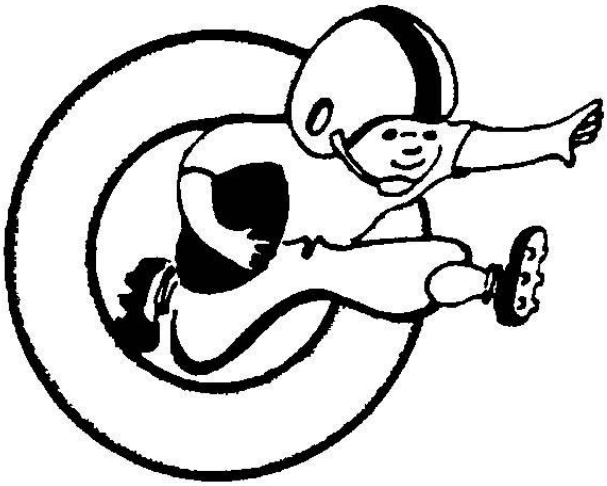


Orange Empire Conference

2021

Football
Spirit
Little Scholars

Administrative Regulations

Revised: 4/16/2021

Forward

To all Associations, Head Coaches – both Football and Cheer, Asst. 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) Association 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 in an effort 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 and welcome any feedback from you the users that have to use it the most.

New rules or changes to rule content are in Red and in bold.

EACH HEAD COACH, BOTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER, AS WELL AS THEIR STAFFS, 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 – 2021 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
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	**5**
B	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	**6**
I	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	**7**
R	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	**8**
T	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	**9**
H	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	**10**
	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	**11**
Y	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	**12**
E	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	**13**
A	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	**14**
R	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	**15**

AGE/WEIGHT DIVISION DETERMINATION SCHEMATIC

Division	League Age (see above)	Weight Requirements
Cat/Flag	5 and 6 years old	No weight Restrictions
Tiny Mite Older Lighter	5 and 6 years old 7 years old	35 - 80 35 – 60
Jr. Mighty Mite	7 and 8 years old No Older Lighters this Division	45 to 105 lbs.
Mighty Mite	7, 8 & 9 years old No Older Lighters this Division	45 to 105 lbs.
Jr. Pee Wee Older Lighter	8, 9, and 10 years old 11 years old	60 to 120 lbs. 60 to 100 lbs.
Pee Wee Older Lighter	9, 10, and 11 years old 12 years old	75 to 135 lbs. 75 to 115 lbs.
Jr. Varsity Older Lighter	10, 11, and 12 years old 13 years old	90 to 160 lbs. 90 to 140 lbs.
12 Unlimited	**10,** 11 and 12 years old	No weight limits
14 Unlimited	**12,** 13 and 14 years old	No weight limits

IN-SEASON WEIGHT ALLOWANCES

Division	Wk 1 8/21	Wk 2 8/28	Wk 3 9/4	Wk 4 9/11	Wk 5 9/18	Wk 6 9/25	Wk 7 10/2	Wk 8 10/9	Wk 9 10/16	Wk 10 10/23	Wk 11 10/30	Wk 12 11/6	Wk 13 11/13	Wk 14 11/20
Tiny Mite														
Reg	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**	**91**	**92**	**93**	**94**	**95**	**96**	**96**	**96**	**96**	**96**
Stripped	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	89	89	89	89
O/L	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	76	76	76	76
Stripped	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	69	69	69	69
Minimum	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Jr M.M.														
Reg	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**	**116**	**117**	**118**	**119**	**120**	**121**	**121**	**121**	**121**	**121**
Stripped	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	114	114	114	114
Minimum	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
M.M.														
Reg	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**	**116**	**117**	**118**	**119**	**120**	**121**	**121**	**121**	**121**	**121**
Stripped	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	114	114	114	114
Minimum	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
Jr. PW														
Reg	**128**	**129**	**130**	**131**	**132**	**133**	**134**	**135**	**136**	**137**	**137**	**137**	**137**	**137**
Stripped	1**20**	1**21**	1**22**	1**23**	1**24**	12**5**	12**6**	12**7**	128	12**9**	12**9**	12**9**	12**9**	12**9**
O/L	**108**	**109**	**110**	**111**	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**	**116**	**117**	**117**	**117**	**117**	**117**
Stripped	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	109	109	109	109
Minimum	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
PW														
Reg	**143**	**144**	**145**	**146**	**147**	**148**	**149**	**150**	**151**	**152**	**152**	**152**	**152**	**152**
Stripped	13**5**	13**6**	13**7**	13**8**	13**9**	1**40**	1**41**	1**42**	1**43**	1**44**	1**44**	1**44**	1**44**	1**44**
O/L	**123**	**124**	**125**	**126**	**127**	**128**	**129**	**130**	**131**	**132**	**132**	**132**	**132**	**132**
Stripped	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	124	124	124	124
Minimum	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83
Jr. Var.														
Reg	**169**	**170**	**171**	**172**	**173**	**174**	**175**	**176**	**177**	**178**	**178**	**178**	**178**	**178**
Stripped	1**60**	161	1**62**	1**63**	1**64**	16**5**	16**6**	16**7**	168	16**9**	16**9**	16**9**	16**9**	16**9**
O/L	**149**	**150**	**151**	**152**	**153**	**154**	**155**	**156**	**157**	**158**	**158**	**158**	**158**	**158**
Stripped	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	149	149	149	149
Minimum	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
Unlimited 12,11,10 Minimum	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**
Unlimited 14,13,12 Minimum	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**	**UN**

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

NOTES:

1) Players are weighed with required equipment, excluding helmet. Players must play with the same required equipment they were wearing at weigh-in. (example – players cannot change shoes, shoulder pads, or other required equipment (as defined in National Rules), after weigh ins)

2) Players using non-required 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.
      i. Optional equipment, if attached to required equipment in a permanent manner (screws, 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 not intended to be removable and has become part of the shoulder pads. Attachment via 'quick disconnect' clips are not permanent)

3) Players who fail to make weight (heavy or light) will be allowed to weigh stripped down AT THE PLAYER'S OPTION. It is not mandatory that they do so and must be left up to the player's OWN discretion.
   a. Stripped weights for MAX. (heavy) weights are listed in the above chart.
   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 never changes during the season.

4) Players that fail pre-game weigh in – MAY NOT try again at half-time.

5) If the player's weight exceeds the maximum weight allowed for the week listed plus 1/2 pound – THE PLAYER DOES NOT MAKE WEIGHT.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS FOR 2021 SEASON

Please note that all new rule changes made within the rule book will appear in Red (Bold).

FOOTBALL

SECTION I

Page 28 Article XI – Miscellaneous Administration/General Rules & Regulations – Add Item # 21

SECTION II

Page 40 Article VI – Mandatory Play Rule – "A" General Requirements – Add Item #11
Page 41 Article VII – Jr. MM and MM Rules – "A" General Requirements /Rules for Jr. MM – Items # 1-13
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NOTE: The definition of: *SHALL* is IMPERATIVE
MUST DO is a COMMANDANT

NOTE: 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 I

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's 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 assistant coach attend the OEC organized Head Coach's Rules and Referee clinic. Failure to attend by either coach as described above will result in the suspension of the Head Football Coach for the first regularly scheduled game as well as the week prior; a $250.00 fine and is not allowed on the field until the head coach and assistant coach has attended an OEC coach's clinic. A $250.00 fine to be assessed against the Association for each Team that is not represented.

   b The Weighmaster/Player Administrator Clinic must be attended by each Association's Weighmaster (or an alternate Board Member) and the rostered Player Administrator/Team Manager. Failure of an Association's Weighmaster or alternate to attend will result in a $250.00 fine being assessed against the Association. Failure of a 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; $250.00 fine and a $250.00 fine to be assessed against the Association for each Team that is not represented.

   c. It's Mandatory that all Association Head Cheer Coaches attend the Head Cheer Coach's Safety/Rules Meeting. Failure to attend as described above will result in; the suspension of the Head Cheer Coach for the first regularly scheduled game as well as the week prior, $250.00 fine and is not allowed on the field until the head cheer coach attends a OEC Cheer Safety/ rules meeting, and a $250.00 fine to be assessed against the Association for each 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 $250.00 fine and six (6) months voting rights suspended.

   Note It is recommended that all Football and Spirit Staff members receive a copy of the current OEC rule book from their Association at least seven (7) days prior to a) & c) above.

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 1 - July 31. 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. Fund-raising 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 recognized divisions of play (Pee Wee, Mighty Mite, etc.)

   i. Violation of rules a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, will result in a minimum two-week suspension of any Coach, participant, staff, Board Member, member, parent, guardian, etc. This will also include the $250.00 fine.

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

A. DOCUMENTATION

Eligibility documentation for all participants in any Association 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:
   - **i)** 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)

   - **ii)** State recognition of Adoption/Guardianship,
   - **iii)** State photo I.D. card,
   - **iv)** Passport,
   - **v)** Any other Proof of Age must be approved by OEC on a case by case basis.

3. Proof of Residence within Association boundaries - the permanent home address at time of sign-up* unless a waiver is granted. (*see Residency & Waiver sections below)
   [NOTE: It is required by OEC that Associations review a current utility bill (less than 30 days old) to verify proof of residence. **]
4. Proof of Scholastic Fitness
   - Last Scholastic Report card from the current school year at time of sign-up. (Not needed for Flag, Tiny Mite & Jr. Mitey Mite Divisions.) **
5. Proof of Medical/Physical ability to participate
   - see National Rules
6. Proof of Identity
   A photograph of the participant, no older than twelve (12) months**

**IMPORTANT NOTES:

a. Item 1, 2, 3 & 5 listed above are mandatory by first day of practice. No participant may be considered as a member until the Contract is completed and signed. (NO CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN CONDITIONING WITHOUT A PHYSICAL)

b. Items 4 & 6 listed above are NOT required at time of sign-up BUT will be required at time of Certification (see Article V – Certification). OEC recommends that these documents be reviewed at sign-up to determine eligibility.

c. On-Line Sign-ups will require documentation to be collected and verified prior to participant to be placed on a roster/team and on or before the members first day of practice.

7. Falsification of Official Documentation

   This would include, but not be limited to, parental consent, medical examination, proof of age and scholastic eligibility. The following penalties may be imposed;

   - **i.** President will be held accountable
   - **ii.** Association fine of $1500.00 per ineligible player based on falsified documentation.
   - **iii.** Team suspended for remainder of current year.
   - **iv.** League ineligible for current year post season, playoffs & travel games.
   - **v.** League placed on probation for following year.

B RESIDENCY

1. Though residency at time of sign-up should have been determined earlier, eligibility and need for waivers of all participants in the Association SHALL be determined by their permanent home address as of August 1st of the current playing season.
2. All participants are only eligible to participate for the Association in which they reside (except for "free zone" residents) unless a waiver has been obtained and signed by both Associations (releasing and accepting).
3. Grandfathering: When a participant's permanent home address has changed to within the boundaries of another Association, he/she shall, with no waiver required, have the option to:

(a) Stay with the Association he/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 resided in a free draw zone, and remains at the same residence, is ineligible to play in another Association without a waiver from the Association for which they played last. (see exception in '6' & '7' below).
5. When a previous participant moves their residence to a city/area which is a free draw zone, the player shall enjoy the freedom of choosing the Association in which he/she wishes to participate without a waiver being required. This exception shall apply, regardless if the city/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. Either situation does not require 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 with the Association the participant was with the previous year.
8. A Head Coach (Football or Cheer) is allowed to take his/her son/daughter (and siblings) anywhere within the Conference to coach with no waiver being required.

i. 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 for 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
   - That they reside in another Association's boundaries.
   - The name of the Association within whose boundaries they reside.
   - That they cannot register or participate in any way, in another Association unless the league president of their home Association signs a waiver.
   - That the home OEC Association is not required to grant a waiver, nor are they required to explain the reason for not granting a waiver.
2. All waivers shall be valid for one (1) year only.
3. If a participant has been with an association for 2 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 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 <u>as a whole</u> if the waiver was or wasn't signed. In some cases, where in OEC's opinion, it is in the best interest of the child to executed 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 waivered players or cheerleaders to other Associations 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 must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate:
    - Complete and sign an OEC Contract,
    - Provide a copy of valid Proof of Age as listed above,
    - 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.
    - Provide a photograph no older than 12 months,
    - Provide proof of Scholastic Fitness*
    - Obtain a residency waiver if required (see above).

*Scholastic Fitness –
Participants must have earned a 2.0/70% grade point average in order 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 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)/grades must be turned in.

3. Per National rules – it is prohibited for a participant to participate in a school tackle football or any other non-affiliated football program and Pop Warner in the same season. A participant may practice with a school team up until the first game, but not participate and/or be rostered with that school team once the first regular season game begins.
4. All questions concerning eligibility/illegal player disputes shall be in writing to OEC. OEC shall forward such dispute to the Tribunal Committee. Committee findings shall be reported to the Board of Presidents at the next OEC meeting.

