

**Richland Youth Association**  
**Pee Wee Football Rules**  
**Fall 2007**

**Table of Contents**

- A. Addendums**
- B. Coaches Responsibility**
- C. Disciplinary Action**
- D. Registration**
- E. Late Registration**
- F. Refund**
- G. Conduct of Coaches**
- H. Practices**
- I. Game Scheduling**
- J. Coaches Assignments**
- K. Player Participation**
- L. General Playing Rules**
- M. Draft Guidelines (All Leagues)**
- N. Coaches Options**
- O. Weight Limits**
- P. Trophies and Awards**
- Q. Playoff and Superbowl**
- R. Tournament Teams**
- S. Field Maintenance**

## **Section A: ADDENDUMS:**

### **A. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

RYA will have a zero tolerance attitudes towards any rule infractions any rule infraction in any sport, especially if it is maliciously done to prove a point that is in any way detrimental to the safety of the children involved. Any coach, parent or child involved in such acts are subject it a suspension until the Board of Directors meet to discuss the matter and involved parties are given the opportunity to speak in front of the board. The punishments will stand as given and will have a certified letter sent explaining the actions taken against them.

### **B. COMPLAINTS:**

It is recommended that any complaints be given in writing. The complaint should follow the chain of command according to the NYSCA Handbook whenever appropriate:

1. Head Coach
2. Vice Commissioner of that League
3. Commissioner of the Sport
4. NYSCA Coordinator
5. RYA Board of Directors
6. Director of the City Of North Richland Hills Park and Recreation Department

### **C. OVERTIME**

1. Overtime will begin with a coin toss. Both teams will receive two offensive possessions, both beginning on the 10 yard line, if needed.
  - Each team will receive one timeout to be used during the Overtime period.
  - Total yardage will be monitored during the overtime period  
A fumble recovered by the defensive team, or interception, will result in a dead ball situation, and the possession will change to defensive (I.e. if the offensive loses possession of the ball on the first down that offensive possession is over)
2. If the first team scores on its first possession and converts the extra point on a running play the second team will have the option to tie the game and go to the second possession.
3. During the second overtime possession the team that went second now has the option of choosing offense or defense for the first possession. If the team with first possession scores and converts the extra point on a running play the second team must score and pass for 2 points to win the game.  
(Second team cannot attempt to tie the game)
4. If both teams score on both possessions without converting any extra points, and total yardage is equal for both teams the game will then be called a tie.

### **D. CRACKBACK BLOCK**

1. There will be a harsh mark placed 7 yards outside of each goal post. Any player lined up outside this mark will not be permitted to come back and block and defensive inside this harsh mark.
2. If a player lines up outside of this harsh mark, goes into motion and is inside the 7 yard mark, when the ball is snapped will now be able to legally block any defensive player

## **2007 RYA Football Rules**

RYA Football Rules will be governed by the RYA Board of Directors hereby known as “The Board”. Any rules contained herein will be adhered to, rule changes pertaining to Section L, “General Playing Rules”, and Section M, “Draft Guidelines” will be voted on by certified football coaches and approved by the RYA Board. Final interpretation and application of the rules will be at the discretion of the RYA Board. As in other sports, only the highest standards and conduct are expected of players, coaches, parents and others associated with the football program.

### **Section B: COACHES RESPONSIBILITY**

1. It is the responsibility of the coach to obtain sponsorship by participate in all RYA Fundraising and Cheerleading activities as set forth by the RYA Board. Coaches are also required to actively participate in all meetings, field maintenance, and are responsible for the care and return of all equipment issued to their team by RYA.
2. It is the responsibility of each coach to comply with all rules as set forth by the RYA Board: failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions as outlined in Section C below.
3. A team fee check is due on or before Draft date: Coaches are required to submit their checks in order to obtain their current year's roster. If a coach is unable to obtain a sponsor at this time, the coach will be asked to submit a post dated check to RYA for the amount of the team fee. The Coach will then have until the date of Carnival to find a sponsor for their team: if the coach is unable to obtain a sponsor by then, the coach will be notified that his check will be deposited as the team fee for his team. The Football Team Fee is \$200.00 per team
4. All excess sponsorships money will be turned into the Football Commissioner or the RYA Treasurer for account ability before being returned back to the team.
5. Head Coaches are responsible for all excess sponsor money. All Funds are to be reported at the end of the season as to what the money was spent on the Football Commissioner or to the RYA Treasurer.

