



ORANGE EMPIRE CONFERENCE

2023

**Football
Spirit
Little Scholars**

Administrative Regulations

Forward

To All Associations Head coaches, both football and cheer, assistant coaches, and volunteer staff:

This booklet has been prepared solely for the benefit of ALL staff volunteers in order that they may better and clearly understand the playing conditions and required rules that shall be enforced during the upcoming season.

The foregoing “Rule book” has been adopted and approved by the Orange Empire Conference (OEC) associations presidents.

These OEC rules are intended to be a supplement to the National Pop Warner rules and regulations. When an OEC rule is more stringent than a national rule, the OEC rule shall take precedence. These rules have been adopted to make football and spirit participation within the Orange Empire Conference more competitive, safe, and enjoyable for all young people within the conference.

The layout and format of this rule book has been changed from previous years to make it easier to understand, reference and find pertinent rules as they may apply to situations that may arise. We hope that these efforts have been successful. OEC welcomes any feedback from you, the users that use it the most.

New rules or changes to rule content are noted in **red** and in **bold**.

EACH HEAD COACH, BOTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER AS WELL AS THE STAFF are expected to read, understand, and agree to abide by all the stated rules in this booklet, as well as all rules and regulations stated within the National Pop Warner rules and regulations handbook.

AGE AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS – 2023 SEASON**LEAGUE AGE DETERMINATION**

Birth Month	Aug. (8)	Sept. (9)	Oct. (10)	Nov. (11)	Dec. (12)	Jan. (1)	Feb. (2)	Mar. (3)	Apr. (4)	May (5)	June (6)	July (7)	League Age
B	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	5
I	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	6
R	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	7
T	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	8
H	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	9
	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	10
Y	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	11
E	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	12
A	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	13
R	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	14
	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	15

AGE/WEIGHT DIVISION DETERMINATION SCHEMATIC

Division	League Age (see above)	Weight Requirements
Cub/Flag	5, 6 and 7 years old	No weight Restrictions
Tiny Mite Older Lighter	5 and 6 years old 7 years old	35 - 80 35 – 60
8 Unlimited	7 and 8 years old	No weight limit
9 Unlimited	7, 8 & 9 years old	No weight limit
10 Unlimited	9 and 10 years old	No weight limit
11 Unlimited	10 and 11 years old	No weight limit
12 Unlimited	11 and 12 years old	No weight limit
13 Unlimited	12 and 13 years old	No weight limits
14 Unlimited	13 and 14 years old	No weight limits

IN-SEASON WEIGHT ALLOWANCES

Division		Week 1 8/26	Week 2 9/2	Week 3 9/9	Week 4 9/16	Week 5 9/23	Week 6 9/30	Week 7 10/7	Week 8 10/14	Week 9 10/21	Week 10 10/28	Week 12 11/4	Week 13 11/11	Week 14 11/18
Tiny Mite		88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	96	96	96	96
Reg		81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	89	89	89	89
Stripped		68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	76	76	76	76
O/L		61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	69	69	69	69
Stripped		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Minimum														
8U 7,8 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN
9U 7,8,9 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN
10U 9,10 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN
11U 10,11 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN
12U 11,12 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN
13U 12,13 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN
14U 13,14 year olds	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN

1. Players are weighed with required equipment, excluding helmets. Players must play with the same required equipment they wore at weigh-in. Example, players cannot change shoes, shoulder pads or other required equipment as defined in the National rules after weight ins.
2. Players using “optional equipment” ** (arm pads, rib protectors etc.) may either:
 - a. Weigh in with the extra equipment or
 - b. Remove the extra equipment prior to weigh in and put it on in front of the weighmaster after weighing in.
3. Players who fail to make weight (heavy or light) will be allowed to weigh stripped down, AT THE PLAYERS REQUEST. It is not mandatory that a player do so, and it MUST be left up to the player’s OWN discretion.
 - a. Stripped weights for MAX (heavy) weights are listed in the chart above.
 - b. Minimum stripped weights for light weight players must be taken from the AGE/WEIGHT DIVISION DETERMINATION SCHEMATIC on the previous page – this minimum weight remains unchanged for the entire season.
4. Players that fail pre-game weigh ins, **MAY NOT** try again at half-time.
5. If a player’s weight exceeds the maximum weight allowed for the week listed plus $\frac{1}{2}$ pound, **THE PLAYER DOES NOT MAKE WEIGHT**.

**Optional equipment, if attached to required equipment in a permanent manner (screw, bolts etc.) become part of the required equipment. If removed to make weight, it CANNOT be reattached to play the game. Example, a rib protector vest may be removed and is not attached, this is a separate piece of non-required equipment. One that has been attached to a set of shoulder pads by screwing or riveting on the straps is no intended to be removable and has become part of the shoulder pads. An attachment via a “quick disconnect” clips are not permanent.

Legend: Reg – Regular Weights (not older lighters) O/L – Older Lighters

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS FOR THE 2023 SEASON

Please note that all new rule changes made within this rule book will appear in **Red** and **Bold**.

FOOTBALL

Pages 3 & 4- JMM & MM NOW 8U & 9U

Page 13 Eligibility- Participating in High School Football

Page 47 Tiny Mite:

- #1 Team Player Count
- #9 Game Clock
- #11 Special Teams

NOTES:

The definition of:

SHALL is **IMPERATIVE**
MUST DO is a **COMMANDANT**

Additional corrections in spelling, grammar, and punctuation, along with name/ title changes or the formatting of this document may have occurred but have not altered any rule. Some rules may have been renumbered or reordered, as necessary.

SECTION I

ARTICLE 1

A. MANDATORY MEETING/ CLINICS

1. The following OEC Clinics/ Meetings are classified as MANDATORY:
 - The Presidents Primer
 - Treasurers Meeting
 - Little Scholars Meetings
 - Orange Con
 - The OEC Sponsored Head Coach's Rules and Referee clinic
 - The Weighmaster/ Player Administrator Clinic
 - Head Cheer Coach Safety. Rules Meeting
 - Or any other mandated by OEC
- a. It is mandatory that all association head football coaches and ALL rostered assistant coach(s) take and pass the online certification. It is also mandatory that the head coach and one (1) assistant coach attend the OEC organized head coach's rules and referee clinic. Failure to attend by any registered head or assistant coach will result in said coaches NOT being rostered for the current season. A \$250.00 fine to be assessed against the Association for each coach and or team that is not represented.
- b. The Weighmaster/ Player Administrator clinic must be attended by each association's weighmaster (and/ or alternate board member) and the rostered Player Administrator/ Team Manager. Failure of an association's weighmaster or alternate to attend will result in a \$250 fine being assessed against the association. Failure of the Player Administrator/ Team Manager to attend shall result in, the suspension of the head football coach for the first regularly scheduled game as well as the week prior, a \$250 fine and a \$250 to be assessed against the association for each team that is not represented.
- c. It is mandatory that ALL association head cheer coaches and staff attend the OEC cheer coach safety/ rules meeting. Failure to attend by any registered head coach or rostered staff will result in said coaches NOT being rostered for the current season. A \$250.00 fine to be assessed against the Association for each coach and or team that is not represented.
- d. It is mandatory that all presidents or representative attend Orange Con. First & second year presidents are required to attend the president primer. Failure to attend as described above will result in a \$250 fine and six (6) months voting rights will be suspended.

Note: All football and spirit staff members receive a copy of the current OEC rule book from their association at.

B. RULES/ GUIDELINES FOR PRE-SEASON CLINICS

1. Pre-season clinics can be arranged, planned, and organized by any association within the Orange Empire Conference for the purpose of increasing sign-ups and helping fund-raising efforts provided the following mandatory criteria are followed:
 - a. Clinics are to be conducted from January 1st – July 31st. All clinics must be approved two weeks prior to the day of the clinic, late approval may be considered.
 - b. Local high school football players, former players, college players, professional players or volunteering adults will conduct the clinics. Unless approved in advance of the event by OEC, volunteering adults cannot be coaches (head or assistant) of any team affiliated with the hosting association for the current season.

- c. Local high school football players, former players, college players, professional players or volunteering adults can be invited to talk to the children.
- d. Fundraising efforts, such as selling food to participants or observers is allowed.
- e. Children from any geographical area are invited to attend or participate. Participants can be from any other association or conference.
- f. Children must be covered by insurance while participating.
- g. The physical activity of the children will be limited to stretching, minimal running, general athletic evaluations etc. No physical contact between the children is allowed. The children will observe the clinic conductors demonstrating techniques and general concepts.
- h. Clinics must be open to all Pop Warner/ OEC associations.
- i. Violation of rules a, b, c, d, e, f, g, or h will result in a minimum two-week suspension, including but not limited to any coach, participant, staff, board member, member, parent or guardian. This will also include a \$250 fine.

ARTICLE II: SIGN-UPS DOCUMENTATION/ RESIDENCY/ WAIVERS/ ELIGIBILITY

A. DOCUMENTATION

Eligibility documentation for all participants, coach trainees, student demonstrators shall be determined by:

- 1. OEC Contract NOTE- The contract must be filled in completely and signed and dated by the participant as well as the participant's parent or legal guardian.
- 2. Proof of Age – At least one (1) of the following:
 - a. A copy of a state certified birth registration accompanied by the original or state certified birth registration to verify for comparison. NOTE: Hospital birth records, baptism records, etc. are NOT acceptable.
 - b. State recognition of adoption guardianship
 - c. state photo ID card
 - d. passport
 - e. any other proof of age must be approved by OEC and will be on a case-by-case basis
- 3. Proof of residence within association boundaries (the permanent home address at the time of registration unless a waiver is granted) please see residency and waiver sections below. **NOTE:** it is required by OEC that associations review utility bill, less than 30 days old to verify proof of residence.
- 4. Proof of scholastic fitness
 - a. Last report card from the current school year at the time of sign up. Report cards are not required for flag, tiny mite, or **8U** divisions.
- 5. Proof of medical/ physical ability to participate – SEE NATIONAL RULES
- 6. Proof of identity - a photograph of the participant is required and may not be more than 12 months old.
- 7. Falsification of official documentation - this includes but not limited to, parent consent, medical examination, proof of age and scholastic eligibility. The following penalties may be imposed:
 - a. the association president will be held accountable.
 - b. an association fine of \$1500 per ineligible player based on falsified documentation.
 - c. The team may be suspended for the remainder of the current year.
 - d. the association could be ineligible for current year postseason playoffs and travel games.
 - e. the association may be placed on probation for the following year.

****IMPORTANT NOTES****

1. Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 listed above are mandatory by the first day of practice. No participant may be considered a member until the contract is completed and signed. NO CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN CONDIDITONING WITHOUT A PHYSICAL.
2. Online signups will require documentation to be collected and verified prior to a participant being placed on a roster/ team and is required before the participants first day of practice.

B. RESIDENCY

1. Although residency Should have been determined at the time of sign up, Eligibility and the need for waivers of all participants in the association shall be determined by their permanent home address as of August 1st of the current Pop Warner season.
2. All participants are only eligible to participate for the association city in which they reside unless a waiver has been signed by both associations releasing and accepting the participant. The only exception for this rule is for residents in a “free draw zone.”
3. Grandfathering: when a participant's permanent home address has changed to the boundaries of another association, he or she shall, with no waiver required have the option to:
 - a. Stay with the association he or she was last certified in or
 - b. certify with the new association*

*If a contract has already been signed prior to the move, the child shall participate with that association unless a waiver is granted.

4. Any previously rostered participant that resides in a free draw zone and remains at the same address is eligible to play in another association without a waiver from the association for which they played last. Please see exception in number 6 and 7 below.
5. When a previous participant moves their residence to a city or area which is a free draw zone, the player shall enjoy the freedom of choosing the association in which he or she wishes to participate without a waiver being required. This exception shall apply regardless of if the city or area the player moved from was a free draw zone or not.
6. When a new association is accepted into OEC and their recognized boundaries now encompass an area that was previously a free draw zone, previous participants in those free draw zones shall enjoy the option of participating in the new association or remaining with the association the participant was with the previous year. Neither situation requires a waiver.
7. When a new association is accepted into OEC, previous participants in adjacent free draw zones which remain free draw zones shall enjoy the option of participating in the new association without a waiver being required or remain in the association the participant was with the previous year.
8. A head coach, football or cheer is allowed to take his or her child and siblings anywhere within the conference to coach with no waiver being required.
9. Recruiting, soliciting, or enticing participants either directly or indirectly from previously affiliated OEC association rosters is strictly prohibited and will subject any person found in violation of this prohibition to be suspended for a period of 12 months. Other movements can only be made with the approval of OEC.

C. WAIVERS

1. Applicants' registration with any OEC association requiring a waiver must be informed of the following and cannot be placed on a team or rostered until a waiver is signed by the league president of the applicant's home association:
 - a. That they reside in another association's boundaries.
 - b. The name of the association within whose boundaries they reside.
 - c. that they cannot register or participate in any way in another association unless the league president of their home association signs a waiver.
 - d. that the home oh EC association is not required to grant a waiver nor are they required to explain the reason for not granting the waiver.
2. All waivers shall be valid for one (1) year only.
3. If a participant has been with an association for two or more completed, consecutive signed waivered seasons, a waiver shall no longer be needed. The same shall apply to any sibling of a participant.
4. There is no requirement for any association to sign waivers, this practice is purely optional for both the accepting and releasing associations OEC would like to believe that the decision to sign or not to sign waivers takes into account the main consideration of what is best for the child(ren) in question and how detrimental or beneficial it would become for an association as a whole if the waiver was or was not signed. In some cases where it is OEC's opinion that it is in the best interest of the child to execute or deny a waiver, a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners would be necessary.
5. **CONTINUITY OF WAIVERS GRANTED**

For the current calendar year, once a waiver is granted to a player or cheerleader to participate in an association that player may not again move to another association unless that player or cheerleader is granted a waiver by the most recent receiving association. It shall be the privilege of said most recent receiving association to grant subsequent waivers for such wavered players or cheerleaders to another association without restriction during the current calendar year. Grandfathering under these subsequent waivered grant conditions may only occur with the consent of participants home association.

D. ELIGIBILITY

1. Participants must meet the age/weight requirements as described in the age/weight division determination schematic as shown on page 2 for the division in which they wish to participate or have signed up for.
2. All participants, coach trainees and student demonstrators must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate:
 - a. Complete & and OEC contract
 - b. provide a copy of a valid proof of age as listed above.
 - c. provide a copy of a medical physical examination stating that the participant is medically cleared to participate in tackle football, flag football or cheer with no restrictions.
 - d. provide a photograph older 12 months.
 - e. provide proof of scholastic fitness*
 - f. obtain a residency waiver if required (see above)

*Scholastic Fitness

Participants must have earned a 2.0 or 70% grade point average to be eligible to participate in pop Warner and must provide a copy of the child's full year report card(s), last report card reflecting the final grades for the school year or provide a scholastic eligibility form.

If the participant wishes to submit their grades for little scholars' scholastic recognition at the conference and or national level, then copies of the entire year's report card(s) must be turned in.

3. Per national Rules, it is prohibited to participate in High School tackle football and Pop Warner in the same season.
4. All questions concerning eligibility/ illegal player disputes shall be in writing to OEC. OEC shall forward such disputes to the tribunal committee. The committee findings shall be reported to the board of presidents at the next OEC meeting.

All residency questions must be turned into OEC, in writing within fourteen (14) days after the associations president have received a roster showing a violation. See **National rules for the definition of an ineligible player**.

5. All players shall be signed up and assigned to a team on a first come basis until the maximum roster size of thirty-five (35) players is reached. After that, players shall be assigned to a waiting list in the order in which they apply and shall be notified as to their position on the waiting list.

Example:

1. Association “A” has one 12U team and thirty-five (35) player slots available. They already have thirty-four (34) players signed up to play on the team. During their second signup day a new unexperienced player shows up at 10:00 AM to sign up and his application is accepted. At 1:00 PM on the same day, last year’s returning started running back shows up to sign up and his application is accepted. In this scenario the new player **MUST** get the number 35 slot and the returning player **MUST** become the #1 player on the waiting list.
2. Association “B” has 2, 12U teams and 70 player slots available. Both teams have thirty-four (34) players on their roster already. During their second signup day a new unexperienced player shows up at 10:00 AM and requests to be on team number one, his application is accepted. At 1:00 PM on the same day, team number 1’s returning starting running back shows up to sign up and his application is accepted. Unless the association has a policy to the contrary and if all multi team divisions in that association are treated the same OEC and National rules do NOT specify which team these two players are assigned.
 - a. As players voluntarily drop from their team's roster, waiting list players will be added based upon their position on the waiting list, not their athletic ability.
 - b. Waiting list players may not be issued equipment nor participate in practice until they have been added to a roster. This would be deemed a “taxi squad” which is not allowed by National rules.
 - c. Any association that maintains a waiting list for any team in any division shall notify OEC of the existence of the waiting list(s).
 - d. Any association that maintains a waiting list must present a copy of the waiting list along with a policy statement that explains how the waiting list will be monitored and maintained to OEC. The policy statement must incorporate items a through c above.
 - e. OEC shall monitor all association/ team waiting lists to ensure that players of lesser athletic ability are not being “cut” to provide room for potentially superior candidates on the waiting list. Any association or team staff member found to be actively participating in this practice shall be suspended for one (1) calendar year.
6. No association shall adopt a rule or implement any policy, rule or by law written or unwritten limiting any tackle football team or spirit squad to less than 35.

