FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The YMCA of Greater Dayton

FLAG FOOTBALL HANDBOOK



YMCA OF Greater Dayton
www.daytonymca.org/sports

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WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM

Dear Participant,

The YMCA of Greater Dayton welcomes you to the Youth Flag Football Program! A goal of the Dayton YMCA is for all youth sports participants, both parents and children, to have an enjoyable sporting experience. The YMCA uses sports as a tool to develop each participant physically, mentally, and spiritually. Our programs emphasize teaching the values of good sportsmanship, teamwork, goal setting, and skill development in a fun, esteem-promoting atmosphere. Skill development is the main component of all YMCA Youth Sports. Non-competitive games are a part of every season. Of course, a FUN and friendly environment are characteristics of all YMCA programs.

Thank you for volunteering your time to participate in our youth flag football league! By participating, you are clearly aware of how important the role of sports is to the development of important personal characteristics to children in these programs. Our sports leagues are volunteer driven, and without you they would not be possible.

It is our goal to provide a safe and fun program for all. Achieving this goal begins with ensuring all our volunteers are adequately screened and prepared for the season. Youth Sports programs are possible because of the dedication of volunteer workers. Many volunteers put in several hours of work to make the YMCA programs a success. Thank you to all of the YMCA volunteers who invest time and energy into the lives of young people today. If you are interested in future volunteer opportunities, please let us know!

Welcome to our program! Feel free to contact your branch's Sports Director with any questions. Thank you and enjoy the season!

Sincerely,

The YMCA of Greater Dayton
Sports Department

SUGGESTIONS, QUESTIONS, AND CONCERNS

SUGGESTIONS OR CONCERNS

At the YMCA, we believe that our members and program participants have valuable thoughts and insights to share regarding our operations. Accordingly, we encourage the free sharing of suggestions, concerns, and/or questions about our policies, personnel, and/or other matters impacting your experience or the safety of others.

In general, the best person initially to bring opinions, suggestions, concerns, and/or questions to is the Executive Director of the Branch you attend. You can contact your Branch Executive by calling the branch you attend.

However, if the concerns relate to the Branch Executive or if the Branch Executive Director did not fully address the matter, members and program participants may direct their opinions, suggestions, concerns, and/or questions directly to the Senior Vice President of Operations by visiting daytonymca.org/contact.

To remedy concerns that appear to have been ignored or unresolved after initial reporting, utilize the formal procedure above. This process provides a timely, thorough, and objective investigation of the following concerns:

- Inappropriate Behavior by Employees/Volunteers
- Inappropriate Behavior by Members or Program Participants
- Retaliation
- Whistleblower Complaints

WRITTEN COMPLAINT REQUIRED FOR FORMAL PROCESS

Verbal complaints are encouraged, particularly for issues that may be easily and expeditiously resolved, but a written complaint is required to initiate this formal process. To ensure a timely and effective response, complaints should include the following information to the fullest extent possible:

1. The name(s) of individual(s) involved
2. The date(s) the behavior occurred
3. The name(s) of any known witness(s)
4. A summary of the conduct meriting the complaint including:
    a. The behavior complained of and/or the alleged policy
    b. Direct quotes when relevant and available
    c. Any relevant documentation
5. The remedy sought by the individual making the complaint

7 PILLARS OF YMCA YOUTH SPORTS

The YMCA's philosophy is "Athletes First, winning second, everyone is a winner." Please do everything you can to de-emphasize the score.

1. **Everyone Plays.** We do not use tryouts to select the best players, nor do we cut kids from YMCA Youth Sports. Everyone who registers is assigned to a team. During the season, everyone receives equal practice time and plays at least half of every game.

2. **Safety First.** Although some children may get hurt playing sports, we do all we can to prevent injuries. We've modified each sport to make it safer and more enjoyable to play. We ask you to take time to check that the equipment and facilities are safe and to teach the sport as we've prescribed, so that the skills taught are appropriate for children's developmental level. We also ask you to develop your players' fitness levels gradually so they are conditioned for the sport. And we ask you to constantly supervise your young players so that you can stop any unsafe activities.

