

FORWARD YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (FYFL)

OFFICIAL LEAGUE BY-LAWS (3-3-26)

ARTICLE I – NAME & PURPOSE

Section 1.1 – Name

The name of the organization shall be the **Forward Youth Football League (FYFL)**.

Section 1.2 – Mission

The Forward Youth Football League exists to provide a **positive, engaging, safe, and well-structured youth football experience** for players, parents, coaches, and officials.

Success within the league is defined by the league's ability to **engage, develop, and retain youth football players**, thereby supporting strong, sustainable, and competitive high school football programs for all member organizations.

All by-laws, rules, and decisions of the Forward Youth Football League shall be interpreted and enforced in alignment with this mission.

ARTICLE II – LEAGUE GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Section 2.1 – League Board

The Forward Youth Football League shall be governed by a **League Board**, which serves as the primary decision-making and oversight body for the league.

The League Board shall be composed of **Program Directors** from each member program in good standing.

Each member program shall designate **one (1) individual** to serve as its **Program Director**, who shall act as the program's **official representative and voting member** on the League Board.

Section 2.2 – Voting Representation

Each full member program shall have **one (1) vote** on League Board matters. Voting may occasionally be done via e-mail or online vote.

Program Directors may designate an **alternate representative** to attend league meetings and vote on their behalf. Notice of the alternate must be provided to the League Director(s) **prior to the meeting**.

Programs admitted on a **trial membership basis**:

- May attend League Board meetings
- May participate in discussions
- **Shall not have voting rights**

Section 2.3 – Authority of the League Board

The League Board shall have authority over all league matters, including but not limited to:

- Adoption, amendment, and enforcement of league by-laws
- Approval and oversight of the annual league Rulebook
- League scheduling policies and structure
- Admission, trial status, or removal of member programs
- Discipline or corrective action involving programs or individuals
- Appointment and removal of league administrative roles

All decisions shall be made in the **best interest of the league as a whole**.

Section 2.4 – Administrative Roles

The League Board may establish administrative roles as necessary for league operations, including but not limited to:

- League Director(s)
- Schedule Coordinator
- Rule Coordinator
- Website Coordinator

Administrative roles shall be nominated and elected by a **simple majority vote** of voting League Board members.

There is no fixed term length unless otherwise established by the League Board.

ARTICLE III – PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Section 3.1 – Program Director Responsibilities

Program Directors are the **leaders and communication center** of their respective programs.

Each Program Director is responsible for:

- Attending league meetings or designating an approved alternate
- Enforcing all league rules and by-laws within their program
- Ensuring coaches teach and operate in compliance with league rules
- Ensuring all coaches fully understand league rules and expectations
- Submitting home-game hosting availability, including dates unable to host
- Submitting complete program information including:
 - Program name and city
 - Home game location(s)
 - Uniform colors and reversible status
 - Website and social media handles
- Submitting complete coach information for each team, including:
 - Full name
 - Phone number
 - Email address
 - USA Football Coaching Certification

Only program directors and coaches **listed with the league** may be present on the sideline.

Section 3.2 – Communication & Conflict Resolution

Parents and coaches **shall not directly contact** coaches or Program Directors from other programs in regards to conflicts or league matters.

All inter-program communication shall be routed through **Program Directors**.

Program Directors are responsible for:

- Resolving conflicts within their own program
- Communicating with opposing Program Directors to resolve disputes
- Escalating unresolved issues to the League Board when necessary

ARTICLE IV – LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.1 – Application for Membership

Any program wishing to join the Forward Youth Football League must submit a **formal membership application**.

Applications may be submitted through the league website or another method designated by league leadership.

Each application must include:

- Program participation numbers by grade from prior seasons
- Grade levels seeking league entry
- Home game locations and athlete draw area
- Written explanation of why the program wishes to join the league

Section 4.2 – Review & Approval

Applications shall be reviewed and discussed by the League Board at the **next scheduled league meeting**.

Approval of a new member program requires a **unanimous vote of voting members in attendance**.

Section 4.3 – Trial Membership

Approved programs shall enter the league on a **one (1) year trial membership basis**.

Trial-member programs:

- May attend league meetings
- Shall not have voting rights
- Must comply with all league by-laws and rules
- Must ensure all players, coaches, parents, and spectators adhere to the Code of Conduct
- Must participate in league communications
- Must demonstrate alignment with league mission and values

The League Board reserves the right to **revoke trial membership at any time** for non-compliance.