7. All players shall be signed up in the lowest possible division for their particular age and weight, taking into consideration the reasonable expectations and ability for any participant to lose the weight required for his/ her participation in a lower division.
8. when available practice times will not allow participants to complete conditioning for certification prior to the OEC certification deadline, no player or spirit participant may sign up or be added to a roster.

E. DETERMINATION OF CAPABILITY TO PARTICIPATE

1. Associations shall have the authority to determine if a participant can participate in any event related to the association or the conference. Determining factors include but are not limited to the following as it relates to both the participant(s) and participant(s) family/ GUARDIAN:
 - a. compliance with residency requirements
 - b. compliance with scholastic requirements
 - c. compliance with paperwork requirements
 - d. compliance with division age and weight
 - e. disciplinary action in effect
 - f. compliance with monetary payments committed to
 - g. compliance with duties assigned such as it not limited to snack bar duty.
 - h. compliance with participation such as but not limited to practices prior to a game.
 - i. compliance with any other association, conference, or National Pop Warner requirements
 - j. compliance with local, state, and federal laws
 - k. appropriateness based upon the situation.
2. OEC shall have superior authority to that of the association in determining if a participant can participate in any event relating to the association or conference as enumerated and item one (1) above.

ARTICLE III – PRACTICE & SCRIMMAGES

A. PRACTICE

1. Unless otherwise approved by national pop Warner through OEC, the first day of practice will be no sooner than August 1st of the current year.
2. Before Labor Day: No team may conduct more than 10 hours of practice per week. A week is defined as Monday through Sunday. Not more than 2 1/2 hours of practice may be conducted on any one day. A mandatory 10-minute break after each hour of practice is required. Said break time(s) shall not be counted as practice time and shall not diminish the number of allowable practice hours.
3. After Labor Day: Practices are limited to six hours per week. A week is defined as Monday through Sunday. Not more than two hours of practice may be conducted per day. A mandatory 10-minute break after each hour of practice is required. Said break time(s) shall not be counted as practice time and shall not diminish the number of allowable practice hours,
4. The certification book shall be always on site when the players are present, practicing, playing a game or participating in any Pop Warner/ OEC sanctioned event.

B. INTER-SQUAD SCRIMMAGES

1. Inter-squad scrimmages are considered a practice and are subject to all the rules stated in “A” above including allowable practice hours. Note: if you have a scrimmage scheduled for a Saturday of any week you must have

- a non-practice day during the week so that you do not exceed the weekly practice hours allowed, this includes spirit participants.
2. All intersquad scrimmages must be approved/recognized by OEC. participation in non-approved/ recognized inter-squad scrimmage will result in a one (1) week suspension of BOTH participating head coaches beginning with Monday prior to the first scheduled game, regardless of the reason.
 3. The format of the scrimmage for example, coaches on the field and number of plays per squad etc. is to be determined and agreed upon between the head coach is involved.
 4. Mandatory play rules do not officially apply to Inter-squad scrimmages however due to the purpose and nature of these events it is recommended that all eligible players be allowed to participate.
 5. Each team is allowed to participate in up to three (3) approved inter-squad scrimmages during the season.
 6. The minimum number of eligible players required to be able to participate in an intersquad scrimmage is fifteen (15).
 7. If referees are at any scrimmage there is to be no charge or cost liability related to OEC and it is not to be considered a game.
 8. A 72 hours' notice of cancellation prior to the scheduled scrimmage is required. Lack of said notice shall result in a \$250 penalty being assessed against the offending team/ association and credited to the account of the aggrieved team/ association. This notice must be made by the association president ONLY and must be made to the OEC assigned Deputy Commissioner in charge of scrimmages.
 9. A weigh-in shall be conducted before all scrimmages to ensure that no participant weighs 6lbs or more over the maximum allowed for that division.

ARTICLE IV – CONDITIONING

- A. The 20-hour period of physical conditioning shall be governed by the following:
 1. The conditioning period may include various facets of football training, teaching techniques, chalk talks, pass patterns etc.
 2. Dummy bags and footballs shall be allowed on the field during the first ten (10) hours of practice but may be used for non-contact situations only.
 - a. Notwithstanding the above, it shall be permissible to use dummy bags for the sole purpose of demonstrating and training participants in USA Heads Up techniques. When training these techniques, and only when training on these techniques, participants may have contact with dummy bags during the first ten (10) hours of practice. In such training situations, participants must wear a helmet and use a mouthpiece. Training of participants must be conducted by a coach who has been properly trained in heads up techniques by means of USA Football online certification.
 3. During the 2nd 10 hours of conditioning, body to dummy/bag/ shield contact and anybody contact, such as tackling or blocking shall be allowed ONLY if the player is in full uniform with all required equipment.
 4. Helmets and mouthpieces shall be worn commencing with the first day of conditioning.
 5. No player or spirit participant may be certified until all conditioning requirements are met.
 6. Attendance records must be maintained, and conditioning hours shall be tracked for each participant and must be continued to be tracked until all team(s)/ squad(s) participants have completed their conditioning hours. These records shall be on hand and made available to any OEC official that requires to review them up to the last available certification date.
 7. Any violation of the above listed conditioning rules shall result in the suspension of the head coach for a minimum one (1) week and the next scheduled game beginning the Monday prior to the first scheduled game and a fine of \$200.

ARTICLE V – CERTIFICATION

A. GENERAL RULES/ REQUIREMENTS

1. The rosters shall be a maximum of thirty-five (35) players. The minimum number of players required to certify a team is eighteen (18). The minimum number of players required to participate in any game is sixteen (16).
2. All players shall be certified in the lowest possible division for age and weight.
3. At certifications, a photograph no older than 12 months shall be permanently taped to the designated area of the player contract and always carried by the team.
4. The following documents are required at certification:
 - a. An original, completed and signed OEC contract, physical form and player ID card with no white out, cross out, or corrections.
 - b. A valid copy of proof of age (The original MUST be at certification for verification)
 - c. A medical/ physical examination stating that the participant is cleared to participate in tackle football, flag football or competitive cheer **WITHOUT** restrictions is required.
 - d. A photograph no older than 12 months
 - e. Proof of scholastic fitness
 - f. Residency waiver, if required

Note: The original certified birth certificate must be made available upon request from an OEC commissioner.

5. For certification weigh-ins, players shall be weighed in lightweight gym type shorts and a t-shirt only. No player will be weighed in uniform, street clothes, jackets, sweats, hats, shoes etc. The only exception to this rule is if a player chooses to be weighed stripped. Players in the unlimited division must attend certification for player verification purposes only there will be no weigh-ins.
6. OEC officers shall conduct all certifications.

B. FINAL OEC OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION (Make-up Certification)

1. OEC shall schedule a final certification day which will coincide with the make-up certification date. This is the date when OEC officially recognizes all its rosters as “CERTIFIED” for reporting to National Pop Warner (per National PWLS rules).
2. Final/ make-up certification date, time and locations shall be scheduled as determined by OEC.
3. All currently registered participants (players and/or spirit) MUST be certified no later than this date. Any registered participant that is not certified shall be removed from the official team roster and treated as an “add” when later certification may be accomplished. NOTE: “Adds” must be treated as a new player and all conditioning requirements apply.
4. Associations can decide with their or any other OEC commissioner to perform individual or group make-up certifications as required between their initial certification day and final certification day.

ARTICLE VI – SCHEDULING

A. ASSOCIATION’S DECLARATION OF TEAMS

1. All associations MUST assemble their teams and declare their team counts no later than **July 15th** of the current season.

2. Team declarations MUST be accompanied by the most current association sign up information (current team roster/sign-ups) listing all players assigned to each team including their age, address, date of birth, sign up weight and sign-up date.
3. **On July 31st** of the current season, association team counts shall be frozen. Any association wishing to drop teams after this date shall be fined \$250 for each occurrence.
4. Any association that fails to certify a “declared” team shall be fined \$250 for each occurrence.
5. No team shall be added after **July 31st**.
6. Persistence of a team existence prior to, including, and after certification, notwithstanding other rules and regulations recognized by OEC:
 - a. Starting August 1st through and including the certification of a team, any declared tackle team must have at least 18 players on it to meet the age, weight, and scholastic requirements of the team’s division.
 - b. No player may be on more than one team or roster at a time. In addition, no player shall be rostered on a football team and cheer squad concurrently.
 - c. Any declared tackle team must have the number of players specified by this section by the first game of the season.
 - d. Only declared teams may be recognized by OEC for participation in conference activities including but not limited to preseason games, regular in season games, scrimmages, and post season games.
 - e. Any team not qualified as noted in this section shall be dissolved for the remainder of the season and the association shall be fined for dropping a team. However, by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners a team may continue to exist if conditions warrant such existence.

B. DIVISION ASSIGNMENTS (OEC/ Regional Divisions)

The Regional division, **9U** through 14U Orange Bowl champions and runner ups will represent OEC in the Wescon Regional division 1 and 2 championships.

The OEC division, shall apply to 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U only.

The OEC division Championships would conclude their season except for post season bowl games.

1. Determination of OEC and Regional division designations shall be made yearly.
2. Associations shall have the right to designate an individual team as either OEC or Regional division within the confines of the rules under this Article.
 - a. All OEC/ Regional designations shall be declared by the **first Friday of July** the current calendar year.
 - b. Should teams form after the **first Friday in July**, their designation shall be declared immediately to OEC for approval.
3. For each division of play, **9U**, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, there shall be a separate set of play offs conducted by OEC for OEC and Regional divisions.
4. CRITERIA FOR TEAMS REQUESTING TRANSFERS FROM THE REGIONAL DIVISION TO OEC DIVISION.
 - a. No team shall move from a Regional to the OEC division if twenty-five (25%) or more of its players were rostered on any regional team in the previous season. Said OEC division team needs to not have been with the current association, the same division of play and/ or another youth football organization.
 - b. If a team meets the requirements of “a” above and has been assigned to the OEC division, the team MAY NOT then “add” a returning player if by adding the returning player, violates the twenty-five (25%) ratios as stated above. Should it be discovered that this has occurred, the added player shall be deemed ineligible, and all relevant penalties shall be applied. The only way that the returning player can be added to the team is if that team is eligible to and does move back up to the Regional division.

- c. If any team requests to move from Regional to OEC division and was in the play offs from the previous season, they MUST have been seeded in the lower fifty (50%) of the play-off seeding.
 - d. All team designations to either OEC or Regional divisions are subject to review and/ or investigation by OEC and MUST receive the approval of the OEC Board of Commissioners.
 - e. All the OEC divisions teams that qualify for play-off berths SHALL have their rosters reviewed by OEC prior to further participation to verify team eligibility.
 - f. Any Regional team wishing to move to the OEC division that exceeds the twenty-five (25%) required, may petition the OEC Board of Commissioners to move to the OEC division. A 2/3 vote of the commissioners is needed for approval. All petition decisions are final with no appeal. All petitions must be done by the **first Friday in July**.
 - g. No OEC division exception or considerations will be considered until such time as a minimum number of ten (10) teams are secured at the regional level in any given division.
5. Suggested criteria for commissioners in determining the OEC division petitions:
- a. Previous season record
 - b. Coaching staff
 - c. Returning player count
 - d. Petition explanation
 - e. Any undisclosed issue from the previous season that can be verified.
 - f. Any other pertinent information
 - g. A 2/3 vote of commissioners is needed for approval. All petition decisions are final with no appeal.
6. After August 1st. teams shall not be allowed to migrate between OEC and Regional divisions. However, by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners, a team may so migrate if conditions warrant such migration.
7. ANY association that has more than one (1) team in a division, **9U** through 14U, MUST declare one (1) team as a Regional division team.
8. Associations with two (2) teams in the same division wishing to keep both teams in the OEC division must petition and submit the criteria for both teams to be considered.

C. LEAGUE DRAWS

1. Division league draws will be selected AT RANDOM by a manual or electronic method. No consideration will be given for previous years records, geographic location, team designation, association, coaching staff etc. Notwithstanding, the draw may be adjusted to prevent same association teams in same draw when possible.
2. Once determined, league draws are final and may only be changed based upon league and/ or division team counts.

D. THE SCHEUDLE

1. All association scheduling requirements information must be provided to OEC no later than July 15th of the current season. For example, number of fields and their availability, game time availability, field downtimes, special scheduling considerations, if fields have lights etc.

NOTE: IT IS THE GOAL OF OEC TO PUBLISH A FIRM-FIXED SCHEUDLE TO THE ASSOCIATIONS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15TH OF THE CURRENT SEASON WITH AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHANGES DUEING THE SEASON BASED UPON UNFORSEEN/ EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT STRICT ADHERENCE TO #1 LISTED ABOVE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU DID NOT NOTIFY PRIOR TO THE SEASON, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF ANY SCHEUDLE CHANGE REQUESTS LATER ON ARE DENIED.

2. The minimum amount of league games scheduled in any season shall be four (4).

3. ALL requests for schedule changes shall be presented to the OEC scheduling Deputy Commissioner, by the association president ONLY. This request shall be in writing at least two weeks prior to the requested change period failure to comply with this notice requirement shall result in denial of the request.
4. The OEC scheduling Deputy Commissioner shall give any schedule changes to the presidents in writing by either, hardcopy notice or via email.
5. The regular season will conclude in sufficient time to permit the appropriate number of playoff dates.
6. On those Saturdays, teams that fail to qualify for the first (1st) round of playoffs will be scheduled to play an individual game against another non qualifying team. The team will be scheduled at a site to be determined and whenever possible, consideration will be given to similarity of record, prior opponents, assign fields and scheduling requests.
7. On those Saturday following the first round of playoffs, in addition to another round Invitational games and the second round of playoffs, teams losing in the first round of the playoffs will be scheduled and Invitational game and the Mighty Mite division will play their final regular season game.
8. Each declared champion in each division will advance to the first round of the Division One regional playoffs. The runner up will advance to the Division Two regional playoffs at the site determined by regional officials.
9. Any team ending in a tie will be decided by one series each of the high school 10-yard line overtime procedure (NFHS tie breaker) for the Mighty Mite divisions and above.
10. It is policy to attempt to fill “byes”. Coaches are hereby placed on notice that they should anticipate that a “bye” in the initial schedule may be replaced by a scheduled game against a nonconference opponent. Failure to fulfill that obligation is considered a rule violation subject to the suspension penalties. Any cost incurred by either the conference or the opposing team because of the cancellation, will be billed to the offending team’s association and that team will not be permitted to travel at the end of the season.
11. No forfeited game shall be rescheduled.
12. Game time changes, location changes or cancellations shall only be made with concurrence of the commissioner, chief Deputy Commissioner or OEC scheduling commissioner.
13. Unauthorized scheduling of games outside of the designated OEC scheduling commissioner is considered a rule violation. The offending head coach, staff member or board member will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) weeks up to a calendar year.
14. No game time will be scheduled earlier than 9:00 AM and will start no later than 7:00 PM. The ONLY exception(s) will be an OEC sanctioned bowl game or games starting late due to daily schedule running late.

E. NO SHOW/ FAILURE TO PLAY/ FORFEITS

1. Both coaches are responsible for contact between their opposing teams prior to the Wednesday before each game, to verify time, place, and jersey color.
 - a. The home team shall wear dark game jerseys, approved by OEC and visiting teams will wear white game jerseys, approved by OEC. NO arrangements between coaches will be allowed for wearing dark or white jerseys outside of this article direction.
 - b. Failure to comply may result in either or both teams being charged with forfeit.
2. If a team has enough eligible players to play but refuses to play them either prior to or during the game the head coach will be suspended if an OEC investigation so warrants. However, nothing shall preclude the association president of the team refusing to play, or a commissioner with personal knowledge of the incident, to issue a summary suspension pending the outcome of the investigation.
3. For any forfeit that results in the game not being played as scheduled the forfeiting team shall be responsible for the referee fees and a \$250 snack bar fee/ visiting team fee which shall be collected by assessing the association of the forfeiting team and crediting it to the OEC account of the offended association.

4. The team who does not forfeit shall be awarded the win.
5. The score for the forfeited team shall be recorded as 1 to 0 in favor of the winning team.
6. All teams must have fifteen (15) eligible players to play a game, or the game becomes a forfeit.

F. Cancellation OF GAMES

1. A 72 hour prior to scheduled game, scrimmage, preseason, or post season game shall be required. Lack of said notice shall result in a \$250 penalty to be sent to the aggrieved team. This notice shall be made to the corporate commissioner, chief Deputy Commissioner or scheduling commissioner by the association president ONLY.
2. The home team association president shall have the authority to cancel all games on his/ her playing field during or prior to the scheduled starting game time if, in his/ her judgment either the weather or field conditions would be hazardous to the participants.
 - a. Any cancelled games shall be reported to the corporate commissioner and scheduling commissioner within 48 hours prior to the normally scheduled playing time.
3. Any cancellation of a game after the start of the OEC playoffs will result in the following penalties against the team cancelling the game:
 - a. A fine in the amount of \$250 will be given to the aggrieved team.
 - b. Pay for all game officials.
 - c. If the aggrieved team was the home team an additional \$250 fine to the home association.

