as distributed by NJAYF yearly.
- D. Must have successfully undergone and been approved a criminal background check that meets the minimum requirements mandated by AYF yearly.

3:7.1 APPOINTMENTS OF ASSOCIATION COACHES – UTILIZATION OF HIGH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATORS

- A. The League strongly encourages its member franchises to make use of recent NJAYF alumni who have moved onto high school.
- B. Cheer and Dance Junior Demonstrators should be 14 and over and per AYC National rules need to be at least two (2) years older than the oldest participant on the team.
- C. Junior Demonstrators can be 13 if they meet the following criteria:
 - a. Must be in high school (cannot be in 8th grade).

- b. Must be cheering on a high school team and therefore cannot participate as an AYC participant.
- D. All Junior Demonstrators must have signed parental permission to participate, and must have medical approval, have certified copy of birth certificate and have copy of prior years' complete report card.
- E. While Junior Demonstrators may be used to demonstrate specific plays, stunts, techniques that are germane to the sport that they are teaching, they may not be left alone to the sole care and custody of any participant and must be under the direct supervision of adult coaching staff at all times.
- F. Member franchises shall be charged with assuring that all Junior Demonstrators meet the provisions with regard to Safety Orientation and Training.
- G. Junior Demonstrators are not eligible for any scholastic honors.

3:7.2 BACKGROUND CHECKS

- A. AYF programs nationwide will be required to annually conduct a background check of: "Coaches, Board members, and any other persons who volunteer, or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or cheer participants."
- B. Each year, the NJAYF Second Vice President, with the advice and consent of the NJAYF Executive Board and after consulting with the AYF National Office, will present by the April General Membership meeting a program for conducting background checks throughout the league, meeting the minimal requirements and guidelines mandated by the AYF National Office.
- C. All member franchises must show proof to the NJAYF Executive Board that they have followed the background check program for that year, prior to allowing practice to start on approved AYF National Start Date.
- D. Any person who is in violation of Section 3:7:2 A will result in the immediate suspension of the franchise President and said person, pending further investigation and penalties at the discretion of NJAYF Executive Board.

3:8.0 PRACTICE – PRE-SEASON ACTIVITIES

Association activities that include the use of participants prior to the last Monday in July are allowed for fundraising, participating in local community parades, fairs, carnival, etc., and other such activities. The NJAYF strongly encourages the "year round" participation of its member franchises in local community activities

3:8.1 PRACTICES – STARTING DAY

- A. Practices can start annually on the 4th Monday in July, unless otherwise directed by the NJAYF Executive Board.
- B. No participant will be allowed to practice without having first completed all registration materials, to include a wallet size photo of the participant, parental signature, physical, insurance information, report card showing scholastic eligibility, and a certified birth certificate (proof of age).
- C. Failure to uphold these rules will cause the Head Coach and/or franchise to be charged with "Endangerment of Juveniles."

3:8.2 PRACTICES – INTRASQUAD SCRIMMAGES

On or after the 2nd Saturday of practice annually, member franchises shall be permitted to engage in joint practice sessions with other member franchise teams, or teams from other Conference affiliates, provided that any scrimmages with them are pre-approved by the NJAYF Football Commissioner. All teams must be of the same age division and under no circumstances is a player or team to be permitted

to engage in a controlled scrimmage or other form of contact drills involving a player or team from a different age division.

3:8.3 PRACTICES – WEATHER CONDITIONS

Associations must guard against serious weather conditions. Documented cases have resulted in death. The training regiment of any team or squad must take into account extreme weather conditions such as high heat, humidity, thunder, lightning, and extreme cold. Coaches must take all appropriate safety procedures. NJAYF reserves the right to cancel any and all activities as they see fit.

- A. All associations who have competitive cheer/dance/step are required to notify the NJAYF Cheer Commissioner of scheduled choreography dates prior to July 1st. Should practice be canceled by NJAYF due to high heat, participating in said choreography must be approved by the NJAYF Cheer Commissioner.

3:9.0 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

The following protective equipment shall be required immediately at the start of “contact” session. However helmets are exempt from this rule and may be worn commencing with the first day of scheduled practice. For the purposes of enforcement, “Contact” sessions begin no earlier than the first Monday in August annually or after each participant has completed “one full week” of conditioning, which is defined as 10 hours. A participant must also complete 10 hours of contact sessions (in pads) prior to playing in a game.

- A. Helmets – franchises shall have all helmets NOCSAE approved.
- B. Shoes – Sneaker or rubber cleated shoes (soccer style) No longer than a ½ inch rubber cleat. Screw in cleats ½ max are allowed.
- C. Rib Guards, Shoulder pads, Thigh pads, Knee pads, Hip pads, tail pad
- D. Athletic Supporter, Cup, and mouthpiece
- E. Properly fitting, routine maintenance and repair of all equipment, including reconditioning and recertifying Helmets every two years per NOCSAE standards, and replacing equipment per the manufacturer’s guidelines is required. Written documentation should be maintained for all repairs and reconditioning for each piece of equipment.

3:9.1 ILLEGAL OR ALTERED EQUIPMENT

- A. Any protest regarding the wearing of illegal or altered equipment must be filed with the Head Game Official, on the game field. It shall be his responsibility to determine the legality of any item of equipment that a participant is wearing.
- B. If it can be determined that the Head coach or anyone associated with the team is found to have allowed the wearing of illegal, or altered equipment and thereby has deliberate culpability for this particular rule infraction, they shall be charged with cheating and assessed appropriate penalties if found guilty.

3:10.0 PREGAME CHECK-IN

- A. All Check Ins are to be held promptly at the end of the 3rd quarter of the previous game. If there is no game before, check-ins are to be held thirty minutes before scheduled kick-off time. All participants will be checked in wearing the exact and complete uniform and equipment they will wear at that game, including cleats, pants, with pads including girdle with hip, tail, knee & thigh, game jersey, shoulder pads and rib guards. After check in, all participants will proceed directly to their assigned end zone. Kickers must present kicking shoe prior to the game and are the only participant allowed to change shoe.
- B. There shall be no more than two team officials, per team present to conduct the pre-game check-in and the Home team shall check-in first. A completed AYF All American Player TRAC registration record for each participant shall be presented for review to the opposing team official, who shall be conducting the check in for their team. The opposing team does not have

the right to look into the entire team book. A copy of the Mandatory play roster shall be given to and retained by each opposing team.