All residency questions must be turned in to OEC, in writing, within fourteen (14) days after the Association Presidents receive a roster showing violation.

*** also 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 a maximum roster size of thirty-five (35) is reached.

    a) After that, players will be assigned to a waiting list in the order in which they apply and be notified as to their position on the waiting list.

    Examples:

    I) Association A has one (1) JM team [35 player slots available]. They already have 34 players signed up to play on the team. During their second sign-up day, a new un-experienced player shows up at 10:00 a.m. to sign-up. His application is accepted. At 1:00 p.m. on the same day, last year's returning started running back shows up to sign-up, his application is accepted. In this scenario – the new player MUST get the 35th slot & the returning player MUST BECOME THE #1 PLAYER ON THE WAITING LIST.

    II) Association B has two (2) JM teams [70 sign-up slots available]. – Both teams have 34 on their rosters already. During their second sign-up day, a new un-experienced player shows up at 10:00 a.m. & requests to be on team #1. His application is accepted. At 1:00 p.m. on the same day, Team #1's returning starting running back shows up to sign-up, his application is accepted. Unless the Association has a policy to the contrary, and as long as all multi-teamed divisions in that Association are treated the same – OEC & National rules do NOT specify which team these two players are assigned to.

    b) 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.

    c) Waiting List players may not be issued equipment nor participate in practice until they have been included on the roster. This would be deemed a "Taxi Squad" which is not allowed by National Rules.

    d) Any Association that maintains a waiting list for any Team in any Division shall notify OEC of the existence of the waiting list(s).

    e) Any Association that maintains a waiting list must present to OEC a copy of the waiting list along with a policy statement that explains how the waiting list will be monitored and maintained. The policy statement must incorporate items a) thru c) above.

f) 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) 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 players.
7. All players shall be signed up in the lowest possible division for their particular weight and age - taking into consideration the reasonable expectations and ability for any particular child to lose the weight required for his/her participation in a lower division. (Example – OEC deems it unreasonable to expect any 10-year-old boy that weighs 135 lbs to lose 25 pounds in order to be able to participate as a Pee Wee)
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 added to a roster.

E. DETERMINATION OF CAPABILITY TO PARTICIPATE

1. Associations shall have the authority to determine if a participant is capable of participating in any event related to the Association or the Conference. Determining factors shall include, but not be limited to, the following as it relates to both the participant and participant's family/guardian:
   i. Compliance with residency requirements
   ii. Compliance with scholastic requirements
   iii. Compliance with paperwork requirement
   iv. Compliance with division age and weight compliance
   v. Disciplinary actions in effect
   vi. Compliance with monetary payments committed to
   vii. Compliance with duties assigned (such as, but not limited to, snack bar duty)
   vii. Compliance with participation (such as, but not limited to, practices prior to a game)
   viii. Compliance with any other Association, Conference, or National Pop Warner requirements
   ix. Compliance with local, state, and federal laws
   x. Appropriateness based upon the situation
2. OEC shall have superior authority to that of the Association in determining a if a participant is capable of participating in any event relating to the Association or Conference as enumerated in item 1 above.

ARTICLE III – PRACTICE & SCRIMMAGES

A. PRACTICE

1. Unless otherwise approved by National 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 ten (10) hours of practice per week. A week is defined as Monday thru Sunday. Not more than two and a half (2½) hours of practice may be conducted on anyone (1) day. A mandatory 10-minute break after each hour of practice shall be 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 (6) hours per week. A week is defined as Monday thru Sunday. OEC's week begins on Monday. Not more than two (2) hours of practice may be conducted per day. A mandatory 10-minute break after each hour shall be 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 on the site, at all times, when the players are practicing, playing a game, or participating in any Pop Warner/OEC sanctioned event.

B. INTER-SQUAD SCRIMMAGES

1. Inter-squad scrimmages are considered Practice and are subject to all of the rules stated in A above including allowable practice hours. (in other words – if you have a Scrimmage scheduled for the 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 inter-squad scrimmages MUST be approved / recognized by OEC. Participation in a non-approved/recognized inter-squad scrimmage will result in the one (1) week suspension of BOTH participating Head Coaches beginning the Monday prior to the first scheduled game, regardless of the reason.
3. The format of the scrimmage, i.e. – coaches on the field, number of plays per squad, etc. – is to be determined and agreed upon between the Head coaches 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 entitled 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 inter-squad scrimmage is 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-hour notice of cancellation prior to the scheduled scrimmage shall be required. Lack of said notice shall result in a **$**250.00 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 6 or more pounds 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.

   i. Notwithstanding the above, it shall be permissible to use dummy bags for the sole purpose of demonstrating and training participants in **Heads Up** techniques. When training these techniques, and only when training on these techniques, participants may have contact with dummy bags during the first 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 participation in a class, approved by OEC, for these techniques. Persons not so trained may not train participants in **Heads Up** techniques.
3. During the second ten (10) hours of conditioning, body to dummy/bag/shield contact and anybody contact, such as tackling or blocking shall be allowed, 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/squad participants have completed their conditioning. 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.
7. Any violation of the above listed conditioning rules shall result in the suspension of the Head Coach for one (1) week and the next scheduled game beginning the Monday prior to the first scheduled game and a fine of $200.00.

ARTICLE V - CERTIFICATION

A. GENERAL RULES/REQUIREMENTS

1. The roster 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 weight and age.
3. At certification, a photograph, no older than twelve (12) months, shall be permanently taped to the designated area of the Contract and carried by the team at all times.
4. The following Documents are required at Certification:
   - An original completed signed OEC Contract, Physical Form & Player ID card with no whiteout, cross outs or corrections.
   - A copy of valid Proof of Age as listed in Article II, B-2, (ORIGINAL MUST BE AT CERTIFICATION)
   - A Medical/Physical examination stating that the participant is able to participate in Tackle Football, Flag Football, or Cheer as required.
   - A photograph no older than 12 months,
   - Proof of Scholastic Fitness (see Article II, A-4 & D-2)
   - Obtain a residency waiver if required.

Note: Orig. copy of certified birth cert. 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 t-shirts ONLY. No player will be weighed in uniform, street clothes, jackets, sweats, hats, shoes, etc. (exception – players choosing to be weighed stripped) Players in the Unlimited divisions 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 of its rosters as "CERTIFIED" for reporting to National. (per National PWLS rules, Article 10: S2)
2. Final/Make-up certification Date, Time, and Locations shall be schedule 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 new players and all conditioning requirements apply.
4. Associations may make arrangements 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, their address, their Date of Birth, their sign-up weight, and their 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 $250.00 for each occurrence.
4. Any Association that fails to certify a "declared" team shall be fined $250.00 for each occurrence.
5. No teams shall be added after July 31st.
6. Persistence of team existence prior to, including, and after certification:

   Notwithstanding other rules and regulations recognized by OEC:

   i) From August 1st through, and including, the Certification of the team, any declared tackle team must have at least 18 players on it that meet the age, weight (within the national allowable variances), and scholastic requirements of the team's division.

   ii) No player may be on more than one team or roster at a time. No player on a team may also be on a cheer squad at the same time.

   iii) Any declared tackle team must have the number of players specified by this section on the first game of the season.

   iv) Only declared teams may be recognized by OEC for participation in conference activities, including, but not limited to, pre-season games, in-season games, scrimmages, post-season games.

   v) Any team 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 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 (Open / Regional / Division IV)

Overview: A. The Open division MM thru JV Orange Bowl champions and runner ups will represent OEC in the Wescon Regional Division 1 & 2 championships.

The Open division semi runner ups will play in the Orange Bowl Championships to determine OEC's Division 3 Wescon Regional representative except for the unlimited divisions.

B. The Regional Division Championships would conclude their season with the exception of post season bowl games.

C. All Unlimited division teams will be in the Open Division.

1. Determination of Open and Regional Division designations shall be made yearly.
    a. A city is determined a Regional Division city if said city has 8 or less tackle football teams.
2. Any OEC Association that was Regional in the previous year shall be designated Regional Division unless such Association puts in writing that they wish to move to the Open Division.
    a. Any previous year's Regional team wishing to "remain" Regional Division cannot have more than 50% of Open players on said team from the previous year.
    b. Any previous years Open Association with 8 or less teams may petition OEC to waive the 50% of the previous year's Open players per team requirement and move one or more teams to the Regional Division.
    c. Suggested Criteria for Commissioners in determining cities going from Open to Regional or cities going from Regional to Open or cities with two teams in the same division wishing to keep both teams in the Regional division. Criteria for both teams shall be submitted when requesting two (2) teams in the same division to be considered for Regional Division Status. This section shall be superior to Section I, Article VI, item B, sub-item #9.
        a. The City in questions history with OEC/Pop Warner
        b. Previous season team count
        c. Any other pertinent information
        d. Petition Explanation
        e. Any undisclosed issue from the previous season that can be verified.
        f. A 2/3 vote of Commissioners is needed for approval. All petition decisions are final with no appeal. All petitions must be done by the first Friday in July.
3. Associations shall have the right to designate an individual team as either Open or Regional Division within the confines of the rules under this Article.
    a. All Open/Regional designations shall be declared by the first Friday in July of the current calendar year.
    b. Should teams form after the first Friday in July, their designation shall be declared immediately from the Association to OEC upon formation of the team.
4. Open/Regional designations shall only apply to Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, Jr. Varsity, Unlimited divisions.
5. For each Division of Play (Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, etc.) there shall be a separate set of play-offs conducted by OEC for Open Division, Regional Division, and Division IV.
6. **CRITERIA FOR TEAMS REQUESTING TRANSFERS FROM OPEN DIVISION to REGIONAL DIVISION**
    a. No team shall move from Open to Regional Division if 50%, or more, of its' players were rostered on any Open team in the previous season. Said Open Division team need not have been with the current Association, the same division of play (Mighty Mite, Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, etc.) and/or another Youth Football Organization.
    b. If a team meets the requirement of 'a' (above) – and has been assigned to the Regional Division, the team MAY NOT then 'add' a returning player if by adding the player the 50% ratio as stated above becomes violated. 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 the team is eligible to, and does, move back up to the Open Division.
    c. If any team requests to move from Open to the Regional Division and was in the Play-offs from the previous season, they MUST have been seeded in the lower 50% of the play-off seeding.
    d. All team designations to either Open or the Regional Division are subject to review and/or investigation by OEC and MUST receive the approval of the OEC Board of Commissioners.
    e. All the Regional Division teams that qualify for playoff berths SHALL have their rosters reviewed by OEC prior to further participation to verify team eligibility as stated in Rule7 in its entirety.
    f. Any Open team wishing to move to the Regional Division that exceeds the 50% required to be the Regional Division may petition OEC board of Commissioners to move to the Regional Division. A 2/3 vote of 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 Regional Division exception or considerations will be considered until such time as a minimum number of ten (10) teams are secured at the Open level on any given age/weight Division.

h. If a Mighty Mite team (from an Open city) going into Jr. Pee Wee has higher than a 30%-win record they must petition to be the Regional Division JPW team. (MM standings would have to be kept)

7. Suggested Criteria for Commissioners in determining the Regional Division Petitions:
   a. Previous season record
   b. Coaching Staff
   c. Returning Player Count
   d. Any undisclosed issue from the previous season that can be verified.
   e. Any other pertinent information
   f. Petition Explanation
   g. A 2/3 vote of Commissioners is needed for approval. All petition decisions are final with no appeal. All petitions must be done by the first Friday in July.

8. After August 1st, teams shall not be allowed to migrate between Open and the Regional Division. However, by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners, a team may so migrate if conditions warrant such migration.

9. ANY Association that has more than one (1) team in a division (JPW thru Unlimited) MUST declare one team as an Open Division team.

C. LEAGUE DRAWS

1. Divisional League Draws will be selected AT RANDOM by a manual or electronic method. No consideration will be given for previous year's records, geographic location, team designation, Association, coaching staff, etc. Not withstanding, the draw may be adjusted to prevent same Association teams in same draw where possible.

2. Once determined – League draws are final and may only be changed based upon League and/or Division Team counts "Division" being defined as - either Division of Play (Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, Jr. Varsity, Varsity/Unlimited) Open Division/ Regional Division.

D. THE SCHEDULE

1. All Association scheduling requirements information MUST be furnished to OEC no later than July 15th of the current season. (i.e. – number of fields and their availability, game time availability, field down times, SPECIAL SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS, if fields have lights, etc.)

