



**GEORGIA YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
RULEBOOK
(UPDATED AUGUST 2024)**

This section outlines rules to be followed for the Georgia Youth Football League.

The GYFL follows the National High School rules in all cases except where noted in the following local rules. Please read these rules carefully and contact your League President if you have questions. All Georgia Youth Football & Cheer Coaches Must Have a Valid Certification through USA Football. Background checks are also required.

(1) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

- a. All Student-Athletes cannot begin Practicing with their assigned Team > until they have officially Registered or Signed Up. To Register, the Student-Athlete must have all Association Forms Completed and Signed by their Parent or Legal Guardian > and shall be Enrolled and Attending School (Public, Private, or Home School). If an Association folds after The Season has begun > The League Board will work together to choose a place for the Student-Athletes to play out the remainder of the Season.

(2) TEAM INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

- a. Association Teams will not be Eligible or assigned a Schedule > without Insurance Coverage.
- b. Associations must submit to The League a copy of their Association Insurance Policy/Certificate of Insurance, with The Georgia Youth Football League (GYFL) listed as a Rider on The Policy.

(3) ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

- a. Any Change of Leadership of any Association, must be Reported to The League Board as soon as this type of change is made.

(4) PARTICIPANT'S AGE RULE

- a. The Age Control Date/Age Cutoff Date is 7/1 (July 1st)
- b. Players MAY only Participate in Games that they are deemed ELIGIBLE to participate in
- c. Players are PERMITTED to Play 1-Age Group up
 - i. Example: a 6-year-old Player may Play on the 7u Team

(5) TEAM BOX PERSONNEL

- a. Certified team personnel MUST BE WEARING A TEAM SHIRT AND HAVE A COACHES BADGE.
- b. The President, Football Director, and Cheer Director are allowed on the sideline for support.
- c. Only one water boy or girl and one MPR person will be allowed on the sideline.

(6) GAME BALL

- a. The home team is responsible for supplying the game ball.
- b. The visiting team will be allowed to use their own ball but must designate one of their own personnel to get this ball in and out of the game quickly, and at the appropriate time.
- c. Only approved WILSON LEATHER / COMPOSITE balls may be used.
- d. The following are sizes of the game balls for each weight division (the sizes listed are for Wilson's ball).
 - i. 5U-8U Ball size K-2, Nike1000k
 - ii. 9U-10U Ball size TJD, Nike 1000Js
 - iii. 11U-12U Ball size TDJ
 - iv. 14U Ball size TDY
- e. REFEREES WILL CHECK BALLS PRIOR TO GAME!

(7) TOBACCO & ALCOHOL

- a. Use of any tobacco product is not permitted anywhere on the playing field or in the game stadium.
- b. Tobacco products are not allowed on school property.
- c. Any association using school property should follow the rules of the local Board of Education.
- d. Alcohol is not permitted in the stadium or adjacent areas. Any individual that is intoxicated will be removed from the field. Any coach, assistant coach, identified and determined to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any type of controlled substance (unless prescribed for that person by a doctor) will be automatically suspended from participating or working in any GYFL League function.

- e. If a parent and/or guardian of a player or cheerleader in your association is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any type of control substance (unless prescribed for that person by a doctor) they will be asked to leave the property and if this persists their child may be removed from the team with no refund.

(8) COACHES ON FIELD

- a. 2-Coaches are allowed on The Field for 5U and 6U
- b. 1-Coach is allowed on The Field for 7u for the first 4-Games

(9) TIMEOUTS

- a. Each Team will be allotted 3-timeouts per half.
- b. If a Coach desires to have a Discussion with a Game Official, the Coach must take a charged Team Timeout to do so.
- c. Injury Timeouts will be recorded as Official Timeouts and WILL NOT be charged against a Team.

(10) LENGTH OF QUARTERS/FIELD

- a. 5U – 8U will have a 8-minute Game Clock.
- b. 9U – 14U will have a 10-minute Game Clock.

(11) HALF-TIME & RESCHEDULED GAME

- a. There will be a 6-minute half time for all games played.
- b. No change of any type shall be permissible unless the officials determine it necessary to complete the game for safety reasons and/or a mutual agreement between the two associations. (Example: pending darkness)
- c. If a game is rescheduled due for any reason i.e. weather etc. a make-up game will be scheduled by the President and put out to the associations involved.

(14) SCORING

- a. Touchdown Scoring Play (Running or Passing): 6-Points
- b. Scoring Play after Touchdown (Kicking) 2-Points
- c. Scoring Play after Touchdown (Running or Passing) 1-Point (3-yard line)
- d. Scoring Play after Touchdown (Running or Passing) 2-Points (7-yard line)
- e. Safety (awarded to opponent) 2-Points
- f. Field Goal: 3-Points
- g. Forfeit Score: 21-0

(20) PLAYER VISORS/FACE SHIELDS

- a. Player's eyes must be visible through All Visors/Face Shields
- b. Darker Visors are not permitted unless proof is provided from a Licensed Physician prescribing as such

(21) TEAM PERSONNEL STAFF AND REFEREE CREW CONDUCT RULE

- a. Points of Emphasis for Team Personnel Staff and Referee Crews are as follows:
 - a. Respect
 - b. Sportsmanship
 - c. Professionalism
 - d. Courteousness
 - e. Appreciation
 - f. Leadership
 - g. Conflict Resolution