- C. Participants shall be directed to line-up and proceed to check-in in jersey number order, low numbers first. A participant failing the pre-game check-in shall be considered to be an ineligible player for that game only. The player shall be allowed to remain with the team, on the bench, however, must remove helmet and shoulder pad. Under no circumstances shall the player be required to remove his jersey, turn it inside out, or be remanded to sit in the stands.

3:10.1 PREGAME CHECK-IN – POSTSEASON

All Postseason “Pregame” Check-Ins, e.g Divisional Playoffs, Conference Championships, League Championships and the annual Bowl Games, shall be conducted under the auspices and authority of the NJAYF Executive Board. The NJAYF Executive Board and NJAYF Operations Staff shall be summoned to conduct these check-ins, at which franchise team officials shall have no jurisdiction or authority nor shall they be allowed to be present during the check-in.

3:11.0 CHALLENGES TO ELIGIBILITY AT GAME TIME

- A. A participant’s eligibility may be challenged prior to the start of a game if:
 - a. They have not been certified to play.
 - b. If there are discrepancies with the Official Roster and/or the Registration Record.
 - c. They fail to meet age requirements.
- B. No person may waive eligibility requirements as they relate to more specific requirements as set forth in the Titles of this League. Those who allow a participant to play without meeting said requirements may be charged with one of several rule violations, including but not limited to cheating, endangerment of juveniles and failure to keep faith with juveniles and their parents. As a result, sanctions that may be imposed by the Hearing Authority, in a finding against the parties involved, can include forfeiture of the game for one or both franchise teams involved.
- C. If there is a dispute over a participant’s right to play and the Head Coach of the team of said participant refuses to declare the disputed participant ineligible for that game; the team making the challenge shall notify the Head Game Official that the game is being played under protest and follow with an immediate phone call to NJAYF Football Commissioner.
- D. In the event that a false certification is held to be intentional and willfully perpetrated by franchise team officials, then those persons that are found to be responsible shall be suspended for not less than two years by the Hearing Authority. Further, should it be found that this violation was carried forward with the knowledge of franchise officials as a policy of that franchise, then the franchise shall be fined in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled “FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES”, in addition that franchise’s football teams shall be banned from postseason playoffs of any kind.

3:12.0 GAME FIELD

- A. NJAYF and all Games played on your field’s property are governed and sanctioned under NJAYF rules.
- B. The standard high school playing field or one with the same specifications shall be utilized as the official playing field for all NJAYF games.
- C. The home or host franchise shall have sole responsibility for the preparation and all required game field accessories. All Fields shall be equipped and marked in accordance with High School Federation Rules. The use of lime or other caustics is prohibited.
- D. All game sites must have some type of temporary, or permanent crowd control fencing, or barricade, such as: snow fencing, “sawhorse” barricade, etc. Said crowd control security fencing shall protrude at least 10 feet around the outside perimeter of the football field. This is to separate football and cheer game participants from the spectators. It shall be left to the determination of the Head Game Official as to whether, or not they feel that there is sufficient

crowd control safety fencing in place, and they shall notify NJAYF Executive Board to the problem.

- E. The use of drones is prohibited.

3:12.1 CHARGING ADMISSION AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPENSES

- A. The home or host franchise shall be responsible for all incidental expenses with regard to paying for all games played on their field, during the regular season excluding neutral site games.
- B. The Executive Board may, at their discretion, approve a mandatory admission charge for any game or event. Associations shall be obligated to inform their parents, spectators, fans, participants and support personnel of the admission charge, so as to prevent any problems at the event. Approved admission charges must be clearly posted in advance.

3:12.2 SIDELINE PERSONNEL AND REQUIRED FIELD IDENTIFICATION

- A. This section shall not apply to the NJAYF Executive Board or NJAYF Operations Staffs. Under no circumstances shall more than ten persons be authorized or permitted to occupy the sideline; all must have sideline passes. Presidents and Football Commissioners have game day access.
- B. In the area immediately behind the sideline/field, usually a track, only cheer personnel shall be permitted with their cheer squads. All cheer squads affiliated with a franchise football squad must be registered AYF members. No other persons, inclusive of fans, spectators, parents, or support personnel shall be permitted in this area. There must be some type of protective barrier between the field of play and cheer squads.
- C. For the purposes of control and security, franchises must provide sideline passes that will serve as field identification for all persons allowed on the sidelines, or track area during a game. No more than 10 passes shall be allowed per division game.
- D. For a first offense violation of this section, it shall be the responsibility of the game officials to give a verbal warning to the Head coach. A second or subsequent violation of this same rule results in a 15-yard penalty.
- E. Team “photographers” are not recognized as part of your team by NJAYF. If you choose to have a team photographer, you and the photographer are at your own risk. Photographers must be properly background checked. Photographers must remain on your sideline and not be in the coaching box.

3:12.3 FIELD SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Field support personnel shall include persons operating the down marker and yardage chain, ambulance attendants and law enforcement or security personnel. The sidelines must be kept clear so that these persons can perform their assigned jobs.

3:12.4 HOME TEAM CHAIN CREW

To alleviate possible conflicts on the sidelines, the home or host franchise team shall fully staff the chain crew and shall be posted on the home side of the field, or if game officials prefer the same to be done on the visitor’s side of the field, then said chains shall be manned by the visiting team.

3:13.0 GAME DAY – GAME DATES, STARTING TIMES, AND ORDER

- A. Unless otherwise provided for herein, the NJAYF Football Commissioner shall enjoy the wide latitude to schedule regular season games for the full weekend beginning Friday evening, all day Saturday, and/or all day Sunday.
- B. If a member franchise has three games or less being played at the home, or host site, the game starting time will be 10AM Sunday, unless otherwise scheduled and approved by the NJAYF Football Commissioner.

- C. If a member franchise has four games or more being played at the home, or host site, the game-starting time will be 9AM Sunday, unless otherwise scheduled and approved by the Football Commissioner.
- D. Game starting time on any other day except Sunday shall be determined by the NJAYF Football Commissioner.
- E. The exact order in which games are to be played shall be determined by the Executive Board annually and requires approval of the General Membership.