3. **Fair Play.** Fair play is about more than playing by the rules. It's about you and your players showing respect for all who are involved in YMCA Youth Sports. It's about you being a role model of good sportsmanship and guiding your players to do the same. Remember, we're more interested in developing children's character through sport than in developing a few highly skilled players.

4. **Positive Competition.** We believe competition is a positive process when the pursuit of victory is kept in the right perspective. Learning to compete is important for children, and learning to cooperate in a competitive world is an essential lesson of life. The "right perspective" means adults make decisions that put the best interests of the children above winning the contest. These are the lessons we want to teach through YMCA Youth Sports.

5. **Family Involvement.** YMCA Youth Sports encourages parents to be involved appropriately, along with their child participating in our sport programs. In addition to parents being helpful as volunteer coaches, officials, and timekeepers, we encourage them to be at practices and games to support their child's participation.

6. **Sport for All.** YMCA Youth Sports is an inclusive sport program. That means that children who differ in various characteristics are to be included rather than excluded from participation. We offer sport programs for children who differ in physical abilities by matching them with children of similar abilities and modifying their sport. We offer programs to all children regardless of race, gender, religion or ability. We ask our adult leaders to support and appreciate the diversity of children in our society and to encourage the children and their parents to do the same. We do not forfeit games; instead, we share players and proceed with planned games.

7. **Sport for Fun.** Sports are naturally fun for most children. They love the challenge of mastering the skills of the game, playing with their friends, and competing with their peers. Sometimes when adults become involved in children's sports, they over-organize and dominate the activity to the point of spoiling children's enjoyment of the sport. If we take the fun out of sport, we are in danger of our children taking themselves out of sport. Remember that these sports are for the kids; make sure the kids are having fun.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER COACH

1. Visit the YMCA of Greater Dayton website at www.daytonymca.org.
2. Select "Programs and Classes" on the top left of the screen.
3. Under the "Sports" tab on the right side of the screen, select "Apply to Coach" - this takes you to VolunteerMatters project catalog. On the left side of the page select the branch you be volunteering for. This will narrow the search to only the volunteer opportunities at that Y.
4. Select the desired coaching opportunity by clicking the blue "Learn More" tab at the bottom. Then scroll to the bottom of that page and click the blue "Volunteer" button for the specific coaching role.
5. At the bottom of the Volunteer Sign Up page, you will either Login to your existing account or register as a new user.

You will be asked to complete the following additional items:

1. Background Check
2. Redwoods Institute Training: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training --> https://redwoodsinstitute.csod.com/selfreg/register.aspx?c=5003
3. CDC Heads Up Concussion Training --> https://headsup.cdc.gov/
4. Lindsay's Law

HELP YOUR CHILD ENJOY SPORTS

1. DEVELOPING A WINNING PERSPECTIVE

Every decision parents make in guiding their children should be based, first, on what is best for the child and then, second, on what may help the child win. Stated in another way, this perspective places emphasis on "Athletes First, Winning Second." We are not saying winning is unimportant. Winning, or striving to win, is essential to enjoyable competition. Pursuing victory and achieving goals are sweet rewards of sport participation. However, they can turn sour if, through losing, you and/or your child lose the proper perspective. An obsession with winning often produces a fear of failure, resulting in below average performances and upset children.

2. BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM

Building self-esteem in your child is one of your most important parenting duties. It is not easy and it is made even more difficult in sport by the prevailing attitude of "winning is everything." Athletes who find their self-worth through winning will go through tough times when they lose. Building self-esteem in your child takes more than encouragement. You need to show your child unconditional approval and love. Do not praise dishonestly - children can see through that. No matter the amount of mistakes your child may make, show the same amount of love and approval for them that you showed before the game.