G. GAMES

The term games used in this document shall include both regulation and non-regulation games. A non-regulation game shall be played in place of a regulation game when one or both teams have less than 16 players show up to a scheduled game and both teams have at least 15 players that show up to participate at a scheduled game time the following shall apply to non-regulation games:

1. The outcome of non-regulation games shall have no bearing on league standings or overall record and shall not be recorded by the conference. This shall not constrain the conference from recording forfeitures because of insufficient players.
2. Non regulation games must be played provided there are at least 15 players present on each team.
3. Non regulation games shall not count towards any practice time.
4. Weigh-Ins must be performed at non regulation games.
5. No team staff may instruct players to not show up to a non-regulation game.
6. Mandatory play rules will apply to non-regulation games.
7. Coaches, team staff and players who refuse to play a non-regulation game shall be subject to suspension.

H. GAME SCORE REPORTING

1. OEC administration shall determine the method and nature of game score reporting and communicate said method with the associations. All games scores shall be reported to OEC.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the home team's association to report game scores to OEC.
3. Game scores may be corrected by either the home team's association, the visiting team's association or by OEC. OEC shall have the right to "lock out" alterations to game scores.

4. Game score reporting shall be done by the association's president, his designee or a person designated by vote of the association board of directors. If the person reporting game scores is not the association president, then that person's name must be provided to OEC.
 - a. OEC May at its sole discretion decline to accept the designated game score entry person should that person not be the association president. In this case either the association president or the association's board of directors shall choose another person.
5. All game scores shall be reported no later than noon on Sunday following a game.
 - a. OEC shall determine the reporting time constraints for games played on Sunday and communicate said time constraints to the associations of the participants.
 - b. Game scores not reported in a timely manner shall subject the designated home team of the game to forfeiting the game.
6. All game score corrections for a team must be completed no later than noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of playoffs associated with said team. No game score corrections for a team shall be accepted from the associations (and /or their subordinates) after 12:00 noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of playoffs associated with said team. Reported game scores for a team as of noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of playoffs associated with that team shall be, by rule, the correct game scores (except as noted in b. below) regardless of the actual outcome of the game.
 - a. OEC shall use the reported game score statistics as they exist as of twelve 12:00 noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of playoffs associated with a team to determine playoff statistics.
 - b. OEC, at its sole discretion, may modify any reported game score at any time to comply with its own rules, bylaws or other reasons as propriety demands. Said modifications may be used in the computations for playoffs statistics. Said modifications shall cause the resultant game scores, by rule to be the correct game scores.
7. The term "playoff statistics" as used herein shall mean the game score statistics used to:
 - a. Determine which teams will be designated league/ draw champions.
 - b. Determine which teams will be awarded playoff berths.
 - c. Playoff bracket seeding
 - d. Wild card team designations (including but not limited to what teams will be designated to participate in coin flips and California tie breakers.

ARTICLE VII – PLAYOFFS

A. PLAYOFF STRUCTURE/ FORMAT

1. Only the following divisions of play will participate in OEC playoff games:
 - a. **9U**
 - b. 10U
 - c. 11U
 - d. 12U
 - e. 13U
 - f. 14U

2. Playoff game assignments will use the structure/ format herein as the Playoff Ladder or Playoff Ladders.
 - a. Divisions with less than 31 teams at the beginning of the season will use the 8 team, 3 round single elimination playoff ladder.
 - b. Divisions with 31 or more teams at the beginning of the season will use the 16 team, 4 round single elimination playoff ladder.
 - c. Teams will be seeded only once for all playoff ladders and said seeding shall occur only in round 1 pursuant to the methods designated by these rules and as propriety demands. Seeding considerations may also include head-to-head competition between teams that are vying for the same seeding position because of the teams having the same overall record.
 - d. The OEC scheduling commissioner(s) shall administrate the playoff game schedules and ladders.
 - e. Should a team, for any reason not be able to participate in a round 1 game, the OEC scheduling commissioner(s) shall determine which team will take said team's place in the playoff ladder by referencing the same "qualification" criteria as listed below and selecting the next logically qualified team. Failure to participate in subsequent rounds will result in a forfeit for that round of play with the non-forfeiting team advancing to the next round.
 - f. Any question as to a team's placement in the playoff ladder shall be resolved by the corporate commissioner.
3. Playoff games that end in a tie after regulation play is complete shall be decided in overtime by the CIF tie breaker system (except play shall begin starting from the 10-yard line).
4. Playoff games shall be scheduled only at sites that have lights, an operating scoreboard, including clock and appropriate personnel to operate the scoreboard. A Scoreboard failure during any game however shall not be grounds to postpone that game or any other subsequently scheduled game for that day. Such sites shall also have goal posts, a freshly lined field for games, an open concession stand, board members on duty and sufficient personnel to provide for a chain crew.
5. All officials' fees for playoff games and invitational games are to be paid by the two (2) associations playing in the games.
6. All first-round playoff games and all subsequent "winning" playoff games may be played on Sundays unless otherwise scheduled by OEC.
7. Prior to participation in OEC playoff games, a team may decline to participate in the OEC playoffs without penalty. Such declaration to decline participation must be made in writing to the OEC presidents on or before the last Saturday of the regular scheduled season.
8. Any team qualifying to advance onto the Wescon Regional playoffs or Pop Warner National championships and refuses or is unable to advance to the Wescon Regional playoffs or Pop Warner National, the following steps will be taken:
 - a. The head coach will be suspended immediately for the remainder of the current season and the first two (2) games and two (2) weeks prior of the following season.
 - b. The head coach will be fined \$500.
 - c. The association will be fined \$1000.
 - d. OEC will investigate this matter. Future playoffs for the association and team in question will be determined during the OEC investigation.
 - e. These decisions are final and there will be no appeal allowed.
9. Any association hosting round 1 or 2 of the OEC playoffs can have their teams play at their home field(s) if the hosting associations team is the higher seeded team of the two teams in questions.

B. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OEC PLAYOFFS

1. The following teams in each division, except Flag, Tiny Mite and **8U** qualify for playoffs:
 - a. The league champions.
 - b. Sufficient additional wild card teams to complete in eight (8) or sixteen (16) team field.
2. League points shall determine league champions.
3. League points are calculated by awarding two (2) points for a league win or one (1) point for a league tie.
4. Wild card team participation shall be determined by overall record.
 - a. No team shall be eliminated from playoff participation based solely on the mathematical inequality created by the scheduling of “byes.” Should two (2) or more teams share equal overall “loss/tie” records yet one or more of those teams has a smaller overall record percentage because of the scheduled bye in their team’s game schedule, those team(s) with this lower overall percentage shall be considered “tied” with the team(s) immediately above and shall be included in the playoff picture.

EXAMPLE:

Team A has an overall record of 5-3 Eight (8) game schedule
Team B has an overall record of 4-3 Seven (7) game schedule w/1 bye
Team A’s calculated overall record is .625 (5+8)
Team B’s calculated overall record is .571 (4+7)

If an overall record of .625 would fill the last available seeding or qualify in a tie breaker with other .625 teams for the last available seeding, then Team B along with all other like record teams with a bye in their schedules would also qualify. Tie breakers will be scheduled accordingly.

NOTE: This exception ONLY applies to playoff qualification criteria where one or more team(s) would be eliminated from the playoffs all together based off this inequity. This exception specifically DOES NOT count byes as wins (not included in computation) during the season nor in determination of league standings or playoff seedings, it is ONLY applied after final league standings have been determined and the above described “bye” inequity occurs.

5. Seedings are determined by overall record.
 - a. League champions, regardless of record shall automatically qualify for the top available seeds in their respective playoff ladders. Overall record shall determine their seeding order within these top available spots. Note: Seeding ties shall be resolved by a coin toss and/ or by drawing numbers.
 - b. Wildcard teams shall be seeded in the remaining available spots according to their overall record.
6. Overall record is calculated by a percentage of all games won, both league and non-league with ties counting one half (1/2) win and one half (1/2) loss. Inter-conference play does count towards overall records.

C. TIE BREAKERS

1. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

In situations where two (2) or more teams are tied in their league as league champions, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- a. If the teams have all played each other, the team(s) with the most total points in head-to-head competition shall qualify above the other(s) with wins counting as two (2) points and ties as one (1) point.
- b. If after applying a. above there remains a tie between any of the teams, overall record shall be used to break the tie.
- c. If a tie still exists after determining overall record a CIF tie breaker shall be scheduled between those teams still tied.
- d. If ALL the teams have not played each other, then head-to-head competition is not considered, and a CIF tie breaker shall be scheduled to determine the league champions.
- e. Losers of any tie breakers for league champions shall fill wild card positions as applicable and will be subject to normal seeding determination for wild card teams.

D. WILD CARD PLAYOFF BERTHS/ SEEDINGS

1. In a situation where teams with like overall records qualify for wild card playoff berths AND the number of berths is equal to the number of tied teams including those teams described in B.4a above, all teams shall qualify, and seeding shall be determined by:
 - a. Comparing head-to-head competition IF all teams have played each other.
 - b. IF head-to-head records still reveal a tie or IF all the tied teams have not played each other in head-to-head competition, is not considered and a coin toss will be scheduled with representatives of those teams involved being given the opportunity to be present.
2. In a situation where the numbers of teams with like overall records, including those teams described in B.4a above exceeds the number of playoffs berths available, playoff berths shall be determined by:
 - a. Comparing head-to-head competition IF all teams have played each other.
 - b. IF head-to-head records still reveal a tie or IF all the tied teams have not played each other in head-to-head competition, is not considered and a CIF tie breaker shall be scheduled to determine seeding.
3. At any time during the tie breaker processes listed above and if unanimously and mutually agreed upon by all the involved (tied) head coaches, further tie breaker activities may be eliminated and seedings may be considered by agreement.

E. THE COIN TOSS PROCESS

1. When tow (2) tied teams are involved in a coin toss to determine seeding, the two (2) participating teams shall agree on which one shall be called the “caller”. Should the two representatives not be able to agree, OEC may use any method to draw lots to determine which shall be the “caller”. An OEC official will flip a single coin, the “caller” shall “call it in the air,” heads or tails and the coin will be allowed to fall to the ground. If the “caller” calls the coin correctly, the “caller” wins the toss. If the “caller” calls the coin incorrectly, the “caller” loses the toss.

2. When three (3) tied teams participate in a coin toss to determine seeding, all three representatives shall flip coins simultaneously. The representative that flipped the “odd” coin will be seeded in the last available seed. Should all three coins be the same, the process shall be repeated until an “odd” toss occurs. The remaining two (2) teams shall then proceed as stated in “1” above.
3. When more than three (3) teams participate in the coin toss process, OEC shall determine an equitable coin toss and/ or drawing of numbers process to determine seeding.
4. Any question/ issue as to a team’s qualification for playoffs shall be resolved by the corporate commissioner.

ARTICLE VIII – OEC CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. ORANGE BOWL – OEC CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. OEC championship games shall be scheduled annually as determined by OEC as to be in line with participation in Regional/ National level playoffs/ championships.
2. OEC championship games shall be conducted for the OEC and Regional divisions. The winner of the OEC championship game for the regional divisions shall be the division 1 representative team at Regional and National games. The runner up(s) of the OEC championship game for regional divisions shall be the division 2 representatives at the Regional and National games.
3. Associations, including the host association will be required to work security for playoff games, championships, and cheer competitions. Associations who fail to show up to their assigned shifts will be fined \$250 per person. The fine shall be paid to the association who proceeds the replacement workers.
4. No team or association, including the host association shall conduct any fundraising activities at the Orange Bowl championships, that compete with the OEC fundraising. Violation of this rule shall cause a \$500 fine per violation.
5. ALL championship game ending in a tie will be decided by the high school 10-yard line overtime procedure (NFHS tie breaker).
6. Any Regional division team that wins an OEC championship game that refuses to advance to Pop Warner Regional playoff/ championship games(s) will administratively forfeit the OEC championship game. The team so forfeited too shall be declared the OEC division 1 representative. OEC shall then determine the method of selecting a division 2 representative at OEC’s sole discretion.
7. OEC Orange Bowl Regional division champions are the only teams moving onto the regional championships.

I. ORANGE BOWL INVITATIONAL GAMES

1. Orange Bowl invitational games shall be scheduled annually as determined by OEC.
2. Associations that wish to participate in invitational games must be eligible as defined throughout these rules and must make the request to the OEC Bowl commissioner in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled date. Teams that fail to notify in a timely manner may end up not being selected to participate.
3. Saturday invitational games will be scheduled with other conferences or between two (2) OEC teams as circumstances dictate. Preference shall be given to teams from associations not otherwise represented.
4. Sunday as additional invitational games are desired.
5. Other than OEC fundraising activities only the “site host” associations shall be allowed to conduct fundraising activities at Orange Bowl invitational games.
6. For inter conference invitational games, National playing rules apply. However, OEC rules shall apply for OEC participating teams. Teams from other conferences will conform to their own conference requirements.

ARTICLE IX – POST SEASON TRAVEL

A. PARTICIPATION/ POLICES

1. Any team requesting a postseason travel game must be eligible as defined throughout these rules and shall put up a certified \$300 deposit to OEC. Should that team cancel said scheduled game and a replacement team cannot be found the team shall forfeit the deposit to the aggrieved conference.
 - a. There shall be no rollover of this deposit from year to year. Funds placed on deposit shall be applied to the associations balance due for that year. If no balance is due, funds will be automatically credited to the association's account.
 - b. For travel to Hawaii or Guam, the amount of the required travel deposit is set by national policy and is usually indicated on the national travel request form.
2. Each team shall use their conferences mandatory play rule at home or away. Differences in general playing rules should be discussed before arrangements are made.
3. Post season travel shall be scheduled according to a draw using the number the association's representative pulled at Orange Con. All proper documentation must be received by the OEC bowl director and the deposit to the treasurer by the first meeting in September. If all the above is not completed, the association will then be dropped. Once the required documentation and deposit has been submitted, they will be added to the end. The number of teams per association will be based on the equal share of games available per bowl game location.
 - a. All preseason and postseason travel games shall be scheduled ONLY by the OEC bowl director or designated OEC commissioner. Scrimmages are not scheduled by OEC.
 - b. Unauthorized scheduling of games outside of the designated OEC scheduling commissioner is considered a rule violation subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules. If this is at the end of the season the offending head coach will be suspended for the first week of the next season.
 - c. Any team who has requested to travel is also subject to and expected to host during the Orange Bowl weekend. Any team unable or unwilling to host may lose their right to travel to another team who is able to host and travel, as hosting is as important as traveling between conferences.
4. Teams that participate in the Orange Bowl and/ or post season bowl games within OEC who are playing teams from another conference shall be required to host them if the visiting team requests it.

B. OEC TRAVEL FUND

1. Each association will be assessed a \$12.50 travel fee for each player and cheerleader. This assessment is for all divisions that are participating within the association, flag through unlimited. The purpose of these monies shall be dedicated to association level travel assistance for National Pop Warner football and cheer championships.
 - a. These monies shall be assessed separately from normal OEC association assessments and payment of these assessments shall be specified by the associations as they are remitted.
 - b. The travel fee assessments are due to be completely paid by each association no later than October 15th of the current season. Failure of any association to meet this due date shall negate their eligibility for disbursement of these funds.
 - c. The accounting for these funds shall be separate from regular OEC funds and dedicated for association travel assistance.
 - d. These travel assistance monies shall be divided equally among all participants that qualify and travel to National Pop Warner football and cheer championships.

- e. Any football or cheerleader participants that utilizes money from this fund for travel assistance must participate in a uniform.
- f. A maximum of 90% of the travel fund may be used each year to help with travel expenses to the National Pop Warner championships in Florida. The remaining 10% will stay in the travel fund for the next year. The allocation shall be determined and approved by the president's yearly at the last OEC meeting in November, with a maximum of \$650 per child.

ARTICLE X – OEC SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

A. SCORING

1. Each OEC sportsmanship card provides the opportunity for a team to score a maximum of fifty (50) points.
 - a. Forty-five (45) points from the category scoring area
 - b. An additional five (5) points for the team that displays the best overall sportsmanship of the two opponents.
2. Should any ejections occur during the game, each ejection will be scored as a minus (-) five (5) points for the team responsible for the ejected member.
3. Any category score of zero (0) shall result in an OEC inquiry. Referees will be instructed that zero (0) scores must include comments.
4. Spirit squad conduct/ behavior, both favorable as well as unfavorable, shall be reported through the weekly cheer report to the OEC cheer commissioner.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the OEC cheer commissioner to investigate and report any incidents noted on the weekly cheer report that he/ she feels should have an impact on the sportsmanship score for the game or team in question.
 - b. Team scores may be adjusted accordingly, up to a maximum of plus (+) or minus (-) ten (10) points for the week for spirit participant incidents noted on the cheer report.
5. Scoring shall be an average of the cumulative, week to week scores and shall be calculated at least once every two weeks. At the end of each division's last regular season game the team in each division with the highest average sportsmanship score shall be declared the winner. Consolation, playoff, championship, and bowl games shall not count towards this award but score sheets for these games shall still be filled out and submitted to OEC.
 - a. A team may be disqualified for grossly poor behavior during any game during the season including consolation, playoff, championship, or bowl games regardless of the team's cumulative sportsmanship score.
6. In the case of a tie in cumulative sportsmanship scores at the end of the season, the following shall be used as tiebreaker criteria, in the order listed, until the tie is broken:
 - a. The team with the highest "overall sportsmanship" selection ratio. For example, five (5) selections for eight (8) games played equals .625.
 - b. The team with the highest cumulative average "sportsmanship" category scores
 - c. The team with the highest cumulative average "spectator behavior" category scores
 - d. Traditional single coin toss
7. To qualify for the award, a team must have a minimum of five (5) cards received or entered so that a realistic average may be determined. Teams with less than five (5) cards shall not be considered in the final sportsmanship award determination.

