

South Texas Youth Football Association

Bylaws, Protocols & Football Rules

For 2025

The following document has been written to operate and manage the 2024 season for the STYFA. It has been approved and accepted by all chapters comprised together, which form the STYFA. Each chapter approving this document agrees to enforce and implement everything stated within the document.

No Bylaw Changes after June 30, 2025

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Organization:**Name**

1. This non-profit organization shall be known as the South Texas Youth Football Association (STYFA)

Members

1. Each chapter accepted into membership in accordance with the rules and regulations governed by STYFA shall be deemed a "member" and shall be entitled to one (1) vote through its designated representative concerning the operation of STYFA.

Voting Rights

1. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote by any member of STYFA. Only one (1) designated individual shall have a vote from each member. If absent, the selected individual may pass their voting right to another, but their vote will be noticed if the member attends a vote with a voting member. Members (chapters) on probation can sit in meetings but do not have voting privileges.

2. Athletic Directors shall have voting rights of football rules that do not affect the club's revenue.

3. Cheer & Pom Directors shall have voting rights of mini cheer, cheer & pom rules that do not affect the club's revenue.

4. All Bylaw changes must be presented to the BoD for official changes.

Termination of Membership

1. The STYFA board, by an affirmative of two-thirds (2/3) of all its members, may suspend or expel a member with cause after an appropriate committee investigation.

2. The STYFA board, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members, may suspend or expel any member who becomes in default in any assessment (financial commitments) for the period fixed and defined by the rules committee.

Resignation

1. Any member, or individual from a member, may resign by filing a written resignation and submitting it to the board secretary. Still, such resignation shall not relieve members of their obligation to pay any assessments owed or other accrued charges and remain unpaid.

Reinstatements

1. Upon written request signed by the President of the member chapter filled with the STYFA Secretary, the STYFA board, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members, may reinstate any former member to membership status on terms defined by the STYFA board.

2025 Affiliated Chapters (members)

- **Barbers Hill Eagles**
- **Baytown Broncos**
- **Deer Park Seminoles**
- **Deer Park Tigers**
- **Dickinson Chiefs**
- **Friendswood Broncos**
- **Friendswood Colts**
- **La Marque Chargers**
- **League City Cowboys**
- **Pearland Oilers**
- **Shadow Creek Titans**
- **Texas City Bengals**

****No STYFA chapter can add another team under its umbrella. Each Team must be its entity.****

Meeting of Members

Annual Meeting

1. An annual meeting of all board members shall be held at a place designated by the STYFA board in January at a time specified by the board to elect directors for the upcoming year.
2. Any business needing to be conducted shall be performed, then elections can proceed.
3. If the annual meeting adjourned without electing delegates for any reason, an attempt will be made for a special session to be conveniently scheduled for all/majority members.

Location of Meetings

1. The STYFA board may designate any location as a place to meet for the annual meeting or any special meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote from the board must approve any selected meeting location.
2. In case of a special meeting or any scheduled meeting, the purpose or purposes of the meeting shall be defined in the notice.
3. Meetings can be established by any member formally requesting the League President to call a meeting.
 - A. For a member to call a meeting, the meeting must submit to the President the purpose of the called meeting.

Notice of Meetings

1. Written notice or electronic computer-aided messages (emails, instant messaging, etc.) stating a place, day, and hour shall be delivered to all members of STYFA not less than five days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the President.
2. In case of a special meeting or any scheduled meeting, the purpose or purposes of the meeting shall be defined in the notice.

3. Meetings can be established by any member making a formal request to the league President to call a meeting.

A: For a member to call a meeting, the member must submit to the President the purpose of the called meeting.

Quorum

1. Majority (greater than 50 percent) shall constitute a quorum for the business transaction at any board meeting. A quorum must be met at each meeting to render rights on voting within a matter.
2. If less than the majority of the STYFA board are present, the members may adjourn the meeting without further notice.
3. The inability to establish a quorum will negate any voting decisions that may be decided.

STYFA Board of Directors

General Powers

1. The STYA board of directors shall manage the organization's day-to-day affairs (STYFA).
2. STYFA would only be involved with the day-to-day operation of its chapter members if requested by the member board of directors and the rules committee deemed appropriate.

Members, Votes, and Tenure

1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the STYFA officers:
 - A: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Athletic Director, Cheer & Pom Squad liaison, and the President of each member chapter.
2. The STYFA officers are elected to a two-year term and hold office until their successor has been named and elected.
3. The Board of Directors shall always act in the best interest of the STYFA. If an emergency motion is needed, the officers will meet to discuss and determine the outcome.
 - a. Please note: there is no appeal process within STYFA due to disciplinary or infractions.

Qualifications

1. Board of Directors must be members of the organization; however:
 - a. STYFA officers, maybe a chapter coach, chapter board member, or instructor.
 - b. While acting as a coach, a chapter board member, or instructor may not make a Ruling on behalf of the STYFA board or based on their position as STYFA member.

- c. They may not exercise their STYFA board powers as an active coach at the time of the inquiry.
- d. If a decision on a specific situation needs to be made, the coach/STYFA members should contact another STYFA member or another chapter board member to make the appropriate decision.
- e. Only one (1) family member may hold a voting position on the STYFA board.
- f. STYFA board members must not have been expelled from or removed from a position on a chapter, STYFA position, or any other position where disciplinary action has been assessed.

Regular Meetings

- 1. Regular board of directors' meetings shall be held within the requirements of said bylaws.
 - a. Meetings shall be attempted to be held at a minimum of once of month.
 - b. The meeting can be adjourned without cause upon not having majority members attending. Board meetings can be held based on any request from its members to the President, proving cause to have the emergency meeting.

Special Meetings

- 1. Upon cause of calling a special meeting, the President or any (2) board members may submit notice to the other members naming a location, time, and date to conduct a special session.
 - a. There will be no limitations on a meeting location or time and date based on its cause.

Meeting Notice

- 1. Notice of any special meeting of the board of directions shall be given at least two (2) days prior to the proposed meeting time via telephone communication, computer-aided electronic communication, or written notice to each director and member at their address shown on the STYFA records.
- 2. Meeting notices can be objected to based on scheduling conflicts, but they can be overruled based on non-majority members attending.