### **Section C: Disciplinary Actions**

1. The RYA Board has the authority to suspend or discharge any **player** or **coach** whose conduct is in violation of the RYA Football Rules and/or the NYSCA Code of Ethics.
2. When a **player** or **coach** is ejected from a game, that person will have to sit out the next game. The Football Commissioner will determine whether there is a need for the RYA Board to hear an appeal before the next game and will notify the individual of the date and time.
3. In the event that a grievance is brought to the RYA Board, all parties must be notified of the meeting. Any notified party that fails to attend will forfeit their right to the grievance procedure.
4. Sponsorship money will be turned in to the Football Commissioner by Carnival date or the coach will face disciplinary action. In this instance, the coach shall have the right to a hearing before action is instituted.
5. Every team will have 1 field work day during the season. This day is scheduled by the Commissioner. It is the Coaches responsibly to make sure their team is represented during their scheduled time. Should a team not meet their responsibility the punishment will be a one game suspension for the Head Coach.
6. If a Coach returns to his team and then walks away so that an assistant coach from a lower league can benefit in taking on that team as Head Coach, he and the lower league Coach may face disciplinary act from the Football Commissioner and/or the RYA Board.
7. Every team will have at least one day/night of concession stand duty during the season. This day/night is scheduled by the RYA Volunteer Service's Coordinator. It is the Coaches responsibility to make sure their team is represented during their scheduled time. Should a team not meet their responsibility the punishment will be a one game suspension for the Head Coach.

## **Section D Registration**

1. Dates, times and place of registrations will be set each year by the Football Commissioner.
2. The RYA Board prior to registration will set the registration fee.
3. Upon registration, all player will be separated into the following age groups:
  - Bantam – 5 through 7 years old
  - Junior – 8 through 9 year olds
  - Senior – 10 through 12 year olds

The above ages are as of August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Players who will be going into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will NOT be allowed to play except as noted in paragraph C4 below. Birth Certificates must be presented at the time of registration: This includes returning players.

4. 12 Year olds that are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and are not offered football at their school will be able to play at RYA
5. Any player who does not want to return to their last year's team and so states on their registration form and/or has a letter from his/her parents stating such will be placed into the Blind Draw.
6. Request of parents to not allow their child to play for one (1) particular coach will be allowed. That coach will not be allowed to draft that player.
7. Any player during their first year of eligibility in any league leaves their assigned team prior to the end of the season and desires to play football the next year must return to their originally assigned team or be place in the Blind Draw. If a player is as an option from the Blind Draw the original team will be given compensation for that player. (I.e. Original drafting team still has the player draft rights from previous year.
8. Any player registering to play will not be put on a team unless their fee has been paid and a parent or guardian has signed their "Medical Release Form" and the "Parents Code of Ethics" The only exception of this rule would be "Hardships".
9. Hardship cases must be presented to the Football Commissioner before the draft. The Football Commissioner and the RYA Board will make a final determination on such cases.
10. Every player must be weighed and measured before the draft. If a weight is not recorded by Draft day that player will be placed in the Blind Draw. The Football Commissioner must view all late weigh ins. returning players with no weight recorded will have an X until the next weigh in.
11. If a player signs up and is not returning to a team and does not weigh in before the draft, that player will go into the Blind Draw, (Excluding brother/sister option) this player will also wear an X until the next weigh in.

## **Section E Late Registrations**

1. Cutoff for late registration will be approximately one to two weeks after the last advertised registration date. These late sign ups will go into the Blind Draw for the draft.
2. After the draft all leagues will draw late registration players from a Blind Draw. The Football Commissioner with all Head Coaches from each league will set this date and will be invited for the Blind Draw.
3. No Player will be assigned to a team after the Blind Draft., unless there is a need: then a second Blind Draw will be made by the Football Commissioners in the presences of the Head Coaches in that league.