B. AWARDS

1. **9U** through Unlimited divisions are eligible for the sportsmanship award.

ARTICLE XI – MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The possession and/ or use of alcoholic beverages and/ or drugs shall be prohibited at all games and practices. Parents shall be notified of this in writing prior to their child participating in any team function. A copy of such notification shall be forwarded to OEC prior to any team practice.
2. All coaches, league staff, parents, members and spectators shall refrain from smoking, vaping or the use of tobacco/ cannabis of any kind on or around the playing field during practices or games.
3. Pop Warner players and cheerleaders shall not ride in the open bed portion of any vehicle.
4. OEC teams shall not play any conference that uses a cut by ability program. Those conferences outside OEC shall have to certify that they play a non-cut program.
5. OEC and league/ association officials, coaching staff coaching staff and team/cheer staff shall display, on their person a photo identification card/ ID badge.
6. Presidents are responsible to call their designated Deputy Commissioner no later than 12:00 PM on Sunday following the game to report any MPR violations or ejections. Reports of said violations are to be delivered in writing or email by 6:00 PM the Sunday following the game in question two said Deputy Commissioner.
7. All officials' fees for playoff games and Invitational games are to be paid by the two (2) participating associations.
8. Any association not turning their paperwork in on time shall have their voting rights suspended until the paperwork is turned in. Where extenuating circumstances exist, upon approval by the OEC Board of Commissioners, deadlines may be extended.
9. Any association that resorts to legal action against OEC will be put on immediate suspension pending the outcome of the lawsuit. The association filing the complaint will be held responsible for any and all costs incurred by OEC in answering the complaint or for fees incurred arbitrating said complaint.
10. Any policy and/ or procedures adopted by the presidents shall have the same full force and affect as these rules. However, said policies and procedures shall be subordinate to these rules.
11. Any team winning by a 36-point spread or greater, the head coach or acting head coach will be suspended for the next scheduled game and for one (1) week of practice preceding the game. If this happens during the playoffs or travel the suspension will be for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
12. All game ejections and or OEC suspensions are a \$250 fine and a minimum of one week and a game suspension. Any player ejected from the game who wishes to protest said ejection must file said protest by 6:00 PM on the Sunday following the game in question. Said protest proceeds shall adhere to the following:
 - a. A video of the game depicting the incident that was the cause of said ejection must accompany the protest.
 - b. A panel of no less than three (3) commissioners shall review the case and a simple majority vote of said panel shall decide the protest.
 - c. The ejection may only be overturned by clear and indisputable evidence that the ruling on the field was faulty.
 - d. The suspension of the player in question shall persist until such time as the review panel overturns the ruling on the field.

- e. A \$300 protest fee shall accompany any and all requests for an OEC ejection protest hearing protest fee will be in the form of cash, cashier's check or a league check. This fee is completely refundable should the petitioner/ requestor prevail on all points in the resulting protest hearing.
- 13. Postgame ejection penalty holds a \$250 fine and a minimum two (2) game suspension. Post-game is defined as the time period following a game in which the continuing presence of an official and the ejected party are at the same site.
- 14. ANY ejection or suspension from the start of playoffs/ bowl games through the end of the season hold a penalty of a \$250 fine and carry a minimum two (2) game suspension.
- 15. Convicted felons.
Convicted felons' persons that have been convicted of the felonies related to the following acts shall be barred from holding any positions in OEC or its membership associations:
 - a. Murder and or Attempted murder
 - b. Rape
 - c. Mayhem
 - d. Acts of terrorism
 - e. Acts related to child pornography.
 - f. Theft
 - g. Embezzlement and larceny
 - h. Registered sex offender
 - i. Acts of domestic violence
 - j. Any act against children
 - k. Felony conviction for sales of a controlled substance within the last 10 years
 - l. Trafficking of a controlled substance within the last 10 years
 - m. Any acts of conspiracy related to items a through K above.
- 16. Any person "barred" under items "F, G and I" above shall be entitled to a special hearing to contest such action based upon what are believed to be extenuating circumstances.
 - a. Any such hearing shall be chaired by the corporate commissioner and shall consist of at least three (3) association presidents and three (3) corporate officers selected by the corporate commissioner.
 - b. Reversal of any barred status shall be by a simple majority vote of the panel in attendance.
 - c. The corporate commissioner shall function as the panel chair and although he/ she may voice his/ her recommendations and opinions he/ she shall not vote except to break a tie.
- 17. Any persons and family members pertaining thereto, that is party to a legal action against the **conference** including its directors, officers, and agents (collectively "conference") shall be placed on suspension pending the outcome of said legal action. If the conference prevails in said action, said person and any family members pertaining thereto, may, at the conference is sole discretion:
 - a. Be permanently suspended.
 - b. Be suspended for a specific time frame.
 - c. Be placed on probation for a specific period.
 - d. Be fully reinstated.
 - e. Be subject to any other action deemed appropriate by the conference.If the said person prevails in said legal action, the said person shall be fully reinstated without penalty.
- 18. Any persons and family members pertaining thereto, that is party to a legal action against the **association** including its directors, officers, and agents (collectively "association") shall be placed on suspension pending

the outcome of said legal action. If the association prevails in said action, said person and any family members pertaining thereto, may, at the association's sole discretion:

- a. Be permanently suspended.
- b. Be suspended for a specific period.
- c. Be placed on probation for a specific period.
- d. Be fully reinstated.
- e. Be subject to any other action deemed appropriate by the conference.

If the said person prevails in said legal action, the said person shall be fully reinstated without penalty.

19. No association will be allowed to use practice fields or game fields outside of their boundaries that are listed in the OEC bylaws. Any association that must use practice fields or game fields outside their boundaries listed in the OEC bylaws, must get approval from the OEC commissioners before such scheduling is done. Such approval will take a majority vote of the OEC commissioners or on a special issue basis by the Corporate Commissioner, Chief Deputy Commissioner or Scheduling Commissioner.
20. Team staff, association staff and association board members must dispatch their duties in a fiduciary manner as propriety demands.
21. Any football player or cheerleader taken to a doctor or hospital from a practice, game or any Pop Warner function must get a doctor's release to return to "tackle football" or "competitive cheerleading" without any restrictions before the child is allowed to resume participation with his or her team.
22. NO Mobile or digital payment service(s) such as Venmo, cash app or Zelle team accounts are allowed. Mobile and or digital payment services will ONLY be allowed at the association level with board approval.

THE COACH'S ROLE: See National Rules

To remain consistent with the new National Pop Warner rules and regulations and to better ensure the safety of spirit participants, OEC feels that because of the intimate knowledge of national and OEC safety requirements by the spirit head coaches in our program it is necessary to better outline the role and responsibilities of the spirit head coach as well as the role and responsibilities of the head football coach regarding the interaction between the respective squads. OEC acknowledges the need for team unity, spirit, and pride. OEC also recognizes the definition of a team as consisting of both the football team and spirit squad. Considering this the following guidelines shall apply:

A. THE HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

1. The head football coach owns the ultimate and final responsibility and accountability for the team, his/ her own actions, the actions of his/ her assistant(s), staff, cheer team as well as spectators and parents.
2. He/ she is responsible for maintaining and assuring open lines of communication as well as staying abreast of developments between the football and cheer squads.
3. He/ she is responsible for and expected to support his head spirit coach in the general administration of the squad.
 - a. The head football coach shall not, except for valid safety and or rule enforcement purposes interfere with the head spirit coach in the performance of their duties as they are stated and or implied in both national and OEC rules. For example, determination of proper practice or game attire, selection of cheer or dance routine and/ or placements, selection of staff, practice, or warmup exercises etc.
4. Any conflicts between the head football coach and the head spirit coach should be brought to the attention of the association cheer coordinator. Should this fail to resolve the issue(s) it should be brought before the association's board of directors for resolution.
5. In support of the cheer squad, the head football coach is expected to attend and to encourage football players to support and attend all spirit competitions and events which his/ her team spirit squad is participating.

6. ALL Head Football coaches AND one (1) other rostered staff member ARE required to have a valid CPR AND First Aid certificate.
7. Ensure that the finances of the team benefit both football and cheer squad equitably.
8. Any team rostered staff member ejected from a game will be suspended for two (2) weeks and fined \$250. in addition, the head coach will also be fined \$250.

B. THE HEAD SPIRIT COACH

1. The head spirit coach oversees the general administration and operation of the spirit squad for which they have been assigned. In addition to all spirit squad head coach responsibilities currently outlined in the National, OEC, association rules and by-laws.
2. He/ she is responsible and accountable for the spirit squad, his/ her actions, the actions of his or her assistants, staff, spectators, and parents.
3. He/ she is responsible for maintaining and assuring open lines of communication between the spirit squad and the head football coach. The head football coach, as the person of ultimate responsibility and accountability MUST be kept abreast of all spirit squad developments both positive and negative. including but not limited to disciplinary actions, fund raising activities, certification status, practices etc.
4. He/ she shall keep the associations cheer coordinator always apprised of team status.
5. He/ she shall always observe safe practice rules and policies including practice, games, and competitions/ exhibitions.
6. He/ she shall determine practice session formats, enforce proper attire, cheer/ dance routines both competition and exhibition, determine disciplinary practices, prepare the squad for certifications, as well as regular squad administrative duties.
7. ALL Head Football coaches AND one (1) other rostered staff member ARE required to have a valid CPR AND First Aid certificate.
8. Remain aware of all the governing rules and regulations regarding spirit squad participation which are recognized by the association and the conference.
9. He/ she shall be responsible for the overall safety and well-being of the spirit squad over which they have been assigned with the ultimate emphasis being placed on the welfare of the children in his/ her charge.
10. Any decision relative to the participation of the cheer squad in cheer competitions/ exhibitions and the like shall reside with the local association board of directors.

D. REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATIONS TO CARRY INSURANCE

1. Association shall be required to carry the following insurance through oec or by separate purchase:
 - a. Errors and omissions, sometimes called board insurance, which includes coverage for at least \$1,000,000.
 - b. General liability insurance that includes coverage for at least \$1,000,000.
2. Proof of insurance must be on file with OEC within 30 days of coverage or renewal without exception.
3. Failure to comply with D.1 and 2 above will result in all association events to be cancelled until insurance is obtained and provided.

E. REQUIREMENT FOR OEC TO CARRY INSURANCE

1. OEC shall be required to carry the following insurances:
 - a. Errors in omissions which is sometimes called board insurance.
 - b. General liability coverage in the amount of at least \$2 million

- c. Secondary medical insurance for registered participants, both football and spirit.

F. REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE

Notwithstanding any requirements under the Americans with Disabilities act, it shall be the responsibility of participants and/or their parent/ guardian to provide for any special needs required by participants at all team, association, OEC, regional or National Pop Warner events. This includes but is not limited to the following (including a properly trained person to administer/ oversee/ attend to such needs:

- a. Administering any injections such as but not limited to insulin.
- b. Providing and administering medication
- c. Physical aid and guidance for the blind
- d. Interpreters for the hearing impaired
- e. Physical aid and guidance for the physically and mentally impaired or with diminished abilities
- f. Providing all equipment related to the special need.
- g. Travel costs
- h. All costs related to the special need.

Such provisions are a requirement for participant to participate in events.

TO ALL HEAD COACHES AND STAFF

1. Each head coach and staff are expected to read and understand all stated rules in this booklet as well as the regulations stated in the National Pop Warner rules and regulations handbook.
2. The foregoing “rule book” has been adopted and approved by the OEC association presidents.
3. The OEC rules are in addition to the National Pop Warner rules and regulations. When an OEC rule is more stringent than a national rule, the OEC rule shall take precedence. These rules are intended to make the game of football more competitive and enjoyable for all young people who wish to play within OEC.
4. This rule book has been prepared early in the season for ALL COACHES to understand the playing conditions and required rules that shall be enforced throughout the current season.
5. Any rostered staff member(s) that do not complete a Live Scan, OEC or association required paperwork or are discovered to be on the active suspension list will result in their team to forfeit all games such staff member (s) are associated with.

ARTICLE XII – OFFENSES, PENALTIES, DUE PROCESS/ HEARINGS & APPEALS

It is recommended that the following juvenile offenses and team/ association offenses paragraphs below be read to all football players and cheerleaders and a copy to be sent home to all parents/ guardians.

A. JUVENILE OFFENSES

1. Offenses

- a. Fighting, hitting, kicking, striking, or otherwise abusing opponents during a game or practice.
- b. Verbal or physical intimidation of opponents outside normal talk across the line (of a non-profane nature)
- c. Any act of disrespect for the team, association, conference authority, game officials or fans.

2. Penalties

1st Offense

- a. Immediate ejection from the game or practice/ scrimmage
- b. Suspended for the following one (1) week and one (1) game.
- c. the association shall be assessed a \$250 fine paid to OEC.

2nd Offense

- a. Immediate ejection from the game or practice/ scrimmage
- b. Suspended for the following one (1) calendar year.

All suspension fines will be places in the OEC travel fund. There will be no assessment to the association if said action happens at practice.

3. When a player is ejected from a game, the association president shall notify the OEC Deputy Commissioner in charge by phone with the players name and jersey number by 12:00 pm noon on Sunday.
4. Performing, exhibiting, or condoning any other act or behavior that in the opinion of OEC reflects in such a manner that is detrimental to the name and/ or reputation of the association, the conference (OEC) or the national organization.
5. Associations that suspend their own staff(s), coaches, parents or members due to internal policy violations that are NOT a result of National or OEC rules, violations, ejections etc., ARE NOT subject to the fines listed above.

B. TEAM/ ASSOCIATION/ ADULT OFFENSES

1. Fighting, Riot, Incitement to Riot: at games or scrimmages between different teams, any fight or riot between team members (As opposed to one-on-one altercations) shall be judged a team offense rather than an individual offense. An incitement to riot (which is defined as any team heckling or egging on of an opponent in a manner that may result in a fight or riot) shall result in forfeiture of the game upon the first offence and forfeiture of the season upon the second offense within the same season.
2. If any fights occur between teams. BOTH teams will be disqualified from participating in playoffs, post season Invitational games and traveling. The game will be considered a double forfeit. any subsequent fight involving either team will result in the immediate dissolution of that team. Team, for the purposes of this rule includes the players, cheerleaders, coaches, relatives, friends, and spectators. Fight, for the purpose of this rule does not include a single blow or punch by one individual but does include any exchange of blows, punches, kicks etc. By two or more individuals.
3. During any Pop Warner activity, or any prior or subsequent chain of events which may be related to any Pop Warner activity, any adult member, staff or spectator that makes an intentional malicious contact with a participant, field official, OEC official, association or team staff shall be immediately suspended indefinitely pending an investigation. If the investigation affirms the offense the participant shall be banned for life.
4. Performing, exhibiting, or condoning any other act or behavior that is the opinion of a simple majority vote of the OEC Board of Commissioners reflects in such a manner that endangers a child or is detrimental to the name and/ or reputation of the association, the conference, or the National organization may result in suspension and/ or forfeiture of the game, forfeiture of the season and or end of the team depending on the nature and severity of the violation.
5. Failure to keep the faith with the children:
 - a. Any adult or team that maliciously uses a child or children as a tool shall be subject to suspension and/ or dismissal.
 - b. Any adult or team that maliciously uses the equipment or documents of a child or children as a tool shall be subject to suspension and/ or dismissal.
 - c. Association boards, as a body and OEC shall be exempt from this rule.
6. Any person who commits any of the following acts at any place at any time, even if the act is committed while not in association with a Pop Warner activity, against either an officer of the conference (or any of their family) or an association president (or any of their family) shall be suspended for such term as determined appropriate by the conference but no less than one week:

- a. Threats of violence
- b. Physical violence
- c. Acts to defraud.
- d. Acts to terrorize and/ or intimidate.
- e. Acts that hinder, impede, or block the dispatching of the official duties of those protected in this section.
- f. Conspiring to any of the items noted in this section.

Said suspension referenced above may extend to the family members of the person committing the act if so, determined by the conference.

7. Any person that commits a fraud upon the conference or any association shall be subject to suspension for such terms as determined appropriate by the conference.

C. SUSPENSIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

1. These suspension rules also apply to all head coaches, staff, assistant coaches, association members and any person attending any Pop Warner event. The first offense for any rule violation that warrants suspension, unless otherwise specified, in any national or OEC rule, shall be suspended for the next scheduled game and for one (1) week of practice proceeding the game. Any person who is suspended shall be barred from attending any team activities, association activity, practice or games involving his or her team during the term of the suspension.
2. The second violation of the same rule or a violation of any other rule that warrant suspension, shall result in suspension for a period of one (1) year commencing on the date of the suspension.
3. Under the OEC recognized definition of suspension, unless specifically stated otherwise in the terms of these suspension, suspended person(s) Coach, participant, staff, board member, parent, guardian etc. shall be barred from attending any practice, game, team function, or association function during the term of the suspension.
4. Hearings and appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the Pop Warner administrative manual and the section entitled "hearings and appeals" below.
5. Any penalty imposed during the season may be carried over to the following season(s). if you should have any questions regarding these rules contact your association president for clarification.
6. Due to situations that may arise within the scope of the administration of these rules and regulations, national rules and regulations and any other rules and regulations and or standard of behavior recognized by OEC, it may become necessary for the organization to levy administrative penalties at the discretion of the majority of the OEC Board of Commissioners. These penalties may include censures, probations, suspensions, fines etc. Depending on the nature and severity of the violations/ behavior.
7. If any person deliberately and flagrantly violates these rules, that person shall be suspended, if an OEC investigation so warrants. However, nothing shall preclude the association president of the team charged or a commissioner with personal knowledge of the incident to issue a summary suspension pending the outcome of the investigation.

D. PENALTIES

1. Many of the rules defined within this booklet also include clearly stated penalties for their violations within the stated rule, some do not. It is important to note those rules that do include said penalties.
2. The head football coach of the team is the ultimate responsible party for the actions of his or her staff, team, individual players, and spectators. In many instances because of the nature of this responsibility, rule violations though not accredited to the direct action of the head coach, may result in his or her suspension.
3. All suspensions will include a \$250 fine that shall be assessed to the association. All suspension fines will be put into the OEC travel fund.

4. Depending upon the nature of the violation the suspension may include forfeiture of a game(s).
5. Violation of these terms of suspension shall result in a continued one (1) year suspension and depending upon the severity of the violation maybe cause for the cancellation of current membership or denial of future membership.
6. Depending upon the nature of the rule violation, a suspension term may be imposed beyond one year up to including a lifetime suspension.

E. HEARINGS AND APPEALS

The orange empire conference recognizes the need for resolving inequities among its members, associations, staff, and other persons with “standing” within the conference as well as the need for “due process” when disciplinary actions are involved. It is not the intent of OEC to render judgment or to interfere in each association’s right to police and enforce its own rules and regulations. The intent of this section in the rules is to afford the membership the rights of an appeal/ protest for association level as well as conference level actions that may be perceived as inequitable and to ensure that the members rights under association rules, OEC rules, and national rules have been upheld.

This section is written to provide an Ave for these situations in an equitable, speedy, and fair manner. This section is divided into five (5) subsections: 1. general, 2. administrative, 3. disciplinary, 4. miscellaneous and 5. game protests.

Please note each of these sections provide for time constraints for specific actions to occur which if violated may disallow any further actions. The time frames specified are thought to be of a “reasonable” nature to allow for sufficient “due process” under varying conditions. However, OEC recognizes that there will inevitably be occurrences whereby disallowing subsequent action(s) due to the passing of these specified times, the result would be a gross injustice and/ or deviation of the intent of this section. In such cases, and upon the majority vote of OEC Commissioners, the timeframes specified in the section below may be waived and further action may still be allowed.

Appeals to OEC for actions issued by associations shall generally be limited to a review of the following:

- a. Whether or not an association followed the applicable rules and laws
- b. Whether or not the parties have standing
- c. Whether or not anyone who passed on judicially the case should have recused/ removed themselves
- d. Whether or not the association had authority

Said appeals are not a form to retry the case but rather a venue to ensure proper due process was provided. Note that this shall not diminish OEC’s oversite as provided by the National Pop Warner rules, National Pop Warner administrative guide or OEC by-laws.

The outcome of an appeal for actions issued by an association can be one of the following:

1. The association(s) action was upheld affirmed.
 - a. In this case the action taken by the association persists
 - b. In rare cases the action taken by the association can be affirmed but modified by the OEC tribunal
 - c. No protest fees whatsoever shall be returned (no prorated return of protest fees shall be allowed)
2. The association action is overturned.
 - a. In this case the action taken by the association is now invalid
 - b. Protest fees shall be returned in their entirety.
3. The case is remanded back to the association for further action after clarification.
 - a. In this case a clarification of a rule or rules is provided to the association and the association will be directed to rehear the case considering the clarification. The action of the association will persist until the new association hearing/ appeal is adjudicated.
 - b. Protest fees shall be returned in their entirety.
4. The case is turned down without prejudice.

- a. In this case the tribunal did not rule on the case and Action of the association persists but the person who brought the appeal may resubmit the case at a future time. Often this happens because the case is not “ripe.” That is, there is a potential for an appeal but the situation that would allow for that appeal has not yet happened.
- b. Protest fees shall be returned in their entirety.
- 5. The case is turned down with prejudice.
 - a. In this case the tribunal did not rule on the case and will not rule on it in the future. The action of the association persists.
 - b. No protest fees whatsoever shall be returned (no prorated return of protest fees shall be allowed).

1. GENERAL

- a. OEC Shall appoint a rotating tribunal committee consisting of three panels of presidents to be appointed annually. The first panel shall serve from January 1st until August 31st, the second panel shall serve during the month of September and October and the final panel for the balance of the year.
- b. A \$300 tribunal or protest fee shall accompany all requests for an OEC tribunal except where stated otherwise within these rules. Payment shall be in the form of cash, cashier's check, or a league check. This fee is completely refundable should the petitioner/ requester prevail in the resulting tribunal.
- c. The chairman of the OEC tribunal committee shall be the Chief Deputy Commissioner. All tribunal requests shall ultimately be directed to the tribunal committee chairmen for review and scheduling.
- d. Prior to the scheduling of the tribunal the chairman shall review the request to determine its validity (requestors standing, timeliness of the request, appropriateness of the request, necessary fees submitted etc.) The tribunal chairperson may request additional information that he feels necessary to assist in determining the validity of the request. Any request(s) found to be invalid shall be returned to the requester without prejudice.
- e. The chairman's determination of validity may only be overturned by petition to the Corporate Commissioner. Such petitions must be presented to the Corporate Commissioner, in written form within forty-eight (48) hours of the chairman's initial determination.
- f. The chairman shall appoint a minimum of three (3) presidents to conduct any required hearing. Should the chairman have difficulty securing three (3) presidents from the current panel to conduct a tribunal, the chairman may elect to appoint presidents or OEC Commissioners, in such quantities as to fulfill the tribunal requirements. Such appointees shall have full voting rights during the tribunal.
- g. In addition to the preceding the tribunal committee chairman shall act as the “chair” of all tribunals* and as such shall act as an adviser to the members thereof. However, said chair shall vote only in the case of a tie. * This shall be subject to the oversight of the corporation commissioner. The corporation commissioner shall have the authority to declare an alternate OEC Commissioner as the chair of any given tribunal should the OEC commissioner believe it is in the best interest of the organization.
- h. Upon ruling of the tribunal committee, the chairman shall complete a presidential tribunal hearing/appeal report. said report shall be made part of the minutes of the next regularly scheduled OEC meeting. Additionally, a copy of said report shall be mailed to the defendant and/ or plaintiff of the complaint in a timely manner.
- i. Failure of any association to render judgment and/ or disciplinary action in a timely manner may result in OEC taking appropriate action.
- j. There is a Statute of limitations of thirty (30) days to submit a complaint or is it in writing to OEC. After thirty (30) days it will take a majority vote of commissioners to address any complaint or incident.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

This section is NOT intended to address appeals to disciplinary actions.

At times, events occur either at the association level or at the conference level that are considered by some to be inequitable. An example of such administrative inequities would be where either an association or OEC acts in a manner that is contrary to either its own by-laws, documented policies & procedures, National rules, OEC rules, Federal, State, local laws or codes etc. It is recognized by OEC that some associations by-laws or procedures provide for an appeal process for these types of administrative actions and in those cases the associations own by-laws are procedures take precedence as long as they are sufficient.

The purpose of this section is to provide an avenue for appeal of such actions when the association does not provide for this process or in the opinion of OEC the provided process is not sufficient.

1. For appeals resulting from an association level action, items a, b, c, d and e are required regardless of if addressed in the association documents.

- a. A notice must be presented to those statement quest for appeal/ protest with specific details of the protests along with references of the specific policy, by law or rules thought to be violated. No appellate action will be considered by OEC until the originator(s) have first formally presented the association the opportunity to consider the appeal/ protest action.
- b. This notice must be presented to see no later than five (5) working days from the occurrence of the event.
- c. The association shall address the allegations in the notice of appeal/ protest at the next regular scheduled board meeting that is scheduled to occur at least 10 days following the receipt of the notice.
- d. The association these are appeal/ protest either in public or closed session.
- e. The association may or may not allow or require testimony from the originator(s) or other witness's dependent upon their own internal procedures.
- f. The record of the deliberations shall be included in the board meeting minutes.
- g. Following the association's board consideration of the appeal/ protest, a written reply sufficient to address the points raised must be sent to the originator no later than five (5) working days from the date of the board's disposition.
- h. Should the association board's decision/ disposition not satisfy the originator(s) protest/ appeal and the originator(s) wish to elevate the issue to the next level, the originator(s) may file an appeal to OEC with a request for a tribunal to be conducted.
- i. Any appeal to OEC must be filed within five (5) days from the receipt of the association board's disposition and eight presented to any OEC corporate officer within that time frame.
- j. Once presented to OEC, the process for conducting a tribunal is outlined in Section 1 above shall be initiated. Initial determination of validity of the request shall be performed within five (5) working days from the receipt of request. If the chairman deems that additional information is required, this five (5) day, time frame may be extended from the time that all requested information is received.
- k. Once an appeal action has been determined as "valid", the tribunal committee chairman shall schedule the tribunal to occur no later than ten (10) working days from said determination.

2. For appeals resulting from an OEC action

- a. Individual association members or associations themselves, wishing to file a protest/ appeal with OEC because of an OEC action must direct the protest through their association president. Only association presidents may present these tribunal requests to OEC.
- b. Notice must be presented to OEC by the association president with a written request for tribunal with specific details of the protest/ appeal along with references of the specific policy, by-law or rule etc. thought to be violated. No appellate action will be considered by OEC without such written notice.

- c. This notice must be presented to an OEC corporate officer no later than five (5) working days from the occurrence of the event that triggered the request.
- d. Once presented to OEC, the process for conducting a tribunal as outlined above shall be initiated. Initial determination of validity of the request shall be performed within five (5) working days from receipt of the request. If the chairman deems that additional information, this five-day time frame may be exited from the time that all requested information is received.
- e. Once an appeal action has been determined as "valid", the tribunal committee chairman shall schedule the tribunal to occur no later than ten (10) working days from said determination.

3. DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

Each association within OEC has the right and authority to enforce all rules within its own organization in accordance with the rules and guidelines established by its own bylaws, written policies and procedures and manuals. Each association also has the authority to impose any penalties it deems necessary after the violator has been afforded due process of their rules.

Any individual member, football coaches, spirit coach, parent, staff etc. that has been subject to disciplinary action, either at the association level or at the OEC level shall have the right to appeal in the name of due process.

Part of this includes the right to a speedy hearing in as much as the action taken may have detrimental effects on an individual, teams, or the program. Any individual named in the action has the right to waive their right to a speedy hearing if they feel that it is necessary to gather evidence in their own defense. However, since this option is at the appellant's request, any disciplinary action will stand until such hearing is held.

1. A conference level appeal/ protest for a disciplinary action at the association level

- a. Any individual, member, football coach, spirit coach, parent, staff, participant etc. That has been subject to disciplinary action at the association level and wishes to appeal said association disciplinary action to OEC must FIRST file a timely written appeal to the association as provided for in the associations documented bylaws, rules, policies, and procedures etc. The written appeal must include a detailed description of the individual's point(s) showing the basis for the appeal. Should an association's rules, by-laws, policies, procedures, or manuals not provide for such an appeal action or if an association's rules specifically bar such appeal actions this does NOT preclude this first step in the process from being required by OEC. In cases where the association's rules do not provide for appeal process or if an association rules specifically bar appeals of this type, the association is only required to receive the written notice, review, and formally reply in writing to the appellant that the appeal is denied along with the reasoning behind such denial.
- b. After an association member has appealed to his own association and has received what they believed to be an unsatisfactory reply to that appeal and they have exhausted all association level options open to them, they may appeal to OEC. The appealing member shall notify OEC of their wish to appeal further within twenty-four (24) hours of their associations final disposition. This notification may be verbal.
- c. A written request for a tribunal must be delivered two OEC within twenty-four (24) hours from the initial notification (as in b above). The total time from the association's response to written receipt by OEC is forty-eight (48) hours.

- d. The written request shall include a detailed description of the individual's point of the basis for the appeal. OEC shall then turn the appeal over to the chairperson of the tribunal committee for processing.
- e. The tribunal chairperson will then follow the procedure defined above.
- f. Once an appeal action has been determined as "valid", the tribunal chairman shall endeavor to schedule the tribunal within seven (7) days.
- g. If a suspension has been imposed and a tribunal cannot be coordinated within seven (7) days of OEC's receipt of a written appeal, the following shall go into effect.
- 1. The chairman shall contact a minimum of three (3) presidents currently serving on the committee and apprise them of the complaint and statement of appeal.
- 2. Said presidents shall be polled by the chairman as to whether the suspension should be "stayed" until the tribunal committee can be convened. A simple majority affirmative vote of the contacted members shall "stay" the suspension. However, "timed served" may or may not be applied against any affirmation of suspension should the original suspension be upheld.

2. Appeals/ protests of conference level disciplinary actions

- a. Individual association members wishing to file a protest with OEC because of an OEC action must direct the protest through their association president. Only association presidents may present these tribunal requests to OEC.
 - b. Notice must be presented to at least association president with a written request for a tribunal with specific details of the protest/ appeal along with references of the specific policy, by-law, rule etc. thought to be violated. No appellate action will be considered by OEC without such written notice.
 - c. This notice must be presented to an OEC corporate officer no later than forty-eight (48) hours from the occurrence of the event that triggered the request.
 - d. Once presented to OEC, the process for conducting a tribunal as outlined above shall be initiated. Initial determination of validity of the request shall be performed within twenty-four (24) hours from the receipt of the request.
 - e. Once an appeal action has been determined as "valid", the tribunal committee chairman shall schedule the tribunal to occur within seven (7) days from said determination.
 - f. If a suspension has been imposed and a tribunal cannot be coordinated within seven (7) days of OEC's receipt of a written appeal, the following shall go into effect.
 - 1. The chairman shall contact a minimum of three (3) presidents currently serving on the committee and apprise them of the complaint and statement of appeal.
 - 2. Said presidents shall be polled by the chairman as to whether the suspension should be "stayed" until the tribunal committee can be convened. A simple majority affirmative vote of the contacted members shall "stay" the suspension. However, "timed served" may or may not be applied against any affirmation of suspension should the original suspension be upheld.
3. All associations within OEC and OEC itself shall honor disciplinary actions of any other association against players, adults, and coaches once all appeals are final or have been effectively waived. Actions issued that suspend only from association activities are excluded from this section.
4. Upon finalization of any suspension or other disciplinary action, either because of the disciplined members exhaustion of all avenues of the appeal process and/ or through the disciplined member's default acceptance of the suspension by failure to initiate an appellate action in a timely manner, the only option for reversing, reducing, or lessening the severity of the terms of the disciplinary action is through a special OEC tribunal.

- a. This special OEC tribunal can only be requested by the current board of the association that imposed the original disciplinary action. If the original disciplinary action was an initiated by OEC then the request from an OEC officer, affirmed by a simple majority vote of the OEC Board of Commissioners can initiate a special oh OEC tribunal.
- b. The request cannot be made by an individual person/ member.
- c. These requests can only be submitted by the originating association's president or an OEC officer. All such requests must be made in writing to the OEC secretary.
- d. The request may only be sent to a special tribunal upon a simple majority vote of the OEC Board of Commissioners after reviewing the request and the circumstances lending to the request. The OEC Board of Commissioners may request further documentation as they deem appropriate for review, prior to considering any special tribunal. OEC is under no obligation to grant any special tribunal.
- e. The results of any special OEC tribunal shall be reported as stated above.

5. Continuity of Disciplinary Actions

- a. Resignation, termination, or suspension of membership after the initiation of any disciplinary action(s) does not relieve those members obligation to honor the terms of said disciplinary action(s).
- b. During the term of a disciplinary action(s), any subsequent rule violation(s) or violation of the terms of the disciplinary action(s) will subject the (ex) member to further action as deemed appropriate by a simple majority vote of the OECD Board of Commissioners. For example, extending the time of suspension, censure, lifetime ban etc.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is not the purpose of OEC tribunals to completely re-investigate and re-consider the “finding of fact” that has or should have already been performed. The purpose of OEC tribunals is to determine if the appellant has been afforded proper due process based upon association, conference and National level rules, policies, procedures, manuals etc., however, this does not preclude such actions should it be deemed necessary.
- b. The findings and determinations of any official tribunal shall be final. No considerations for further appeal will be recognized by OEC unless directed to do so by higher authority. These findings may not be reversed or altered by any single corporate officer except by a 2/3 majority vote of a quorum of the board of presidents.
- c. Tribunals/ hearings related to Article XI; item 15 “Convicted Felon” rules are addressed in that section. The tribunal/ protest fee addressed in item 1b above also applies to those proceedings.