3. EMPHASIZING FUN, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND STRIVING TO WIN

The reason you should emphasize fun is quite simple: without it, your child may not want to keep playing. Kids do not have fun when they stand around in practice or sit on the bench during games, when they feel pressure to win, and when they do not improve or learn skills. Conversely, they do have fun when practices are well organized, when they get to play in games, when they develop new skills, and when the focus is on striving to win.

4. HELPING YOUR CHILD SET PERFORMANCE GOALS

Performance goals - which emphasize individual skill improvement - are much better than the goal of winning for two reasons:

1. Performance goals are in the athlete's control.
2. Performance goals help the athlete improve.

Performance goals should be specific and they should be challenging but not too difficult to achieve. You (and your child's coach) should help your young athlete set such goals. Help your child focus on performance goals before a game. This focus will help sports be an enjoyable learning experience for your child.

CODE OF ETHICS AND POLICIES

FOUR CORE VALUES: CARING, HONESTY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY

The YMCA of Greater Dayton, based on Christian principles, is a charitable organization with an inclusive environment driven to enrich the quality of family, spiritual, social, mental, and physical well-being for all.

1. Smoking or use of tobacco products in the YMCA programs or on YMCA property is prohibited.

2. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

3. Any form of child abuse WILL NOT BE TOLERATED including:
   - Physical Abuse: strike, spank, shake, or slap
   - Verbal Abuse: humiliate, degrade, or threaten
   - Sexual Abuse: including inappropriate touching and exposure
   - Mental Abuse (Self-Esteem): comparison or criticism

4. Volunteers must treat everyone of all races, religions, and cultures with respect and consideration.

5. Volunteers must use positive techniques of guidance including positive reinforcement and encouragement rather than competition, comparison, or criticism.

6. Volunteers shall abstain from using humiliating or frightening discipline techniques.

7. Volunteers shall not use profanity in the presence of children or parents. Keep comments positive to all players, parents, officials, staff, and coaches.

8. Volunteers shall refrain from intimate displays of affection toward others in the presence of children, parents, and staff.

9. Monetary and expensive gifts to volunteers are prohibited.

10. Volunteers must be free of physical and psychological conditions that might adversely affect others.

11. Volunteers will do everything in their power to avoid being put in a situation where they are alone with a YMCA child other than their own.

12. Volunteers will portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, tact, and maturity.

13. Ohio State Law requires that all citizens report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child to the Montgomery County Department of Children's Services and the appropriate YMCA Personnel.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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   - Physical Abuse: strike, spank, shake, or slap
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   - Sexual Abuse: including inappropriate touching and exposure
   - Mental Abuse (Self-Esteem): comparison or criticism
4. Spectators must treat everyone of all races, religions, and cultures with respect and consideration.
5. All spectators must remain in the spectator area during competitions.
6. Let coaches coach and let officials officiate.
7. Spectators shall not use profanity in the presence of children or parents. Keep comments positive to all players, parents, officials, staff, and coaches.
8. Pets are NOT allowed at practices or games unless they are service animals.
9. Cheer for your team.
10. Show interest, enthusiasm, and support for your child.
11. Help when asked by a coach or an official.
12. Spectators will portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, tact, and maturity. Be in control of your emotions.
13. Thank the coaches, officials, and other volunteers who conducted the event.
14. Ohio State Law requires that all citizens report any suspected abuse or neglect of a child to the Montgomery County Department of Children's Services and the appropriate YMCA Personnel.

BE INVOLVED – BUT NOT TOO INVOLVED

YMCA Youth Sports needs enthusiastic involvement from parents to be successful. Volunteering your time not only helps the program, but is also an enjoyable way to meet other adults and make new friends. Here are just a few ways to become involved:

1. Be a coach or an assistant coach
2. Be an official or umpire
3. Keep time or score
4. Maintain equipment or facilities
5. Coordinate refreshments

A healthy involvement will usually be welcomed by both the coach and your child. However, no coach wants to be – or should be – second-guessed by parents on strategy moves or other coaching decisions. Signs of parents being too closely involved include:

1. You are overly concerned with the outcome of the game.
2. You spend a lot of time talking with the coach about the game plan, player skill levels, and the way the coach conducts practices and coaches games.
3. Your child has stopped enjoying the sport or has asked you to stop coming to games or practices.
4. You require your child to take extra practice.