Manner of Acting

- 1. Upon the majority of the board of directors present at a meeting, a quorum and an official appointment shall be confirmed. "Roberts Rules of Order" shall compose parliamentary authority for the procedures not defined by these bylaws.
- 2. Any sign of disorderly discussions during a meeting can be called to order, whereas,

The subject can be re-established.

3. Any profanity, yelling, arguing, etc., shall not be tolerated.
4. Any member acting out of line shall be asked to leave, and disciplinary actions may be required.

Vacancies

1. Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors shall be filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining directors through a regular or special meeting.
2. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the predecessor's unexpired term in office.
3. Nominations shall be taken from the electronic format of a regular or special meeting.
4. Any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors or expansion shall be filled by election at the annual meeting or a special meeting of members called for the specific purpose.

Duties of the Board

1. The board of directors shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the league/organization, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Accounting for all monies received by the organization and preparing financial statements, including all standard accountant forms.
 - b. Ensuring that the meetings of the STYFA are held in an orderly and democratic fashion with due care to the organization's goals and the participants' welfare.
 - c. Developing a competition schedule and maintaining fairness and equality of competitive activity.
 - d. Developing rules and regulations subject to member approval for football play and Pom & Cheer competition consistent with the organization's objectives.
 - e. Enforcing, subject to approval or vote, the conduct of all of its members.
 - f. Adding and/or deleting rules and regulations to ensure a safe, problem-free environment for kids to play their sport.

Voting on Administrative Action

- 1: To be performed by the STYFA Board of Directors only.
- 2: Presidents of each affiliated chapter conduct votes on activities of the STYFA.

Officers

1. The STYFA officers shall be defined as the board-accepted organization chart.
2. All defined officers shall perform administrative duties for the organization.
3. All board members will conduct themselves with high ethical standards and ensure all Behavior and decisions are made in the players' best interest, cheerleaders, coaches, and Parents of the STYFA.
4. Any behavior contrary to these standards will be evaluated for potential suspensions.
5. Temporary suspensions of board members and coaches will be enforced until the the accusation is resolved.

Executive Board

1. Made up of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Athletic Director, and Cheer & Pom Liaison.
 - a. Duties – include a vote on coach/player suspensions, transfers, disciplinary actions, player eligibility, review bylaws, and org structure annually.
 - b. Executive Board can enforce disciplinary action without support from BOD if necessary.

*Members of the executive board that are in violation of the bylaws and refraction may not vote on behalf of their enforcement.
 - c. An executive board member may not abstain from their vote for any reason.
 - d. Votes may be collected anonymously via in-person or electronic format.

Officer Removal

1. Any officer may be removed from their respective office by the remaining board of directors.
2. If deemed in the organization's best interest, any board member may propose the removal of any officer.
3. The removal of any officer of the organization requires a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the electing members of the board.

Election and Term of Office

1. The STYFA officers shall be elected bi-annually by the member Presidents of the affiliated chapter at the regular annual meeting of the board of directors.
2. If the election of the officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as convenient.

3. New officers may be created and filled at any board of directors meeting.
4. Each officer shall hold office until their successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.

President – voted odd years.

1. The President shall be elected and eligible for one possible vote as specified in these bylaws.
2. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the organization and shall have the following duties:
 - a. Shall supervise and control all the business affairs of the organization.
 - b. Shall be responsible for scheduling all STYFA meetings.
 - c. There shall be no maximum or the minimum number of meetings, but there should be, as a guideline, one (1) meeting per month.
 - d. Preside at all meetings of the members and the board of directors and moderate all debates under "Roberts Rule of Order."
 - e. Shall have the authority to call emergency meetings.
 - f. Shall have the authority to appoint special and standing committees.
 - g. Sign, with the secretary or any other proper officer of the organization authorized by the board of directors, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments that the members have allowed being except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the members or by these bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the corporation.
 - h. Shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors.
 - i. Shall not vote unless a tie-breaking vote is necessary.
 - j. Shall present all written complaints to the STYFA board of directors for investigation.
 - k. Shall have the authority to make emergency decisions on behalf of the STYFA interests. All said findings would be reported to the STYFA board of directors within 72 hours.
 - l. Shall not have any of the above powers when acting as a coach.
 - m. Shall be a qualified signature for the STYFA financial account.

Vice President – voted even years

1. Shall perform the duties of the President, in the event of illness or absence of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the President. When acting as the President, the Vice President shall have one vote as described in the duties of the President.
2. The Vice President shall be elected and maybe in a voting position.
3. The Vice President shall have the following duties:
 - a. Shall oversee the PSC Director to ensure compliance with USA football requirements.
 - b. Oversee and Facilitate the STYFA playing schedule.
 - c. Shall oversee the activities of the league athletic director and assistant athletic directors.
 - d. Shall oversee in assuring the website is updated and assure a positive image is portrayed to the community.
 - e. Work with the head referee to assure that all games scheduled have the minimum required QUALIFIED referees in attendance.
 - f. Work with the rules and bylaw committee for the proper interpretation of all rules and bylaws established by STYFA.
 - g. Shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or Board of Directors.
 - h. Shall be a qualified signature for the STYFA financial account.

Treasurer voted odd years

- a. Have charge and custody of, as well as be responsible for all the organization's funds and securities.
- b. Receive and give receipts for money due and payable to STYFA from any source.
- c. Deposit all monies in the name of the organization's bank account.
- d. Maintain the corporation's financial books and records.
- e. Perform all duties incident to the office of the Treasurer.
- f. Shall be a qualified signature for the STYFA financial account.

Secretary – voted even years

1. The Secretary shall have the following duties:
 - a. Shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the members and the board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose. Meeting minutes should be published to the board electronically within one week from the meeting date.
 - b. Shall keep a register of each member's post-office address and all other contact information.
 - c. Shall generally perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the league president or the board of directors.
 - d. Shall receive and maintain all electronics on the shared repository designated by STYFA. The secretary, President, and vice president shall manage access to all electronic repositories.