5. GAME PROTESTS

- a. All applicable protest fees apply and must accompany any game protest to be considered by OEC.
- b. Unlike previously described tribunals, game protest consideration shall be performed by a panel of at least five (5) OEC corporate officers including the tribunal chairman. The Tribunal chairman shall be empowered to vote in these deliberations.
- c. Game protests may only be presented and will only be considered based upon, participant eligibility, violation(s) of OEC or National rules that specifically list game forfeiture as a possible

- penalty for violation or flagrant violation(s) and/ or disregard of OEC or National rules where, in the opinion of OEC, the magnitude of the violation warrants immediate remedial action.
- d. NO GAME PROTESTS WILL BE HEARD OR CONSIDERED BASED UPON REFREE'S DECISIONS, ERRORS, OMISSIONS, INCORRECT CALLS OR INTERPRETATION OF PLAYING RULES, CONDUCT ETC.
 - e. All game protests MUST be brought to the association president's attention immediately following the game, along with a game protest report and a copy of the MPR form. Game protest reports must contain a complete and comprehensive report of the violation claimed, including eligibility issues, supporting facts, a list of all collaborating witnesses and pertinent evidence.
 - f. ONLY association presidents may notify OEC Corporate Commissioner of pending game protest.
 - g. Association presidents MUST notify OEC Corporate Commissioner of the pending game protests within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the game in question.
 - h. The only remedy for a game protest that will be considered by OEC is NFHS rule "Resolving tied games", replay of game or game forfeiture.

SECTION II

ARTICLE 1 – THE FIELD

- 1. The goal posts must be padded. Fields must be roped off unless the game is played in a stadium or other configuration where participants are clearly separated from observers. Opened fields must also provide a separate roped off area exclusively for spirit team participation. This area must be large enough to accommodate a maximum team size of 35 participants. The cheer box location will be between the 25- yard line to the goal line on either side of the coach's box.
- 2. When teams are playing at a field with only one goal post, all extra point attempts whether by kick or any other method shall be conducted at the end zone with the goal post.
- 3. No electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones, pagers, iPad, e-readers or go pros shall be allowed on the sideline during games except for OEC officials, photographers/ videographers only.
- 4. The bench is reserved for players, coaches, and team staff only. The sideline areas are reserved for the game physician and the chain crew with the balance of the sidelines kept clear except for the presence of medical or law enforcement personnel and authorized members of the press.
- 5. Team Photographers/ Videographers
 - a. Each team shall be authorized to have two (2) team photographers/ videographers who are authorized to be on their team's sidelines, only in the areas between the twenty-five (25) yard line and the back corner of the end zone, on either end of the field. They are not allowed in the "coaches box".
 - b. These two (2) photographers/ videographers are NOT counted as part of the maximum 10 person staff as described by National rules.
 - c. Team photographers/ videographers shall not photograph from any area along the back line of any end zone when within the boundaries of the roped off areas, the roped off and/ or secured areas.
 - d. Team photographers/ videographers must display a team ID card identifying them as approved team staff members by their leagues.
 - e. All photography equipment on the sidelines must be of the handheld or mono pod type only. For example, no booms, carts, tripods etc.
- 6. Canopies, EZ Ups etc., shall not be allowed within fifteen (15) feet or five (5) yards of the playing field.

ARTICLE II – EQUIPMENT

1. A player shall wear tennis shoes or cleats. If cleats are worn, they must conform to National Pop Warner requirements.
2. No individual player or team awards shall be allowed on the helmets.
3. Hard or soft cups with athletic supporters must be worn. An athletic supporter must be made to hold the cup in place.
4. If worn attached to the helmet an eye shield is illegal unless it is constructed of a molded rigid material that is clear and permits 100% allowable light transmission. No tint is allowed. See NFHS rule book.
5. Player jersey numbers do not have to match the national high school federation rulebook positions.
6. Little Scholar patches may be worn on uniforms. Pop Warner patches are required on all football jerseys and cheer uniforms by August 1st of each year.
7. Player jerseys shall not be altered in any way. If jerseys extend below the top of the pants, they must be tucked in.
8. Skull caps are allowed if they are plain with no other writing other than the manufacturers logo.
9. No sponsorship information may be displayed any area of the uniform.
10. Numbers on jerseys shall be a solid color on the interior of the numbers and said color shall be of a color and nature that is distinctly different from that of the base color of the jersey. Such jersey numbers may have an outline color, but such outline must be of a color and nature that is distinctly different from that of the base color of the jersey.
11. Helmets shall go through a recertification process every other year as recommended by the industry. Such recertification shall be performed by a reputable vendor.
12. Optional rib pads, back pads etc. That are attached to and hang from existing equipment must remain underneath and kept covered by the jersey at all times.
13. Game jerseys – See Current NFHS Rule Book

ARTICLE III – SCOUTING

Scouting football games is permitted in the form of videotape, film and/ or written reports anywhere outside the boundaries of the playing field as defined by the association this includes end zones.

Scouting is only permitted during a game situation scouting any type of practice or scrimmage is prohibited, a scrimmage is considered a practice, see National Pop Warner rulebook.

ARTICLE IV – PRE-GAME WEIGH-INS/ TEAM CHECK IN

1. Team weigh in/ team check in shall begin at least 1/2 hour before game time. any player arriving by game time shall be weighed in prior to the beginning of the game. Any player who fails to make weight at the pre-game weigh in shall be ineligible to play in that game. Any player arriving after game time and after weigh ins have been completed may weigh in at halftime. Any player weighing in at halftime shall be required to participate in 1/2 of the mandatory plays for that game during the second half. Unlimited divisions do not require weigh ins however players and players certified paperwork must be verified at the weigh in area. The same mandatory play rules apply to all divisions.
2. All weigh ins/team check in whether pre-game or halftime shall be conducted by an association board member or conference commissioner only. No coaches or anyone affiliated directly or indirectly can conduct such weigh ins, i.e., rostered staff or parents. Board members who are coaches and not directly or indirectly affiliated with the team may conduct weigh ins.
3. The only staff member allowed to weigh ins shall be the player administrator or whoever is doing the mandatory play rule form.

4. No team shall be allowed to weigh in without a certified roster, contract book and the mandatory form (MPR) filled out in numerical jersey order.
5. The certified rosters may be reviewed prior to weigh ins by the opposing team.
6. The mandatory play rule form shall be given to the weighmaster prior to weigh Ins. after weigh ins the signed MPR forms verifying that all players meet the required weight will be given back to the player administrators.
7. Equipment at weigh ins
 - a. helmets shall be checked for a warning label in a visible position on the outside of the helmet, NOCSEA markings and mouthpieces attached to the face mask or chinstrap, except for players with braces.
 - b. Hard or soft cups with athletic supporters designed to hold the cup in place.
 - c. Optional pads and equipment may be removed before weigh ins. optional pads and equipment shall be put on in front of the weighmaster.
 - d. Any player who changes required equipment before kickoff shall be re weighed.
 - e. Any equipment changed after kickoff without the approval of the weighmaster or association official in charge of the field, shall cause the player involved and the head coach or coaches to be ejected. Such ejections shall be considered a rule violation subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.
8. Once weigh ins are complete, or at halftime, no player shall leave the playing/ warm up area without a representative of the opposing team, OEC Commissioner or local board member(s).
9. All home fields are required to have a certified digital scale for weigh ins beginning the year 2007.
10. The weighmaster is to verify that each team's contract book is present at weigh Inns. Wayne will be done a minimum 1/2 hour prior to game time. The player ID card book is to be used at weigh ins to verify the picture matches the player. A signed certified roster is required in every player ID card book. the teams contract book is still required to be onsite at all practices, games, competitions as well as any Pop Warner or non-Pop Warner sanctioned event.

ARTICLE V – PLAYING RULES

SEE NATIONAL RULES – INCLUDING MANDATORY ACTIONS TO PREVENT RUNNING UP THE SCORE

1. Once the 28-point rule is in effect the linebackers that are on both teams will line up five (5) yards from the line of scrimmage.
2. Onside kicks are legal. The exception is a “beehive/ bunch/ mob kicks.” It is a rule violation if the kicking team’s formation is a “beehive/ bunch/ mob kicks” formation, identified as 6 or more in a huddle in the middle of the field at the moment the ball is kicked, and the kick is a slow roller on the ground immediately in front of the “beehive/ bunch/ mob kicks” formation. Kick will be blown dead by the officials/ referees.

ARTICLE VI – MANDATORY PLAY RULE (MPR)

A. GENTERAL REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: Violation of the Mandatory Play Rule will result in game forfeiture and Head Coach suspension!!

1. The head coach or any assistant coach who replaces the head coach during a game for any reason is responsible for compliance with this rule.
 - a. Each head coach is responsible to turn in to the association president, game reports and signed mandatory play rule forms received from each game at the END OF EACH GAME DAY.
 - b. If signed MPR forms, including the team's original and the opponent's copy and game reports are not turned in this shall be considered a rule violation subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.

- c. The game report form shall show the result of the game, list all players who did not play because they were injured or disciplined prior to the game, a list of any player(s) that failed to play his/ her minimum plays and a list of any player(s) and/ or staff member(s) ejected from the game.
 - d. The association president is responsible to call in all reports of minimum play violations or any ejection on Sunday after the game to the responsible Deputy Commissioner and email a copy of the form to said Deputy Commissioner by Monday.
2. Each association shall also have the responsibility to implement, police and enforce this rule.
 3. A “sliding scale mandatory play rule” shall be mandatory for 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U divisions.

Number of players	16-25	26-30	31-35
Mandatory plays	10	8	6

Kick offs, kickoff returns, and PAT's DO NOT count toward the MPR.
Punts **DO** count toward MPR for ALL divisions of play.

4. If a player does not play the minimum number of plays in each game, he/ she shell played twice the minimum number of plays in the following schedule game. Any player meeting more than the mandatory number of required plays shall be listed on the bottom of the MPR form. Since this infraction shall result in the suspension of the head coach or his/ her staff The following will occur.
 - a. ADDITIONAL PLAYS shall be held over and shall be the responsibility of the new or temporary head coach to implement at the next scheduled game.
 - b. The new head coach and the opposing head coach shall be advised by OEC, in writing, of the players who are to receive their additional plays.
5. Players who are under "DISIPLINARY ACTION" or who are listed as "INJURED" and such classifications are Falsified shall play twice the minimum number of plays in the following scheduled game.
 - a. Head coaches or staff members found guilty of this infraction shall be disciplined according to the penalties associated with violating the mandatory play rules.
6. Association presidents or their representatives shall be notified prior to the weeks game of all players who will not play due to disciplinary action or injury. All players who do not participate for any reason shall turn their jerseys inside out.
7. Any coach not playing all his/ her players during the regular season when it has an impact on the playoffs shall be suspended for one (1) calendar year.
8. Any visiting teams outside of OEC shall be advised of the mandatory play rule that OEC teams follow. They shall advise OEC teams of the MPR which they follow.
9. Any roster changes made after certifications shall be coordinated with the commissioner or Chief Deputy Commissioner and the associations involved prior to the game.
10. If a player, coach, or member of the staff is ejected from the game, the home field president or designee must notify OEC within twenty-four (24) hours. Ejection of the head coach or any member of his staff is considered a rule violation subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.

C. PLAYER ADMINISTRATOR AND ENFORCEMENT OF MPR

1. The team Player Administrator, PA/ Team Manager must attend the OEC Player Administrator clinic, The PA/ Team Manager is expected to train anyone who will act as the PA during the season. Only persons trained by the PA/ Team Manager or who have attended the OEC training should act as the PA. If the rostered PA/ Team Manager is present at a game that person must act as the PA for that game.

2. ENFORCEMENT: Each team shall have one (1) staff member designated as player administrator. He/ she shall be authorized to enforce the mandatory play rule. Each team shall also designate a spotter to work with the opposing team's player administrator. The spotter shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
3. DUTIES of the designated PLAYER ADMINISTRATOR
 - a. Verify mandatory plays per player of opposing team on the MPR form.
 - b. Be prepared, always to provide the head coach with the number of plays each player has completed.
 - c. Sign the mandatory play form prior to turning in the forms in at the end of each game.
 - d. Each team is required to turn in their original (white) MPR, and the opposing teams copy (pink) MPR to their association president.
 - e. The yellow copy of the MPR shall stay with the team for their records.
 - f. The signing of the MPR form before the games is considered a rule violation, subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.
 - g. The player administrator for the visiting team and the home team spotter shall work together and station themselves on the home team side of the field for the entire game or until such time as all players have met the mandatory play requirements. Similarly, the player administrator for the home team and the visiting team's spotter shall work together and station themselves on the visiting team's side of the field. The player administrators and spotters may not, however, station themselves anywhere between the thirty (30) yard line markers or anywhere on the playing field.
 - h. At the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter, a free time out of sufficient length shall be taken for the player administrators and head coaches to meet with a home field official to review the MPR forms. Any players that have not fulfilled their minimum number of plays at the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter MUST immediately and without delay be placed into the game and stay in the game until their minimum number of plays has been fulfilled, regardless of their normal position and regardless of whether they are normally offensive or defensive players (even for kick-offs, kick-off returns and PAT's though they do not count towards a player's minimum number of plays).
 - i. ANY ejected from the game must be clearly noted on the MPR form.
 - j. The MPR shall apply to all games; pre-season, in-season and post-season.

C. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE MANDATORY PLAY RULES

STATEMENT: Head Coaches acknowledge the MPR

1. The first offense shall be considered a rule violation subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.
In addition, pursuant to the National rules, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by the violating team.
2. In addition to the penalties prescribed in these rules, on the second offense, the coach shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

ARTICLE VII – 8U AND 9U Rules

NOTE: THE RULES ARE EXCLUSIVE TO 8U AND 9U DIVISIONS. ANY RULES NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY PUBLISHED OEC AND/ OR NATIONAL RULES.

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS/ RULES FOR 8U

1. Scores are to be reported weekly on the OEC website for posting with the official standings.
2. For purposes of monitoring the lopsided score, 8U scores shall be posted on the scoreboard.
3. The junior OR pee wee size ball of any approved manufacture shall be used for all 8U games. The receiving team shall “receive” their own ball upon request.

4. Special teams are permitted for PAT's. No special teams are permitted for punts and punt returns. There are no kick-offs. The ball shall be placed at the thirty-five (35) yard line and at any time when the kick-off would occur.
 5. The sliding scale for the mandatory number of plays for the **8U** division are as follows:
- | Number of players | 16-25 | 26-35 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Mandatory plays | 15 | 10 |
| Minimum Offensive Plays | 7 | 4 |
| Minimum Defensive Plays | 7 | 4 |
- Kick offs, kickoff returns, and PAT's DO NOT count toward the MPR.
Punts **DO** count toward MPR.
6. A maximum of one (1) coach per team shall be allowed on the playing field during the game. When the lines are set, coaches shall station themselves a minimum of five (5) yards behind the deepest player. Once both teams line up on the ball, no players shall be moved physically by coaches and coaches shall not yell instructions as to where the play is going. In the event of a violation, the team will receive a ten (10) yard penalty.
 7. **8U** games shall be played on a one hundred (100) by fifty-three (53) yard field.
 8. Lopsided/ intentionally running up scores applies to **8U** as governed by National Pop Warner rules.
 9. **8U** is eligible for post season travel.
 10. Unless otherwise specially state, all playing rules of OEC shall also apply.
 11. Violations of any of the above rules will result in a minimum two (2) week suspension of the head coach. This violation also includes a \$250 fine.

B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS/ RULES FOR **9U**

1. Scores are to be reported weekly on the OEC website for posting with the official standings.
 2. For purposes of monitoring the lopsided score rules the **9U** scores shall be posted on the scoreboard.
 3. The junior OR pee wee size ball of any approved manufacture shall be used for all **9U** games. The receiving team shall "receive" their own ball upon request.
 4. Special teams are permitted for PAT's. No special teams are permitted for punts and punt returns. There are no kick-offs. The ball shall be placed at the thirty-five (35) yard line and at any time when the kick-off would occur.
 5. The sliding scale for the mandatory number of plays for the **9U** division are as follows:
- | Number of players | 16-25 | 26-35 | 31-35 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mandatory plays | 12 | 10 | 8 |
- Kick offs, kickoff returns, and PAT's DO NOT count toward the MPR.
Punts DO count toward MPR.
6. A maximum of one (1) coach per team shall be allowed on the playing field during the game. When the lines are set, coaches shall station themselves a minimum of five (5) yards behind the deepest player so as not to interfere with the play. Once both teams line up on the ball, no players shall be moved physically by coaches and coaches shall not yell instructions as to where the play is going. In the event of a violation, the team will receive a ten (10) yard penalty.
 7. **9U** games shall be played on a one hundred (100) by fifty-three (53) yard field.
 8. Lopsided/ intentionally running up scores applies to **9U** as governed by National Pop Warner rules.
 9. **9U** is eligible for post season travel.
 10. Unless otherwise specially state, all playing rules of OEC shall also apply.
 11. Violations of any of the above rules will result in a minimum two (2) week suspension of the head coach. This violation also includes a \$250 fine.

