

AYFL Bylaws

Section Five: Players and Registration

ARTICLE I: PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- I.1** Once a player receives a helmet or shoulder pads from a League Member, the player must remain with that League Member for the duration of that season, unless that player is involuntarily released (i.e. cut).
- I.2** Any player requesting a release will have their new League Member Representative file an official AYFL Release form with the Secretary at least 36 hours prior to the next League meeting. The only reason for releases not being signed is when equipment is owed. The Secretary will maintain an annual master Player Release document sorted by League Member for all player release's approved by the AYFL Board, and any new requests submitted for approval by the Board. The Board will approve all Player Release's. An approval by the Board is constituted by the signature of the President on the Player Release form. Once a release is signed by the President, that player will remain with his/her new League Member for his/her entire eligibility. A copy of the Release is kept with the Secretary, and given to the new League Member. The Board may request a player and/or his/her parent(s) to be present to answer any questions concerning the release.
- I.3** 'One Move' Rule: Players can only change League Members once during their lifetime, other than as specified in Section Five:I.4 and Section Five:I.6. This provision is not waivable as a hardship. Sitting out one or more seasons does not 'reset' the 'one time move' count.
- I.4** If a player is cut by a club and as a result elects to play for another club that season, that shall not be considered a move for the purposes of the 'One Move' Rule. If the same player returns in a subsequent season to the club who originally cut them, that shall not be considered a move for the purposes of the 'One Move' rule. A move to any club other than the club that originally cut the player shall be considered a move.
- I.5** A 'cut' is defined as the involuntary removal of a player from a team, either for disciplinary or performance reasons. No league member may claim to have cut a player in order to circumvent rule I.3. Misrepresentation to the AYFL Board shall be punished in accordance with the disciplinary matrix.
- I.6** A player desiring to make a second move for legitimate reasons, such as a change in family circumstances, may apply to the AYFL Board for an exemption. The exemption may only be approved by a yes vote from at least 10 clubs.
- a. All second move requests will be submitted to the RCC at least one week before the request is intended to be presented to the full board for consideration. The RCC will

investigate the circumstances of the request and will present to the board their opinion as to whether the reasons given for the move constitute a “Legitimate Reason” in accordance with Article I.6. The RCC’s opinion will not be binding on the AYFL board.

- b. A player whose parent is found to have intentionally supplied inaccurate or false information in an attempt to gain a second move exemption will be ineligible to participate in the AYFL until the following year.
- I.7** A player will be considered officially registered by a League Member in the AYFL by having a completed AYFL Player Registration Card, including the player signing the card, and a signed Player Release form if applicable. The AYFL Player Registration Card shall contain the following:
- a. Name and address.
 - b. Date of Birth.
 - c. Telephone number.
 - d. Grade and school to be attended for the coming year.
 - e. Acceptable birth data.
 - f. Parental consent and affidavit for medical treatment.
 - g. Other information required by the Board for that year.
 - h. Picture with current year shown with a sign.

NOTE: A player’s card will not be approved if that player has played for another AYFL League Member and the Player Release form does not accompany the card at the time of registration. If the player’s registration card is not signed by a parent or legal guardian the card will not be approved. The League will require a separate parental or guardian signature indicating whether the player has played for a different League Member than they are attempting to register with. If so, a Player Release form must accompany the card for it to be approved.

- I.8** Acceptable Birth date information:
- a. Birth certificate, Board of health certificates with seal.
 - b. Official Government papers, passport etc.
 - c. Baptismal certificates may be accepted as proof for children born outside of the U.S. if no other document can be provided .
 - d. Previous years AYFL Player Registration card.
 - e.

NOTE: A school picture ID will be required to verify a player’s birth date along with an Original Birth certificate or other sealed document if directed by the AYFL Board. Parents may be requested to provide access to a player’s school if needed to verify a player’s age.

- I.9** A player must meet the Age and Weight requirements of a Division to be eligible to play in that Division. Any player whose League Age is below the requirements for that Division, must only meet the Weight requirement to be eligible to participate in that Division. League Age is defined as the player’s age ON August 31st of the current year, except for the Unlimited Division, for which League Age is defined as the player’s age ON April 30th of the current year. Example: If a player turns 13 ON August 31st of the current year he is considered to be League Age 13. If he turns 13 AFTER August 31st of the current year he is considered to be League Age 12, because he

was 12 on August 31st. The official AYFL Division Age and Weight requirements for eligibility are as follows:

Division Ages And Weights Division	League Age	Weight
UNL	14U	180/Unlimited
13U	13U	140
12U	12U	125
11U	11U	115
10U	10U	105
9U	9U	95
Peewee	8U	75

I.10 A player who turns fifteen years of age on or before April 30th of the current year is not eligible to play in the AYFL.