NOTE: IT IS THE GOAL OF OEC TO PUBLISH A FIRM-FIXED SCHEDULE TO THE ASSOCIATIONS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15th OF THE CURRENT SEASON WITH AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHANGES DURING 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 SCHEDULE 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, in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the requested change. Failure to comply with this notice requirement shall result in denial of the requested.
4. The OEC Scheduling Deputy Commissioner shall give any schedule changes to the Presidents, in writing by either 'hard copy' notice or via e-mail.
5. The regular season will conclude in sufficient time to permit the appropriate number of play-off dates.
6. On those Saturdays, teams that fail to qualify for the first (1st) Round of the Play-offs will be scheduled to play an individual game against another non-qualifying team. The games will be scheduled at a site to be determined, and whenever possible, consideration will be given to similarity of record, prior opponents, assigned fields and scheduling requests.
7. On the Saturday following the First (1st) Round of Play-offs, in addition to another round of invitational games, and the Second (2nd) Round of the Play-offs, teams losing in the First (1st) Round of the Play-offs will be scheduled an invitational game, and the Mighty Mites will play their final regular season game.

8. Each declared Champion in each Division-1 will advance to the First (1st) Round of the Division 1 Regional Playoffs. The runner up will advance to the Division 2 Regional Play offs at the site determined by Regional Officials.
9. Any game ending in a tie will be decided by one series each of the High School 10-yard line over-time procedure (NFHS Tie Breaker) for MIGHTY MITE division and above.
10. It is OEC's 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 non-Conference 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, as a result 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 or 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 weeks to a calendar year.
14. No game time will be scheduled earlier than 9:00am and will start no later than 7:00pm. The ONLY exception will be OEC sanction Bowl Games or games starting late due to daily schedule running late.

E. NO SHOWS/FAILURE TO PLAY/FORFEITS

1. Both Head 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 team 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 a forfeit.

2. If a team has enough eligible players to play, but refuses to play them, either prior to or during a 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 $250.00 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 a forfeited game shall be recorded as 1 to 0 in favor of the winning team.
6. All teams must have 15 eligible players to play a game or the game becomes a forfeit.

F. CANCELLATION OF GAMES

1. A 72-hour notice of cancellation prior to a scheduled game, scrimmage, pre-season or post-season game shall be required. Lack of said notice shall result in a $250.00 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 playing field during or prior to the scheduled starting times if, in his judgment, either the weather or field conditions would be hazardous to the participants.
   - All cancelled games shall be reported to the Corporate Commissioner and Scheduling Commissioner within forty-eight (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. $100.00 fine given to the aggrieved team.
   b. Pay for all game officials.
   c. If the aggrieved team was the home team, additional $250.00 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 of the 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 as the result 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 shall not apply to Non-Regulation games. However, it is strongly suggested that all players are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in the Non-Regulation game.
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 game scores shall be reported to OEC.

2. It shall be the responsibility of 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's 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 the 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 play-offs associated with said team. No game score corrections for a team shall be accepted from Associations (and/or their subordinates) after twelve noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of play-offs associated with said team. Reported game scores for a team as of noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of play-offs associated with that team shall be, by rule, the correct game scores (except as noted in 6b below) regardless of the actual outcome of the game.
    a. OEC shall use the reported game score statistics as they exist as of twelve noon on Sunday prior to the commencement of play-offs associated with a team to determine play-off statistics.
    b. OEC, at its *sole* discretion, may modify any reported game score at any time so as to comply with its own rules, bylaws, or other reasons as propriety demands. Said modifications may be used in the computations for play-off statistics. Said modifications shall cause the resultant game scores, by rule, to be the correct game scores.

7. The term "play-off 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 play-off berths
    c. Play-off bracket seeding
    d. Wild card team designations (including, but not limited to, what teams will be designated to participate in coin flips and California Tiebreakers)

ARTICLE VII – PLAYOFFS

A. PLAYOFF STRUCTURE / FORMAT

1. Only the following Divisions of Play participate in OEC Playoff games:
   - Mighty Mite
   - Jr. Pee Wee
   - Pee Wee
   - Jr. Varsity
   - Unlimited Divisions
2. Separate OEC Playoff tournaments shall be scheduled for the Open Division, the Regional Division and Division IV teams.
3. Play-off game assignments will use the structure/format of that illustrated in the diagrams found in Appendix "A" (also referred to herein as the "Play-Off Ladder" or "Play-Off Ladders").
   a. Divisions with less than 31 teams at the beginning of the season will use the "8 Team - 3 Round Single Elimination" Play-Off Ladder.
   b. Divisions with 31 or more teams at the beginning of the season will use the "16 Team - 4 Round Single Elimination" Play-Off Ladder.
   c. Teams will be seeded only once for all Play-Off 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 as a result of the teams having the same overall record.
   d. The OEC Scheduling Commissioner(s) shall administrate the Play-Off games schedules and Ladders
   e. Should a team, for any reason, not be able to participate in a Round 1 game, then the OEC Scheduling Commissioner(s) shall determine which team will take said team's place in the play-off 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 Play-Off ladder shall be resolved by the Corporate Commissioner.
4. 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).
5. Play-offs games shall be scheduled only at sites that have lights, an operating scoreboard, including a 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 the games, an open concession stand, Board Members on duty, and sufficient personnel to provide for a chain crew.
6. All officials' fees for play-off games and invitational games are to be paid by the two (2) Associations playing in the games.
7. All 1st round Play-Off games, and all subsequent "Winning" Play-Off games may be played on Sundays unless otherwise scheduled by OEC.
8. Prior to participation in OEC play-off games, a team may decline to participate in the OEC Play-Offs 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.
9. 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 Championships, the following steps will be taken:
   i. The head coach will be suspended immediately for the remainder of the current season and the first 2 games and 2 weeks prior of the following season.
   ii. Head Coach fined $500.00.
   iii. Association fined 1,000.00.
   iv. OEC will conduct an investigation into this matter. Future playoffs for the association and team in question will be determined during the OEC investigation.
   v. These decisions are final and there will be no appeal allowed.
10. Any association hosting round 1 or 2 of OEC playoffs can have their teams play home if the hosting association team is the higher seeded team of the two teams in question.

B. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OEC PLAYOFFS

1. The following teams in each division, except Flag, Tiny Mite & Jr. Mighty Mite qualify for playoffs:
    a) The League Champion
    b) Sufficient additional Wild-Card teams to complete an eight (8) or sixteen (16) team field, depending upon the division size (see 3 a & b above)
2. League points shall determine League Champions.
3. League points are calculated by awarding two (2) points for a League win and 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 off of the mathematical inequality created by the scheduling of "byes". Should two (or more) teams share equal overall "loss/tie" records, yet one (or more) of those teams has a smaller overall record percentage because of a 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 tiebreaker 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 – tiebreakers 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 of 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.
        i) Seeding ties shall be resolved by a coin toss and/or by drawing of 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 (½) win and one half (½) loss. Inter-Division play, (Open vs. the Regional Division), as well as inter-conference play, does count towards overall records.
7. Division IV would consist of the next eight teams per division from the Regional Division after the Regional Division seedings are complete. There must be a minimum of four (4) teams to have an IV play-off in any division.

C. Qualification for OEC Playoffs Division IV

1. Division IV team participation shall be determined by overall record.
    a. No team shall be eliminated from playoff participation based solely off the mathematical inequality created by the scheduling of "byes". Should two (or more) teams share equal overall "loss/tie" records, yet one (or more) of those teams has a smaller overall record percentage because of a 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 on next page.

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 tiebreaker 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 – tiebreakers 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 of 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 seeding's – it is ONLY applied after final League Standings have been determined and the above described "bye" inequity occurs.

2. Seeding's are determined by overall record.
   a. Overall record shall determine their seeding order within these top available spots.
      i) Seeding ties shall be resolved by a coin toss.
   b. Wildcard teams shall be seeded in the remaining available spots according to their overall record.
3. Overall record is calculated by a percentage of all games won, both league and non-league, with ties counting one half (½) win and one half (½) loss. Inter-Division play, (Open vs. the Regional Division), as well as inter-conference play, does count towards overall records

D. TIE BREAKERS

1. **LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**

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

i. 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 team.

- If after applying (i.) above, there remains a tie between any of the teams, overall record shall be used to break the tie.
- If a tie still exists after determining Overall Record a CIF Tiebreaker shall be scheduled between those teams still tied.

ii. If ALL of the teams have not played each other, then head-to-head competition is not considered, and CIF tie breaker shall be scheduled to determine the League Champions.

iii. Losers of any tie breakers for League Champions shall fill wild card positions as applicable and will be subject to normal seeding determination for wildcard teams.

2. **WILD-CARD PLAY-OFF BERTHS/SEEDINGS**

a. In a situation where teams with like overall records qualify for Wild-Card play-off berths AND the number of berths is equal to the number of tied teams (including those teams described in B-4 a above) - – all teams shall qualify, and seeding shall be determined by:

- Comparing head-to-head competition IF all teams have played each other.
- IF head-to-head records still reveal a tie – or- -IF all the tied teams have not played each other, then 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.

b. In a situation where the numbers of teams with like overall records (including those teams described in B 4 a above) exceeds the number of playoff berths available – playoff berths shall be determined by:

- Comparing head-to-head competition IF all teams have played each other.
- IF head-to-head records still reveal a tie – or – IF all the tied teams have not played each other, then head-to-head competition is not considered, and a CIF tiebreaker shall be scheduled to determine seeding.

c. At any time during the tie breaker processes listed above, and if unanimously and mutually agreed upon by all of the involved (tied) head coaches, further tie-breaker activities may be eliminated and seedings may be considered by agreement.

4. **THE COIN TOSS PROCESS**
   - **a.** When two (2) tied teams are involved in a Coin Toss to determine seeding, the two (2) participants shall agree on which one shall be called the 'caller'. Should the two representatives not be able to agree, then 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 floor. If the caller calls the coin correctly, then the caller wins the toss. If the caller calls the coin incorrectly, then the caller loses the toss.
   - **b.** When three (3) tied teams are involved 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 'a' (above).
   - **c.** When more than three (3) teams are involved in the Coin Toss process, OEC shall determine an equitable Coin Toss and/or drawing of numbers process to determine seeding.
   - **d.** Any question/issues as to a team's qualification for Play-Offs shall be resolved by the Corporate Commissioner**.**

ARTICLE VIII – OEC ORANGE BOWL

A. ORANGE BOWL – OEC CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. OEC Championship Games shall be scheduled annually as determined by OEC so as to be in concert with participation in Regional/National level playoffs/championships.
2. OEC Championship Games shall be conducted for Division Open, the Regional Division and Division IV brackets as applicable. The winner of the OEC Championship game for Open Divisions shall be the Division-I representative team at Regional and National games. The Runner ups of the OEC Championship game for Open Divisions shall be the Division-II representatives at Regional and National games. The Open division semi runner ups will play in the Orange Bowl Championships to determine OEC's Division 3 Wescon Regional representative except for the unlimited divisions.
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 $250.00 per person. The fine shall be paid to the Association who provides the replacement workers.
4. No team or Association, including the host Association, shall conduct any fund-raising activities at the "Orange Bowl Championships" that competes with the OEC fundraising. Violation of this rule shall cause a $500.00 fine per violation.
5. Any Championship Game ending in a tie will be decided by the High School 10-yard line overtime procedure (NFHS Tie Breaker). In all other "Orange Bowl" games, the tie will stand.
6. Any Open Division team that wins an OEC championship game that refuses to advance to Pop Warner's regional playoff/championship games(s) will administratively forfeit the OEC championship game. The team so forfeited to shall be declared the OEC Division I representative. OEC shall then determine the method of selecting a Division II representative, at OEC's ***sole*** discretion.
7. Orange Bowl Unlimited Champions are the only teams moving onto the Regional Championships.

B. 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 to be scheduled with other Conferences or between two OEC teams, as circumstances dictate. Preference shall be given to teams from Associations not otherwise represented.
4. Sunday – Additional invitational games as desired.
5. Other than OEC fundraising activities, only "Site Host" Associations shall be allowed to conduct fund-raising activities at "Orange Bowl Invitational Games"
6. For inter-conference Invitational games – National playing rules shall apply. However, OEC rules shall apply for OEC participating teams. Teams from other conferences will conform to their own conference's requirements.