3:13.1 GAME DAY – REQUIRED GAME ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The National Anthem must be played just prior to the beginning of the first game.
- B. Prior to the start of each game where there is a public address system available, the NJAYF Sportsmanship announcement must be played prior to each game.

3:13.2 GAME DAY – OFFICIAL BALL

- A. The home team is responsible for providing the game ball at all games. The ball does not have to be new, however the Head Game Official shall have final say as to whether or not the ball is acceptable.
- B. The use of “stickum” on either the football or hands is prohibited.
- C. Member franchises shall utilize the game balls provided for herein:

Flag, 7U, 8U, 9U	Wilson K2
10U, 11U, 12U	Wilson TDJ
14U	Wilson TDY or TDS (<i>team has the option</i>)

3:13.3 GAME DAY – TIME OUTS

A team shall be permitted no more than 3 “Time-Outs” per half and Official’s Time-Outs shall not count against either team.

3:13.4 GAME DAY – LENGTH OF QUARTER

The maximum length of quarters for all teams shall be 10 minutes with the exception of spring football and All Star Game which are 12 minutes.

3:13.5 GAME DAY – INTERMISSION BETWEEN QUARTERS AND GAMES

Between the first and second, and the third and fourth quarters, there shall be a 2 minute intermission. Between the second and the third quarters (halftime), there shall be a 10-minute intermission. There shall additionally be a 10-minute intermission between games.

3:13.6 GAME DAY – SPECIAL CEREMONIES ON GAME DAY

Associations sometimes schedule special presentation ceremonies such as Parents’ Appreciation, Scholastic Awards Presentation, Alumni Homecoming Celebration or even Opening Day Ceremonies. These activities are encouraged as they aid in the marketing and the community exposure of your franchise programs. If franchises should plan such activities, these activities shall not conflict with the start of any game by more than fifteen (15) minutes and both the visiting franchise team and Game Officials must be notified at least six (6) days prior to the day of the game.

3:13.7 GAME DAY – GAME SCORING VALUES

A. The following points shall be awarded for these scoring categories:

Touchdown (All Divisions)	6 Points
Conversion (Kick – All Divisions)	2 Points
Conversion (Run and pass – All Divisions)	1 Point
Safety (awarded to opponent)	2 Points
Field Goal	3 Points
Forfeit	Score of Game 6 to 0

NJAYF per AYF National rules has set its own tie-breaker system. See Section 3.17 for NJAYF Tie-breaking rules.

3:13.8 GAME DAY – INJURED PARTICIPANTS

If a participant is injured during a game, said participant shall be properly examined by certified medical personnel depending on the extent of the injury, before being allowed to continue participation. If it is determined that the participant will not be able to continue, it shall be the responsibility of the Head Coach to apprise the MPR Monitors, and so it can be duly noted in their records.

3:13.9 GAME DAY – SPEARING AND BUTTING PROHIBITED

- A. Spearing and Butting will not be tolerated and shall be sufficient reason for a participant to be ejected from any game. franchise team officials found to have taught or found to be teaching spearing and/or butting shall be charged with “Endangering the health and safety of juveniles” and can face severe penalties as a result.
- B. For the purposes of enforcement, “Butt-Blocking” is defined as a blow with the facemask, frontal area, or top of the helmet as the primary point of contact, driven directly into an opponent. The technique is considered very dangerous to both the blocker and the opponent and carries with it, a 15-yard penalty.
- C. Spearing is deliberately and maliciously driving the helmet into a player who is down, or who is held so that he is going down, or that is held so his forward progression is stopped, or who is obviously out of play.

3:13.10 GAME DAY – MEDICAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED

The home or host franchise (depending on where the game is being played) is responsible for providing medical emergency coverage at all games, e.g., ambulance, medical technicians; nurse, etc., in the event of injury to a participant. The League realizes that most First Aid Squads are volunteer organizations and can’t be expected to standby during all of the games however, the home or host franchise team **MUST** have access to a cellular phone, public telephone, or a two-way radio in which to summon medical services in a timely manner, in the event of an emergency. Refer to the current National Federation of State High School Associations rules. Athletic Trainers have the final say on any and all injuries that occur within the field of play on game day. No coach, board member, parent, etc may question the authority of a licensed and properly credentialed Athletic Trainer about his/her ability and whether or not the trainer had the right to remove a player from the game. Doing so may result in penalties being levied against the association and/or individual involved (coach/parent) including, but not limited to, suspensions and fines at the discretion of the NJAYF Executive Board.

3:14.0 SCHEDULED GAMES

- A. The NJAYF Football Commissioner shall schedule all regular season games, playoffs and League championships, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees.
- B. To the extent that it's possible, regular season game schedules shall be for two years, which shall be reviewed annually. In most instances, on a two-year schedule, if a franchise plays home against an opponent in the first year, during the second year of the schedule, the schedule "flip-flops" and in the second year, they shall play that opponent away. Schedules shall be presented no later than the August General Membership meeting, after having been reviewed and approved by the NJAYF Executive Board.
- C. All games shall be scheduled for weekends inclusive of Friday nights, and all day Saturday and Sunday, depending on all of the information available to the NJAYF Football Commissioner, coordination, logistics and the availability of officials and sites.

3:14.1 POSTPONEMENTS OF SCHEDULED GAMES

- A. Should a home or host franchise determine that their site is unavailable due to weather or any circumstance, they must immediately contact the NJAYF Football Commissioner. The NJAYF Football Commissioner will in turn relocate or reschedule these games. All teams are obligated to play any and all rescheduled or relocated games.
- B. The failure or inability of the home or host franchise to contact these persons in a timely fashion; will result in the continuation of their responsibility to pay game officials for a minimum of one game. It should not be automatically assumed that since it is raining, that game officials would not show up. It is your responsibility to make the decision to play or not play because as the home or host franchise, you have made the investment and you will suffer the loss.

3:14.2 RESCHEDULED GAMES

If the home team/site cancels its games, they must notify the NJAYF Football Commissioner (not their opponent). The NJAYF Football Commissioner reserves the right to reschedule games in question on the day and location of his choice.

3:14.3 GAMES CALLED DUE TO WEATHER

In the event a game has to be called due to the weather, the following provisions will apply:

- A. If the game is "Lopsided", regardless of the quarter, the team that's ahead wins.
- B. If the game is not "Lopsided", and is called before completion of the third quarter, the game will be deemed suspended and will resume at the point of suspension. Refer to current NJSIAA rules.