Registrar – voted on even years

1. The Registrar's duties are as follows:
 - a. Shall oversee the registration process for all chapters to assure fairness and equality across the league. Receive and record all roster information for each chapter with the league in the STYFA-required format.
 - b. Record and report chapter numbers reported to the Registrar by each chapter.
 - c. Maintain and distribute officially certified rosters weekly to all chapters. In addition, notify all coaches and members of any suspended players for the upcoming games. This information will also be communicated to the vice president of the league.
 - d. Be responsible for certifying all official weigh-ins
 - e. Advise the STYFA board of all reports of ineligible or questionable players.
 - f. Make sure "legacy" players return to the correct teams.

Cheer and Pom Squad liaison appointed yearly

1. Organized all cheer competitions and oversaw day-to-day cheer operations.
2. Manage effective communications with all cheer chapters.
 - a. Resolve issues within the cheer program and forward issues and concerns to the STYFA.

3. Monitor and enforce all rules and regulations regarding the STYFA Cheer Program and provide suggestions and recommendations for enhancing the program.

Athletic Directory appointed yearly

1. The Athletic Directors shall consist of the following duties in their respective areas:
 - a. Facilitate a league playing schedule
 - b. Enforcement of STYFA football rules and regulations, subject to the appellate rights granted.
 - c. Coordinate annual STYFA coaches' meetings.
 - d. Receive and review any game that may come over protest.
 - e. Development of the field play monitor training program.
 - f. Assure open communication with all chapter Athletic Directors in their area.
 - g. Assist in developing football rules of play by participating in the rules committee.
 - h. Ensure referees are scheduled and review any complaints filed against referees.
 - i. Ensures each chapter has Athletic Directors. Additionally, it works with chapter A.D. to ensure every game has a home field A.D. and appropriate game/field monitor.
 - j. The home field A.D. is responsible for overseeing all field activities related to the game, managing communication with the referees, and enforcing compliance with STYFA playing rules.
 - k. Each home field A.D. will ensure that each Team has a game and field monitor to monitor the 12-play count rule and the compliance of STYFA.
 - l. STYFA athletic director shall meet with the Chapter Ads monthly to discuss player safety issues and other field play-related problems, referred concerns, etc.

Flag Division Director appointed yearly

1. The Flag Division Director shall consist of the following duties in their respective area.
 - a. Facilitate a flag league playing schedule along with the league athletic director.
 - b. Enforcement of STYFA Flag football rules and regulations, subject to the appellate rights granted.

- c. Receive and review any games that may come over protest with the league athletic director.
- d. Assure open communication with all chapter Athletic Directors in their area.
- e. Assist in developing flag football rules of play by participating in the rules committee.
- f. Assist during monthly meetings with chapters.

Affiliated Chapters

Organization

1. Affiliated chapters shall be defined as a youth football and cheer program for participants of either gender.
2. Each chapter shall attempt to have a pom and/or cheer program.
3. The chapter must attempt to fill ALL six (6) football divisions specified by age defined by the STYFA bylaws. The STYFA BoD will evaluate any chapter reporting less than five (5) teams of the required age group and act in the best interest of the league, that could possibly lead to a change in the schedule and/or club membership.
 - a. A team roster must meet a minimum of 13 VERIFIED (must have all required documentation and weight if required) players.
 - b. A suggested maximum team roster is 25 players, but the Team may add more at their discretion (the Team must adhere to minimum play rules regardless of roster size).
 - c. Operate and maintain a Cheer or Pom Squad or both.
 - d. Develop and maintain a chapter board of directors with positions that include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Athletic Director, and Cheer & Pom Liaison.
 - e. Each chapter's board of directors shall maintain the STYFA official bylaws and competition rules.
 - f. Each chapter shall be responsible for the financial obligations toward STYFA in the way of franchise fees and insurance costs associated with their chapter.

Membership

1. Chapter members shall be defined as parents of duly enrolled football or cheer children, board members, coaches, assistant coaches, cheer instructors, assistant cheer instructors, and any other individual whom the chapter's board of directors deems required to have accessibility to the children.

2. Any chapter member will be automatically revoked if, at any time, the member becomes delinquent in any payment of monies owed to the chapter.
3. All chapters must have their bylaws and be submitted to the STYFA secretary by August 1st of the current season.
4. In accordance with 501c3 rules, all chapters must have bylaws.
 - a. The STYFA must approve those bylaws to ensure consistency with the overall direction and intent of the STYFA organizational standards.

Chapter Finances

1. All chapters are authorized to establish and maintain one checking account for financial obligations for all aspects of the operation of its chapter.
2. This would include but is not limited to, administrative, football, and cheerleading expenses.
3. The checking shall be set up as follows:
 - A: Be in the name of the affiliated chapter.
 - B: Authorized signatures for the checks will be provided by the president and treasurer of the affiliated chapter.
 - C: As a guideline, the affiliated chapters should describe the process in their bylaws for approving expenses and who should sign for the costs based on roles, responsibilities, and expense amount.

Chapter Board of Directors

Organization and Authority

1. Each chapter shall elect its chapter board of directors as defined by the STYFA bylaws. Any chapter using parent voting must have an unaffiliated STYFA board member present to witness.
2. STYFA will recognize the chapter board of directors with the following minimum elected members:
 - a. President
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Registrar
 - e. Cheer and Pom Director
3. Each chapter elected official shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. Must be nominated by a current member in good standing with the chapter.

- b. Must be a minimum of 18 years of age on the general election day.
- c. No more than one family member in the same chapter should serve a position requiring financial signatures.

4. Each Chapter of the Board of Directors shall be subject to the following:

- a. The chapter may choose to have additional members on its board at its discretion.
- b. Each chapter will define which position is a voting or non-voting position.
- c. The chapter board of directors shall administrate all chapter activities and have ultimate authority over all said activities, subject to STYFA rules and regulations.
- d. The chapter board of directors shall enforce and adhere to all rules and regulations defined by STYFA and ensure all rules and regulations apply to all chapter members.
- e. The chapter board of directors' members shall attempt to attend 90% of games, competitions, registration, and STYFA functions.
- f. At least two-thirds (2/3) of the chapter's voting members must be present to achieve a quorum or a voting meeting.
- g. The chapter board of directors may not ADD, or DELETE, to the STYFA bylaws for its chapter's use; STYFA must approve all deviations of the STYFA's bylaws before distribution.