Be involved, show interest, help the coach where they need help, encourage your child, and enjoy the sport yourself!

PARKING

ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING on the driveways or in any grassy area. All cars are to be parked in designated parking spots. Speed limit on YMCA property or designated game/practice facilities is 5mph.

DOs AND DON'Ts of SPECTATORSHIP

DO

- Shout words of encouragement, not directions, from the sidelines. Keep your comments positive.
- Applaud good plays no matter who makes them.
- Set a good example by showing courteous behavior toward the parents of kids on the other team. Congratulate them when their kids win.
- Remember that it's your kids playing...not you.
- Keep your perspective. It's just a game! Even if the team loses every game of the season, it's unlikely to ruin your child's life or chances of success.
- Look for examples of good sportsmanship in professional or college athletes and point them out to your kid. Talk about the bad examples too!

DON'T

- Coach from the sideline - this is not Alabama football and you are not Nick Saban. We know you have their best interest at heart, but you're not the coach. Sit back, let the coaches coach, and just enjoy the moment of watching your kid play.
- Criticize other players - you wouldn't like another parent criticizing your kid either.
- Harass officials - they're making judgment calls in real time. They'll make mistakes - we all do - but calls tend to balance themselves out.
- Get in fights - we don't care who started it. Don't engage in it. You'll probably end up on YouTube and your kid will be embarassed.
- Have your child's sports career, scholarship dollars, and endorsement deals on the brain.
  - 2% of athletes will play Division I sports. Of that, only 1%-9% will end up playing professionally. The value of youth sports is NOT about turning kids into the next Michael Jordan or Olympic Gold Medalist. The value is your child's opportunity to have fun, learn life lessons, and make new friends by way of being active. Trust us - you AND your child will appreciate the perspective.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

COMMUNICATION

1. TeamSideline is our NUMBER ONE form of communication.
2. Check your email and text messages for any information from the Sports Department.
    a. TeamSideline will send information via notification in TeamSideline itself, to the email linked to your TeamSideline account and/or to the phone number linked to your TeamSideline account via text message.
3. The Sports Director is always available to answer questions and address any concerns.
4. Player/Coach/Parent communication is extremely important.

END OF SEASON

1. Coaches do not need to purchase awards for their teams. The YMCA will provide awards for each team. The Sports Director will communicate to you when these are available.
2. An end of season party is voluntary. If you and/or your team decides to have an end of season party, be sure to plan it ahead of time.

SNACKS

1. Team snacks are allowed. How your team handles or assigns team snacks is entirely up to the individual team.

UNIFORMS

1. Coach shirts will be provided by the Sports Director.
2. Only jerseys will be provided to each player by the Sports Director.

24-HOUR POLICY

1. The YMCA of Greater Dayton Sports Department DOES NOT permit ANY individual to confront a referee or YMCA Sports Official or Employee at ANY time. If a situation arises in which a referee's, coach's, parent's, player's, or employee's actions create a problem, allow yourself 24 hours to cool down.
2. After 24 hours have passed, contact the Sports Director if you still feel strongly that something should be done.

WEATHER

1. If a practice or game is canceled, YMCA Staff will contact all parents and coaches via TeamSideline. Coaches are encouraged to follow-up with their team about the cancellation in addition to the YMCA Staff's notification.
2. It is the coach's decision to cancel practice UNLESS the Sports Director determines that the weather is too severe or the court/field is unplayable. The Sports Director's decision supersedes the coach's decision.
    a. If the coach decides to cancel practice, the coach is responsible for contacting and informing all players and parents immediately. The coach MUST also contact YMCA Staff immediately.