3:14.4 OBLIGATIONS TO ALL SCHEDULED GAMES

- A. All scheduled games must be played as scheduled unless changes agreed to by the franchises involved are approved by the NJAYF Football Commissioner. Further, by virtue of their franchise with their football counterpart, cheer squads shall also be obligated to attend and perform at each game where their football counterparts are playing.
- B. Failure of a franchise to show up for a scheduled game, without prior notification, agreement and approvals as required herein, shall result in the following sanctions:
 - a. If a visiting team, or squads falls to show up at a scheduled game, said franchise must pay to the home and host franchise no less than \$250.00 plus any possible costs for officials, per missed game, to cover any loss of revenue. In this instance, franchise/team shall include football teams and their cheer squad counterparts that are attached to that team.
 - b. A home or host franchise team that fails to show up shall forfeit the game and must reimburse the visiting team not less than \$250.00 to cover traveling cost. Said team shall also be subject to a fine in accordance with section 3:28.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES".

- c. In addition to the mandatory compensations to offended franchises, the Executive Board may convene a hearing to determine the appropriateness of additional penalties.

3:15.0 SCHEDULING OF GAME OFFICIALS

- A. A minimum of three certified game officials shall be assigned to officiate all League games except 7U and 8U. Under no circumstances shall a non-certified volunteer be used to officiate any game without prior approval from the League.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the home or host franchise to pay all assigned officials, no later than halftime of the final game to be played that day. Associations are only obligated to pay those officials that are in attendance and who actually officiate the games (if three are scheduled and only two show up, franchises must only pay for the two that showed up). The fee to be paid per official shall be announced annually by the NJAYF Executive Board.
- C. Exclusive of playoffs, in the event that a game is played on a neutral site, both visiting teams shall be responsible for payment of the game officials. The host site must operate a concession stand, be responsible for use of the facility including but not limited to phone access, first aid, restrooms, press boxes and PA systems access.
- D. Under no circumstances may a member franchise play in any game where there are less than three (3) game officials. If by chance this should happen, the home or host franchise shall notify the NJAYF Football Commissioner so that the game can be rescheduled

3:15.1 GAME OFFICIALS AUTHORITY AND PENALTIES FOR COACH OR PLAYER EJECTIONS

- A. Game officials shall have the authority to eject coaches and or participants for unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which is considered to be in violation of the Coaches' Code of Conduct. Furthermore, coaches may be ejected for belittlement or berating of game participants. Said officials shall be mandated to notify the Supervisor of Game Officials and the Sergeant at Arms of anyone who is ejected so that they can be investigated and the appropriate action taken.
- B. Game officials shall stop any game if it appears that the health and safety of the participants or to themselves could be in the least amount of danger, due to an franchise's inability to control a particular situation, and in this situation, notification of the Sergeant at Arms is mandated.
- C. Any coach ejected from a game shall immediately be suspended from any participation with any franchise team for a period of two weeks, inclusive of the next two games, immediately following the ejection. The franchise whose coach is ejected shall be fined in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES". Exceptions to game suspension: coach ejected for fan behavior when coach tried to control fans. In the event that a coach is suspended for a second violation within the same season, that coach shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, and must apply directly to the Executive Board, prior to reinstatement. Further, for a second or subsequent violation/ejection, the franchise shall be fined in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES".
- D. In the event that a participant is ejected from a game, the franchise shall be fined in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES", and said participant shall be suspended for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) full game.

3:15.2 PROTESTS

Only those protests involving rule interpretations or the eligibility of a participant may be considered by the League. A "Judgment Call" made by a game official during the conduct of the game cannot be protested.

3:15.3 GRIEVANCES AGAINST OFFICIALS

The League will design a form that will be used to report concerns with game officials directly to the NJAYF Football Commissioner. The forms will be used to help the assignor, with input from the NJAYF Football Commissioner, determine game day assignments and assignments for the playoffs. An official

may be dropped from the list of game officials if a pattern of complaints from several franchises appears to have developed.

3:16.0 OBLIGATIONS TO REPORT SCORES

It is the responsibility of the Home or Host franchise/team to report scores for all games played at their site. Scores must be submitted by the method determined by NJAYF each season. Failure to do so will result in the association being fined in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled “FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES

3:17.0 TIE GAMES

- A. In the 7U and 8U Divisions, ties shall stand as ties.
- B. All other divisions, a modified version of the High School rule shall apply, 1st and Goal from the 10 yard line.
- C. All games will continue until the winner is declared.

3:17.1 TIES IN TEAM STANDING

- A. In the event of a tie in team standings, the team that defeated the other on the field previously during the regular season will be declared the winner.
- B. If there is a tie in standings and neither team has beaten the other during the regular season, or they have split two games they played against each other, a special tie breaking game (one extra game) will be played during mid-week, between the last regular season game and start of playoffs.
- C. If there is a “Three-Way” tie in team standings there will be a midweek meeting of the teams involved for the purposes of breaking the tie. Three way Cornell rules will apply.
- D. Special cases of ties not covered by these rules shall be left to the sole discretion of the Leagues Executive Board in determining the “tie breaking” or the champion.

3:18.0 MANDATORY PLAY RULE

- A. Every player eligible to participate at game time must participate in the game and specifically must participate in a minimum of six (6) plays from the line of scrimmage; except for the 7U and 8U divisions whose participants must have a minimum of twelve (12) plays from scrimmage.
- B. All plays run in the game count (offense, defense, special teams & extra points). Any penalties resulting in the replay of the down do not count as plays. Plays that result in a quarterback dropping to their knee or spiking the football with the sole purpose of “playing it safe” or “stopping the clock” will not count as plays.
- C. A team may declare prior to the start of the game that one (1) player can be exempt from the MPR Requirement. This exemption is only for a player that will kickoff, kick extra points, or punt the football. The exempted player cannot, under any circumstances, play any other position (referenced above) on the field for the entire game that they were declared exempt.

Number of players	Min # of plays required	7U and 8U # of plays
16-25	10	12
26-30	8	10
31-36	6	8

For national competitions, the following should be required per the AYF National Rulebook:

Number of players	Min # of plays required
16-25	8
26-30	6
31-36	4

3:18.1 MANDATORY PLAY RULE – IMPLEMENTATION

- A. All participants must have their mandatory plays by the end of the third quarter or must start the fourth quarter, and they shall remain on the field until they have received their minimum mandated plays.
- B. If 12 or more players have not received their mandated plays by the start of the 4th quarter, the game will be over by forfeit.