ARTICLE VII – TINY MITE RULES

- 1. Players – Maximum 28, Minimum 16**
 2. Weights – 5 – 6 years 35-80 lbs.; 7 years 35-60 lbs.
 3. Tiny Mite games shall be played on an eighty (80) yard field.
 4. Two coaches from each team are permitted to be on the field with the team. Once the team breaks from the huddle, coaches must stay back ten (10) yards from the line of scrimmage.
 5. If associations have more than one team, age groups must be equally distributed across team rosters. If one team, associations cannot stack by age group.
 6. No kick offs at the start of the game, the ball will be placed on the thirty (30) yard line.
 7. No punting is allowed. On the 4th down, a team has the option of
 - a. Running or passing the ball from scrimmage
 - b. Move the ball back to the opponents thirty (30) yard line and start offensive play from there.
 8. Major penalty ten (10) yards, minor penalty five (5) yards

 9. Game time and time outs – Game will consist of two (2), thirty (30) minute halves. Half time will be ten (10) minutes. All games will have a running clock except for time outs (three (3) per half are allowed) and injuries. The clock will also be stopped after touchdowns and shall not start until the receiving team **runs an offensive play**. The clock will also stop for change of possessions.
 10. Scores are to be displayed on the scoreboard and reported weekly for posting on the OEC website. There will be no tie breakers.
- 11. Field goal attempts and PAT's are allowed. Special teams are permitted for PAT's**
12. The ball will be blown dead if fumbled behind the line of scrimmage however, the ball will be live if fumbled beyond the line of scrimmage.
 13. Every player on the team must be given an opportunity to be a captain.
 14. Mandatory plays for the Tiny Mite division

Number of players	16-24
Mandatory plays	15
Minimum Offensive Plays	7
Minimum Defensive Plays	7

 PAT's DO NOT count towards MPR.
 Punts DO count toward MPR.
 15. All offensive backs must be lined up directly behind the players on the offensive line in some type of formation. You will be allowed to split one (1) offensive back no more than five (5) yards outside the tight end. There are no circumstances that allow an offense to have more than one player begin a play with more than one player split out wider than the offensive line.
 16. No defensive player can be placed directly over the center. Player must be three (3) yards off the center. The defensive line must be one (1) yard back from the offensive line. The defense must run six (6), four (4), one (1) set. No more than six (6) defensive players can rush the ball. No blitzing is allowed.
 17. The game ball size should be mite size, junior or pee wee size of any approved manufacture.
 18. Teams may play a combination of nine (9) total games with a maximum of one (1) preseason game and eight (8) regular season games for a total of nine (9) games. There will be NO post season games for Tiny Mite teams.
 19. Violations of any of the above rules will result in a minimum two (2) week suspension of the head coach. This violation also includes a \$250 fine.

ARTICLE IX- FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

A. INTRODUCTION

OEC Flag football programs shall follow Pop Warner football rules and regulations. Since those rules contain several options available for association adoption, this portion of the OEC rule book was designed to implement those options and to accommodate special rules, which have been adopted by OEC.

B. CLASSES OF PLAY

OEC shall use the Pop Warner class, with play limited to the Cub division. All players shall be at least five (5) years old by August 1st of the current year and may not be more than seven (7) years old by August 1st of the current year.

C. FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

1. Since it is OEC's intent to encourage the formation of Flag football teams, no minimum squad sizes other than as specified in the National rules are required. However, to reduce the possibility of forfeits, a minimum squad of fifteen (15) players is recommended.
2. An eighty (80) yard field has been adopted as the standard for OEC Flag football. Since the field is limited to forty (40) yards in width, it is recommended that associations mark this sideline by painting a different color line forty (40) yards from the regular sideline on the home field side.
3. A coach's box shall be designed on the sideline are two (2) yards back from the sideline and extending between the thirty (30) yar lines. No players shall stand in this area during any scheduled games.
4. Either a junior or pee wee ball of any approved manufacturer shall be used for all Flag games.
5. Standard ball and socket flag belt, containing two (2) flags, shall be used by both teams with the flag extended down the outside of the players legs. The home association shall provide flag sets to be used by both teams for all games on their field. Such sets shall be in contrasting colors and shall also contrast to the color of the pants worn by each team. The home association has the choice of colors.
6. A thirty (30) minute running clock shall be used for each half. This means that the clock shall not be stopped for incomplete passes, out of bound or first (1st) downs. Referees will stop the clock to permit coaches or trainers to attend injuries. The clock shall be stopped for called time outs, three (3) per half is allowed and after touchdowns and shall not start until the receiving team touches the ball during the ensuing kickoff.
7. Although the National rules specify that any type of pants may be worn, OEC requires that players not wear shorts or short pants. Baseball style or sweatpants are allowed however, such pants must be of a uniform color for each team and shall not have any side pockets. Jerseys shall be of a t-shirt cut and may not be the traditional tackle football type jersey.
8. All players will play a minimum of ten (10) plays, five (5) offensives and (5) defensive plays. Failure to abide by this rule will result in forfeiture of the game and the suspension of the head coach for one (1) week and one (1) game.
9. All players shall be required to wear mouthpieces and athletic supporters. Prior to the game, the weighmaster or other designated association official shall conduct an inspection of mouthpieces, shoes, supporters, and flags.

10. One (1) coach for each team is permitted on the field however, they shall station themselves a minimum of five (5) yards behind the deepest player on their team once the lines are set.
11. National Flag football rules provide that the game shall be terminated in the event either team is ahead by thirty (30) or more points at the end of the first (1st) half or at any time during the second (2nd) half. OEC cannot change this rule. However, because of the ages of the players involved and the desire to encourage participation among other things, OEC does not believe it appropriate that games be terminated. Therefore, in the event any game is terminated because of the application of this rule, the head coach of the winning team shall be suspended for one (1) week and one (1) game.
12. Scores are to be displayed on score board and reported weekly for posting on the OEC website. There will be no tie breakers.

ARTICLE X – CHALLENGER DIVISION RULES

CHALLENGER MISSION

The mission of the Challenger league is to bring the Pop Warner experience to those special needs individuals that would normally not be given that chance. The Challenger program is noncompetitive, and no score will be kept. The games however model after a regular game with warmups, coin toss etc. Participation in the Challenger league is only at the request of the individual's parent or guardian.

A. INTRODUCTION

All participants playing Pop Warner Challenger football (PWCF) shall follow the rules and guidelines in the current year's National Pop Warner rule book.

B. ORGANIZATION

1. The HLA shall be considered the LEAGUE.
2. Associations can sponsor a team (s)
3. All team helpers, volunteers and people who will assist players be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age.

The division is intended for special needs individuals that may require the assistance of the helper during the game. Safety is of the utmost importance. It should be stressed that this is noncontact flag football. There is no tackling or impeding another by force. The person aiding a player in a wheelchair should understand that they are cognizant of the safety of others. They cannot use the chair to block, ram or otherwise impede another in play. The person providing the assistance should be at least thirteen (13) years old and fully understand the rules and on field responsibilities. It is the choice of the players parent/ guardian as to who will aid their child. They know their child best, defer to them.

ARTICLE XI – CAMPS

Refer to OEC attachments.

ARTICLE XIII – REFEREES

1. Referees shall be defined as those persons who are assigned by OEC or its agent to officiate football games. This article shall exclude officers of OEC and in no way shall diminish nor constrain OEC's authority over all activities of the conference.
2. Referees shall not in any way, instruct, direct or otherwise specify to any team including but not limited to team staff as to how the team is to conduct game tactics. This rule shall not diminish a referee's authority to enforce written rules applicable to the game. To clarify this rule, the following are a set of non-exhaustive examples:

Referees **SHALL NOT**

- a. Instruct a team to advance the score to achieve a sufficient point spread to force the game into a running clock.
- b. Instruct a team to allow its opponent to score.
- c. Instruct a team to “take a knee” as a play.
- d. Instruct a team to limit “on the field” play activity to any area of the field.
- e. Use the excuse of “making a travesty of the game” or similar claim to justify a referee’s action to instruct a team on its game tactics.

Referees **SHALL** be allowed to

- a. Instruct the leading team that it may not pass a ball when the 28-point rule is in effect.
- b. Instruct a team to discontinue behavior that endangers players except as an excuse to engage in activities prohibited.
- c. Instruct players to not lead with their helmets.
- d. Instruct team staff to control their fans.

Failure for referees to comply with this section shall expose them to disciplinary action.

SECTION III

SPIRIT RULES & REGULATIONS

OEC and each local league may have rules more stringent than the Pop Warner National rule book. Please read the National rule book, the OEC Administrative rule book and know your local league rules.

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

A. SQUAD LEVEL – HEAD SPIRIT COACH

1. All Head Spirit coaches, assistant coaches, coach trainees and student demonstrators are required to apply to their association for approval. A new application must be submitted each year.
2. Head Spirit coaches or person in charge shall carry the signed contract, medical release form, copy of certified birth certificate, recent photo and OEC transportation card in their team spirit book. Book shall be always on the site when the squads are at practice, games or any Pop Warner/ OEC sanctioned event or at any other non-Pop Warner/ OEC sanctioned event. All appearances or special performances must be pre-approved using an “Event Request Form” two (2) weeks prior to attending any event.
3. Although the Head Spirit coach is responsible for their spirit squad and staff, the Head Football coach has the final responsibility for his entire team including but not limited to all team personnel, adults, parents, players, and spirit squads, and is answerable to his/ her association Board of Directors.

B. MANDATORY MEETINGS/ CLINICS

1. The Cheer Coach Safety/ Rules meeting is classified as Mandatory.
 - a. All association head cheer coaches, assistant coaches, student demonstrators and staff members, MUST attend the OEC cheer staff safety/ rules clinic to be qualified as a rostered staff member for the current season. NO roster staff changes will be allowed after the July cheer staff clinic.

All football and spirit staff members MUST receive a copy of the current OEC rule book from their association at least seven (7) days prior to this meeting.

C. ASSOCIATION LEVEL – SPIRIT COORDINATOR

1. All association Spirit Coordinators (ASC) shall attend all regularly scheduled and special conference meetings. An ASC may appoint a cheer representative, other than the association president, to replace them at a meeting with the prior approval of the Conference Spirit Commissioner (CSC). In the event the ASC does not arrange a replacement and the CSC receives no call, the association will be fined, \$150.
2. Any association which does not have a cheer representative at three (3) meetings during the current year shall be suspended from all voting privileges (or voice for those with no voting rights) for the remainder of the current year.
3. Requests for any rule variance or permission to participate in special exhibitions, performances or events during the Pop Warner season must be made in writing using the Event Request form at least two (2) weeks prior to the event be the ASC to the CSC for approval by Regional and National Pop Warner. Such request must be granted to participate.

4. The associations Spirit Coordinator will be responsible for providing the rostered staff with the OEC Rules and Regulations and will collect a signed original acknowledgement. All signed acknowledgments will be turned in at the Head Cheer coaches Safety/ Rules meeting. In the event of staff turnover, the ASC will provide the new staff member with the OEC Rules and Regulations and will again, collect a signed original acknowledgment. The ASV will photocopy all signed acknowledgements and will for the originals to the CSC.

ARTICLE II – SIGN UPS

1. Each Pop Warner spirit squad shall fill its entire squad every year based on sign-ups; NO TRYOUTS ARE ALLOWED.
2. In order to participate in the Regional, National or any other OEC approved competition, the ages of the spirit squad must correspond to the playing ages of the football team with which they are associated.
3. At the time of sign-ups, it is recommended that each girl/ boy and potential Spirit Coach receive a list of basic association requirements stating age, squad limitations, preferences, priorities, fees, uniform requirements etc.
4. Spirit squad uniforms will only be worn by certified cheerleaders.
5. In keeping with fundamental Pop Warner philosophy, emphasizing maximum participation for those in the program, the development of spirit squads for dance teams shall be strongly encouraged at every opportunity. All rules in the OEC spirit rules and regulations shall apply to these groups.
6. All associations MUST assemble their squads and declare their squad counts no later than July 15th of the current season.
7. Squad declarations MUST be accompanied by the most current association sign-up information, current squad roster(s)/ sign ups) listing all cheerleaders assigned to each squad including their age, address, date of birth and their sign- up date.
8. On July 31st of the current season, association squad counts shall be frozen. Any association wishing to drop squads after this date shall be fined \$250 for each occurrence.
9. Any association that fails to certify a “declared” squad shall be fined \$250 for each occurrence.
10. No squad shall be added after July 31st.

Notwithstanding other rules and regulations recognized by OEC:

1. Starting August 1st through and including the certification of the squad, any declared cheer squad must have at least six (5) cheerleaders that meet the age and scholastic requirements of the squad’s division.
2. No cheerleader may be on more than one (1) squad at a time. No cheerleader on a squad may also be on a football team at the same time.
3. Any declared cheer squad must have the number of participants specified by this section on the first game of the season.
4. Only declared squads may be recognized by OEC for participation in conference activities, including but not limited to preseason games, in season games, scrimmages, post season games and cheer competitions.
5. Any squad not so qualified as noted in this section shall be dissolved for the remainder of the season and the association shall be fined for dropping a squad, However, by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners, a squad may continue to exist if conditions warrant such existence.

ARTICLE III – SAFETY RULES

1. All safety rules, as provided in the Pop Warner rule book, high school spirit book and the OEC rule book shall apply at all practices, games, and events throughout the entire season.
2. For the safety and concern of all, a cheerleader or mascot shall never, for any reason, leave the game field, practice area or competition grounds without permission from the Head Spirit coach.
3. Starting the first day of practice, cheerleaders and mascots on a certified roster must be accompanied by an adult to leave the spirit area from any practice, game, or Pop Warner function.
4. No hair, face, or body glitter. This includes mist with glitter.
5. Make-up is permitted for cheer and dance squads. “Stage” or “All Star” type make up is prohibited for cheer squads. Dance squads shall follow the National rule book guidelines.
6. For stunting squads, all squad members shall wear their hair pulled back into a ponytail and away from the face. Hair ribbons/ bows must also be pulled back and away from the face. No hair pieces are allowed for cheer squads. Dance squads must follow National Pop Warner dance rules for hair.
7. Fingernails, including artificial nails. Shall be kept at a length appropriate for safe participation. The appropriate length for all members of a stunting squad means the nails are not visible beyond the fingertips when viewed from the palm side of the hands. Furthermore, nail polish is prohibited at practices, games and competitions including clear polish. It is highly recommended that all staff members on the team roster who participate in instruction and spotting of partner stunts should follow the same rules for fingernails.
8. Any moving stunt must have a front spotter in addition to a back spotter. This is optional at the Jr. Pee Wee levels and above.
9. No gloves are allowed while stunting.
10. In the interest of safety all spirit participants and rostered coaching staff, under the age of eighteen (18) who are actively involved in performing, coaching, or demonstrating stunts will wear appropriate attire at practice and games include:
 - a. No loose or baggy clothing
 - b. No open toed sandals. Athletic shoes and socks are required.
 - c. No bare midriffs or “spaghetti strap” tank tops. A minimum shoulder width of 3” is recommended.
 - d. No clothing that contains offensive or inappropriate words, slang or logos.
 - e. Athletic, gym style attire is recommended.
 - f. All glitter, hair, make-up, and fingernail rules also apply.

ARTICLE IV – 3 THROUGH 7-YEAR OLDS

1. No Jr. Tiny Mite, Flag, Mascot, or Tiny Mite team are allowed at practices, games, or special performances without an adult guardian present at all times to oversee and ensure their safety.
2. All non-traveling squads will not compete or perform at any National or Regional level. They may, however, perform at their designated time of the OEC competition with their 5-, 6- or 7-year-old squad.
3. At the OEC competition, the Flag, Tiny Mite, and Mitey Mite squads may combine to perform.

ARTICLE V – PRACTICES

1. No additional practice for competition or post season play shall be authorized beyond the hours of practice per week currently authorized by National and OEC rules.
2. No person on behalf of any team shall attend any practice of an opposing team. They shall not use a movie camera, still camera, tape recorder or any other electronic device for scouting.
3. Pop Warner cheerleaders and mascots are required to attend all practices, games, fundraising events, and special performances scheduled by the Head Spirit coach.
4. At the beginning of the season, the Head Spirit coach will provide to all participant's families all the phone numbers and email addresses necessary to contact the coaching staff. The parent or guardian of spirit participants and/ or mascots shall be required to report absences to their Head Spirit coach or other designated person as soon as possible before practices, games, events etc. In the even that a spirit participant does not regularly attend scheduled practices, games etc., they may face disciplinary actions as determined by their respective association.

5.