ARTICLE IX – POST SEASON TRAVEL

A. PARTICIPATION/POLICIES

1. Any team requesting a post-season travel game must be eligible as defined throughout these rules and shall put up a certified $300.00 deposit to OEC. Should that team cancel said scheduled game, and a replacement team cannot be found, that team shall forfeit the deposit to the aggrieved Conference.
   - There shall be no rollover of this deposit from year to year. Funds placed on deposit for this fund shall be applied to the Association's balance due for that year. If no balance is due, funds will be automatically credited to the Association's account.
   - 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. The host Association shall offer a minimum of two (2) nights lodging and food for players and cheerleaders. Any non-Bowl activities shall be discussed and agreed to before hand.
3. The host Association shall be required to host a maximum of thirty-five (35) players and twelve (12) cheerleaders.
4. Each team shall use their Conference's Mandatory Play Rule at home or away. Differences in general playing rules should be discussed before arrangements are made.
5. Post-season travel shall be scheduled according to a draw using the number the Association's Representative pulls 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 and added to the end only when they do complete it and turn it in. The number of teams per Association will be based on an equal share of games available per bowl game location.
   a. All pre-season and post-season travel games, not scrimmages, shall be scheduled **ONLY** by the OEC Bowl Director or designated OEC Commissioner.
   b. Unauthorized scheduling of games outside of the designated OEC Commissioner is considered a rule violation, subject to the suspension penalties as provided on page 20 of 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 put into travel is also subject to, and expected to, host during the "Orange Bowl" Weekend (see below). Any team unable or unwilling to host may lose their right to travel to another team who is able to host and also travel, as hosting is as important as traveling between Conferences.
6. Teams that participate in the "Orange Bowl" and/or post-season bowl games within OEC, 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, from Flag thru Varsity/Unlimited, that are participating within the Association. The purpose of these monies shall be dedicated to Association level travel assistance for National Pop Warner and Cheer Championships and Division 3 Football 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. These 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 and Division 3 football Championships.
   e. Any football/cheerleader participants that utilize money from this fund for travel assistance must participate in uniform.
   f. A maximum of 90% of the travel fund may be used each year to help with travel expenses to National in Florida and Division 3 football Championships. The remaining 10% will stay in the travel fund for the next year. The allocation (i.e., eligibility, amounts, shares, etc.) shall be determined and approved by the presidents yearly at the last OEC meeting in November, with a maximum of $650.00 per child.

ARTICLE X – OEC SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

A. POLICY

1. Costs for this program shall be determined and budgeted each year. Said budget shall be approved by the Board of Presidents by means of a simple majority vote.
2. Each Association shall be assessed, on a per team basis, an equal share of the costs associated with this program.
   a. Costs shall include, but are not limited to, the costs of printing, postage, and awards.
   b. Award type, configuration, size, etc. shall be determined based upon budget remaining after printing and postage costs.
   c. There shall be no excess budget carry over from year to year of this program. All budgeted monies remaining after printing and postage costs shall be utilized for the purpose of the awards.

   NOTE: The purpose of this program is to REWARD good sportsmanship – a vital principle of our program. The awards presented should be representative of this principle.
3. OEC shall be responsible for the printing and distribution of the official OEC SPORTSMANSHIP CARD.
   a. Each Association shall be provided sufficient cards to accommodate each HOME game scheduled for their field(s) throughout the season.
   b. Extra cards will be made available upon request.
4. OEC shall be responsible for gathering data, maintaining data, and for regularly distributing scores and standings to the leagues for this program.

5. Prior to the start of each home game, the HOME TEAM shall be responsible for providing the officiating staff with one (1) OEC SPORTSMANSHIP CARD per game.
   a. No game shall start without providing this card.
   b. Failure to provide a card may be grounds for forfeiture of the game by the HOME team.
6. It shall be the responsibility of the senior official, of each game, to complete the OEC SPORTSMANSHIP CARD and return it to the Association at the end of each game. The Association President shall turn in Sportsmanship Cards to their designated Deputy Commissioner at each scheduled OEC Meeting.
   a. The OEC SPORTSMANSHIP CARD shall be considered as the officiating staff's proof of attendance.
   b. Failure to turn in the card could result in the withholding of officiating payment for that game until such time as the card is received by OEC.

B. SCORING

1. Each OEC SPORTSMANSHIP CARD provides the opportunity for a team to score a maximum of fifty (50) points.
   a. Forty-five (45) possible points from the "category" scoring area, plus…
   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 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/team in question.
   b. Team scores may be adjusted accordingly, up to a maximum of plus or minus 10 points for the week for Sprit 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 (Consolation, Play-off, 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), the team in each division with the highest average sportsmanship score shall be declared the winner.
   a. A team may be disqualified for grossly poor behavior during any game during the season, including Consolation, Play-off, 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 tie-breaker criteria, in the order listed, until the tie is broken:

a. The team with the highest "Overall Sportsmanship" selections ratio; (Example: 5 selections / 8 games played = .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. In order to qualify for the award, a team must have a minimum of 5 cards received/entered so that a realistic average may be determined. Teams with less than 5 cards shall not be considered in the final Sportsmanship award determination.

C. AWARDS

1. Mighty Mite 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 strictly prohibited at all games or 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 a game.

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 and Team/Squad Staff shall display, on their person, the photo identification card/ID badge.

6. Presidents are responsible to call their designated Deputy Commissioner no later than 12:00 p.m. Sunday following the game to report any MPR violations or ejections. Reports of said violations are to be delivered in writing or email by 6:00p.m. the Sunday following the game in question to said Deputy Commissioner.

7. All officials' fees for Play-off 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 exists, 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 effect 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 play-offs 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 $250.00 fine and a minimum one (1) week and game suspension. Any player ejected from a game who wishes to protest said ejection must file said protest by 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday following the game in question. Said protest process shall ad hear to the following:

A. Video of game must accompany the protest
   i. Said video must depict the incident that was the cause of the ejection.
B. A panel of no less than 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 & indisputable evidence that the ruling on the field was faulty.
D. The suspension of the player in question shall persist until such time as such a review panel overturns the ruling on the field.
E. A $300.00 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 league check. This fee is completely refundable should the petitioner/requestor prevail on all points in the resulting protest hearing.

13. Post game ejections are a $250.00 fine and a minimum two (2) game suspension to a calendar year suspension. Post game is defined as the time period following a game in which the continuing presence of the Official and the ejected party are at the game site.
14. Any ejection or suspension from the start of the playoffs/bowl games to end of the season will be a minimum two (2) weeks to a calendar year suspension and a $250.00 fine. This does include the Flag, Tiny Mite, Jr. Mighty Mite and Mighty Mite divisions.
15. Convicted Felons
    A. Persons that have been convicted of the felonies related to the following acts shall be barred from holding ANY positions in OEC or it's membership Associations:
        i) Murder
        ii) Attempted Murder
        iii) Rape
        iv) Mayhem
        v) Acts of Terrorism
        vi) Acts related to child pornography
        vii) Theft, Embezzlement, & Larceny
        viii) Registered sex offender acts
        ix) Acts of domestic violence
        x) Acts against children
        xi) Felony conviction of Sales or Trafficking of a controlled substance within the last 10 years.
        xii) Any acts of conspiracy related to items i – viii (above)

    B. Any person barred under item A (above) shall be entitled to a special hearing to contest such action based upon what are believed to be extenuating circumstances.
        i) 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.
        ii) Reversal of any "barred" status shall be by simply majority vote of the panel in attendance.
        iii) The Corporate Commissioner shall act as the panel chair, and though he/she may voice his/her recommendations and opinions, he/she shall not vote except to break ties.

16. Any person, 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's sole discretion A) be permanently suspended, B) be suspended for a specified time frame, C) be placed on probation for a specified time frame, D) be fully re-instated, E) be subject to any other action determined appropriate by the Conference. If the said person prevails in said legal action, the said person shall be fully re-instated without any other penalty.

    Any person, and any family members pertaining thereto, that is party to a legal action against an 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 family members pertaining thereto, may, at the Association's sole discretion A) be permanently suspended, B) be suspended for a specified time frame, C) be placed on probation for a specified time frame, D) be fully re-instated, E) be subject to any other action determined appropriate by the Association. If the said person prevails in said legal action, the said person shall be fully re-instated without any other penalty.

17. No association will be allowed to use practice fields or game fields outside their boundaries that are listed in the OEC by-laws. Any association that must use practice fields or game fields outside their boundaries that are listed in the OEC by-laws must get approval from 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.
18. Team Staff, Association Staff, and Association Board members must dispatch their duties in a fiduciary manner as propriety demands.
19. Any football player or cheerleader taken to a doctor or hospital from practice, game or any Pop Warner function MUST get a doctor's release to return back to "tackle football or cheerleading" without any restrictions before the child is allowed to resume participation with his or her team.

20. ALL OEC associations are required to have a Player Safety Coach (PSC). The responsibility of the PSC is to make sure that all coaches are taught the proper USA Heads Up Football Tackling Techniques. In Addition, the PSC will follow up with teams t make sure that are following the tackling guidelines set forth by USA Heads Up Football. All PSC's must attend the yearly hands on training clinic.

21. **NO Mobile or Digital Payment services such as Venmo, Zelle team counts are allowed. Mobile and/or Digital Payment services will ONLY be allowed at the Association level with board approval.**

THE COACH'S ROLE. Ref: See National Rules

In an effort to remain consistent with the new National Pop Warner rules and Regulations, and to better insure 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 in regards to 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 Football squads as well as their respective Spirit Squad. Considering this the following guidelines shall apply:

A. THE HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

1. Owns the ultimate and final responsibility and accountability for the Team, his/her actions, the actions of his/her Assistants, staff, cheer team as well as spectators and parents.
2. He/She is responsible for maintaining and assuring open lines of communication between the football and cheer squads and staying abreast of developments on both squads.
3. He/She is responsible for and expected to support his Head Spirit Coach in the general administration of the squad.
   a. A Head Football Coach shall not, except for valid Safety and/or Rules enforcement purposes, interfere with the Head Spirit Coach in the performance of their duties as they are stated and/or implied in both National as well as OEC rules (e.g. –determination of proper practice as well as game attire, selection of cheer or dance routines and/or placements, selection of Spirit squad staff, practice and warm-up 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 squad support/attendance for all Spirit competitions and events which his/her team's Spirit Squad is participating in.
6. Ensure that the finances of the team inure to the benefit of both the football and cheer squads equitably.
7. Any team rostered staff member ejected from a game will be suspended for two (2) weeks and fined $250.00. The Head Coach will be fined $250.00.
8. All Tiny Mite and Jr. Mighty Mite heads coaches MUST attend a USA Football Heads-Up hands-on Tackling clinic and pass the online test/quiz yearly.
   a) ALL first year Mighty Mite thru Unlimited head coaches are also required to attend a USA Football Heads Up hands on tackling clinic and pass the online test/quiz.
   b) Any previous head coach that moves down to head coach of a TM or JMM team from MM thru Unlimited divisions and was a head coach for two consecutive years prior to the current season will not have to attend a hands-on clinic.

B. THE HEAD SPIRIT COACH

1. Is in charge of 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 both National and OEC rules as well as Association rules and By-Laws, The Head Spirit squad coach is also responsible for:
2. Is responsible and accountable for the Spirit Squad, his/her actions, the actions of his/her assistants, staff, as well as squad 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, positive as well as negative. (e.g. – disciplinary actions, fund raising activities, certification status, practices, etc.)
4. Keep the Association's Spirit (Cheer) coordinator apprised of team status at all times. (ref: #2 above)

5. Observing "Safe Practice" rules and policies at all times including practice sessions, games, and competitions/exhibitions.
6. Determining practice session formats, enforce proper attire, cheer and dance and competition/exhibition routines, determine disciplinary practices, prepare the squad for certification, as well as regular squad administrative duties.
7. Remain aware of all published governing Rules and Regulations in regard to Spirit squad participation which are recognized by the Association and Conference.
8. 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.

C. Any decision relative to the participation of the cheer squad in Cheer Competitions, Cheer Exhibitions, and the like shall reside with the local Association Board of Directors.

D. REQUIREMENT FOR ASSOCIATIONS TO CARRY INSURANCE

1. Associations shall be required to carry, either through OEC or by separate purchase the following insurances:
   i. Errors and Omissions (sometimes called Board Insurance) - coverage for to be for least one million dollars
   ii. General Liability - coverage to be for at least one million dollars
2. Proof of such insurance must be on file with OEC within 30 days of coverage inception or renewal, without exception.
3. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in all events associated with Association to cease until compliance is achieved.

E. REQUIREMENT FOR OEC TO CARRY INSURANCE

1. OEC shall be required to carry the following insurances:
   i. Errors and Omissions (sometimes called Board Insurance)
   ii. General Liability - coverage for at least two million dollars
   iii. Secondary Medical insurance for registered participants of football and spirit teams

F. REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS ASSITANCE

Not withstanding 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 any and all team, Association, OEC, Regional, or National Pop Warner events. This shall include, but not be limited to the following (including a properly trained person to administer/oversee/attend to such needs):

1. Administering any injections, such as, but not limited to, insulin
2. Providing and administering medication
3. Physical aid and guidance for the blind
4. Interpreters for the hearing impaired
5. Physical aid and guidance for the physically and mentally impaired or with diminished abilities
6. Providing any and all equipment related to the special need
7. Travel costs
8. Any and 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, and all rules and regulations stated in the National Pop Warner Rules and Regulations.
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 the OEC.
4. This booklet has been prepared solely for the benefit of ALL COACHES in order that they may understand, early in the season, the playing conditions and required rules that shall be enforced during the current season.
5. Any rostered staff found to have not completed all background, league paperwork or found to be on the active suspension list will cause the team to forfeit all games that the said person has participated in.