3:18.2 MANDATORY PLAY RULE – DENIAL OF GUARANTEED PLAY

- A. The right of each participant to guaranteed playing time can be denied by a franchise/team for disciplinary reasons and provided that they are the result of violations of published rules such as, attendance, scholastic or disciplinary problems in school or as a team member.
- B. The guaranteed playing time of a participant can be denied for medical reasons and as the result of injury during a game. A parent may also request that their child not be allowed to participate; however, this request must be in writing.
- C. When a participant is denied their right to play in a game, this information must be noted on the MPR roster and the opposing team notified during the pregame check-in. Further, the franchise must notify parents of this action prior to game time unless it occurs during the game.

3:18.3 MANDATORY PLAY RULE – NOTIFICATION REQUIRED

- A. **COACHES** - It shall be the responsibility of the franchise President to inform and instill upon each coach the provision of the Mandatory Play Rule prior to their appointment.
- B. **PARTICIPANTS** – This rule must be explained to all participants, telling them that if a coach is wrapped up in a game and loses track of their playing time, they should politely remind the coach that they need plays. Further it is recommended that coaches and participants practice interacting with the MPR Monitors as they go into and out of the game, so that plays are recorded properly.
- C. **PARENTS** – At parents meetings, through written communication and in all published program rules, franchises must advise parents of provisions of the Mandatory Play Rule. If parents believe that their child has not received his or her guaranteed playing time, they must have an opportunity to be heard and register their complaint with the Head Coach and the franchise Board of Directors. If the matter cannot be remedied at the franchise level, parents shall then be directed to send an email to the NJAYF Executive Board for their investigation and disposition of the matter.
- D. **PA SYSTEM** – At all games where there is a PA System in use, the provisions of the Mandatory Play Rule must again be explained to all spectators and fans, at all games.

3:18.4 MANDATORY PLAY RULE – ROSTERS AND MONITORS

- A. **ROSTERS** - An MPR sheet shall be designed and distributed by the Executive Board annually. Failure to use the correct MPR sheet will result in a fine in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled “FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES”. The roster shall be completed in the very same manner as the Official Team Roster, and shall contain the jersey number and name of each participant. Players shall be listed on the MPR sheet in numerical order. There shall also be a

column or spaces provided to accommodate those participants who for medical, disciplinary, tardiness at check in, ineligibility or scholastic reason, are not being permitted to play. Also, if a player is injured during the course of the game, this must be recorded as well.

- B. MONITORS** - Each franchise team shall appoint two responsible adults to serve as MPR Monitors per game. It is recommended that those serving in this capacity are familiar with the team's players and if possible, this person should be a permanent part of the team. One monitor will work the home sideline and monitor his own team, while the other monitor will work the visiting sideline and monitor the opposing team.
- a. During the game, monitors shall record the number of plays run by each participant. Once a player has attained their mandatory requirements, there is no need to continue monitoring that player. Monitors shall notify the Head coach of each team, at the close of the third quarter of those players that have not received their required plays and the monitor must remind him again just before the start of the fourth quarter, when all players that do not have their plays must start.
 - b. Monitors are not to coach or signal plays and anyone caught doing so will be ejected from the game-by-game officials. Monitors have free run of the sidelines, but may not stay in the team coaches' box. Should it be determined that they are being used by team officials for other than their intended responsibilities on the sidelines, the franchise shall be charged with cheating and the monitor removed.
 - c. Each of the 2 completed MPR sheets will be signed by each franchise Monitor with each monitor taking a copy for his team's file. The two signed sheets (one each home and visiting team) shall be kept on file according to franchise procedures and league instructions.
 - d. Monitors are instructed not to sign the MPR sheet if he/she feels there are any unresolved discrepancies.

3:18.5 MANDATORY PLAY RULE – MAINTENANCE OF MPR RECORDS

All MPR sheets are the property of the NJAYF and shall not be destroyed for a period of ninety days. They must be maintained on file by each franchise and in the event a complaint is filed for alleged violation of the Mandatory Play Rule, these records must be made available to the Hearing Authority; Failure to comply with this section shall result in a finding against the franchise for intentionally violating the Mandatory Play Rule.

3:18.6 MANDATORY PLAY RULE – PENALTIES

- A. Association teams found to have violated the Mandatory Play Rule shall forfeit that game. In finding a violation, coaches may be suspended from two games to one full year, or they may be placed on probation for an indeterminate period of time, by the Hearing Authority.
- B. Participants who were denied their guaranteed playing time must start in a minimum of two of the next scheduled games and must be allowed double the maximum number of plays allotted for those games. In other words, if at game time, players must receive eight (8) plays, then the offended player receives double or sixteen (16) plays during that game as well.
- C. The NJAYF Football Commissioner will notify the next two opponents to inform them of this ruling.

3:19.0 LOPSIDED RULE – SCORE DIFFERENTIAL AND GAME PROCEDURES

An intentionally run-up score occurs when a team continues to pour it on even after the game is in their favor and far out of reach for their opponents. Coaches who practice this are to be disciplined by the local Conference/Association. AYF considers this type of coaching contrary to its purposes. The NJAYF lopsided score rule is 4 touchdowns or 30 points, whichever comes first. Once the score differential reaches 4 touchdowns or 30 points, the game clock will become a running clock. Once the game clock becomes a running clock it can only be stopped for injuries, official or team time outs. It will be the

losing team's preference as to whether they will receive a normal kickoff or they may choose to take the ball on their own 40 yard line. The winning team is prohibited from running any misdirection, counter, reverses or "trick plays" of any kind, or any play that has been consistently run with success during the game. Skill position starts must be replaced whenever possible. Conferences and franchises cannot limit the winning team to only running between the tackles. Mandatory plays must be completed regardless of the score or game clock. If the winning team does not complete their required mandatory plays, the full force of the mandatory play rules will be in effect.

3:19.1 LOPSIDED RULE – OBLIGATION TO THE MANDATORY PLAY RULE

Association teams are obligated to the "Mandatory Play Rule" while playing under the provisions of the lopsided rule.