INJURIES

Children are playing at their own risk. There will be physical contact in this game. It will be the intent of the officials and staff assigned to your game to provide a safe level of competition, however, injuries may occur. Teaching children the proper techniques and how to play the game correctly will minimize injuries. In the event of a severe injury, the YMCA will follow-up with all parties. Please make sure to communicate with us. We will assist to the best of our ability.

CONCUSSIONS

1. Please refer to the CDC website for further instruction about concussions.
    a. https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/resources/index.html

HEAD INJURY PROTOCOL

1. Assess the athlete and determine if they need removed from play.
2. DO NOT move the athlete if a spinal injury is suspected. Call EMS immediately. If the athlete goes unconscious at ANY time (even if only for a few seconds), EMS should be called.
3. Ensure the athlete is evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate healthcare professional. If a Certified Athletic Trainer is on site, allow them to do the evaluation.
4. Accident report should be filled out by either staff or volunteer and given to the Sports Director the same day.
5. Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them the fact sheet on concussions.
6. If a concussion is suspected or the athlete is showing any concussion-like symptoms, the athlete should not return to play until symptom free and cleared by a healthcare professional including a Physician or Certified Athletic Trainer.

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AND LINDSAY'S LAW

1. Please refer to the information sheet on the following pages.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Lindsay's Law

Information for the Coach



- Lindsay's Law is about Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in youth athletes. This law went into effect in 2017. SCA is the leading cause of death in student athletes 19 years of age or younger. SCA occurs when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. This cuts off blood flow to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is fatal if not treated immediately.

- "Youth" covered under Lindsay's Law are all athletes 19 years of age or younger that wish to practice for or compete in athletic activities organized by a school or youth sports organization.

- Lindsay's Law applies to all public and private schools and all youth sports organizations for athletes aged 19 years or younger whether or not they pay a fee to participate or are sponsored by a business or nonprofit. This includes:
    1) All athletic activities including interscholastic athletics, any athletic contest or competition sponsored by or associated with a school
    2) All cheerleading, club sports and school affiliated organizations including noncompetitive cheerleading
    3) All practices, interschool practices and scrimmages

- Coaches have specific responsibilities under Lindsay's Law:
    1) Annual completion of the required SCA training course approved by the Ohio Department of Health
    2) Preventing the following students from participating in athletic activities until the coach receives written clearance by a licensed health professional. This written clearance must be shared with any school or sports official:
        a) A youth whose biological parent, sibling or child has previously experienced SCA
        b) Any youth athlete that experiences syncope or fainting before, during or after a practice, scrimmage, or competitive play

- Any of these things may cause SCA:
    1) Structural heart disease. This may or may not be present from birth
    2) Electrical heart disease. This is a problem with the heart's electrical system that controls the heartbeat
    3) Situational causes. These may be people with completely normal hearts who are either are hit in the chest or develop a heart infection

- Warning signs in a youth athlete's family that indicate the youth athlete may be at high risk of SCA:
    - A blood relative who suddenly and unexpectedly dies before age 50
    - Any of the following conditions: cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, Marfan syndrome, or other rhythm problems of the heart

- Warning signs of SCA. If any of these things happen with exercise, the youth athlete should be seen by a health care professional:
    - Chest pain/discomfort
    - Unexplained fainting/near fainting or dizziness
    - Unexplained tiredness, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Unusually fast or racing heart beats

- The youth athlete who faints or passes out before, during, or after an athletic activity MUST be removed from the activity. Before returning to the activity, the youth athlete must be seen by a health care professional and cleared in writing.

- If the youth athlete's biological parent, sibling or child has had a SCA, then the youth athlete MUST be removed from activity. Before returning to the activity, the youth athlete must be seen by a health care professional and cleared in writing.

- Any young athlete with any of these warning signs cannot participate in practices, interschool practices, scrimmages or competition until cleared by a health care professional.

- Other reasons to be seen by a health care professional would be a heart murmur, high blood pressure, or prior heart evaluation by a physician.