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

It's recommended that the following Juvenile Offenses & Team/Association Offenses paragraphs be read to all football players and cheerleaders, and a copy be sent home to all parents.

A. JUVENILE OFFENSES

1. Penalties for the following situations shall be a minimum immediate ejection from the game or scrimmage, suspension from the team for the next week and game and the Association shall be assessed a $250.00 fine to be paid to OEC for the first offense, and immediate ejection from the game and suspension from the team for one calendar year for the second offense. All suspension fines will be put into OEC travel fund. There will be no fine or assessment to the association if said action happens at practice.
    a. Fighting or hitting, kicking, striking, or otherwise abusing opponents during the course of 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 team, Association or Conference authority, game officials, or fans.
    d. When a player is ejected from a game, the Association President shall notify the OEC Deputy Commissioner in Charge, by phone, of the player's name and jersey number, by noon on Sunday. Ejection from a game for any reason will result in the player's suspension from the team for the following one (1) week and one (1) game. <u>There shall be no appeal of an official's ejection.</u>
    e. 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.
2. Associations that suspend their own Staffs, 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 in #1 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 offense 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 Play-offs, 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 purpose of this rule includes the players and cheerleaders, and the 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 the course of 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 any intentional malicious contact (hitting, kicking, striking, fighting, bumping, pushing, etc.) with any 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 in 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 (OEC), or the National organization may result in suspension and/or forfeiture of the game, forfeiture of the season, and/or dissolution 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 1 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 under this section.
   F) Conspiring to do any of the items noted in this section

Such a suspension 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 term 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 suspension. for the next scheduled game and for the one (1) Week of practice preceding the game. Any person who is suspended shall be barred from attending any team activity, association activity, practice or game 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 warrants 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 suspension, suspended persons (Coach, participant, staff, Board Member, parent, guardian, etc.) shall be barred from attending any practice, game, or 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" in this rule book (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 this 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 upon the nature and seriousness of the violations/behavior.
7. If any person deliberately and flagrantly violates these rules, the 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 violation 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/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/her suspension.
3. Any and all suspensions will include a $250.00 fine that shall be assessed to the Association. All 'suspension' fines will be put into OEC travel fund.
4. Depending upon the nature of the violation, the suspension may include forfeiture of a game or games.
5. Violation of these terms of Suspension shall result in a continued one (1) year suspension and depending upon the severity of the violation, may be 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 and 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 appeal/protest for Association level as well as Conference level actions that may be perceived as inequitable, and to ensure that the member's rights under Association Rules, OEC Rules, and National Rules have been upheld.
This section is written in an effort to provide an avenue for these situations in an equitable, speedy, and fair manner. This section is divided into five sub-sections; General; Administrative; Disciplinary; Miscellaneous, and Game Protests.

Please Note: Each of these sections provides 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 where, by 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 sections below may be waived and further actions 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 the Association followed the applicable rules and laws
B. Whether or not the parties have Standing
C. Whether or not anyone who adjudicated the case should have recluse/removed themselves
D. Whether or not the Association had jurisdiction

Said appeals are generally not a forum to re-try the case, but rather a venue to ensure proper due process was provided. Note that this shall not diminish OEC's oversight as provided by the National Pop Warner Rules and National Pop Warner Administrative Guide, or OEC's bylaws.

The outcome of an Appeal for actions issued by an Association can be one of the following:

1. The Association action is 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 null and void
    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 re-hear the case in light of 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 prejudiced
    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 re-submit 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 the 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 (3) 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 months of September and October, and the third panel for the balance of the year.

b. A $300.00 Tribunal/Protest fee shall accompany any and all requests for an OEC Tribunal except where stated otherwise within these rules (in the form of cash, cashier's check or league check.) This fee is completely refundable should the petitioner/requestor 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 Chairman for review and scheduling.

i. Prior to the scheduling of the Tribunal, the Chairman shall review the request in order to determine its validity (requestor's standing, timeliness of the request, appropriateness of the request, necessary fees submitted, etc.). The Tribunal Chairman may request additional information that he feels necessary in order to assist in determining the validity of the request. Any request found to be invalid shall be denied and any fees/deposits shall be returned to the requestor without prejudice.

ii. 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 48 hours of the Chairman's initial determination.

d. 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 quantity, so as to fulfill the tribunal requirements. Such appointees shall have full voting rights during the course of the tribunal.

e. In addition to the preceding, the Tribunal Committee Chairman shall act as the 'Chair' of all Tribunals*, and as such, shall act as an advisor 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 best interest of the organization.

f. 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.

g. Failure of any Association to render judgment and/or disciplinary action in a timely manner may result in OEC taking appropriate action.

h. There is a statute of limitations of thirty (30) days to submit a complaint or incident in writing to the 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 or Local laws or codes, etc. It is recognized by OEC that some Association's By-laws or procedures provide for an appeal process for these types of administrative actions, and in those cases the Association's own By-laws and 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.

a. For appeals resulting from an Association level action:
[Items i, vi, vii, viii, & ix, are required regardless if addressed in Association documents.]

i. Notice must be presented to the Association with a written request for appeal/protest with specific details of the protest along with references of the specific Policy, By-Law, or Rule 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.

ii. This notice must be presented to the Association's Board no later than five (5) working days from the occurrence of the event.

iii. The Association shall address the allegations in the notice of Appeal/Protest at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting that is scheduled to occur at least ten (10) days following receipt of the notice.

iv. The Association may consider the appeal/protest either in public or closed session.

v. The Association may or may not allow or require testimony from the originator(s) or other witnesses, dependent upon their own internal procedures.

vi. The record of the deliberations shall be included in the Board meeting minutes.

vii. 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(s) no later than five (5) working days from the date of the Board's disposition.

viii. 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 per Section 1 (above).

ix. Any appeal to OEC must be filed within five (5) working days from the receipt of the Association Board's disposition and may be presented to any OEC Corporate Officer within that time frame.

x. Once presented to OEC, the process for conducting a Tribunal as 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 the request. If the Chairman deems that additional information is required, this five (5) daytime frame may be extended from the time that all requested information is received.

xi. 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.

b. For appeals resulting from an OEC action:

i. Individual Association members (or Associations themselves) wishing to file a protest/appeal with OEC as a result of an OEC action must direct the protest/appeal through their Association President. Only Association Presidents may present these Tribunal requests to OEC.

ii. 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.

iii. 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.

iv. Once presented to OEC, the process for conducting a Tribunal as outlined in Section 1 (above) shall be initiated. Initial Determination of validity of the request shall be performed within five (5) working from the receipt of the request. If the Chairman deems that additional information is required, this five (5) daytime frame may be extended from the time that all requested information is received.

v. 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 By-laws, written Policies and Procedures, and manuals. Each Association also has the authority to impose any penalty it deems necessary, after the violator has been afforded due process of their rules.

Any individual Member, Football Coach, 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 affects on individuals, teams, or the program as a whole. 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 actions (i.e. suspensions) will stand until the hearing is held.

a. Conference level appeals/protests of Association level Disciplinary actions:

i. 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 action to OEC must FIRST file a timely written appeal back to the Association as provided for in the Association's documented By-laws, Rules,

policies & procedures, etc. The written appeal must include a detailed description of the individual's point(s) of the basis for the appeal. Should an Association's Rules, By-laws, policies, procedures, and 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 does not provide for an appeal process, or if an Association's rules specifically bar appeals of this type – then the Association is only required to receive the written notice, review the written notice, and formally reply in writing to the appellant that the appeal is denied along with the reasoning behind such denial.

ii. After an Association member has appealed to his own Association and has received what they believe to be an unsatisfactory reply to that appeal/protest, 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 Association's final disposition. This notification may be verbal.

iii. Written request for tribunal must be delivered to OEC within twenty-four (24) hours from the initial notification (as in ii. above). [Total time from the Association's response to written receipt by OEC = 48 hrs]

iv. The written request shall include a detailed description of the individual's point(s) of the basis for the appeal. OEC shall then turn the appeal over to the Chairman of the Tribunal Committee for processing.

v. The Tribunal Chairman will then follow the procedure defined in Section 1 (above).

vi. Once an appeal action has been determined as 'valid' - the Tribunal Chairman shall endeavor to schedule the Tribunal within seven (7) days.

vii. 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:

a. 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.

b. 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 Committee members shall 'stay' the suspension. However, "Time Served" may or may not be applied against any affirmation of suspension should the original suspension be upheld.

b. Appeals/protests of Conference level Disciplinary actions:

i. Individual Association members wishing to file a protest/appeal with OEC as a result of an OEC action must direct the protest/appeal through their Association President. Only Association Presidents may present these Tribunal requests to OEC.

ii. 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.

iii. 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.

iv. Once presented to OEC, the process for conducting a Tribunal as outlined in Section 1 (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.

v. Once an appeal action has been determined as 'valid' – the Tribunal Committee Chairman shall schedule the tribunal to occur within (7) days from said determination.

vi. 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:

vii. 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.

viii. 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 Committee members shall 'stay' the suspension. However, "Time Served" may or may not be applied against any affirmation of suspension should the original suspension be upheld.

c. 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.

d. Upon finalization of any suspension or other disciplinary action, either because of the disciplined member's exhaustion of all avenues of the appeal process: and/or though 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.

i. 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 initiated by OEC, then a request from an OEC Officer, affirmed by a simple majority vote of the OEC Board of Commissioners, can initiate a Special OEC Tribunal.

ii. The request cannot be made by any individual person/member.

iii. These requests can only be submitted by the originating Association's President, or an OEC Officer (see "i." above). All such requests must be made in writing to the OEC Secretary.

iv. The request may only be sent to a Special Tribunal upon a simply majority vote of the OEC Board of Commissioners after reviewing the request and the circumstances leading 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.

v. The results of any Special OEC Tribunal shall be reported as stated in Section 1, (above).

e. Continuity of Disciplinary Action

i. Resignation, termination, or suspension of membership after the initiation of any disciplinary action(s) does not relieve that member's obligation to honor the terms of said disciplinary action(s).

ii. During the term of disciplinary action, any subsequent Rules 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 OEC Board of Commissioners, (e.g.-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 to 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 in order 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 <u>specifically</u> list game forfeiture as a possible penalty for violation,
- 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 PROTEST WILL BE HEARD OR CONSIDERED BASED UPON REFEREE'S DECISIONS, ERRORS, OMISSIONS, INCORRECT CALLS OR INTERPRETATION OF PLAYING RULES, CONDUCT, ETC.
- As stated previously in these rules, Official ejections will NOT be subject to protest or appeal.

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), along with supporting facts, a list of all collaborating witnesses and pertinent evidence.

f. ONLY Association Presidents may notify OEC of pending game protests.

g. Association Presidents MUST notify OEC of the pending game protest within twenty-four hours of the end of the game.

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 I - THE FIELD

1. All 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. Roped 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. 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 a game.
4. No electronic devices, including cell phones, pagers, iPad, e-readers or go pros shall be allowed on the sidelines during games except for OEC officials.
5. The bench is reserved for players, coaches, and team staff only. The sideline areas are reserved 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.
6. Team Photographers / Videographers
    a. Each team shall be authorized to have no more than two (2) team photographers/videographers who are authorized to be on their team's sidelines, in the areas between either twenty-five (25) yard line and the back corner of the respective end-zone. (not 'in the box')
    b. These 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 hand-held or mono-pod type only (i.e. – no booms, carts, tripods, etc. are to be within the ropes or restricted sideline areas). Ipads and go pros shall be acceptable equipment of a team photographer.
7. Canopies, E-Z ups, etc. shall not be allowed within 15 feet or 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 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. Athletic supporters must be of a type made to hold cups 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 percent (no tint) allowable light transmission. (* See NFHS Rule Book)
5. Player jersey numbers do not have to match the National Federation Rule Book 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 as long as they are plain with no other writing other than the manufactures logo anywhere on the item. No other items such as bandanas or doo rags are acceptable.
9. No sponsorship information may be displayed on 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 re-certification process every other year as recommended by the industry. Such re-certification 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:
    The background field of a game jersey must be uniform in texture and coloring throughout a jersey.
    For clarification:
    a. The background field of the front and back sides of a jersey must be uniform in coloring and texture, the front cannot be different from the back.
    b. The background field of the top half of a jersey must be uniform in coloring and texture with that of the bottom half of the jersey.
    c. The sleeves of a jersey may be of a different coloring and texture of that of the main body of a jersey, but both sleeves must be uniform in coloring and texture.