3:19.2 LOPSIDED RULE – INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION

Lopsided rules in 3:19.0 apply to said division with the exception of the number of touchdowns and number of points. The NJAYF 7U and 8U lopsided score rule is 4 touchdowns or 24 points, whichever comes first. All other rules apply.

3:19.3 LOPSIDED RULE – INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

- A. Anytime a franchise team wins a game by a scoring differential in excess of 36 points, or should it be determined that over a period of time that a pattern has been developed whereby the same team is constantly winning by an excessive scoring differential, the Sergeant at Arms shall automatically be charged with an initial investigation to ascertain that all of the provision of the lopsided rule have been complied.
- B. In any investigation, the Sergeant at Arms and Football Commissioner shall determine whether or not both "The Spirit of the Rule" and the letter of the rule have been met. In a possible hearing, the Hearing Authority shall make this determination in considering the matter before them. Associations shall provide proof of rule compliance or those found to have violated the rule, the absolute minimum penalty to be imposed shall be the suspension of the Head coach for not less than two weeks, inclusive of two games and the franchise shall be fined in accordance with section 3:27.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES", with no fine reduction waiver or revocation.

3:19.4 LOPSIDED RULE – NOTIFICATION REQUIRED

All of the provisions of "Mandatory Play Rule Notification Required" shall also apply to this section and franchises shall be required to give the same type of detailed notification.

3:20.0 INSTRUCTIONAL RULES

Current year NJAYF Instructional rules apply.

3:21.0 CHEER – SAFETY RULES

- A. All Coaches must abide by AYC certification and risk management.
- B. Association cheer programs shall strictly adhere to all safety rules as established by the AYC Rulebook and when they are silent, the current year YCADA safety rules.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of each member franchise to secure copies of these rules, to assure that each coach has a copy and knowledge of the same, prior to being assigned to coach any cheer squads of NJAYF.

3:21.1 CHEER – MASCOTS

A child may not be a mascot and cheer for Flag football at the same time. The use of mascots shall be at the discretion of each individual franchise. However, all mascots must be at least one year younger than the youngest participant of the youngest age division offered by the franchise but shall be no less than

five (5) years of age. No more than 3 mascots will be permitted per squad. If a franchise offers Flag Cheer then it cannot have any mascots.

3:21.2 CHEER – COMPETITIONS

See AYC National Rulebook.

3:21.3 CHEER – COMPETITION DIVISIONS

See AYC National Rulebook.

3:21.4 CHEER – GAME DAY RULES

- A.** All franchises must submit to their Cheer Operations Staff member a schedule containing a list of all games their teams will be cheering at during the season. This schedule is due one (1) week after the football game schedule is released.
- B.** Cheerleaders must cheer at a game each week, including playoff games, midweek games, and make-up games. You need at least half of the team members at each game or your franchise will be subject to a fine. If special circumstances prevail, you must obtain a waiver from the NJAYF Executive Board.
- C.** The Cheer Coordinator from the home team is to contact the coordinator of the visiting team the week prior to the game, to exchange information regarding which games will have cheerleaders and a general count for each team, which will help determine numbers needed or a small token of friendship, such as lollipops (the ‘friendship bags’).
- D.** If the football team plays in the rain the cheer teams shall also. The decision to cheer is determined by the organization reps and the referees.
- E.** Only rostered coaching staff is permitted on the sidelines with the cheer teams. All rostered staff must wear their sideline pass to all games.
- F.** No food or drinking of soda while on sidelines during the game.
- G.** Nails must be kept short in accordance with the AYC rules.
- H.** Hair must be securely tied up off the face.
- I.** Teams should dress for the weather, including rain.
- J.** Teams do not need all the same sneakers, but AYC rules prohibit canvas style, and must be athletic support shoes.
- K.** No stunting or tumbling on asphalt track, concrete, or hardwood floors. Only rubber track, grass, track mats or turf fields.
- L.** There must be a barrier between the squad and the game of play, or the cheerleaders must face the ball while in play.
- M.** Coordinators are responsible for their program. Head coaches are responsible for their team at the games, under the direction of the coordinator.
- N.** Prior to the start of the game, cheerleaders will line up at their designated goal post to cheer their football team onto the field.
- O.** Cheer teams are then required to perform a hello cheer to the opposing team. The home team performs Hello cheer on the opposing sideline first. Then the visiting team performs on the home team’s sideline. Hello cheers should be completed by the end of the 1st quarter.
- P.** Hello Cheer is exactly what it states – welcoming the other team and wishing them good luck. Any team found performing a cheer in unsportsmanlike conduct will be referred to the NJAYF Executive Board and fined.
- Q.** Halftime performances
 - a.** Half times are only 10 minutes, so performances are to be complete within that time frame.
 - b.** Each cheer team is to perform its own half-time dance or cheer; if it is a dance to music, you are to bring your own music to the game on a CD and on an electronic device such as a smartphone.

- c. The visiting team performs first, facing its own fans (away stands).
- d. The home team performs second, facing its own fans (home stands).
- e. If one side has a dance team, that dance team performs at halftime and not their cheer team.
- f. All home stands are responsible for having a CD player and an auxiliary port to connect to smartphones.
- g. Each team is allowed no more than 4 minutes. Try to keep halftime routines to 2 minutes or less.
- R. Cheerleaders are to cheer the entire game and may only take short breaks for water.
- S. At the end of each game, cheerleaders are to line up behind their football team at the 50 yard line to participate in thanking the opposing football team and cheerleaders for a good game.
- T. Any coaches, cheerleaders or spectators displaying poor sportsmanship before, during or after the game/competition may subject their franchise to discipline and fines.
- U. Problems on game day should be referred to the franchise Cheer Coordinator who may follow up with the NJAYF Cheer Commissioner.
- V. No tryouts permitted for any teams with the exception of the NJAYF Elite team(s). Placement is done in order of enrollment. Participants may be evaluated, but all must be included.
- W. When a participant is actively a member of another football team or competitive cheerleading squad while actively participating (sidelines or competition) with an AYF team, participants may practice but should not compete with another football team or competitive cheerleading squad during the AYF season. A participant is allowed to try out and practice for a school team as long as it does not interfere with the AYF team.
- X. Camps and Clinics: See AYF National Rulebook for conditions.
- Y. All cheer squads (cheer, dance or step) cheering at AYF sanctioned games or competing at an AYF competition must be registered AYF members.
- Z. Shoe charms, hair beads, jewelry, and chewing gum are prohibited during games. Jewelry may not be taped on or over (exception- medical/religious may be taped down).