- Lindsay's Law lists the health care professionals who may evaluate and clear youth athletes. They are a physician (MD or DO), a certified nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist or certified nurse midwife. For school athletes, a physician assistant or licensed athletic trainer may also clear a student. That person may refer the youth and family to another healthcare provider for further evaluation. Clearance must be provided in writing to the school or sports official before the athlete can return to the activity.

- Despite everyone's best efforts, sometimes a young athlete will experience SCA. If you have had CPR training, you may know the term "Chain of Survival." The Chain of Survival helps anyone survive SCA.

- Using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can save the life of a child with SCA. Depending on where a young athlete is during an activity, there may or may not be an AED close by. Many, but not all, schools have AEDs. The AED may be near the athletic facilities, or the AED may be close to the school office. Look around at a sporting event to see if you see one. If you are involved in community sports, look around to see if there is an AED nearby.

- If you witness a person experiencing a SCA: First, remain calm. Follow the links in the **Chain of Survival:**

  ❖ Link 1: Early recognition
    - Assess child for responsiveness. Does the child answer if you call his/her name?
    - If no, then attempt to assess pulse. If no pulse is felt or if you are unsure, call for help "someone dial 911"

  ❖ Link 2: Early CPR
    - Begin CPR immediately

  ❖ Link 3: Early defibrillation (which is the use of an AED)
    - If an AED is available, send someone to get it immediately. Turn it on, attach it to the child and follow the instructions
    - If an AED is not available, continue CPR until EMS arrives

  ❖ Link 4: Early advanced life support and cardiovascular care
    - Continue CPR until EMS arrives

- Lindsay's Law requires both the youth athlete and parent/guardian to acknowledge receipt of information about Sudden Cardiac Arrest by signing a form.

PRACTICES

U6 practices should not exceed 45 minutes. Older ages practices should not exceed 1 hour.

Be organized yet flexible with practice plans – plan ahead of time

- Warm up with light cardio
- Plenty of activity
- Maximum use of time, facility, and equipment
- Progress from simple to complex
- Make it a safe and fun environment for all

Give Explanations

- Clear and concise
- Short and to the point
- Be enthusiastic

Give Demonstrations

- Clearly visible and seen by all
- Repeated multiple times from all angles
- Ensure each player gets the same amount of attempts

Recruit parents to help during practice.

Always be positive, encouraging, and constructive.

Encourage athletes to arrive 10-15 minutes before practice time.

Leave the gym, court, field, and/or facility better than you found it.

- Double check that you have all of your personal belongings
- Make sure there is no trash left behind
- If there is a spill, tell a YMCA Staff member immediately

GAME DAY

During game play, remind players of:

- Which end zone is theirs
- Who they are guarding
- Spread out and move around
- Keep your head up, eyes up, and eyes open while playing
- HOW GREAT THEY ARE DOING!

Ensure different players get a chance to play each position.

Keep track of your substitutions.

Be sure all athletes play an equal amount of time.

Explain something when they look confused, frustrated, or discouraged.

Encourage athletes to arrive 10-15 minutes before game time so they can get warmed up and the game can start on time.

Leave the gym, court, field, and/or facility better than you found it.

- Double check that you have all of your personal belongings
- Make sure there is no trash left behind
- If there is a spill, tell a YMCA Staff member immediately

RULES
ALL DIVISIONS

All games are governed by OHSAA Rules and Regulations unless otherwise specified below

The Y believes in its philosophy of "Athletes First, Winning Second." Our Youth Sports Program is designed for all participants to grow in the areas of sportsmanship and physical fitness, as well as self-control, team effort, and skill development. It is a fun, instructional league where everyone plays and everyone wins! The following rules incorporate our philosophy into our Youth Basketball Program.

SECTION A: GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

1. The score will be kept for all divisions, but should not be emphasized.
2. League standings will not be kept for the U6 division.
3. Any concerns about the league by coaches or parents should be discussed with the Sports Director.