ARTICLE III - SCOUTING

Scouting football games is permitted in the form of video tape, 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 of any type of practice or scrimmage is strictly prohibited, a scrimmage is considered a practice. (See National Rule Book)

ARTICLE IV - PRE-GAME WEIGH-INS

1. Weigh-ins 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 half-time. Any player, weighing in at half-time, shall be required to participate in one-half (½) 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, whether pre-game or half-time, 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 (example: rostered staff and/or parents) Board members who are coaches and not directly or indirectly affiliated with the team my conduct weigh ins.

3. The only staff member allowed at 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 Play form filled out in numerical order by jersey number.

5. The certified rosters may be reviewed prior to weigh-ins by the opposing teams.

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 warning label (in a visible position on the outside of the helmet), NOCSEA markings and mouthpieces attached to face mask or chin strap (except for players with braces.

   (b) Hard or soft cups with athletic supporters of a design 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 kick-off shall be re-weighed.

   (e) Any equipment changed after kick-off, without the approval of the Weighmaster or Association Official in charge of the field, shall cause the player involved and the Head Coach/Coaches to be ejected. Such ejection shall be considered a rule violation, subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.

8. Once weigh-ins are complete, or at half time, no player shall leave the playing/warm up area without a representative of the opposing team, an OEC Commissioner or local Board Member.
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 teams contract book is present at weigh-ins. Weigh in will be done a minimum ½ hour prior to the game. 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 on site at all practice, games, competitions and Pop Warner or Non-Pop Warner sanctioned event.

ARTICLE V – PLAYING RULES

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

B. Once the 28-point rule is in effect the linebackers that are on both teams will line up five yards from the line of scrimmage.

C. 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 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" formation. Kick will be blown dead by referee.

ARTICLE VI - MANDATORY PLAY RULE (MPR)

A. GENERAL 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 his Association President, Game Reports and signed Mandatory Play Rule forms received from each game at the END OF EACH GAME DAY.
   (b) If MPR forms (team's original and opponent's copy) and Game Reports are not turned in this shall be considered a rule violation, subject to the suspension penalties as provided on page 20 of 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, list any player that failed to play his minimum plays, and list any player and/or staff member 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 mail a copy of the form to said Deputy Commissioner on 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 Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, and Jr. Varsity and Unlimited divisions.

Number of Players:	16-25	26-30	31-35
Mandatory Plays:	10	8	6

   Kick-offs, kick-off returns, and PAT's DO NOT count toward the MPR.
4. If a player does not play the minimum number of plays, in a given game, he shall play twice the minimum number of plays in the following scheduled game. Any player needing more than the mandatory number of required plays shall be listed on the bottom of the MPR form.
   (a) Since this infraction shall result in the suspension of the Head Coach or his staff, the 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 "DISCIPLINARY 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 for Violation of the Mandatory Play Rules.

6. Association Presidents (or their representative) shall be notified prior to that week's 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 players during the regular season when it has an impact on the Playoffs, shall be suspended for 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 Certification, 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's President or designee must notify OEC within twenty-four (24) hours. (This can be done when calling in the scores.) Ejection of the Head Coach or any member of his staff is considered a rule violation, subject to the suspension penalties as provided on page 20 of these rules.

11. Punts DO count towards MPR in ALL divisions of play.

B. PLAYER ADMINISTRATOR AND ENFORCEMENT OF MPR

1. ENFORCEMENT: Each team shall have one (1) staff member designated as Player Administrator. He 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. The maximum staff size on the field is ten (10).

2. 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 to the following people at the end of each game.

      (i) Each team shall turn in their team's original (white) and the opposing team's copy (pink) to their Association President.

      (ii) The team Manager, for the team's records, shall keep the other copy (yellow).

   (d) The signing of the MPR form before the games is considered a rule violation, subject to the suspension penalties as provided in these rules.

   (e) 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 requirement. 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.

   (f) 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 Mandatory Play 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 players minimum number of plays). "

   (g) Any player, coach, or member of the staff that has been ejected from the game must be clearly noted on the MPR form.

   (i) The MPR shall apply to all games; pre-season, in-season and post-season.

2. The team Player Administrator (PA)/Team Manager must attend the OEC Player Administrator Clinic. The team manager/PA is expected to train anyone who will act as the PA during the season. Only persons trained by the 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.

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 on page 20 of these rules. In addition, pursuant to National Rules, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by the violating team.
2. In addition to the penalties prescribed on page 20 of these rules, on the second offense, the coach shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

ARTICLE VII – JR. MIGHTY MITE and MIGHTY MITES RULES

NOTE: THESE RULES ARE EXCLUSIVE TO Jr. MIGHTY MITE and MIGHTY MITE DIVISIONS – ANY RULES NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY PUBLISHED O.E.C. AND/OR NATIONAL RULES.

A. General Requirements / Rules for Jr. Mighty Mite:

1. Scores are to be reported weekly on OEC web site for posting with the official standings.
2. For purposes of monitoring the lopsided score rules the Jr. Mighty Mite scores shall be posted on the scoreboard and OEC web site.
3. The Junior OR Pee Wee ball of any approved manufacturer shall be used for all Jr. Mighty Mite 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 35-yard line and at any time when a kick-off would occur.
5. **The sliding scale mandatory number of plays for the Jr. Mighty Mites division are as follows:**

Number of Players:	**16-25 registered players**	**26-35 registered players**
Mandatory Plays:	**15**	**10**
Minimum Offensive Plays:	**7**	**4**
Minimum Defensive Plays:	**7**	**4**

PAT's DO NOT count toward the MPR
Punts DO count toward the MPR
Kick-offs and kick-off returns DO NOT count toward the 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, such 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 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 receives a 10 yard penalty.
7. Jr. Mighty Mite games shall be played on a one hundred by fifty-three (100 x 53) yard field.
8. Lopsided / Intentionally Run Up Scores applies to Jr. Mighty Mite as governed by National Rules; Rule 22 S1
9. Jr. Mighty Mite is eligible for post season travel.
10. Unless otherwise specifically stated, all playing rules of OEC shall also apply.
11. Violation of any of the above rules will result in a minimum two-week suspension of the Head Coach. This violation will also include the $250.00 fine.

12. Punts ARE allowed and count towards your MPR's.

13. Violations of any of the above rules will result in a minimum two-week suspension of the Head Coach. This violation will also include the $250.00 fine.

B. General Requirements / Rules for Mighty Mite:

1. Scores are to be called in weekly, to OEC, for posting with the official standings.
2. For purposes of monitoring the lopsided score rules the Mighty Mite scores shall be posted on the scoreboard during the game.
3. The Junior OR Pee Wee ball of any approved manufacturer shall be used for all Mighty Mite games. The receiving team shall "receive" their own ball upon request.

4. The sliding scale mandatory number of plays for the Mighty Mite division are as follows:

Number of Players:	16-25	26-30	31-35
Mandatory Plays:	12	10	8

Kick-offs, kick-off returns, and PAT's DO NOT count toward the MPR.

5. A maximum of one (1) coach per team shall be allowed on the playing field during the game. When the lines are set, such 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 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 receives a 10 yard penalty.

6. Mighty Mites games shall be played on a one hundred by fifty-three (100 x 53) yard field.

7. Lopsided / Intentionally Run Up Scores applies to Mighty Mite as governed by National Rules.

8. Mighty Mite teams are eligible for playoffs and post season travel.

9. Unless otherwise specifically stated, all playing rules of OEC shall also apply.

10. Violation of any of the above rules will result in the suspension of the Head Coach for the next week of practice and game. This violation will also include the $200.00 fine.

11. **Punts ARE allowed and count towards the MPR's.**

ARTICLE VIII - TINY MITE RULES

1. Players: Maximum 24, minimum 18
2. Field Diameter: 80-yard field
3. Coaches: Two coaches from each team is permitted to be on the field with the team. Once the team breaks from huddle, coach must stay back 10 yards from the line of scrimmage.
4. If associations have more than one team, age groups must be equally distributed across team roster. If one team, associations cannot stack by age group.
5. No kick offs, at the start of the game, the ball will be placed on the 30-yard line.
6. No punting. On 4th down, a team has the option of;
   (a) running or passing the ball from scrimmage
   (b) move the ball back to opponents 30-yard line and start offensive play from there.
7. Penalties: Major penalty 10 yards. Minor penalty 5 yards.
8. Game Time and Time Outs: Game will consist of two (2) 30-minute halves. Half time will be 10 minutes. All games will have a running clock except for time outs (three (3) per half allowed) and injuries. The clock will also be stopped after touchdowns and shall not start until the receiving team touches the ball during the ensuing kickoff. Clock will also stop for change of possession.
9. Scores are to be displayed on scoreboard and reported weekly for posting on OEC web site. There will be No tie breakers.
10. No try for point after touchdown.
11. Ball will be blown dead if fumbled behind the line of scrimmage. However, ball will be live if fumbled beyond the line of scrimmage.
12. **Every player on the team must be given an opportunity to be a captain.**

All Rostered Players:	**16-24**
Mandatory Plays:	**15**
Minimum Offensive Plays:	**7**
Minimum Defensive Plays:	**7**

13. All offensive backs must be lined up directly behind the players on the offensive line in some type of formation. You will be allowed, however, to split one 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.

14. Defense: No defensive player can be placed directly over the center. Player must be three (3) yards off the center. Defensive line must be one (1) yard back from the offensive line. Defense must run 6,4,1 set. No more than six (6) defensive players can rush the ball. No blitzing.

15. Game ball should be the Spalding *Mitey Mite* size or the Junior OR Pee Wee size ball of any approved manufacturer.

16. Pop Warner Official Rule Book, Tiny Mites Same as Mitey Mite (Rules) plus R-1: S-3 Special notes.

17. No post-seasons game. Teams may play a combination of 9 total games; a maximum of 1 pre-season game and 8 regular season games for a season total of 9 games.

Weights:	5-6	35-75 lbs.	7 yrs.	35-55 lbs.

18. **PAT'S DO NOT count towards MPR.**

19. **Punts DO count towards MPR.**

20. **Violation of any above rules will result in a minimum two-week suspension of the head coach. This will also include the $250.00 fine.**

ARTICLE IX - FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

A. INTRODUCTION

OEC Flag Football programs shall follow the Pop Warner Flag Football Rules and Regulations, as contained in Part VII of the Official Rules of Pop Warner Football. 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 **Cat** division. All players shall be at least five (5) years old by August 1st of the current year and may not be more than six (6) 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 Ruler are required. However, in order 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 designated on the sideline area two (2) yards back from the sideline and extending between the thirty (30) yard 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 the 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 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-bounds, 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 allowed) and also 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 five (5) defensive. 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, as a result 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 OEC web site. There will be NO tie breakers.

ARTICLE X – CHALLENGER DIVISIONS RULES

CHALLENGER MISSION

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

A - INTRODUCTION

The following Pop Warner Challenger rules govern all participants playing Pop Warner Challenger Football (PWCF).

B - ORGANIZATION

1. The HLA shall be considered the LEAGUE.

2. Associations can sponsor a team or teams.

C - REGISTRATION

Each league must conform to the insurance provisions found in the National Rule book.

D - DIVISION OF PLAY – CHALLENGER

Division Name: Challenger

1. Challenger League age cut-off date is July 31st of the current year and shall be the participants' league age for the coming season.

2. There are no height or weight restrictions on players.

3. Cheerleaders shall follow the overall age and division of play. In addition, all challenger spirit squads must follow Pop Warner Spirit Guidelines as outlined in the spirit section of this rulebook.

4. If a player starts a season in one division, he must finish in that division.

5. A player is ineligible if he is a member of a school tackle program or if he is playing Pop Warner tackle football. He is also ineligible if he is competing in another challenger or flag football program (unless as part of school curriculum).

6. A player shall furnish a written consent to play from either parent or legal guardian.

7. We recommend that all team helpers, volunteers, and people who will assist players, be a minimum of 13 years of age.

NOTE: This division is intended for special needs individuals that may require the assistance of a helper during the game. Safety is of the utmost importance. It should be stressed that this is non-contact flag football. There is no tackling or impeding another by force. The person providing assistance to 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 the course of play. The person providing the assistance should be of an appropriate age (13) and that they are in full understanding of these rules and on-field responsibilities. *It is of course the choice of the players parent as to who will provide assistance to their child. They know their children best, defer to them.

E - CHALLENGER FOOTBALL RULES PLAYERS

RULE 1: PLAYERS

1. A game is played between two teams consisting of a minimum five (5) players each. The game can be played with any number of players up to and including eleven (11). For example, seven on seven, eight on eight. (This will be a coach's agreement prior to each game.)
2. Each team roster shall have a maximum of 28 players, and a minimum of 10 players.
3. Only players appearing on the official team roster form (supplied by the HLA) are to be counted as players. The Roster is completed before the first game of the season and verified by the league in a process called "certification."
4. With a five-person team the offensive team should have four *(3)* players on the line and one *(2)* in the backfield. The defensive team may choose any formation.
5. Mandatory Play Rule: All players will receive equal play time.