3:21.6 CHEER – COMPETITION RULES

The following rules shall govern all NJAYF sponsored and member franchise sponsored competition.

- A. Individual participants shall not be selected to compete against another individual unless in the case of jump offs or tumble offs which is by their own choice to participate with the exception of the Elite division.
- B. Competition shall be limited to squads from the same age division competing against one another; squad size status is based on your official certified roster as of September 15.
- C. Association cheer programs shall not “cut” participants from their regular season rosters to prevent their participation in any competition. Participants who will not be in attendance and participating for any reason whatsoever, must have an official AYF absentee form certified. The Elite division is an exception.
- D. Coaches, coach trainees, demonstrators, or anyone that may be associated with a franchise cheer squad is not allowed to lead the competing squad onto the floor, stand in front of them: nor is anyone allowed to “prompt” (mouthing or lip synching) anywhere participants might be able to see them. Prompting alone can result in a substantial loss of points or disqualification. Further, the franchise may be charged with “cheating” and failing to keep faith with juveniles and their parents
- E. Cheer squads participating must have at least five (5) squad participants.
- F. No tryouts permitted for any teams with the exception of the Elite division. Placement is done in order of enrollment. Participants may be evaluated, but all must be included.
- G. AYF squads may enter a competition or event sponsored by a non-AYF organization, with AYF competitions as the first priority.
- H. Camps and Clinics: See National Rulebook for conditions.

- I. All cheer squads, (cheer, dance or step) cheering at AYF sanctioned games or competing at an AYF competition must be registered AYF members.
- J. In order to be eligible to compete in any outside competition, any team registered and rostered with NJAYF must support NJAYF and participate in our Local competitions. Failure to comply will result in penalties levied against your franchise up to and including forfeiture of postseason football eligibility.
- K. Associations are prohibited from scouting another association's teams at any practice, pep-rally, etc. Doing so may result in the association being fined and/or disqualified.

3:21.7 CHEER COMPETITIONS – DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "League Policies" shall be disqualified from the competition. The AYF Season starts the fourth Monday of July.

3:21.8 CHEER COMPETITIONS – HANDLING OF PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the franchise Coordinator and will be directed to the assigned Cheer Operations Staff member, then the Cheer Commissioner. **ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTIONS WILL BE DIRECTED AT, OR TO COMPETITION JUDGES, OR OTHER COMPETITION SUPPORT PERSONNEL, ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION. JUDGES AND PERSONNEL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

3:21.9 CHEER COMPETITIONS – SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants shall conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competitions and related events. Association Cheer Coordinator is responsible for proper conduct of squad members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the squad. Association Cheer Coordinator is also responsible for providing these rules and regulations to their staff. Any participants, coaches, or spectators displaying poor sportsmanship may result in the association being fined in accordance with section 3:28.0 entitled "FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES".

3:21.10 CHEER COMPETITIONS – SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual judges score sheets related to each particular squad will be available to the franchise Coordinator when the entire competition has been concluded.

3:22.0 SCHOLASTIC PROGRAMMING

- A. Associations shall be required to include Scholastic Programming with their football and cheer programs.
- B. Each franchise President shall name a Scholastic Programming chairperson or Coordinator to oversee the franchise's efforts in this area. This person shall be charged with receiving and reviewing all proofs of scholastic fitness (Report cards, Progress Reports, etc.) as referred to in the aforementioned section. Upon receipt and review of the same, the Scholastic Programming Coordinator shall enter as many participants as possible into League, Regional and National Scholastic competitions.
- C. Association Presidents shall notify the Third Vice President of the name, address and phone number of the franchise's Scholastic Programming coordinator.
- D. All scholastic paperwork shall be submitted to the Third Vice President no later than the annual date supplied by the Third Vice President.
- E. Disregard of this section shall be viewed as flagrant and the offending franchise may be charged with "Failure to keep faith with juveniles and or their parents". Further, in a finding against the franchise in this matter, the NJAYF Executive Board shall assess a fine.

3:23.0 BILL OF RIGHTS – ASSOCIATION PARTICIPANTS

See Current Years AYF National Rulebook.

3:24.0 PARENTAL BEHAVIOR

The NJAYF and franchises should make clear that some behavior is unacceptable, and that there are consequences for such inappropriate actions. At the minimum, unacceptable behavior includes profanity, obscene gestures, verbal threats, and physical threatening action. See current year's AYF National Rulebook.

3:25.0 HANDLING OF ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS AND ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITY THERETO

- A.** The franchise insurance coordinator and the NJAYF Second Vice President shall jointly ascertain and assure that all claims are properly executed, that all information required by the insurance company has been completed in its entirety, prior to sending the claim to the company for payment. This especially means that any information regarding private primary insurance coverage is included with the claim. Further, in those instances where the parent claims that there is no coverage, they shall be required to complete an affidavit/statement certifying their claim and the provisions of this policy shall be followed. Said affidavit statement shall be drawn or approved for use by league counsel and accepted by the insurance carrier.
- B.** Association insurance coordinators must keep a duplicate record of anything submitted to the league for a period of not less than 14 years from the child's 7th birthday, or until such time as the child has reached their 21st birthday. This is absolutely necessary because a child has the right to sue for a substantial period after attending their 18th birthday, and while you may not be involved anymore, the people that follow behind you are still liable as is the League.

3:26.0 MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH OR STATE OF EMERGENCIES

All franchises, leaders, coaches, participants and spectators must adhere to current NJAYF guidelines on matters of public health and safety measures.

3:27.0 RESTRICTION AGAINST DUAL MEMBERSHIP

No association holding a charter within NJAYF may enter any one of its teams into membership in any other youth football, cheer or dance organization and no adult volunteer may serve on the board of an NJAYF association while concurrently serving on the board of another youth football, cheer or dance organization. Any individual or member association in violation of this rule shall be immediately dismissed from NJAYF.