## **Section F: Refunds**

1. Any player, who does not want to remain on the team he has been drafted by, will be given a full refund if their uniform has not been ordered. If the uniform has been ordered the cost of the uniform will be deducted from the refund. If said player wishes to play the following year he/she will be placed in the Blind Draw pool, If another team wishes to take the player as an option from the blind draw pool that team will compensate the original team with their 1<sup>st</sup> round draft pick.
2. Any player who receives a refund during the football season will not be allowed to return to said team.

## **Section G: Conduct of Coaches**

1. The Football Commissioner and/or Vice Commissioners of a given league will have the authority to terminate any game at any point, and for any reason which they consider necessary. Participating coaches will no say in the termination of the game.
2. Coaches will not contest judgment calls made by the officials. All calls made by the official will stand unless, after consultation with his co-officials, decides to change the call.
3. Coaches will not harass officials: any coach who violates this rule will be subject to action by the RYA Board.
4. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their players as well as the player's parents.
5. Coaches may be replaced during the season if violations are reported to the RYA Board in writing, and the Board feel such action is necessary.
6. Coaches who wish to contact referees during the game will send a player to call time out and then request one of the referees to come to the sideline. Contact with referees shall not be for discussion of the plays already ran: but the clarification of rules or request to the infractions on future plays.
7. Coaches are responsible for checking to see if 12 year old players are not in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade where a football program is offered. If there is any question, it should be checked out with the school. Coaches are responsible to check any birth certificates that are noted to be checked.
8. Coaches must notify the Football Commissioner of any player who drops out for any reason. The Football Commissioner or Vice Commissioners of that league will contact the player to determine why the player dropped out.
9. Head Coaches in any league will not be allowed to move to another team in the same league as a Head Coach. (I.e. Head Coach on the Sr Bears first year wants to move to the Sr Jags as the Head Coach)
10. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed before, during or after practices, games or team functions in the presence of players.

## **Section H: Practice Sessions**

1. No practices of any kind will be held prior to the draft and team assignments. Violations of this rule shall be reported to the Football Commissioner and/or the RYA Board who will then take the appropriate action.
2. No Less than 3, or no more then 5 outings per week (this includes games) will be held.
3. Practices Hours for all leagues are 2 (two) hours.
4. There will be no practices held on Sundays. In case of bad weather the Football Commissioner may permit practice on a Sunday on a request bases.
5. No practice will be held on the Football fields except with the Football Commissioner's approval.
6. The Football Commissioner will assign practice areas at Richfield Park, or a team may find its own location or an alternate location may be assigned.

## **Section I: Game Scheduling**

1. Games will be played on Saturday and on weekday evenings. Week night games will be scheduled if possible with special attention to minimize late games.
2. The Football Commissioner will draw up the schedule of games. Schedules are to be made to allow each team to play every team in its own League/Conference. Any games postponed will be rescheduled at a later date by the Football Commissioner.
3. No game will be played on Sundays unless severe scheduling problem occur, the RYA Board will approve these games.

## **Section J: Coaches Assignments**

1. Teams will be assigned to the returning Head Coach. If the returning Head Coach drops his team prior to draft, the team will be pass on to the preceding year's Official Assistant Coach. If the Official Assistant Coaches does not take the team for what ever reason, then the team will be offered to the next coach on the waiting list with the most seniority.
2. Expansion Teams will be offered to coaches on the waiting list, top seniority on down. Head Coaches cannot slide over to take an expansion team in the same league they coached the prior year.
3. Seniority will be determined as follows:
  - A. Total number of year certified coaching (Head or Assistant of any kind) in RYA Football.
  - B. Total number of years certified coaching (Head or Assistant of any kind) in any other RYA Sports
  - C. RYA Board will vote to make the choice
4. If it becomes necessary to reduce the number of teams, the Head Coach with the least seniority will be eliminated: unless another coach of the League involved voluntarily vacates his team.
5. Head Coaches must participate in 80% of scheduled games and practices. He cannot hold on to a team for the sole purpose of letting a lower League Coach with less seniority take the team. If said coach vacates his team under these conditions, then he and the lower seniority coach may be subject to disciplinary actions by the RYA Board.
6. Assistant Coaches must participate in 60% of games and practices in order to be considered a 1<sup>st</sup> assistant coach for the taking the team over the following year.