Chapter Dues

1. Dues for affiliated chapters of STYFA must be paid on or before June 15th of the current year.
2. The STYFA Board shall determine the Chapter Dues.
3. All chapters will pay the same fee.
4. This money will be used to purchase awards for Super Bowl, cheer, and pom competitions, all postseason venues, officials, and any operating expenses for STYFA.
 - a. Adjustments to dues may be made and will be evaluated year to year.
 - b. Invoice for dues to be transparent, including line-item cost for Insurance and Officials.
 - c. STYFA will utilize QuickBooks for invoicing and for receiving payments.

5: Past Due Balances:

- a. Pre-season:
*Net 60 days - \$100.00 penalty, loss of voting power until paid in full.
- b. Inter-season:
*Net 14 days – Forfeiture of games until paid in full.
- c. Any club owing monies to STYFA will not qualify for playoffs until paid in full.

Organizational Fines

- 1. Play count monitor sheet not submitted by Monday following game day.

*\$75.00 as of Tuesday following the game day, \$50.00 each additional day until received by the league president and AD
- 2. Not completing chapter duties as required by STYFA during the regular season and postseason.

*500.00 fine per occurrence
- 3. Field not ready for proper play by official start time:

*100.00 fine per occurrence
- 4. Field not marked with every 10 yards (at least):

*100.00 fine per occurrence
- 5. Field must have field goals, and grass must be cut and properly maintained.

*Referees will determine if the field is acceptable for play.
*If not, the chapter will be fined \$100.00

Liability Insurance

C: STYFA will purchase general liability to cover participants each year. A certificate of Insurance must be provided for each venue to include campsites, practice, and game fields.

D: Chapters cannot have any meetings, camps, practices, etc, without proper insurance in place.

Termination of Office

- 1. The following are the terms and suggestions for terminating a board member from a chapter position if it's not explicitly stated in the chapter bylaws.

2. An elected officer is automatically removed from their position if they are absent from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.
3. An elected officer is automatically removed from their position if they are absent from eight (8) regularly scheduled meetings during their term in office.
4. Any officer removed from office due to attendance violations may appeal the removal in writing with the chapter board of directors.
5. Any officer removed from office a second time due to attendance violations may not appeal the removal.
6. The chapter board of directors may, at its discretion, remove any board member from their chapter board with a three-fourths (3./4) vote from the remaining members.
7. All appeals to any decision made by the chapter board of directors must be made in writing.
8. Any officer of the chapter that has been removed from office will be prohibited from holding office again, either elected or appointed, for no less than five (5) calendar years from the date of removal.
9. Any officer of the chapter may resign at any time.
10. The chapter board of directors may appoint any current member eligible for nominations and election to fill any open position on their board.

Playing Schedule

1. A playing schedule will be supplied to all chapters by July 15th of the current football season.
2. A chapter owing a balance to STYFA over sixty days will not be applied to the schedule.

Registration

1. Chapters may begin registering players in February of the current season.
2. Chapters may conduct a legacy registration one or two weeks before open enrollment begins to allow returning players to register. STYFA BoD will vote on registration dates.
 - a. A legacy player is a participant who was on your roster the previous season Unless he is a two-year senior.
 - b. Legacy player also applies to siblings.

*For example: If a player played on a team in the previous year and he was a pee wee, freshman, sophomore, or junior player, he is considered legacy.
 - c. Each chapter will develop their photo rosters in the STYFA data system that was voted in by eligible members.

d. Each chapter will enter information in the provided system by STYFA per Team with all supporting documents (Flag thru Senior, Mini cheer, Cheer, and Pom Squad).

e. Each chapter will submit rosters to the STYFA Registrar in the system provided by STYFA before the due date.

f. STYFA Registrar to develop monitor sheets from the submitted rosters in a protected. Pdf format for each chapter.

g. Writing participants in on the monitor sheet is unacceptable regardless of the reason.

h. Writing in reason as to why a player is absent is accepted.

i. Eligibility is based on age, weight, and grade as of August 1 of the current year.

j. Once a player registers in the system that STYFA provides and is applied to a active roster, he or she is ineligible to register for another STYFA team.

*If a participant is signed up on the waitlist of a club, they are able to register with a different club; however, they will be removed from the waitlist and unable to be applied to the active roster.

No child can be affiliated with school sports and participate in STYFA.

l. If found in violation, it is immediate suspension from the league, and any team will forfeit all rights to advancement in league postseason play.

m. No football player can turn 13 in the calendar year of the current season.

n. The program is open to all children on a first come, first serve basis, regardless of their talent level.

o. Tryouts are not allowed as a condition of registration or play.

Transfer

1. Once in a lifetime

a. A player may request a transfer from one to another STYFA team ONCE.

b. When used, the parents of the transferred participant are ineligible to coach any football division.

*Exception: This rule does not apply to mini cheer, cheer, or pom squad

c. Two outgoing or incoming once-in-a-lifetime transfers per Team per division are allowed on a 1st request basis before the BOD's deadline.

d. **ALL transfer requests must be submitted for a decision prior to the date approved by the BOD. Please speak with your home club for more information regarding as no transfer may be requested after this date.**

e. A pending request **DOES NOT** guarantee you a spot on the desired club roster.

f. No participant of a current STYFA team is eligible to join another STYFA team unless approved by the STYFA BOD through the transfer process.

g. A participant CANNOT sign up with the desired club prior to approval.

*If registration occurs prior to the approval of the request, registration will be declined, and the club in which they are registered must give a refund.

2. Once in a Lifetime Transfer Form:

a. All transfer requests must use the STYFA-approved form.

b. Protocol for the form:

Step 1: Parents will need to initiate the request from their current club and request the transfer form.

Step 2: The parent fills out the form entirely, including their signature and reason for such a request.

Step 3: The parent will send it back to the current club for the President's signature and decision.