ARTICLE V – SEASON STRUCTURE & SCHEDULING

Section 5.1 – Season Start

The league season shall begin **no earlier than the first Monday in August.**

Section 5.2 – Game Schedule

League games shall generally begin the **weekend following Labor Day** and run **through, but not limited to, the third weekend of October.**

The League Directors retain discretion to adjust season dates based on calendar alignment, field availability, school schedules, weather, or league-wide considerations.

The league will make a good-faith effort to schedule **six (6) games per team** (three home and three away), but this is **not guaranteed.**

Bye weeks may be scheduled and are considered a normal part of league scheduling.

Section 5.3 – Officials (Grades 4–6)

Games must be officiated by:

- Three (3) officials, including one WIAA-certified official
OR
- Two (2) officials, provided both are WIAA-certified

ARTICLE VI – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & WEIGH-INS

Section 6.1 – Grade Placement

Players must compete at their own grade level. Players may move up only to meet roster requirements and at the discretion of the Program Director.

Section 6.2 – Weigh-Ins

Each program shall conduct one official weigh-in prior to the preseason scrimmage.

Weights must be submitted to the League Director **no later than the Thursday preceding the league scrimmage.**

Submitted data must include:

- Full legal name
- Jersey number
- Recorded weight
- Blue Star status

Blue Star weight thresholds are published annually in the official league Rulebook.

Weigh-ins must be overseen by the Program Director and may not be conducted solely by coaches.

ARTICLE VII – TEAM FORMATION & ROSTERS

Section 7.1 – Team Splits

Programs with twenty-one (21) or more players at a grade level are strongly encouraged to form two teams.

No team may roster more than twenty-one (21) players.

Teams must be evenly balanced. “A” and “B” teams are prohibited.

Section 7.2 – Roster Swapping

Roster sharing is permitted only when a team has ten (10) or fewer available players.

Players may appear in no more than two (2) games per season with another team.

All swaps must be approved by both head coaches and both Program Directors **no later than the night before the game.**

Day-of-game approvals are prohibited.

ARTICLE VIII – GAME OPERATIONS & HOSTING

Section 8.1 – Pre-Game Communication

Opponent communication must be completed by **Sunday night preceding the following weekend’s game**, with Program Directors copied.

Section 8.2 – Home Hosting Responsibilities

Home teams must:

- Maintain an emergency action plan
- Have a working cell phone on site
- Have ice available
- Make reasonable efforts to have a medical professional present
- Ensure officials receive rule clarification
- Conduct pre-game rule discussions with officials and coaches
- Are responsible with all costs associated with hosting

ARTICLE IX – COACHING REQUIREMENTS

All coaches must:

- Be USA Football Certified prior to the league scrimmage
- Submit proof of certification
- Sign off acknowledging the Rules Explanation Video

Non-compliant coaches may not be on the sideline. Programs are encouraged to have the certified coaches wear some sort of certification identification.

ARTICLE X – RULEBOOK AUTHORITY

All game play, offensive, and defensive rules are governed by the **official Forward Youth Football League Rulebook**, published annually and serving as the controlling authority.

ARTICLE XI – CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 11.1 – Applicability

This Code of Conduct applies to **all players, coaches, parents, guardians, spectators, and program representatives** participating in or attending any Forward Youth Football League event.

Section 11.2 – Sportsmanship

All participants shall demonstrate sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Encouragement shall focus on effort, learning, teamwork, and development.

Section 11.3 – Language & Behavior

Harsh, abusive, threatening, degrading, or intimidating language or behavior toward players, coaches, officials, parents, or spectators is strictly prohibited.

Section 11.4 – Zero Tolerance

There is zero tolerance for:

- Profanity directed at individuals
- Personal insults or harassment
- Harassment or intimidation of officials
- Aggressive or confrontational behavior
- Any conduct creating an unsafe or hostile environment

Section 11.5 – Respect for Officials

Officials shall be always treated with respect. Judgment calls and rule interpretations shall not be argued or challenged.

Section 11.6 – Program Responsibility

Each program is responsible for the behavior of its players, coaches, parents, and spectators.

Section 11.7 – Enforcement Authority

Program Directors or designated program representatives are authorized to enforce this Code of Conduct.

Section 11.8 – Enforcement Procedure

Unless behavior warrants immediate action:

1. Warning
2. Removal from the event or facility

Severe misconduct may result in immediate removal without warning and further discipline by the League Board.

Section 11.9 – Social Media Conduct

Social media platforms, messaging platforms, and group chats shall not be used to air grievances, criticize league participants, or discuss disputes or disciplinary matters.

Violations may result in disciplinary action, suspension, program sanctions, or trial-membership review.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS & ADOPTION

These by-laws shall remain in effect until amended by vote of the Forward Youth Football League Board.