ARTICLE II: INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

II.1 Ineligible players include:

- a. Any players who are admitted to halfway houses, detention centers, jail, correctional facility, convicted of a felony (whether adjudicated or not), required to wear an ankle bracelet or other monitoring device, or on house arrest.
- b. Any player that is over the age limit of the weight division in which they are playing.
- c. Any Unregistered player, including a player without a signed, authorized AYFL player card.
- d. Any Overweight player.
- e. Any player on official discipline by the League, or otherwise declared ineligible by the League.
- f. Any Player who has changed League Members but has NOT had an official AYFL Release form signed and approved by the League.
- g. Any player participating in another football program: A player may not concurrently practice with the AYFL and any other football league, high school, middle school or charter school football team. Once a player plays in a regular season game, after August 1st of the current year, for a high school, middle school, charter school or any other football league he may not return to the AYFL during the same year.
- h. Any player whose parent or guardian has not consented to all terms and conditions of the Player Card.
- i. Any player determined by the AYFL Executive Board not to be currently attending school: Players must be attending school to play in the AYFL. A child, however, not currently enrolled in school shall not be deemed ineligible until it is determined by the AYFL Executive Board that he is not currently attending school. Upon such a determination the child becomes ineligible and remains as such until he can establish that he is currently attending school. Upon the filing of the complaint that a child is not currently attending school the child bears a burden of proof to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she is currently attending school. Once determined that a child is not currently attending school, such child is allowed to practice with his or her team but cannot participate in any games until the burden of proof is met to establish his or her attendance in school.

NOTE: A player that has a signed, authorized AYFL Registration form will not be deemed ineligible if it is determined by the AYFL Board there was an administrative error by the AYFL or one of its Board members.

- II.2** Any child failing to meet the weekly weight limitation will be ineligible to play in that particular game, and must remove their shoulder pads while inside the ropes during the time the game is in progress. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine for each offense.
- II.3** Any team that is determined by the AYFL Board to have played ineligible player(s) in a game or games will forfeit the game or games in which the ineligible player(s) participated in. Participation is defined as the player(s) in question having crossed the scale. The Rules Compliance Committee will investigate the status of the player, and the Board will decide if any further action will be taken against the player and/or the team.
- II.4** Unless the offense was self-reported, any team that is determined by the AYFL Board to have played an age-ineligible player will be automatically ineligible for post-season play and the club will be subject to a one-time fine to be determined by the AYFL board, not to exceed \$1000.
- II.5** If the age-ineligible player was more than 1 year (league age) older than the division for which they were playing, the club shall automatically be fined the maximum \$1000 and the Head Coach will be suspended for the remainder of the regular and post-season. As above, team post-season eligibility will be based on whether the offense was self-reported
- II.6** If it is found that a player did not disclose that he/she played for another League Member on his/her Registration card, that player will be suspended for the amount of games that he/she has already played in. No action will be taken against the team in this instance, although the League will investigate the extent of the error and may take additional action if deemed necessary by the AYFL Board.
- II.7** If a player is found to be ineligible on a team, in addition to the penalties described above, the Rules Compliance committee will investigate the infraction, and the AYFL Board will decide if any action is to be taken against the League Member or any of its personnel.
- II.8** Any player found by the AYFL Board to have used narcotics, steroids, C.D.S., any alcoholic beverage, or to smoke, chew, or use any tobacco product will be expelled from the League.
- II.9** Any coach who is found by a majority vote of the AYFL board to have knowingly played an age-ineligible player shall be expelled.
- II.10** Any league representative, alternate, or field representative who is found, by a majority vote of the board, to have knowingly allowed an age-ineligible player to play shall be expelled.
- II.11** If a league member suspects another league member of playing a player who is ineligible for any reason, the suspecting league member is required to notify the suspected offender and their Conference Commissioner prior to kickoff of that team's next scheduled game. Knowingly allowing another club to play a potentially ineligible player without notifying that club will be punished by suspension from the league. No league member may conduct random investigations into the eligibility of an opposing team's players. Any individual found to have engaged in such an illegal investigation shall be suspended for a minimum of one calendar year, and the individual's affiliated

club will be fined \$1000 and placed on probation if a majority of the AYFL board determines that the club was or should have been cognizant of the individual's actions. If during the course of the illegal investigation the individual misrepresents him or herself as acting on behalf of the AYFL, the one year suspension shall be replaced with expulsion.

II.12 In the last two weeks of the regular season, a suspicion of player ineligibility requires immediate notification of all League Reps (every club) by the person suspecting player ineligibility. Failure to make proper notification may result in suspension of the offending party.

II.13 Any false accusation of player age-ineligibility found, by a majority vote of the board, to be malicious in intent, shall result in the suspension of the maliciously accusing party. In this case, the term of the suspension shall be determined by the board, based on the severity of the offense.