SECTION B: ATTIRE

1. Cleats are allowed. NO METAL SPIKES. Inspections will be made by the referee.
2. All players must wear a protective mouthpiece.
3. Official FLAGS jerseys must be worn during play.
4. Players may not wear any form of jewelry. Medical alert bracelets and religious necklaces must be taped to the player's body per OHSAA rules. Earrings that cannot be removed must be properly covered.

SECTION C: SPORTSMANSHIP

1. If the field monitor or referee witnesses any act(s) of tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking, or any unsportsmanlike behavior, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
2. Trash talking is illegal! Referees have the right to determine offensive language. (Trash talk is considered any talk that may be offensive to referees, opposing players, teams, coaches, or spectators.) If trash talking occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the coach(es) and player(s) will be ejected from the game.
3. YMCA CORE VALUES (Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility) should be evident at all times by all in attendance including players, parents, friends, family, coaches, staff and officials.

SECTION D: TIMING

1. U6 Division = Two 15-minute halves with one 2-minute halftime
   U8 - U12 Division = Two 20-minute halves with one 2-minute halftime
   Jr. High - High School Division = Two 25-minutes halves with one 2-minute halftime
2. Game clock is a running clock
3. Each team will be permitted two timeouts per half - one 60-second and one 30-second
4. Games are played up to 55 minutes running time, including halftime
5. If the score is tied at the end of the game, teams move directly into overtime following a college OT format. Each team will get an equal amount of attempts from mid field (up to 4 downs) to score, until a winner is determined.
6. Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive one warning before delay-of-game penalty is enforced.
7. Referees can stop the clock at their discretion.

RULES
ALL DIVISIONS

All games are governed by OHSAA Rules and Regulations unless otherwise specified below

SECTION E: SCORING

1. Touchdown = 6 points
   Extra Point = 1 point if played from 5-yard line
   2 points if played from 12-yard line
   Safety = 2 points
   Defensive Extra Point Return = Points equal to the extra point attempt (1 or 2 points)

SECTION F: GENERAL GAME RULES

1. Every player MUST play at least half the game unless there are issues with the player's attendance or attitude. The coach MUST relay any playing time adjustments and the reason to YMCA staff, the player, and the parent(s) before the start of the game. During end-of-season tournaments, the minimum playing time requirement will not be enforced, but every player MUST get to play.
2. Games must be played 5v5 or even sided. The minimum number a team can play with is 4 players.
3. The visiting team will have possession first.
4. The offensive team begins possession at its own 5 yard line and has four plays to cross midfield. Once the offense crosses midfield, it receives a new set of four downs to score a touchdown.
5. On 4th down, the offensive team has the following options:
   a. Before Midfield: The offense may elect to punt or attempt to cross midfield. If the team elects to punt, possession changes and the opposing team starts at its own 5 yard line. If the offense attempts to cross midfield and is unsuccessful, possession changes at the spot where the ball is declared dead.
   b. After Midfield: The offense has four plays to score a touchdown. If unsuccessful, possession changes at the spot where the ball is declared dead or the opposing team's 5 yard line.
6. Offensive teams MUST declare 4th down intent: "Play or Punt," when asked by the referee and prior to the 4th down play.
7. Interceptions may be returned.
8. U6: Offensive AND Defensive Coaches may be on the field to help direct players before the play, but cannot interfere with the play. "No Run" zones are eliminated. Teams may run the ball anywhere on the field. Defenders may NOT rush the passer.
   U8 & U10: ONLY Offensive Coaches may be on the field to help direct players before the play, but cannot interfere with the play.
   U12 & Older: All coaches must remain on the sideline.

SECTION G: DEADBALLS

1. The ball must be snapped between the legs, not off to one side, to start play.
2. Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.
3. Play is considered "dead" when:
   a. Ball carrier's flag is pulled
   b. Ball carrier steps out of bounds
   c. Touchdown is scored
   d. Ball carrier's knee or arm hits the ground
   e. Ball carrier's flag falls out
   f. The ball hits the ground. (If the ball hits the ground as a result of a bad snap, the ball is then placed where the ball hit the ground unless it happens in the 6u age division. For the 6u age division, if the ball falls to the ground during the initial center to quarterback exchange, the play is ruled a 'Do Over' with no loss of down, once per down. On a second consecutive occurrence, the down is consumed.