Step 4: Once both the current club and parent have signed the form. It must then be sent to the desired club for signature and decision.

Step 5: Once all sections of the form are complete and have retained all signatures, reasons, and decisions by the parent, current club, and desired club, it then **MUST** be submitted to the STYFA secretary.

Step 6: If both the home club and the desired club approve the request via the STYFA transfer form, once signed by the league president, the athlete is able to register with the chosen club during legacy registration.

NOTE:

~If the desired club denies the request, the transfer is denied, and no appeal process may take place.

~If the home club denies the transfer the appeal process will begin.

Relocation

a. To qualify for a release from the previous chapter outside of the one-time allowance, one of the following conditions must be satisfied:

1: Player relocation to a residence more convenient to another chapter. For example, supporting documents must be provided: utility bills, mortgage or lease statements, etc.

Please note- Release will ONLY be approved to a chapter that practices greater than a five (5) mile radius from the practice site of the previous chapter. This is evaluated not by route: however, by the term, "as the crow flies."

As the crow flies – in a straight line.

2: Upon approval of relocation by the league president, the player is permitted to register as a legacy participant with receiving club.

Appeal process of Transfer if denied

Please note if receiving club denies the Transfer, an appeal is NOT permitted.

Step 1: STYFA president will speak with the participant's parents requesting the Transfer.

Step 2: Parents will be asked to write a statement or attend a conference meeting explaining the reason for the request. This will may be presented to the STYFA BOD.

Step 3: STYFA president will present information to the STYFA BOD for the final decision.

An appeal does not guarantee that the transfer request will be approved.

Official Rosters

1. Each chapter will develop their photo rosters in the STYFA data system that was voted in by eligible members.
2. Each chapter will have all supporting documents for each participant uploaded in the STYFA data system voted in by eligible members, including but not limited to photos, birth certificates, and grade verification for the senior division.
3. STYFA registrar will provide each club with their photo rosters per division. They will need to be kept in the clubs' team binder.
4. STYFA registrar will develop monitor sheets from the submitted rosters in a protected .pdf format for each chapter
5. **No write-ins are accepted, regardless of excuse (cross-outs accepted providing a reason).**
6. STYFA Registrar is the only person that has the approval to edit monitor sheets.

7. The deadline for rosters that are above the minimum is August 1 of the current football season.

a. Clubs with levels below minimum have until the Tuesday following Labor Day to add players.

8. The game-day roster should list, at a minimum, the following for each player.

- A: Last name
- B: First name
- C: Age
- D: All weigh-ins up to that date

Player Eligibility

1. Each chapter shall have five (5) tackle divisions and one (1) flag.
2. Football players will be required to play on a team where they meet age and weight requirements (if applicable).
3. No child affiliated with any school football team program may be eligible to participate in STYFA.
4. While there are no boundaries in the STYFA, the STYFA discourages recruiting other players and coaches from other chapters.
5. Participants wanting to change clubs must submit a transfer request prior to the deadline set each season by the board of directors as well as adhering to all transfer rules.
6. The weight and age restrictions are defined as follows:

Playing age (as of August 1st)	Division	Maximum Weight
5-6 year old	Flag	Open
6-7 year old	Peewee	130 lbs
8 year old	Freshman	150 lbs
9 year old	Sophomore	170 lbs
10 year old	Junior	190 lbs
11-12 year old	Senior	Open

7. NO player is eligible to play a tackle level at the age of 5 years old.
8. 7th graders may not participate
 - A: Seniors must provide grade verification documentation showing the current school year, name, and grade.
9. No player can turn 13 in the calendar year of the current season (January through December 31).
10. If any chapter cannot make all divisions, they may combine tackle divisions to form the older division with Bod approval.

Ineligible player:

- 1: An ineligible player is defined as any player that does not appear on an official STYFA-approved and certified roster.
- 2: The use of an ineligible player in a game will result in a forfeit of the game or games the player has played.
- 3: An ineligible player violation will result in the chapter being fined \$100.00 and the head coach being suspended for the next game.

Player Ejection

1. A player that is ejected must leave the game immediately and go to the stands with their parents. They CANNOT be on the field.
2. A ejected player is deemed ineligible and suspended the following game.

Safety**Player Mistreatment**

1. Coaches will not mistreat their players in practices or games.
2. Player mistreatment includes face mask handling/shaking, using profanity to or around players, or any inappropriate language that will be strictly prohibited on STYFA fields.
3. Player Mistreatment Violations:
 - a. The STYFA executive board will decide disciplinary action for player mistreatment.
 - b. If a repeat of mistreatment occurs, the coach will be ejected from their position as a coach and banned from STYFA.
 - c. Anyone witnessing this sort of conduct must bring it to the attention of the Team's A.D., the chapter president, and any other board member immediately.

Heat Awareness

1. Coaches should take reasonable precautions in practices and games during the hot summer months to ensure players are not over-exposed to high temperatures to avoid heat exhaustion or heat strokes.
2. Coaches should ensure that players are sufficiently hydrated and modify their practice plans as necessary on days when temperatures are high.
3. Coaches must provide adamant water breaks.

4. Respective chapters will cancel practices for all teams when appropriate to do so due to excessive temperatures, but it is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure safe practices are adhered to on high-temperature days on which practices are not canceled.

Concussions

1. STYFA imposes a strict zero-tolerance standard on any and all practices that could endanger the safety of the young athletes participating in STYFA-sanctioned activities.

2. All chapters and coaches have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure all football practices and games are conducted safely and competently.

3. Moreover, respective chapters and their coaches should remain vigilant for incidents of concussions during practices and games.

4. STYFA promotes standard training and awareness regarding potential concussions and protocol through USA Football. This is a REQUIREMENT for ALL coaches.

a. Coaches that haven't completed said training through USA Football is prohibited from being on the field during practices and/or games until certified.

b. Any club found guilty of not adhering to this rule will be held to the highest of discipline by the STYFA executive board.