## **Section K: Player Participation**

1. All players on each team will play a minimum of 8 downs in every game: expect in the case of disciplinary actions, and/or illness  
**Note: Kickoff and Kickoff receiving are considered a down** A coach must notify the Football Commissioner and/or Vice Commissioners if a player is not playing for any of the above reasons. This includes play off games and Super Bowl.
2. If any coach is in violation of the above playing rule, whether intentional or accidental, that coach will be penalized as follows:
  - A. **FIRST OFFENSE** – Play the individual player or players one-half of the next game, unless the player is unable to play due to injury
  - B. **SECOND OFFENSE** – Same player or players must play the entire next game, unless the player is unable to play due to injury
  - C. **THIRD OFFENSE** – Same player or players, the Head Coach will lose his assigned team.

## **Section L: General Playing Rules**

1. Each player shall have a helmet with a face guard: shoulder pads: mouth piece, tail, hip, thigh and knee pads, practice pants, and a team jersey. Wearing of mouth piece is required at all times (practice and games) Official soccer shoe or tennis shoes may be worn on the playing field. **NO FIBERGLASS OR METAL CLEATS ARE ALLOWED.** Coaches are encouraged and have the right to inspect all equipment and can require a change on any equipment found to be faulty and/or unsafe, or of such poor quality as to endanger a player's welfare.
2. Any team not ready to play within 10 minutes after the schedule starting time of the game will forfeit the game. All games will begin at their approximate schedule time, not earlier, except by the Football Commissioner's approval and coaches agreement.
3. Substation of players is unlimited (note Section K above)
4. All games will be played according to UIL rules expect as noted herein.
5. Each team shall have three time outs per half: each time out may last one minute.

6. All games in all leagues will use the regular UIL Clock of 8 minutes per quarters.
7. The official timekeeper shall be the referee or his designate and this will be the official time.
8. The home team will furnish two adults and the visiting team will furnish one adult to carry the chain and down box for each team. The home team will furnish one adult to run the score board. At no time will a coach of a playing team be allowed to do this. Home team will be the said closest to the score board.
9. In Bantam and Flag Leagues one certified coach will be allowed on the playing field during the game. Each team on-field will remain behind the back most player on their respective team after the offensive team comes to line, violation of this rule may be a time out call.
10. Only one certified coach will be allowed on the field during any time out except for an injury.
11. During a game if one team is ahead by 18 points or more the leading team's coach will call no time outs after the 2 minute warning (in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter) Should the leading team's coach violate this rule the penalty will be to forfeit the ball immediately to the opposing team.
12. If a team is ahead by 30 points or more at the beginning of the second half or at any time during the second half, there will be a continuously running the clock, until the lead is less than 30 points.
13. The following point system will be used for extra points:
  - A. Any legal forward complete pass ..... 2 points
  - B. Run for extra point ..... 1 point
  - C. Kick for extra point ..... 2 points
14. In the event of a tie at the end of the game the following tie-breaker system will be used.
  - A. There will be a coin toss to determine which team will first get the ball, and to determine end of the field to play on. The offensive team will start on 20 yard line and have four downs in which to score or get a first down and maintain possession. If the offensive team scores, then the ball goes over the defensive team and they will also have four downs starting from the 20 yard line in which to score or get a first down and, maintain possession. (NOTE: Extra Points will be allowed in regular season tie breaker games)
  - B. If one team scores then they are declared the winner of the game, if both teams score then the ball game is over and declared a tie and scored as a ½ win and ½ loss.
  - C. If the offensive team turns the ball over during their possession the defensive then goes on offensive.
  - D. Overtime will begin with a coin toss. Both teams will receive two offensive possessions, both beginning on the 10 yard line, if needed.
    - Each team will receive one timeout to be used during the Overtime period.
- E. Total yardage will be monitored during the overtime period a fumble recovered by the defensive team, or interception, will result in a dead ball situation, and the possession will change to defensive (I.e. if the offensive loses possession of the ball on the first down that offensive possession is over)
- F. If the first team scores on its first possession and converts the extra point on a running play the second team will have the option to tie the game and go to the second possession.
- G. During the second overtime possession the team that went second now has the option of choosing offense or defense for the first possession. If the team with first possession scores and converts the extra point on a running play the second team must score and pass for 2 points to win the game. (Second team cannot attempt to tie the game)
15. Any team losing four or more players will have their team roster reviewed by the Football Commissioners
16. All Parents and spectators will remain back 15 feet from the side lines (end zone to end zone) and remain out of the end zones.
17. All Coaches for each team will remain between the 25 – yard lines.