RULE 2: PLAYING FIELDS

1. The field shall be rectangular with lines and end zones and shall conform to either' of the two designs mentioned below.
   A. 100-yard field: This field measures one hundred and twenty yards in length, divided into 5 zones of twenty yards each between two end zones of ten yards each. It is 53 1/3 yards wide.
   B. 80-yard field: The field measures one hundred yards in length, divided into four zones of twenty yards each between two end zones of ten yards each. Its 40 yards wide.
   C. 50-yard field: This field measures seventy yards in length, divided into 5 zones of ten yards each between two end zones of ten yards each. It is 40yards wide.
   D. Goal Posts are unnecessary as there is no one or two-point conversions after a touchdown.
2. The following field equipment will be used:
   A. A Down Marker can be used to indicate the number of the down.
   B. Corner Flags with flexible staffs will be placed at the four sections of the end zones and the sidelines. Soft pylons may be used if flags are unavailable

RULE 3: EQUIPMENT

1. GAME BALL: We will use the Pee Wee or Junior Ball.

2. FLAGS
   A. Each player must wear a belt with the number of flags designated as "standard" by the league, which will be either 2 or 3 flags.
   B. The flags will be attached to a belt and extend or hang from each side of the player's body. When using three flags, the third will hang from the rear of the player's body,
   C. Flags will be 14 to 20 inches long and a minimum of 2inches wide.
   D. The belt must be tight to prevent being turned around during a de-flagging.
   E. The securing of flags to the body, waist or belt, other than provided by S-2-B, is illegal.
   F. Jerseys cannot be worn over flags.
   G. Flags are to be of contrasting colors, different from game uniform. Definitions of uniform shall be game pants and/or jersey.

NOTE: The flags will be attached to a belt made for that purpose. Such a belt has equal resistance at the point of attachment of flags, thereby ensuring an equal effort necessary to de-flag a player.

3. GAME UNIFORMS
   A. All team members must wear the same color jersey. (Must be a t-shirt cut)
   Note: It is the intent of Pop Warner that the Challenger jersey is exactly like that of the other teams in the organization. It is important that these players look exactly like everyone else in the organization.
   B. All uniforms must have the Official Authorized Pop Warner Patch displayed in the designated areas as determined by National.
   C. All jerseys may be numbered, front and back.
   D. Any type of pants may be worn. (Any kind of game pants-same colors)
   E. Sneakers are the preferred shoe.

4. EYEGLASSES
Eyeglasses, when worn, shall be of athletically approved construction with non-shattering glass (safety glass).

5. MOUTHGUARDS
Mouth guards are not required: if used, no keeper strap is necessary. (RECOMMENDED IF POSSIBLE)

RULE 4: PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

1. Spiked or street shoes.

2. Padding of any kind, including hard surface padding such as shoulder pads, hip pads, and helmets (unless required as a result of the individual participant's disability).

3. Hard metal or any other hard substance on a player's clothing or person (unless required as a result of the individual participant's disability).

4. Anything that conceals the flags.

5. Slick or sticky substances such as grease or glue.

6. Any equipment, in the opinion of the referee, which will endanger or confuse players.

RULE 5: REFEREES

1. There should be at least two (2) referees. The host city will supply the referee(s)

Note: Challenger Flag Football is purely instructional. There will be no penalties assessed but rather instruction as to what the player did wrong. After instruction as to the infraction, play will resume.

RULE 6: GAME PLAY

1. PLAYERS

The free substitution rule is always in effect and a player may enter the game any time the ball is dead.

2. TEAM COACHES:

One Coach for each team will be permitted on the field.

3. TIME & GAME PLAY

There will be four, 15-minute running quarters, which will allow for substitutions

A. Five (5) minutes between halves. (unless coaches at game time agree to change)
B. A continuous running game clock. (exception to the rule: Official timeout, team timeout, touchdown, and injury)
C. There are no winners and losers, and a score will not be kept. Each team possession, regardless of turnovers, will end in a touchdown.
D. Each child will be allowed to score a touchdown during a game. It is of the utmost importance that the coach 'spread the ball around' as evenly as possible, again giving each child equal opportunity to score.
E. At the conclusion of each play, the referee will place the ball in the center of the field (equal distance from sidelines-not on a hash mark).

4. DOWNS

Although a down marker is used, it is used for game realism only. It can however be advanced per down.

5. DE-FLAGGING

A. There shall be no tackling of the ball carrier, passer, or kicker.
B. The player carrying or having possession of the ball is down when the flag is removed from his waist (de-flagging). The defensive player shall hold the flag above his head and stand still.
C. The defensive player cannot hold or push the ball carrier to remove his flag. An accidental touch of the body or shoulder while reaching for the flag shall not be considered a violation; however, touching of the head or face shall be considered a violation.
D. A defensive player may not run over, push, or pull a blocker away from him. He may push him sideways if he gets past him, but he cannot push the blocker down.
E. A defensive player must go for the passer's flag. He cannot touch the passer's arm.

6. BLOCKING

A. A blocker must block from an upright position.
B. Cross body and roll blocking are not permitted.
C. A blocker can only use their hands below the shoulders.
D. Blocking shall be done with the arms and body in the form of shoulder and brush blocking only.
E. A defensive player cannot block or push a ball carrier out-of-bounds.
F. Butting, elbowing or knee blocking is not permitted.
G. There will be no two-on-one blocking for the ball carrier beyond the line of scrimmage.
H. Blocking a player from behind is not permitted (clipping).
I. There will be no interlocking blocking.
J. A defensive player will be restricted in the use of his hands to the blocker's body and shoulders.

7. BALL CARRIER
   A. The ball carrier cannot use his hands or arms to protect his flags. The defensive player must have the opportunity to remove the ball carrier's flags.
   B. The ball carrier cannot lower his head to drive or run into a defensive player.
   C. Stiff-arming by the ball carrier is illegal.
   D. The ball carrier cannot spin or hurdle to prevent a defensive player from removing his flags.
   E. He may run in any direction until the ball is declared dead.

8. CENTER
   A. The center may side snap the ball.

9. PASSING
   A. All backfield participants (this could include an individual's helper) are eligible passers.
   B. Passing will be attempted from behind the line of scrimmage only.
   C. A lateral pass is a pass thrown parallel to the line of scrimmage or back toward the passer's own goal line. A lateral pass is not considered a forward pass.
   D. A forward pass is a pass thrown from behind the line of scrimmage toward the defensive team's goal line.

10. RECEIVING
   A. All participants (this could include an individual's helper) are eligible to receive forward passes. If the individual's helper receives the pass, they must immediately give the ball to the rostered player,
   B. A receiver may catch a ball even if he steps out-of-bounds or out of the end zone as long as he comes down with one foot in bounds.
   C. Two or more receivers may touch a ball in succession resulting in a completed pass.
   D. If an offensive and defensive player catches a pass simultaneously, the ball is declared dead at the spot of the catch and the passing team is awarded possession.
   E. An offensive player cannot be out-of-bounds and return in-bounds to catch a pass. This will be ruled an incomplete pass.

11. DEAD BALL
All balls touching the ground are immediately dead. For example, the ball is declared dead at the following times:
   A. When the ball carrier's flag has been pulled.
   B. If a pass receiver or ball carrier has a missing flag (ball is dead at that spot).
   C. Following a touchdown, safety or touchback.
   D. When the ball goes out-of-bounds for any reason.
   E. If a forward pass strikes the ground or is caught at the same time by an opposing player(s).

RULE 7: INJURED PLAYERS
Once removed from a game because of injury, a player must sit out at least one down, and may not re-enter the game without the approval of attending medical personnel. (which includes a certified CPR/First Aid personnel, and or parent or guardian of the participate)

RULE 8: PRACTICES

1. In the USA, practice cannot begin until August 1.

2. Challenger participants are not required to complete the mandatory condition required for other Pop Warner participants.

RULE 9: SCHEDULES

1. Maximum number of regular season games shall be eight (8) with a maximum of ten (10) games in the season.

RULE 10: EXHIBITION GAMES

1. At the approval of the HLA, challenger teams may participate in Exhibition Games

RULE 11: PENALTIES
Since there are no penalties, the following can be used as a guide to game play for instructional purposes only.

1. **LINE OF SCRIMMAGE**-
   A. Offside, down is replayed.

2. **PASSING**
   A. If a forward pass is thrown and intercepted, the play will be blown dead. The offense retains possession of the ball. Play continues.
   B. Passer crosses the line of scrimmage, the play stands, and the passer is instructed as to the rule.
   C. Intentional grounding, the play stands, the passer is instructed as to the rule.

3. **FLAG WEARING AND DE-FLAGGING**
   A. There is no tackling.
   B. You cannot wear the flags illegally.
   C. The ball carrier cannot use his hands to prevent a defensive player from de-flagging.
   D. A player cannot hold, push, or hit the ball carrier while de-flagging.
   E. A player cannot leave one's feet while de-flagging.
   F. As above, the offending player will be instructed as to the rules.

4. **ILLEGAL HAND-OFF**
   A. The ball cannot be handed forward beyond the scrimmage line.
   B. The ball cannot be handed or snapped to a lineman.

5. **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTIONS**
   A. There should be no substitution(s) while the ball is in play.

6. **BLOCKING**
   Note: all of the blocks below are illegal
   A. Leaving feet to block.
   B. Cross body blocking or roll blocking.
   C. Illegal use of hands by blocker.
   D. Holding a defensive player.
   E. Defensive player blocking or pushing the ball carrier out of bounds.
   F. Butting, elbowing or knee blocking.
   G. Defensive player using hands illegally.
   H. More than two blockers for the ball carrier (on one defensive player) beyond the line of scrimmage.
   I. Clipping.
   J. Interlock Blocking.

7. **BALL CARRIER**
   A. A fumble remains the possession of the offense and is not advanced.
      Note: all of the following is not allowed.
   B. Stiff arming.
   C. Lowering head to drive or run into defensive player.
   D. Use of head, use of hands or arms to protect flags.
   E. Spinning or hurdling.

F - CHALLENGER SPIRIT RULES

1. Not more than twenty (20) spirit participants may be certified to a squad roster. Mascots are not allowed for Challenger Squads.

2. Challenger Squads shall be designated as Novice

G - COACHES

The head coach of a Challenger football team is truly a special individual. You should select a coach that has the right combination of football know-how along with the ability and or the experience to work with handicapped youngsters. Above all else, the coach should realize that this program is designed for flexibility and the enjoyment of the players, without the pressures of competitive play. The coach should be able to provide proper skill development and techniques where applicable.
A challenger team's coaching staff is in complete charge of the team whenever it is together on the practice or playing field, traveling as a group to and from practice sessions and games, or together for any team function, such as a banquet. The coaching staff is under the direction of the Head Coach; other coaches are called Assistant Coaches. The following applies to ail coaches:

1. A Head Coach must be at least 21 years of age. A rostered adult representative (21 years or older) must be present for practices, games and functions.

2. An Assistant Coach must be at least 18 years of age. A football team may have a maximum of four (4) assistant coaches, plus Coach-Trainees, (1) Equipment Manager, (1) Trainer, (1) Team Parent and (1) Administrator. (Please note this applies only to Football. See Spirit section for squad coaching members)

3. An Assistant Coach must be at least 18 years of age. A spirit squad may have a maximum of four (4) assistant coaches, plus Coach-Trainees, Student-Demonstrators, (1) Equipment Manager, (1) Trainer, (1) Team Parent and (1) Administrator.

4. Teams/squads are permitted to carry Coach-Trainees, who must be a minimum of 16 years of age.

5. The Head Coach will determine the assignments of the Assistant Coaches.

6. In the absence of a specialized, trained person affiliated with the team/squad in the medical area (physician, paramedic, specially trained volunteer), one of the coaches must be the holder of a current Red Cross Certificate in Community CPR and First Aid or its equivalent.

7. Coaches are to be selected by methods approved by League rules and/or by-laws.

8. Once approved for coaching, a coach is automatically terminated at the close of each season. To coach the following year, the same League approval is required. Any violation of the rules committed by a coach during the season, even though the hearing is not held until after the close of the season, is still under the jurisdiction of the sponsoring association and/or League.

9. Coaches do not make team or League policy. Rather, they carry it out, However, on the playing and practice fields; the coaching staff is in complete charge and shall not be interfered with except in cases of rules violations and any other conduct deemed by higher authority to be contrary to the welfare of youth.

10. The Head Challenger Coach has final responsibility for his/her actions, those of his/her assistant coaches, players, staff and parents.