5. Each chapter is responsible for ensuring all coaches are properly trained to know the signs of potential concussions and the proper responses to a potential concussion, including the more important policy regarding the return to play after a suspected concussion. STYFA strongly recommends all chapters conduct concussion training with their coaches and staff to ensure a comprehensive understanding of concussion rules and protocol.

a. Concussion symptoms:

*Appearing dazed or confused

* Dizzy

*Blurry vision

*loss of consciousness or complaining of headaches or pressure on the head.

*vomiting

*nausea

*abnormal troubled memory

*Sensitivity to light or noise

*feeling of sluggishness or groggy

Return to Play Policy

1. If a player is exhibiting signs of a concussion or a coach has any other reason to suspect a player to have experienced a concussion no matter the severity coaches are required to sit the player out from any further activity until evaluated and cleared by a medical profession.
 - a. The chapter must also initiate and complete the STYFA "Return to Play Protocol" prior to allowing an athlete to play.
 - b. The protocol document must be completed by the chapter, parents, and doctors before an athlete may return to play and the document must be kept on file with the chapter.

Practice Guidelines

1. Practices prior to league-established dates:
 - a. No player-to-player contact
 - b. No equipment
 - c. If this policy is violated, it will result in the loss of one game in the Team's standings.

Acclimation Period

For the first 2 weeks of practice, there shall be no limit to the number of practices held each week except SUNDAY.

- a. These practices are limited to 2 hours or less.
 - i. Day 1 and 3 -Helmets ONLY
 - ii. Day 4 and 5- Helmets and Shoulder Pads ONLY
 - iii. Day 6- Full Pads, Limited Contact
 - iv. Day 7- Full Pads, Full Contact
 - b. If this policy is violated, it will result in the loss of one game, in the Team's standings per division reported.
 - c. All players MUST have 5 days of acclimation prior to being allowed in pads.
3. As of (pending date), full pads are allowed if participants have completed their mandatory conditioning of at least 5 days.
 4. After first game of the season, practices are held on days of the club's discretion for up to 3 days.
 5. A chapter's football and cheer teams should practice at the same location.

6. Any STYFA Board Member may attend any practice without notice to check on the players and coaches.
7. Players are REQUIRED to have at least 5 contact practices before they are allowed to play in their first game. NO EXCEPTIONS.
8. Pee wee, Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior tackle participants cannot have "player to player contact" practice before making weight, and the official weight is verified and recorded in the system by an STYFA representative.
9. The league will mandate when contact practices can occur based on the USA Heads Up Football acclimation schedule
10. Contact is prohibited prior to the designated "full pad" practice established by the STYFA board of directors.
11. Bull in Ring or King of the Ring Drills are prohibited.
12. Scrimmages between two teams from one (1) division from each other are allowed.
13. Scrimmages or Games conducted outside of STYFA-affiliated chapters are not permitted without written permission from STYFA BOD

Unsafe Practices

1. It is the duty of the STYFA BOD, chapter boards, coaches, and volunteers within our organization to insist on competent guidance for our players and to have zero tolerance for unsafe acts.
2. Any coach, parent, or other volunteers that are found to be involved in clear unsafe practices that jeopardize the safety of our players will be appropriately disciplined with the possibility of immediate removal from any occupied positions.
 - a. This includes allowing ineligible coaches to participate in practice and game days without proper approval.

Postseason

1. The top six (6) teams of each division will participate in the playoffs for the current season.
2. Tiebreaker: Ties will be solved using these measures in order until the tie has been resolved:
 - A: head-to-head
 - B: fewest points scored against your Team
 - C: record against common opponents
 - D: total points scored

3. Once the positions have been established, the postseason will be a single-elimination playoff. Seeding will not change during the playoffs.

4. Round One (1) Playoffs (Quarterfinals): Seeds 3 through 6 will participate. Seeds 1 & 2 have a bye week

A: Highest seed vs Lowest, 2nd highest vs next lowest seed, etc.

5. Round two (2) Playoffs (Semi-Finals), All divisions:

A: Highest seed vs Lowest, 2nd highest vs next lowest seed, etc.

6. The Super Bowl will be played for each age level by the remaining two (2) teams in the playoffs.

Volunteering within STYFA

Coaches, Team Moms, trainers, or any other volunteer that will be around our athletes.

1. Each division may have a MAXIMUM of 7 coaches and two trainers in the coach's box per game.
2. No one is allowed on an STYFA club field without proper identification provided by STYFA. A \$50.00 fine will be assessed per coach per occurrence.
3. Those 18 or older MUST have a valid background check on file and approved by STYFA.
4. Flag and tackle coaches are required to complete USA Football certification prior to being permitted on any field, including practice or game day with participants. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action leading up to indefinite suspension from the STYFA.

Background check criteria for ALL volunteers

1. All members associated with STYFA performing duties in an official capacity as an STYFA board member, chapter member, coach, or team mom must pass a background check governed through USA Football.
2. Any of the following convictions will result in an individual being flagged and prohibited from volunteering within STYFA.
 - Any felony of violence regardless of the amount of time since the offense.
 - A non-violent felony within the past ten years or more than one non-violent felony regardless of the amount of time since the offenses.

- Any lesser crime involving force or threat of force against a person within the past ten years or more than one, regardless of the amount of time since the offenses.
- Any crime (felony or lesser) of a sexual nature or classified as a sex offense, including but not limited to crimes of a sexual nature such as prostitution, pornography, indecent exposure, and crimes in which sexual relations are an element regardless of the amount of time since the offense.
- Any lesser crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia, alcohol, or marijuana) within the past ten years or more than one regardless of the amount of time since the offenses.
- Any crime (felony or lesser) involving harm to animals regardless of the amount of time since the offenses.
- Any sex offender registrant.
- Any crime (felony or lesser) involving harm to a minor regardless of the amount of time since the offense.
- Any combination of two or more offenses defined in the above regardless of the amount of time since the offenses.

3. Background checks are required for any personnel in contact with participants. For example, club board members, coaches, team moms, trainers, etc. and are valid for two years from the report date.