ARTICLE VI – POLICE POWERS

1. Most offenses by juveniles, both players and/ or spirit participants, are in the form of minor infractions against team rules such as skipping practice, goofing off at practice, not sharing in clean up assignments. In general, these types of violations do not require a hearing and the discipline is left to the discretion of the Head Spirit coach. Offenses of a no routine nature, such as thievery of team property, picking of fights, smoking of suspect tobacco, drinking alcoholic beverages etc., are of a serious nature, lending to possible severance from the squad. When severance is the penalty, a hearing must be held.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct by an individual, spirit participant, squad or squad staff member(s) will not be tolerated. The suggested course of penalty is as follows:
 - a. 1st Incident – One (1) week suspension with written notification.
 - b. 2nd Incident – Written notice of dismissal for the balance of the season.
3. Penalties for the following situations shall be an immediate ejection from the game, suspension from the team for the next week and game, for the first offence. Penalties for the second offense will include an immediate ejection from the game and suspension from the team for the balance of the season.
 - a. Performing, exhibiting, or condoning any other act or behavior that in the opinion of OEC reflects in such a manner that is detrimental to the name and/ or reputation of the association, the OEC conference or the National organization.
 - b.

ARTICLE VII – FEES AND OTHER FUNDRAISING

1. The use of registration fees and other preseason fundraising, as a means of helping cover the teams' operating budget is an acceptable practice in Pop Warner, providing the following mandatory National rules are observed:
 - a. All fees and uniform amounts are left to the individual associations. All charges and expenses are to be within reason.
 - b. There will be no additional fees charged to a cheerleader, parent, or guardian for learning any routines and/ or cheers.
 - c. The Head Spirit coach shall keep accurate financial and paperwork records for each spirit participant on his/ her squad, including but not limited to, keeping track of all monies paid by the participant. This may

include fundraisers, hair pieces, hair ribbons and pom poms. This will/ may be in addition to any other tracking done by the business manager for their teams.

ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The home Head Spirit coach shall confer with the visiting Spirit coach prior to the start of the game. The home Head Spirit coach shall welcome the squad to the field, point out the snack bar and restroom locations. Both Head Spirit coaches shall do the following:
 - a. Present their team spirit book to the other head cheer coach for the purpose of acknowledging that the book is present and includes a certified roster.
 - b. Identify if the visiting squad is rostered as “cheer” or “dance.”
 - c. Sign each other’s OEC spirit game report.
 - d. Determine halftime performance schedule. It is customary for the spirit squad to perform their halftime exhibition routine for the opposing squad.
 - e. In the event there is no opposing spirit squad, no signature is required. The Head Spirit coach should simply indicate on the game report that there is no opposing squad present at the game.
 - f. In the event a team spirit book is not present at the game, that squad shall not warm up, practice, or perform AT ALL until the book arrives. If the book never arrives, the squad must stay and watch the game.
2. Both spirit squads shall have sufficient time to perform at all fields during halftime.
3. Any nonphysical disputes between spirit squads shall be handled at the OEC spirit meetings with written letters of protests.
4. No cheers, chants, signs or banners shall degrade, humiliate or imply such to opposing squads.
5. Opposing spirit squads located on the same side of the field shall alternate cheers and not intrude on each other’s cheers.
6. All cheering must stop when there is a player “down” on the field.
7. No negative, across the field cheers or chants shall involve the opposing squad.
8. Candy or gifts may be exchanged between opposing squads at bowl games only.
9. Cheerleaders are not allowed in the area where football players are being weighed.
10. Cheerleaders may not go to the goal posts at any time during the game after a touchdown has been scored for any point after touchdown (PAT).
11. All spirit coaches shall continue practice for their squad until the current season of play is completed which includes all post season competitions, playoff games and all host/ travel games.
12. Any spirit squad that fails to continue performing scheduled games shall be suspended from any and all competitions and may cause the complete team to be suspended pending a hearing of the presidents.
13. Any spirit squad that qualifies as an OEC representative to Regional and/ or National competitions must have the associations concurrence and OEC’s approval to miss a scheduled playoff game, if there is a conflict.
14. No ladders, boxes or props shall be used in the spirit area. A squad may designate one (1) squad participant to use one (1) large megaphone directly outside the cheer box to lead crowd participation only.
15. Each association shall provide a roped off area exclusively for spirit team participation. This area must be large enough to accommodate a maximum team size of 35 participants. If the Head Spirit coach determines that the area does not meet these criteria or is unsafe, they shall notify the opposing Head Spirit coach, board member or an OEC representative, if present, who shall take the steps necessary to immediately rectify the situation for the squad.
16. No stunting is allowed in the cheer box. Stunts may not be performed if the ball is in play near the cheer box (your side of the 50-yard line). Cheer coaching staff should use common sense for safety. All stunting at games, during

- halftime or during warm up must follow all stunting guidelines outlined in the National Pop Warner rules. For example, all twisting discounts and basket tosses always require the use of a mat.
17. Any spirit coaching staff or squad violating any rules will immediately remedy and infraction as soon as they are made aware of the situation.
 18. Every spirit squad shall participate at every game played by their associated football team except as waived by the league. Failure of a spirit squad to participate at a game shall be cause for a forfeiture of the game. The league may consider mitigating circumstances in the application of this rule.
 19. Any association cheer or dance squad that cannot be affiliated with a corresponding football team in any division during the playing season and has other cheer squads matched with football teams within the same association, may form a cheer or dance squad to be a traditional squad provided they act as a traditional squad during the season with the following requirements:
 - a. The squad must be age eligible for that division.
 - b. The cheer/ dance squad must perform during the associations football games at another levels' assigned games.
 - c. The cheer/ dance squad must compete only in the traditional league/ region and national competitions.
 - d. Additional insurance is required per participant.
 20. Attendance records MUST be maintained, and condition hours shall be tracked for each participant and must be continued to be tracked until all team/ squad participants have completed their conditioning hours. These records shall be on hand and made available to any OEC official that requests to review them up to the last available certification date.
 21. Flag and Tiny Mite cheer squads are not eligible for preseason or post season travel.

ARTICLE IX – OEC SPIRIT EVENTS

1. OEC will host two (2) special spirit events each season:
 - a. Safety Camp
 - b. OEC Spirit competition and exhibition
2. All OEC spirit squads are required to participate in the events listed above, ARTICLE IX, 1.a & b.
3. The intent of Safety Camp is to give OEC spirit participants and spirit coaches an opportunity to learn proper safety techniques. Squads may be combined. Safety camp shall be in August. For more information, please refer to the National Pop Warner rule book under CAMPS.
4. Squads who are eligible shall be granted the opportunity to participate in Regional, National and any other OEC approved spirit competitions.
5. In the event that a certified and rostered OEC squad chooses to compete in a no Pop Warner event after December 31st, OEC has the option of rostering said squad as a “year round” squad per National Pop Warner rules. **Said squad must follow OEC rules regardless of the specific event rules dictated by said event sponsor.** Said squad must also submit and event request form for all said events at least two (2) weeks prior to the event.
6. In the event that any OEC squad (before 12/31 or after (rostered as a “year-round” squad as described above)), does not follow OEC rules, the squad may be disqualified from the competition, even in the event of a “placement”.

ARTICLE X – OEC COMPETITION

A. GENERAL RULES FOR OEC COMPETITION

All OEC administrative rules continue in full force and effect. All spirit squads must abide by the OEC Administrative rules regardless of venue.

1. There will be two (2) performance categories, exhibition and qualifying.
2. Cheer teams in the following divisions, Tiny Mite, Mitey Mite, Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, Jr. Varsity and Varsity/ Unlimited will compete for a chance to qualify and advance to Regionals.
3. The exhibition category is mandatory for the following types of spirit squads:
 - a. Spirit squads with less than five cheerleaders
 - b. Spirit squads that otherwise fail to meet all the qualifications to participate in the Regional and National competition(s).
4. Squads will spirit on and off the mat per National Pop Warner rules.
5. Music and Music License
 - a. ALL cheer teams must follow the guidelines set forth by National Pop Warner.
 - b. It is recommended that each squad prepare two (2) CDs and two (2) USBs labeled with their city, division, and squad name. No cassettes will be supported at the OEC competition. One spirit coach will be responsible for beginning the squad's music at competition.
6. Uniforms may consist of skirt, sleeves, shell, shoes, and pom-poms, which must be worn during the regular season.
7. All Head Spirit coaches will perform a mock "check in" with all their certified spirit participants using an OEC supplied "check list" prior to reporting in to the official OEC competition check in station. The objective of this is to allow each coach to confirm that each participant is compliant prior to actual check in.
8. All Head Spirit coaches will report to the check in station, located at the staging area, an hour, and a half (1 1/2) earlier than their squad's scheduled performance. The check in staff will verify the following items for compliance.
 - a. Spirit book and certified roster are present and complete.
 - b. Hair, makeup, and fingernail legality check
 - c. Uniform and Pop Warner patch
- If at check in, it is determined that a spirit participant(s) do not meet the legal requirement for competition, the check in staff will give the Head Spirit coach a reasonable amount of time to remedy the given situation. If the situation cannot be remedied, the participant or squad may be ineligible to perform.
9. A maximum of three (3) rostered staff members will be allowed backstage with their team, regardless of the teams' size, prior to the team's competition time. One coach will be responsible for music at the music table and the other(s) must exit to the designated area as directed by the competition staff. No squad may enter or practice more than one hour prior to their scheduled performance time. No coaches for team staff members shall be allowed at or behind the judges' table during their team's performance.
10. Props: Both Cheer and Dance will conform to the National rules for the use of props.
11. TEN (10) points will be deducted from the total score for each act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
12. Air horns will not be allowed at OEC spirit competitions.
13. All OEC spirit/ dance teams must receive a 75% or higher score in their primary declaration at the OEC cheer competition to be eligible to advance to the Wescon Regional or National Pop Warner championships. ALL OEC "automatic bids" to the Regional and/ or National cheer competition must score a 78% or higher at the OEC competition to accept the automatic bid to Regional or National cheer competition.
14. All OEC spirit/ dance teams must receive a 75% or higher score in their optional secondary routine at the OEC cheer competition to be eligible to perform and advance to the Wescon Regional or National Pop Warner

championships. ALL OEC “automatic bids” to the Regional and/ or National cheer competition must score a 78% or higher at the OEC competition to accept the automatic bid to Regional or National cheer competition.

B. JUDGING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

1. OEC has the option of utilizing up to six (6) qualified panel judges.
2. OEC will use Pop Warner official score sheets.
3. The OEC judging panel may consist of:
 - a. Head/ Legality/ Timing judges. A second timekeeper may be utilized as a backup.
 - b. Up to six (6) panel judges
 - c. Point deduction judge.
4. OEC shall contract for judges including but not limited to. Regular, safety, stunting, timing, etc., that are qualified and knowledgeable of Pop Warner rules and are of a completely nonpartisan background of any of the competing teams. When this is not possible, at least fifty percent (50%) of the judges shall be from an “outside” source.
5. Scores shall be made available seventy-two (72) hours following the conclusion of the competition. If a change in standings is necessary, an additional placement will be awarded as reviewed by the OEC Cheer Commissioner.
6. All coordinators with advancing squads will be notified within forty-eight (48) ours of the close of the competition.

SECTION IV

LITTLE SCHOLARS' MANUAL

ARTICLE I – THE LITTLE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Pop Warner philosophy recognizes that athletics and academics go hand in hand. The standards that have been established will provide the children with a sense of responsibility and an appreciation that will help them develop later in life.

OEC take into consideration the fact that some member associations have association level scholar programs thus the criteria used to select the OEC Little Scholar team needs to be differentiated from the National and association programs to ensure that each level received viable academic recognition.

ARTICLE II – GRADE POINT SYSTEM

OEC will follow the prevailing National Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. method for converting grades reported by schools to a standardized numerical scale representing a person's academic standing.

ARTICLE III – THE NATIONAL SELECTION PROCESS

1. Submission of candidates to Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. shall follow the prevailing guidelines established by Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. for national recognition. Said guidelines shall be given to the president of each association upon receipt of said guidelines from Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. by the OEC Little Scholars Commissioner.
2. The OEC Little Scholars Commissioner shall notify all players and cheerleaders that obtain Pop Warner Little Scholars scholastic recognition.

ARTICLE IV – OEC SELECTION PROCESS

1. OEC shall have three (3) levels of recognition for scholastic achievement and are as follows:

<u>GPA Score</u>	<u>Level Name</u>
96 – 100	Platinum
90 - 95	Gold
85 - 89	Bronze

2. Participants must be rostered in one of the following divisions, **9U**, J10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U. Excluded divisions include Cub/ Flag, Tiny Mite, **8U** and mascots.
3. Only applicants who have submitted report cards representing periods for the entire prior school year shall be eligible for Little Scholar awards issued by OEC.

ARTICLE V – OEC LITTLE SCHOLAR COMMITTEE

1. The OEC Little Scholars committee shall consist of the OEC Little Scholar Commissioner plus one (1) representative per member association as appointed by each association. All proceedings of the Little Scholar committee shall be reported to the OEC Board of Presidents.
2. The OEC Little Scholars Commissioner will provide to each association a medallion/ medal (or comparable token) for each qualified participant in the platinum, gold and/ or bronze category. Funds to cover these expenses will be assessed to the association as part of the OEC annual assessment.

ARTICLE VI – OEC LITTLE SCHOLAR AWARD

1. The OEC Little Scholar Commissioner will provide to each association a medallion/ medal or comparable token for each qualified participant in the platinum, gold, or bronze category. Funds to cover these expenses will be assessed to the associations as part of the OEC annual assessment.

ARTICLE VII – ASSOCIATION LEVEL LITTLE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. The criteria and standards suggested here are at the discretion of the individual associations if they desire to implement a program. In no way are these suggestions a mandate from OEC. They are provided as suggestions and guidelines for those associations that chose to conduct a local recognition program for their All-American Scholars.
2. Any player or cheerleader who is accepted as a National or OEC honoree shall have met the criteria set at the National level.
3. Suggestions that an association might take into consideration in establishing a local program:
 - a. Associations may us the OEC Little Scholar application or version thereof with their name and logo.
 - b. GPA criteria shall be B-, 83 grade points or higher.
 - c. All candidates tat me the association criteria should be recognized as part of the association scholar team and given a certificate of academic merit.
 - d. Grading period would be the same as OEC and National Pop Warner.
 - e. One objective of an association Little Scholar program should be to give recognition and encouragement to those youth who are doing creditable academic work, but who have not yet attained sufficient scholastic excellence to be considered at the National or OEC level. The expectation would be to provide more youth an incentive to pursue academic excellence.
- f.

ARTICLE VIII – EXAMPLES OF ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

1. Provide certificates of recognition for the little scholars during the team banquet at the end of the season or any other appropriate event attended by the association members.
2. Establish plaques in your local schools. Update the plaques with the names of the scholars each year.
3. If your association has an opening day, plan recognition for you scholars from the past year.
4. Approach your city council or mayor for a certificate or letter of recognition for you scholars. Ask the Mayor or city council to proclaim a Pop Warner Little Scholar Day honoring their academic achievements.

5. Provide patches for the little scholars' honorees to wear on their uniform. Patches may be worn on uniforms provided they are securely sewn on inch (1") above the bottom of the left sleeve.
6. Publish the little scholars from your association in the local newspapers, consider taking out an ad in your local newspaper recognizing the little scholar honorees.
7. Consider raising funds to take your little scholars on a special trip.

ARTICLE IX – ELIGIBILITY

1. Each participant shall be required to bring a true copy of their report card for the prior school year to their registration or to August 1st of the current year, summer school report cards alone shall not be sufficient. Those participants that fail to submit a report card by August 1st, must submit a report card or Scholastic Eligibility Form prior to being certified. Proof of satisfactory scholastic fitness is a National Pop Warner rule.
2. OEC shall deem a player or cheerleader to be scholastically fit only if their overall numerical GPA score on the multi-purpose form is 70% or higher or completes a Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc., Scholastic Eligibility Form.

RETURN THIS SIGNED & COMPLETED ORIGINAL FORM TO OEC

FOOTBALL & CHEER COACHES AGREEMENT

OEC RULES FOR 2023

I/ We have read the OEC rulebook, including the football, flag, spirit, and little scholar sections. This signature page shall be completed and delivered to OEC prior to the Head Coaches Clinic.

The OEC rules are in addition to the National Pop Warner rules and regulations. When an OEC rule is more stringent than a National rule, the OEC rule shall take precedence. These rules are intended to make football & cheerleading more fun and enjoyable for all young people who wish to play football and cheer within the Orange Empire Conference.

This booklet has been prepared solely for the benefit of ALL FOOTBALL & SPIRIT HEAD COACHES and ASSISTANTS so they may understand early in the season what football and spirit conditions and required rules they will be expected to enforce during the current season.

Each rostered member of the football and spirit staff is expected to read and understand ALL the rules stated in this booklet.

I/ We understand that any rule violation shall result in a suspension for a minimum one (1) week and one (1) game.

I/ We understand that a second violation of the same rule or a violation of any other rule that warrants suspension shall result in suspension for a period of one (1) year, commencing on the date of suspension.

ASSOCIATION _____

PRESIDENT _____

DIVISION _____ TEAM NAME _____

HEAD COACH (PRINT NAME) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Phone _____

ASSISTANT COACHES and ROSTERED STAFF

Print _____ Sign _____

Print _____ Sign _____