11. Each League shall establish its own rules regarding the placing of coaches with sons, daughters or siblings within its own boundaries.

ARTICLE XI - CAMPS

1. Refer to OEC attachments.

ARTICLE XII - 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 jurisdiction 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. To clarify this rule the following are a set of ***non-exhaustive*** examples:

    A. Referees shall not:
        a. Instruct a team to advance the score of a team in order 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.

    B. This rule shall not diminish a Referee's authority to enforce written rules applicable to the game. Therefore, a Referee shall be allowed to:
        a. Instruct the leading team that it may not pass a ball when the 28-point rule is in affect
        b. Instruct a team to discontinue behavior that endangers players (except as an excuse to engage in activity prohibited in "A" above).
        c. Instruct players to not lead with their helmets
        d. Instruct team staff to control their fans

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

SECTION III

SPIRIT RULES & REGULATIONS

OEC & 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; Assistants, Coach Trainees, and Student Demonstrators are required to submit an application to their Association for approval.
    α. A new application must be submitted each year.

2. Head Spirit Coaches (or person in charge) shall carry the signed contract, a medical release form, copy of certified birth certificate, recent photo and OEC transportation card in their team spirit book. Book shall be on the site, at all times, when the squads are at practice, games or at 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 by the use of 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 spirit staff, the Head Football Coach has the final responsibility for his entire team (all team personnel; adults, parents, players, and spirit squads) and is answerable to his Association Board of Directors.

B MANDATORY MEETING/CLINICS

1. The Head Cheer Coach Safety/Rules Meeting is classified as Mandatory:

    a. All Association Head Cheer Coaches and rostered staff are required to attend the Head Cheer Coach's Safety/Rules Meeting. Failure to attend as described above will result in the suspension of the Head Cheer Coach for the first regularly scheduled game as well as the week prior; and a $200.00 fine to be assessed against the Association for each team that is not represented.

NOTE: It is recommended that all Football and Spirit Staff members 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. With the prior approval of the Conference Spirit Commissioner (CSC), an ASC may appoint a cheer representative (other than their Association President) to replace them at a meeting. In the event the ASC does not arrange a replacement and the CSC receives no call, the association will be fines $150.00.

2. Any Association, which does not have a cheer representative (as defined in #2) 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 by the ASC to the CSC for approval by Regional and National. Such request must be granted in order to participate.

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

ARTICLE II – SIGN-UPS

1. Each Pop Warner Spirit Squad shall fill its entire squad every year on the basis of 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 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 or 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/sign-ups) listing all cheerleaders assigned to each squad including their age, their address, their 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 $250.00 for each occurrence.

~~9~~ Any Association that fails to certify a "declared" squad shall be fined $250.00 for each occurrence.

~~10~~ No squad shall be added after July 31st.

Notwithstanding other rules and regulations recognized by OEC:

i) From August 1st through, and including, the Certification of the squad, any declared cheer squad must have at least 6 cheerleaders that meet the age, and scholastic requirements of the squad's division.

ii) No cheerleader may be on more than one squad at a time. No cheerleader on a squad may also be on a football team at the same time.

iii) Any declared cheer squad must have the number of players specified by this section on the first game of the season.

iv) Only declared squads may be recognized by OEC for participation in conference activities, including, but not limited to, pre-season games, in-season games, scrimmages, post-season games and cheer competitions.

v) 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, the High School Spirit Book and 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. Buddy System: Starting the first (1st) day of practice, cheerleaders or mascot on a certified roster must be accompanied by an adult to leave the spirit area at any practice, game or Pop Warner function.
4. No hair, face or body glitter (or mist with glitter) is allowed.
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 National Rule Book. (See National Rule Book)
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 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 fingers when viewed from the palm side of the hands. Further note: 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 the back spotter. * This is optional at the Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, Jr. Varsity and Varsity/Unlimited level.
9. No gloves are allowed while stunting.

10. In the interest of safety, all spirit participants and rostered coaching staff (under the age of 18) who are actively involved in performing, coaching or demonstrating stunts will wear appropriate attire at practice and games. This includes:

    a. No loose, baggy clothes.
    b. No open toed sandals. Athletic shoes & 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/logo.
    e. Athletic (gym style) attire is recommended.
    f. All glitter, hair, make-up and fingernail rules also apply.

ARTICLE IV – 5 & 6 Year Olds

1. No 5 & 6-year old's shall be 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-year-old squad.

3. At OEC Competition, the Flag, Tiny Mite, Jr. Mighty Mite & Mighty Mite squads may be combined 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 Rules 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, fund-raising events, and special performances scheduled by the Spirit Coach and squad.

4. At the beginning of the season, the Head Spirit Coach will provide to all participant's families all phone numbers/email addresses necessary to contact the coaching staff. The Parent or Guardian of spirit participant's 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 event that a spirit participant does not regularly attend scheduled practices, games, etc, they may face disciplinary actions as determined by their respective Association.

ARTICLE VI – POLICE POWERS

1. Most offenses by juveniles (players 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, the type of violation that does not require a hearing, with discipline left to the discretion of the Head Spirit Coach. Offenses of a non-routine nature, such as thievery of team property, picking of fights, smoking of suspect tobacco, drinking alcoholic beverages etc., are of a serious nature, leading 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. Suggested course of penalty is as follows:

   Infraction Penalty
   - 1st Incident One (1) week suspension with written notification
   - 2nd Incident Written notice of dismissal for the balance of the season

Penalties for the following situations shall be immediate ejection from the game, suspension from the team for the next week and game for the first offense, and immediate ejection from the game and suspension from the team for the balance of the season for the second offense.

α. 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.

ARTICLE VII – FEES AND OTHER FUND-RAISING

The use of sign-up fees and other pre-season fund-raising, as a means of helping cover the team's operating budget, is an acceptable practice in Pop Warner Football, providing the following mandatory National Rules are observed:

a. All fee 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. This will include, but is not limited to, keeping track of all monies paid by the participant for the following: 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 then:
   a. Present their team spirit book to the other head cheer coach for the purpose of acknowledging that the book is present. A certified roster must be present inside the book.
   b. Identify if the visiting squad is rostered as "cheer" or "dance"
   c. Sign the others OEC Spirit Game Report.
   d. Determine half-time performance schedule. It is customary for the spirit squad to perform their half-time exhibition for the opposing squad.
   e. In the event there is no opposing spirit squad, no signature is required. The Head Cheer 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, but shall not warm up, practice or perform.
2. Both spirit squads shall have sufficient time to perform at all fields during half-time.
3. Any non-physical 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 or 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, 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 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 PAT (point after touchdown).
11. All Spirit Coaches shall continue practice for their squad until the current season of play is completed, which includes all post-season competitions, Play-off 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 National competitions must have the Association's concurrence and OEC's approval to miss a scheduled Play-off game, if there is a conflict.
14. No ladders, boxes or props shall be used in the spirit area. A squad may designate 1 (one) squad participant to use 1 (one) 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, a 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 half-time, or during warm up, must follow all stunting guidelines outlined in the National Pop Warner Rules. (E.g. all twisting dismounts and basket tosses require the use of a mat at all times.)

17. Any Spirit Coaching Staff or squad violating any rules will immediately remedy any 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 the 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 particular 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:

    i. The squad must be age eligible for that division.
    ii. The cheer/dance squad must perform during the Association's football games at another levels assigned games.
    iii. The cheer/dance squad must compete only in the traditional league/region/national competitions.
    iv. Additional Insurance is required per participant.

20. Attendance records MUST be maintained, and conditioning hours shall be tracked for each participant and must be continued to be tracked until all team/squad participants have completed their conditioning. 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.

TRAVEL

1. Flag and Tiny Mite cheer squads are not eligible for pre-season or post-season travel.

<u>ARTICLE IX</u> – OEC SPIRIT EVENTS

1. OEC will host two (2) special spirit events each season, which are described below:
    - Safety Camp
    - OEC Spirit Competition and Exhibition
2. All OEC spirit squads are required to participate in the events listed in Article IX, 1.
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. Please read National Rule Book, Article 16 CAMPS for further information.
4. Squads who are eligible shall be granted the opportunity to participate in Regional, National and any other <u>OEC approved</u> spirit competitions.
5. In the event that a certified & rostered OEC squad chooses to compete at a non- Pop Warner event after December 31, 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 an event request form for any and all said events at least 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.")

<u>ARTICLE X</u> - OEC COMPETITION

A. GENERAL RULES FOR OEC COMPETITION

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

1. There will be two (2) performance categories, Exhibition and Qualifying
2. Cheer teams in the following divisions; Mighty 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. Flag
B. Tiny Mite
C. Jr. Mighty Mite
D. Spirit squads with five or less cheerleaders.
E. Spirit squads that otherwise fail to meet all the qualifications to participate in the Regional and National competition.

4. Squads will spirit on and off per National Pop Warner rules.

5. MUSIC

a. Music and Music License – ALL cheer teams must follow the guidelines set forth by National Pop Warner.

b. It is recommended that each squad prepare two (2) music CD's labeled with their city, division and squad name. No cassettes will be supported at OEC competition. One Spirit Coach will be responsible for beginning the squad's music.

6. Uniforms consist of all clothing (dress, shoes, & pom-poms) that has been 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 in the staging area*)* an hour and a half, (1½) earlier than their squad's scheduled performance. The check-in staff will verify the following items for compliance:
   a. Spirit Book and Certified Roster present and complete.
   b. Hair, make-up, fingernail legality check
   c. Uniform & OEC patch check

   If at check in, it is determined that a spirit participant(s) does 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 team's 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 or team staff members shall be allowed at or behind the judges' table during their team's performance.

10. Props:
    a. Cheer – Cheer squads will conform to National Rules.
    b. Dance - Dance squads will conform to National Rules for 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 in order 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 <u>Secondary</u> Routine at the OEC cheer competition to be eligible <u>to perform</u> 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 in order to accept the automatic bid to Regional or National cheer competition.

B. Judging Criteria and Procedures:

A. OEC has the option of utilizing up to 6 qualified panel judges.

B. OEC will use Pop Warner Official Score Sheets.

C. The OEC Judging panel may consist of:
   i. Head/Legality/Timing Judge (2nd Timekeeper may be utilized as back-up)
   ii. Panel Judges (up to 6)
   iii. Point Deduction Judge

D. OEC shall contract for judges (regular, safety, stunting, timing, etc.) that are qualified and knowledgeable of Pop Warner rules and are of a completely non-partisan background of any of the competing teams. When this is not possible, then at least fifty (50) percent of the judges shall be from an "outside" source.

E. Scores shall be made available 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.

F. All coordinators with advancing squads will be notified within 48 hours 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 on in life.

OEC takes into consideration the fact that some member Associations has 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 assure that each level receives viable, academic recognition.

ARTICLE II – GRADE POINT SYSTEM

OEC will follow the prevailing Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. (National) 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 3 levels of recognition for scholastic achievement and are as follows:

GPA Score	Level Name
96-100	Platinum
90-95	Gold
85-89	Bronze

2. Applicants must be rostered in one of the following divisions: Mighty Mite, Jr. Pee Wee, Pee Wee, Jr. Varsity, Varsity and Unlimited. (Tiny Mite, Cub/Flag, & Mascots are excluded)

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 Scholar 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 Scholar Commissioner shall set meetings dates and places necessary to accomplish the objectives of the All-American Scholar Program.

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 and/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 choose to conduct a local recognition program for their Association All-American Scholars.
2. Any player or cheerleader who is accepted as a National or OEC honoree shall have met any criteria set at the National level.
3. Suggestions that an Association might take into consideration in establishing a local program:
    A. Associations may use the OEC Little Scholar application or a version thereof with their name and logo.
    B. GPA criteria shall be B- (83 grade points) or higher.
    C. All candidates that met 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.
    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 top be considered at the National of OEC level. The expectation would be to provide more youth an incentive to pursue academic excellence.

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 your scholars from the past year.

4. Approach your city council or mayor for a certificate or letter of recognition for your 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 one 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 school year ending prior to their registration, or to August 1 of the current year (summer school report cards alone shall not be sufficient). Those participants that fail to submit a report card by August 1, must submit a report card or Scholastic Eligibility Form prior to being certified. Proof of satisfactory scholastic fitness is a National rule (refer to Part III, Article 6 Registration, Section S-4 Scholastic Fitness).

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 TO OEC

FOOTBALL & CHEER COACHES AGREEMENT

OEC RULES FOR 2021

I/We have read the OEC Rule Book, 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 in order that they may understand early in the season what football, 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 and TEAM NAME: _____

HEAD COACH: *(*Print Name*)* _____

(**Signature**)_____

(Address)_____

(City & Zip) _____

(Phone)_____

ASST. COACHES: 1. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

2. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

3. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

4. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

5. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

6. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

7. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

8. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

9. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____

10. (Print Name) _____(Signature)_____