4. A reconsideration of a decision for a prospective volunteer with a "red light" is as follows

- a. If an individual with a "red light" chose to speak to the club president of which he or she would like to volunteer regarding the pass or fail of a background check, they are free in doing so.
- b. If the club president would like to speak on behalf of the prospective volunteer to the STYFA executive board regarding the decision, they will need to present an official STYFA form with the request.
- c. If the club president does not feel that the volunteer under said condition needs to be spoken about, the reconsideration of the decision will be declined.
- d. If the President would like to pursue in the reconsideration of the decision, then the form will be given to the STYFA president to present to the STYFA executive board.
- e. At that time, the STYFA executive board will hold a meeting to further discuss the situation.
- f. If the STYFA executive board votes in approving the reconsideration of the decision to be finalized by the STYFA BOD, then it will then be presented for a final decision to the STYFA BOD.

STYFA Code of Conduct Policy

1. Code of Conduct will apply to any and all individuals volunteering at the club and league level, as well as parents at STYFA-affiliated events.
2. As an STYFA volunteer or parent it is imperative in conducting yourself in a dignified manner relating to emotion, language, attitude, and actions at any and all STYFA-affiliated events both on and off the field via in person, phone, or any electronic form of communication.
3. Acting at all times to protect the principles of fun, safety, and development of all athletes.
4. Demonstrating respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the same respect for the judgment of referees, officials, opposing coaches, volunteers, sponsors, and any and all other personnel and volunteers at an STYFA event.
5. Display control and professionalism at all times under any circumstance at any STYFA-affiliated event.
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person, including opponents, coaches, officials, board members, athletes and spectators.
7. Agree to abide by all applicable STYFA Bylaws, Rules & Protocol, including this policy set forth.
8. Understanding not following the STYFA Code of Conduct policy will result in fine(s), game suspension(s), full suspension from attending practice and game(s) or indefinite suspension from STYFA and any events deemed necessary of absence. Each violation will be reviewed on a case-by-case.
9. Retribution will not be given in a specific order and will be determined by the severity of the event and actions. Factual information will be submitted in writing to STYFA BoD for discussion, if disciplinary action cannot be agreed upon, STYFA executives will meet to discuss in moving forward with the imposition of discipline.

Zero Tolerance Rule:

1. All individuals attending, volunteering, or playing in a recognized STYFA game SHALL not use profanity in public.
2. Anyone caught using profanity will be required to leave the game or event immediately.
3. This will include but is not limited to the referees, players, coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, spectators in the stands, etc.

4. All ejections must be documented by a club board member and submitted to the STYFA president and offending chapter's President no later than Monday following the incident.

- a. 1st ejection offense- suspension for one week to include practice and the following game and a \$250.00 fine.
- b. 2nd ejection offense- \$250.00 fine and removed as a coach within STYFA.

Parent Code of Conduct

1. Parents must acknowledge a parent Code of Ethics upon registering their participant.
2. The head coach of each division is responsible for fans.
 - a. If an incident occurs and safety is of concern, call 911.
 - b. If a parent is removed from the field, it must be reported to the STYFA president within 24 hours of the incident. If necessary, the BOD will hold a virtual meeting to review the incident and statements. Should ramifications be deemed necessary, suspension and fine of the head coach and fan may suffice.

Noise Makers:

1. Using loud instruments for "fan support" at any game is prohibited. Examples include, but are not limited to, air horns, cowbells, trumpets, jugs or bottles filled with items, etc. Fans who bring a loud instrument will be asked to put it away. If refusal is ensued, removal from the STYFA field may result.

Game Day

1. All games will be on Saturdays unless under special circumstances, in which case the STYFA BOD will discuss and vote on the matter. No agreement between clubs is sufficient for changes. All requests must go through the BoD.
2. An official team is defined as:
 - a. 10 verified and properly equipped players for Flag.
 - b. 13 verified and properly equipped players for Peewee – Senior.
3. Equipment:
 - A: Properly fitted helmet with face mask
 - B: Mouthpiece
 - C: Jersey
 - D: Padded football pants

E: Football cleats (no metal spikes permitted)

****CLEAR Helmet visors are permitted****

****Tinted visors are NOT allowed, NO exceptions****

4. Game times:

- a. Flag- 8:00 AM
- b. Pee wee- 9:00 AM
- c. Freshman- 10:30 AM
- d. Sophomore- 12:00 PM
- e. Junior- 1:30 PM
- f. Senior- 3:00 PM

***Please Note—Normal game times are required; however, any club that schedules game day to be at any time later than 8:00 a.m. will be charged an additional fee of \$20.00 per official per game. No exceptions.**

Chain Gang:

- 1. three (3) volunteers for the chain gang to be provided by the home team.
 - b. Background checks are not required because we do not have direct contact with our athletes.

Game Day Roll Call:

- 1. STYFA roll call will occur prior to the start of each game on any given game day. Upon completion of the roll call, monitor sheets must be signed by the opposing team member. **Failure to do so will result in a forfeit being declared.**
- 2. The STYFA binder must contain a photo roster for each level.
- 3. The team head coach will hand the field monitor a complete play count monitor sheet in the STYFA play count format prior to each game.
- 4. The play count monitor sheet **MUST** match the official stamped and certified STYFA roster provided by the STYFA registrar.
- 5. If a participant misses roll call.
 - a. A coach of the participant must find a board member or coach of the opposing Team to gain approval to enter the game.
- 6. If a participant misses roll call and kick-off
 - a. A coach of the participant must find an opposing team coach or board member of the opposing Team to gain approval to enter the game in play.

- b. 12-play roster must be stamped with the time that player entered the game.
- c. The Coach has complete discretion in the event that a participant is consistently late to deem participant ineligible to play based on discipline. **Monitor sheet MUST be notated with action taken.**

Controlled Forfeit

1. If a team is not able to field the required number of players within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time or the declaration of the start time by the head official, the game will be declared a forfeit by the officiating staff.

- a. After the forfeit has been declared, with mutual agreement of both head coaches, participation in a "controlled game" shall take place. The game officials will preside over the controlled game, and all game rules will be in effect.

*Minimum play count will not be monitored or recorded for either Team.

- b. All eligible players should participate in the controlled game.

- c. At their discretion, game officials may call or grant additional or extended time-outs in adhering to the safety protocols for STYFA participants.