## Section M: Draft Guide Lines (All Leagues)

1. Players will be in three categories as follows:
  - A. Returning Players – Players going back on preceding year's team
  - B. Draft Players – Players moving up from other leagues and new players
  - C. Blind Draft – (1) Player wanting off last year's team (will be drawn at draft) (2) new players not weighed in (will be drawn at draft) and (3) late registration (will be drawn after draft)
2. Time and place of the draft will be left up to the Football Commissioner for the utmost convenience and benefit of RYA.
3. The Football Commissioner will be in charge of the overall draft and will be responsible for rule interpretations and procedures.
4. Total registration will determine the number of players on a team, as well as to establish the quantity of players with the regard to age divisions per team, so that all teams will be equally divided as to age, as best can be done. This also applies to Coaches Options. For example: If a team has four returning older players, and the maximum older players in that league are four, that team will not be allowed to take any older Coaches or Asst. Coaches Options.
5. All teams will be composed of no less than 15, and no more than 18 players, if possible. Number in excess could necessitate of an expansion team.
6. Each team will be allowed three representatives at the draft table, designated by the Head Coach. Each representative will be considered an official assistant coach and their child must be taken as an option.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS**
7. No draft will take place until all teams have a Head and or an Assistant Coach present.
8. Coach's options shall be announced to the Football Commissioner at the start of draft.
9. Draft order will be next by selecting numbers from a hat.
10. The draft will begin with the announcement to the Head Coach as to their returnees.
11. Commissioners will announce option's for placement on the draft board.
12. Each team will be entitled to four options. At no time will any team have more than four. An Assistant Coach with a son or daughter option must be an active coach approved by the Football Commissioner.

## Section N: Coaches Options

1. Each team shall have one Head Coaches Option to be drafted in the second round. If the head Coach has a child, that child will be the coach's option. If the Head Coach leaves the team during the season and/or does not return the next year, and his Coach's Option does not return to the same team, he/she is still considered an option to that team.
2. Each team shall have three Assistant Coach's option to be drafted in the third, fourth and fifth rounds. If the Assistant Coach has a child that child will be the coach's option. If the Assistant Coach leaves the team during the season and/or does not return the next year, and his Coach's Option does not return to the same team, he/she is still considered an option to that team.
3. Any player already drafted to a team will be considered as a returnee, not an option unless he/she was an option to that team the year before.
4. Coaches will draw numbers to find the order of draft. After the numbers are picked there will be no trading of Draft positions.
5. Draft order will be first to last, then last to first and so on.
6. All players will be drafted by their registration number.