3:28.0 FINES AND MINIMUM PENALTIES

- A.** It is at the discretion of the NJAYF Executive Board to levy fines against associations who fail to adhere to these provisions.
 - a.** Franchises whose officers or coaches fail to exhaust their administrative remedies per section 2:2.4 entitled "MEMBERSHIP – EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES AND REQUIREMENT OF NOTIFICATION": \$500.00
 - b.** Missed General Membership Meeting per section 2:4.1 entitled "GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – ATTENDANCE": \$200.00
 - c.** Missed Special Purpose Meeting per section 2:4.3 entitled "GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – SPECIAL PURPOSE MEETINGS": \$200.00
 - d.** Creating championship jackets or apparel for the 7U and 8U divisions per section 2:9.1 entitled "AWARDS AND RECOGNITION – FRANCHISE RESTRICTIONS": No less than \$1,000.00
 - e.** Failure to provide Registration Records per section 3:2.5 entitled "REGISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES": \$500.00
 - f.** Violating the Handling of Registrants per section 3:3.2 entitled "TEAM OR SQUAD PLACEMENT – HANDLING REGISTRANTS": \$1,000.00

- g. Intentional False Certification per section 3:11.0 entitled “CHALLENGES TO ELIGIBILITY AT GAME TIME”: No less than \$1,000.00
 - h. Coach Ejection per section 3:15.1 entitled “GAME OFFICIALS AUTHORITY AND PENALTIES FOR COACH OR PLAYER EJECTIONS”: First offense- \$250.00; Second offense- No less than \$500.00
 - i. Player Ejection per section 3:15.1 entitled “GAME OFFICIALS AUTHORITY AND PENALTIES FOR COACH OR PLAYER EJECTIONS”: \$250.00
 - j. Failure to report scores per section 3:16.0 entitled “OBLIGATIONS TO REPORT SCORES”: \$200.00
 - k. Utilizing the wrong Mandatory Play Roster (MPR) per section 3:18.4 entitled “MANDATORY PLAY RULE – ROSTERS AND MONITORS”: \$500.00
 - l. Violating the Lopsided Rule per section 3:19.3 entitled “LOPSIDED RULE – INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS”: No less than \$500.00
 - m. Failure to provide mandatory information required by the NJAYF Executive Board: \$250.00
 - n. Poor sportsmanship per section 3:21.9 entitled “CHEER COMPETITIONS – SPORTSMANSHIP”: \$250.00
 - o. Forfeited game per section “3:14.4 OBLIGATIONS TO ALL SCHEDULED GAMES”: No less than \$500.00 per offense. Furthermore, the NJAYF Executive Board shall review multiple offenses which may lead to additional fines and/or suspension for postseason of the entire association.
- B. The following are minimum penalties to be enforced for violations of, but not limited to, the following rules. The NJAYF Executive Board and/or Hearing Authority reserves the right to make penalties stricter depending on the nature of the offense.
- a. **Coach/Administrator Offenses**
 - I. Cheating (*Roster/Participant Manipulation is considered cheating*)
 - 1. First offense: Suspension for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) week of practice and one (1) game
 - 2. Second offense: Permanent suspension
 - II. Endangerment (*Defined as any deliberate practice of a coach, team, or association which places the health, welfare and safety of juveniles in jeopardy or exploits or treats them in such a manner that the juvenile becomes a “tool” of the team.*)
 - 1. First offense: Suspension for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) week of practice and one (1) game
 - 2. Second offense: Permanent suspension from any and all NJAYF activities
 - III. Badgering & Incitement (*Badgering or threats directed at game officials and/or inciting fans to display poor sportsmanship*)
 - 1. First offense: Suspension for two (2) weeks inclusive of two (2) weeks of practice and two (2) games
 - 2. Second offense: Permanent suspension from any and all NJAYF activities
 - IV. Fighting by Coaches
 - 1. Suspension for the remainder of the season
 - V. Teaching and/or encouraging dirty tactics
 - 1. First offense: Suspension for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) week of practice and one (1) game
 - 2. Second offense: Permanent suspension from any and all NJAYF activities
 - VI. Falsifying Documents (*Falsifying any documents to make a participant eligible*)
 - 1. Forfeiture of all games in which the participant in question participated

2. Permanent suspension of the coach/administrator responsible for the act from any and all NJAYF activities

VII. Playing ineligible players

1. Suspension of the coach/administrator responsible for the act for remainder of the season
 - a. The NJAYF Executive Board will review status for the following season.

b. Participant Offenses

I. Fighting by Players

1. Suspension for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) week of practice and one (1) game

II. Disrespect for coaches, participants, and game and team officials

1. Suspension for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) week of practice and one (1) game

III. Badgering opponents and/or teammates by word or act with the purpose of intimidation

1. Suspension for one (1) week inclusive of one (1) week of practice and one (1) game

c. Association Offenses

I. Battery

1. Should any Player, Coach, Administrator, Parent/Guardian, or Fan strike [hit] a game official or member of the coaching staff, he/she shall be subject to arrest by local law enforcement agencies and permanent suspension including, but not limited to, being banned from all AYF events and activities.

II. Failure to control parents or fans

1. Suspension of the association from NJAYF until the administration of the association can submit evidence satisfactory to the NJAYF Executive Board that the problems have been rectified.

III. Failure to control coaches from actions contrary to the health, safety and welfare of players

1. First offense: Probation of the entire association for the season
2. Second offense: Suspension of the entire association from NJAYF until the administration of the association can submit evidence satisfactory to the NJAYF Executive Board that the problems have been rectified.

C.

ATTEST:

Notice is hereby given that the provisions of this Title, entitled, "TITLE III: RULES AND REGULATIONS" were approved by the Executive Board of New Jersey American Youth Football on February 22, 2025.

There being a quorum present, this Title was duly adopted by a majority vote of those present.

Initially Approved: September 5, 1990

Revised: February 5, 1991

Revised: March 1, 1995

Revised: April 1, 1997

Revised: June 6, 2000

Revised: July 1, 2003

Revised: June 7, 2009

Revised: July 19, 2011
Revised: July 10, 2012
Revised: July 9, 2013
Revised: May 10, 2014
Revised: April 17, 2016
Revised: June 6, 2017
Revised: June 5, 2018
Revised: June 1, 2021
Revised: August 1, 2023
Revised: March 9, 2024
Revised: August 5, 2024
Revised: February 22, 2025
Revised: August 14, 2026

August 14, 2026, Ashley Jones, NJAYF Secretary