- d. Game officials may adjust the playing time to help maintain the game schedule for the day; however, games are not permitted to start earlier than scheduled game times set by the STYFA.

- e. Payment to officials must be rendered even if a forfeit is declared.

Play Count Monitoring

1. Each club will provide two volunteers per level on game days

- a. One volunteer will stay on the home club sideline and monitor plays while being supervised by the opposing Team. The other volunteer will be on the opposing sidelines supervising their assigned monitor.

2. Strict penalties are as follows players not getting their allotted plays will result in:

- a. 1st offense- chapter fined \$100.00 per participant and head coach suspension for one week to include practice and game following. A game in which an athlete(s) does not receive their plays shall be deemed a forfeit.

- b. 2nd offense- the chapter is fined \$200.00 per participant, and the head coach is suspended for two weeks, including practice and games

following. A game in which an athlete(s) do not receive their plays shall be deemed a forfeit.

c. 3rd offense- the chapter is fined \$300.00 per participant, and the head coach of the previous game is suspended indefinitely. A game in which an athlete(s) do not receive their plays shall be deemed a forfeit.

d. 14 Net days apply to all fines during the season.

*After that, the chapter will forfeit all scheduled games, and voting privileges will be revoked until paid in full.

f. If the penalty occurs in playoffs, the offending chapter will be fined \$250.00 per participant.

*If the fine is not paid in full prior to the offending chapter's next playoff game, any remaining team of the offending chapter will not advance.

Monitor sheet:

a. The head coach for each Team is responsible for providing a monitor sheet to the home chapter A.D. prior to the start of the game(s), who will then provide it to the selected personnel that will be monitoring the game(s).

b. The monitor sheet must be in the official STYFA format with players listed in numerical order. The sheet should be printed with each eligible participant's first and last name.

c. Write-ins of participant information are prohibited.

d. Failure of the head coach to provide a properly formatted and printed monitor sheet will result in the head coach being suspended for the game.

*The head coach must leave the stadium until the game has completed.

e. The Team that fails to provide an electronic version of the monitor sheet is able to provide a handwritten monitor sheet allowing the participants to continue playing. The league A.D. and league registrar will review the monitor sheet for accuracy. The outcome of the game will remain pending review.

Play Count Rules:

1. The STYFA AD and assigned field monitors at every game will monitor the play count rule at each sideline.

*Flag- 6 plays

*Pee wee- 10 plays

*Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior- 12 plays

2. If any player does not have their allotted plays (10 peewees, 12 for all other tackle levels) at the end of the game, that chapter will be fined \$100.00 per violation, a head coach suspension, and a forfeit will be declared.
3. The coach who has been suspended for a play count violation is not allowed on the field that game or to participate in practice during the week leading up to the game.
4. It is the coach's responsibility to check with the club and league A.D. to ensure that they understand the play count rule.
5. The play count monitor sheet must be collected by the chapter A.D. for their chapter, signed by both monitors, and then sent to the league A.D.
6. If any player does not have their allotted plays at the end of the 4th quarter, the following penalties will be enforced.
 - a. If the game is tied at the end of the 4th quarter and there is only one offending Team, the offending Team's chapter will be fined \$100.00 and the head coach will be suspended for one week of practice and one game.

***A coach under suspension is not allowed to attend practice and or games.**

- b. If the game is tied at the end of the 4th quarter and both teams are in violation of the play count rule, overtime will be played; however, neither head coach will be allowed to coach in overtime.
 - c. Both Team's chapters will be fined \$100 and both head coaches shall be suspended for one week of practice and one game.
 - d. If the game is not tied, the game results will stand; however, the offending Team's chapter will be fined \$100.00 and the head coach will be suspended for one week of practice and one game depending on the number of violations within the season.
7. Eligible players exclude any player that has been suspended for the first half.

*If a player has been injured during any portion of the game, they must remove their helmet, and shoulder pads and it must be annotated on the monitor sheet why the player was not able to obtain their allotted number of plays.
8. Any violation of the play count rule should be noted on the monitor sheet.
10. It is the coaching staff's responsibility to check with the monitor during the game for the status of play counts.

Continuous clock/42 Point Mercy Rule

1. Continuous Clock:

a. Once the point spread of **28 points** or more at any time during the second half of the game, the officials shall run a continuous clock. The play clock will then only be stopped for a player injury.

*Note- clock will continue to run if the lead falls below 28 points.

b. Both teams are expected to satisfy the minimum play requirements.

c. If game is declared over. The next game shall not start unless both teams agree or original start time, whichever comes first.

2. Mercy Rule:

a. If the difference in score is more significant than 42 points, said Team shall face disciplinary action.

Discipline if the Team fails to adhere to the 42-point rule:

a. Automatic forfeit

b. Head coach suspension of one (1) game.

Football Officials

1. No one shall verbally abuse nor harass football officials during or after a game.

2. Violations will result in:

a. A warning letter for verbal abuse of a game official will be documented by the officiating staff and be provided to the STYFA AD and offending chapter's President no later than the Monday following the incident.

b. Ejection from the game and suspension from the next game are subject to review by the STYFA Board.

***If the coach refuses to leave a game after being ejected, they will be suspended indefinitely.**

c. All ejections will be documented on the Saturday report by the officiating staff and provided to the STYFA AD and offending chapter's President no later than the Monday following the incident.

****Note: It will be each individual chapter's responsibility to ensure the above codes and disciplinary actions are strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of their respective games.**

Game Protest

1. No games will be under protest due to the referee's decision.
2. Referee decisions shall be FINAL.
3. Games will not be played unless a referee is present.
4. If a coach chooses to protest a game based on a breach of the STYFA bylaws, they must do so during their game with the officials and participating chapter Ads or presidents.
 - a. **Failure to do so will result in the protest being denied.**
5. Protest must be submitted via email to the league President and league Athletic Director within 24 hours via STYFA approved form
6. The athletic director shall submit it to the chapter's board for submission to the STYFA Athletic Director.
7. The STYFA's Athletic Directors and the Vice President are responsible for submitting the resolution to the protection by copying all board members of the chapters and the STYFA board.