7. Any player returning to or drafted to a team, who has a brother/sister in the same league will be drafted on the same team. (The older player must be drafted first with the younger player being a brother/sister option.) If a player is being taken as a coach's option and that player has a brother/sister in the same league, the other player MUST be taken first.
8. All brother/sister options will be taken in the sixth round and/or any even round thereafter.
9. Coaches may draft from either age group, but no more than the age quota allows.
10. If a Head Coach does not have an option available (because of returning options) he must draft his child or his official assistant coach's child in the first available round.
11. In order for a coach to declare a Coach's Option for his team, other than their child, the Coach must present a letter signed by the parents before draft begins.
12. NO trading of players will be allowed. The RYA Board must approve any exceptions.
13. If a Coach takes a player from another team as an Option, that Coach gives up their first round draft pick to the team the player is coming off of. Teams can only take a player off another team if there is an available option open. The ONLY exception to this rule is if a parent is taking their child off a team in order to become a Head Coach of another team, they will not be required to give up their first round draft pick.

**Section O: Weight Limits** NOTE: The intended purpose of the RYA weight limit is safety

1. A weight limit is required for those in the backfield or at end positions on offense for blocking, receiving a pass, or running the ball. The use of Linemen who are over the backfield weight limit for the following purposes are NOT permitted:
  - A. Carrying the ball in play from the line of scrimmage.
  - B. Moving back from the line of scrimmage or restraining line for the purpose of receiving a kick.
2. Exceptions to any over the weight limit player carrying the ball are as follows:
  - A. A kick-off return (must be on the front receiving line within 15 yards of the football being kicked off, the player will not be allowed to move backwards or jump in the air for the intended purpose of receiving the ball.)
  - B. Pass Interception
  - C. Blocked punt recovery
  - D. Fumble recovery
3. An 'X' on the back of their helmet will identify all over weight players by the first game.
4. Any player with an 'X' on their helmet may kick off, but cannot advance the ball, except as noted in section N2.
5. Any player with an "X" on their helmet cannot punt the ball.
6. Backfield and/or end positions weight on offense shall not exceed the following limits (weight taken at registration)
  - Bantam – 70 pounds
  - Junior – 95 pounds
  - Seniors – 115 pounds

NOTE: During the football season, all teams are required to have each player on their roster re-weigh a minimum of two times. The Football Commissioner will set the dates for the weigh-ins. If a player exceeds the weight limit, an 'X' will be put on his/her helmet until the next scheduled weigh-in. If a player does not weigh in, at the reset times an "X" will be placed on their helmet until the next weigh-in.

7. A defensive player who exceeds the above offensive backfield weight limit for their league, shall play no further than five yards from the line of scrimmage until after the snap of the ball. A ten yard penalty will be assessed for the violation of this rule.
8. If a referee determines a player with an 'X' on the helmet picks up an intentional fumble or receives a handoff and attempts to advance the ball, the ball is ruled dead and the play ends.

## **Section P: Trophies and Awards**

- Super Bowl Winners will receive the 'Championship' trophy
- The runner up team will receive a 'runner up trophy
- All other teams will receive a participation medal

## **Section Q: Play Offs and Super Bowl**

1. It is the conviction of the RYA Board that the interests of the youth of our organization can be best served by utilization of a 'playoff' in all leagues, rather than any post season games with neighboring leagues. As a result of this conviction shall be known as 'Super Bowl Concept'
2. The RYA Super Bowl Champions for each league will be crowned by means of a play off at the end of the regular season play.
3. All regular season games played will be counted toward the final league/division standings.
4. The Play off system will be determined by the Football Commissioner based on the numbers of teams in each league. This will be announced at the draft.

## **Section R: Tournament Teams**

1. Tournament teams may be formed after the Super Bowl game is played with the approval from the Football Commissioner and the RYA Board. Super Champions and Runner Up Coaches will have the first choice to coach these teams. Team rosters will be selected by these coaches and the Football Commissioner.
2. No players will practice with a tournament team until after the Super Bowl unless they are on that particular play off team's roster.

## **Section S: Field Maintenance**

1. The Home and Visiting teams of the first game on each field will prepare the field for play. This includes setting out the yard markers, putting on goal post pads, and setting out the chain sets and down box. The Home and Visiting teams of the LAST scheduled game of the day will be responsible for storing all field equipment in the storage buildings.
2. All teams are responsible for cleanup of their sidelines at the end of the game.