RULES
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All games are governed by OHSAA Rules and Regulations unless otherwise specified below

SECTION H: RUNNING

1. The quarterback cannot run with the ball.
2. Direct handoffs and pitches are permitted behind the line of scrimmage. Offense may use handoffs or pitches.
3. "No-running zones" are located five yards from each end zone and five yards on either side of midfield. These are designed to avoid short-yardage and power-running situations.
4. The player who takes the handoff or pitch can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
5. Once the ball has been handed off or pitched, all defensive players are eligible to rush.
6. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a defensive player (no diving).
7. The ball is spotted where the ball carrier's feet are when the flag is pulled, not where the ball is.
8. Offensive players in close proximity of the ball carrier must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. No running alongside the ball carrier.

SECTION I: RECEIVING

1. All players are eligible to receive passes (including the quarterback if the ball has been handed off behind the line of scrimmage).
2. As in the NFL, only one player is allowed in motion at a time.
3. A player must have at least one foot inbounds when making a reception.
4. Simultaneous possession is awarded to the offense.

SECTION J: PASSING

1. Shovel passes are permitted but must be thrown forward. Any lateral or backward pass will be considered a running play and is prohibited within the no run zone.
2. The quarterback has a seven-second "pass clock." If a pass is not thrown within the seven seconds, the play is dead and loss of down. Once the ball is handed off, the seven-second rule is no longer in effect.
3. Interceptions may be returned.

SECTION K: RUSHING THE QUARTERBACK

1. U6 is the only age division where teams are not allowed to rush the quarterback.
2. All players who rush the passer must be a minimum of seven yards from the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped. Any number of players can rush the quarterback. Players not rushing the quarterback may defend on the line of scrimmage.
3. Once the ball is handed off, the seven-yard rule is no longer in effect and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. A special marker or the referee will designate seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Remember - no blocking or tackling is allowed.

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SECTION L: FLAG PULLING

1. A legal flag pull takes place when the ball carrier is in full possession of the ball.
2. Defenders can dive to pull flags, but can not tackle, hold or run through the ball carrier when pulling flags.
3. It is illegal to strip or pull the ball from the ball carrier
4. If a flag inadvertently falls from the ball carrier, the ball is placed where the flag lands.
5. If a player with one or no flags takes possession of the ball, play is dead at that spot.
6. Defense can't pull flags off players who don't possess the ball.
7. Flag guarding is any intentional or unintentional attempt to obstruct a defender's access to the ball carrier's flag by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, ball, arm, or shoulder, or covering the flags with their jersey.

SECTION M: PENALTIES

1. Defensive
   a. Offsides = 5 yards and automatic first down
   b. Interference = 10 yards and automatic first down
   c. Illegal Contact (holding, blocking, etc.) = 10 yards and automatic first down
   d. Illegal FLAG Pull (before receiver has the ball) = 10 yards and automatic first down
   e. Illegal Rushing (starting rush from inside the 7-yard marker) = 10 yards and automatic first down
2. Offensive
   a. Illegal Motion (more than one person moving, false start, etc.) = 5 yards and loss of down
   b. Illegal Forward Pass (pass thrown beyond line of scrimmage) = 5 yards and loss of down
   c. Offensive Pass Interference (illegal pick play, pushing off/away defender) = 10 yards and loss of down
   d. Flag Guarding = 10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
   e. Delay of Game = clock stops, 10 yards and loss of down
3. Referees determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play. All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage.
4. Only the team coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players cannot question judgment calls.
5. Games cannot end on a defensive penalty, unless the offense declines it.

RULES
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FIELD OF PLAY:

