

**TRI-COUNTY JUNIOR FOOTBALL  
CONFERENCE  
BY-LAWS**

*As Amended*

*June 2009*

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## **ARTICLE 1 – NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Tri County Junior Football Conference (League). The Tri-County Junior Football Conference is a not-for-profit organization.

## **ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE**

The purpose of the league shall be to promote the game of football in the area; to inspire children to practice good health, citizenship, and character to bring area children together through the means of a common interest in sportsmanship, fair play, and fellowship; to impart to the game elements of safety, sanity, intelligent supervision; and to keep the welfare of the children first and entirely free of adult lust and glory.

In addition to the above general purposes, specific purposes are as follows:

- A. To acquaint the children with the fundamentals of the game; running, passing, kicking, blocking, and tackling.
- B. To teach through the game: sportsmanship, love of the game, and the ability to take a few knocks and bumps.
- C. To promote safe play by encouraging children to play in their own weight and age division, and preventing rough play and piling on.
- D. The Tri-County Junior Football Conference will be an entirely not-for-profit organization. No Officer, Board member, or any other member will receive any type of remuneration for their services from the organization's treasury.
- E. The Tri-County Junior Football Conference will not endorse, sponsor financially, nor support in any other way, any political party or candidate of any political office.

## **ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERS**

- A. **CLASSES OF MEMBERS** - All member organizations are recognized equally, provided they are in good standing with the league. Any member organization not in good standing as outlined with these bylaws shall be subject to any and all restrictions that apply.
- B. **ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP** – Prospective members may be admitted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the league members present. A member organization may be terminated by a 2/3rd majority of the league members present. There must be at least seventy five percent (75%) of the league membership present to constitute a quorum.

### C. DUES AND FEES

1. Each new organization shall pay an admittance fee of \$100.00 to Tri-County Junior Football Conference upon their acceptance to the league.
2. In addition to the above, league dues of \$100.00 per year per organization, non-refundable, payable by the February meeting. Organizations that are in good standing and have belonged to the league for at least three (3) consecutive years will no longer have to pay league dues.
3. A fifty-dollar (\$50) deposit per team entered by each organization is due by the August/September special meeting (Scheduling Meeting). Fifty percent (50%) of team fees will be refunded at the December meeting, if the teams complete the season. In the event a team fails to participate in all league and playoff games they will lose their team fees and are subject to additional fines or probation.
4. The Executive Committee and the Scheduling Committee, at a special meeting prior to the first round of playoffs, shall determine playoff fees and other reimbursements.

### D. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Any organization missing a total of two (2) meetings, regular or special, called for the entire membership during any twelve (12) month period will be assessed a fifty dollar (\$50) fine. Any organization missing a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting during the same twelve (12) month period will be assessed a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine and will be placed on a one (1) year probationary period. Any organization missing a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) meeting in the same twelve (12) month period will be automatically removed from the league. There will be no excused absences. In order for an organization to be in good standing, any fines that are due from that organization must be paid in full before the start of the monthly scheduled meeting. An organization cannot vote again until the meeting succeeding their voting rights being reinstated.
2. Member organizations and their representatives (officers, primary and alternate representatives) are prohibited from any affiliation with other football leagues, conferences, organizations, etc. which are considered to be part of a competitive nature with the Tri-County Junior Football Conference as determined by the Tri-County Junior Football Conference Executive Board. Violation of this agreement by a member organization shall result in immediate suspension and reinstatement shall require a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote. Violation of this agreement by an individual representative of a member organization shall result in immediate termination of their position on the Tri-County Junior Football Conference Executive Board and consideration for reinstatement will not be heard for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months from time of termination.
3. A list of each organization's Executive Board with phone number, address, e-mail address (if available), an organizational mailing address, meeting time and place is required by the February regular meeting.

E. MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS – the following is a list of the member organizations as of the date of the current year’s approved bylaws, and changes of the member organizations during the year do not require that changes be made to this listing:

Alton	Alton Renegades
Bethalto	The Little Cowboys Football Club
Cahokia	Cahokia Quarterback Club
Centreville	Centreville Tigers
Collinsville	Collinsville Raiders
Edwardsville	Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club
Fairview Heights	Fairview Heights Athletic Club
Highland	Highland Quarterback Club
Jackie Joyner Kersee	Jackie Joyner Kersee Boys & Girls Club
Little Devils	Boys Football Club of Belleville
Little Knights	Little Knights Football Club
Mascoutah	Mascoutah Little Indians
O’Fallon	O’Fallon Little Panthers Sports Club
Red Bud	Muskets Athletic Club
Troy	Troy Titans

**ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE**

- A. OFFICERS – The Officers of the League, which shall be known as the Executive Committee of the Tri-County Junior Football Conference, shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- B. NOMINATIONS – All nominations for Officers are to be turned into the Nominating Committee by the November meeting. All candidates must be endorsed by their member organization.
- C. ELECTIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE – Officers will be elected by ballot vote at the December meeting for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected. A candidate must receive a majority vote to obtain office.
- D. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE – Refer to Parliamentary Authority
- E. VACANCIES – An office is considered vacant if an officer misses two (2) meetings without giving notice to another member of the Executive Committee.
- F. SPECIAL ELECTIONS – There shall be a special election to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee. All candidates must be endorsed by their member organization.

## ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS

- A. **REGULAR MEETINGS** – All TC monthly meetings are to be held on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday of each month, except for the months of September and October, which will be held on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesdays. If an organization is not present thirty minutes (30) after the scheduled start time of the meeting, the organization will be counted absent. The November meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of the month in the event the first round of the playoffs is scheduled before the regular monthly meeting. Each of these meetings will be held in one centralized location, Belleville. The Secretary, at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, will notify each member organization of the place and time, if a change is necessary.
- B. **QUORUM** – There must be at least seventy five percent (75%) of the member organizations present to constitute a quorum to vote on bylaws or Rules of Order issues [example: Nineteen (19) organizations, fifteen (15) organizations must be present and in good standing]. Only fifty-one percent (51%) of the member organizations present to constitute a quorum are required to conduct business.
- C. **SPECIAL MEETINGS** – If requested by three (3) or more organizations, the President shall schedule a special meeting within five (5) days of the request. The President shall have the power to call any special meeting as deemed necessary. Previous notice of the meeting must be sent to the members at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. The notice can be given by e-mail, fax, or phone. No other business may be conducted at this meeting other than the purpose called.
- D. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS** – Any organization that is assigned to be a member of a standing committee, or special committee, must be present at that scheduled meeting. Failure to attend is covered under Article 3, section D, number 1.
- E. **CANCELLATION OF MEETING** – No meeting may be canceled unless agreed upon by a majority of the Executive Committee, and only in the event of inclement weather (act of God) or a National emergency.

## **ARTICLE 6 – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**BOARD COMPOSITION** – Each organization shall register a maximum of two (2) primary representatives and two (2) alternate representatives. Only four (4) are qualified to cast votes. They must be registered at least one (1) meeting prior to acquiring voting eligibility. On any voting matter, the individual organizations are entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes and only one (1) vote per representative present. An officer of the member organization shall designate to Tri-County Junior Football Conference, in writing or in person, their organization’s representatives and alternates. No person shall exercise voting privileges with more than one (1) member organization throughout the league’s fiscal year and remain eligible as a representative, alternate representative, or officer of the league. A list of any changes in primary or alternate representatives must be submitted to the Secretary no later than one (1) week prior to the January meeting.

## ARTICLE 7 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

### A. AGES AND WEIGHTS

DIVISION	Age as of September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Max Weight	Position Restrictions
TYKES	5-6	65 lbs	None
	5-6	Unlimited	If over 65 lbs Interior Lineman
JR PEE WEE	7-8	85 lbs	None
	7-8	Unlimited	If over 85 lbs Interior Lineman
	9 (Playdown)	55 lbs	None
PEE WEE	9-10	100 lbs	None
	9-10	Unlimited	If over 100 lbs Interior Lineman
	11 (Playdown)	75 lbs	None
JUNIOR MIDGET	11-12	110	None
	11	Unlimited	If over 110 lbs Interior Lineman
MIDGET	12-13	130	None
	12	Unlimited	If over 130 lbs Interior Lineman
JUNIORS	13-14	160	NONE
	13-14	Unlimited	If over 160 lbs Interior Lineman

1. Minimum age for participation shall be five (5) years of age. Maximum age for participant shall be fourteen (14) years of age. The player’s age shall be considered that as of September 1st of the current year. No Tri County Junior Football Conference player will be allowed to participate in a like sport defined by I.H.S.A. rules. No Tri County Junior Football Conference player shall have completed the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade, nor be in the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade.
2. CHANGE OF WEIGHT – No change of team classification will be permitted after the child has participated in any League game.
3. EXCEPTION – Player who gains weight may be permitted to move to a higher classification by the final League Weigh In [the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday in September], but will then be ineligible to move in classification for the remainder of the season.
4. GROWTH FACTOR – A weight allowance (growth factor) will be provided, which allows one (1) pound every two (2) weeks beginning with the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) week of the regular season games.

B. GENERAL LEAGUE RULES – All eligible players on each team must participate in each game a mandatory eight (8) plays. A player weighing in at half-time is only required four (4) plays per game. The following penalties will be assessed against those organizations not complying with this rule:

- First Offense: \$50.00 fine and forfeit of the game.
- Second Offense: \$100.00 fine, forfeit, plus a one game suspension for the head coach.
- Play-offs: \$100.00 fine, forfeit, plus a one game suspension for the head coach. If applicable, this suspension will carry over into the next season.

## **ARTICLE 8 – COMMITTEES**

### **A. STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. AGES AND WEIGHTS – Review the existing ages and weights and bring back recommended changes to the Executive Board for approval.
2. AUDIT – Audit the books each quarter and present findings at the next regular scheduled meeting.
3. AWARDS – Purchase awards for league play, championships, and sportsmanship.
4. BUDGET – The Executive Committee shall propose a budget at the regular January meeting for approval of the Executive Board.
5. BY LAWS AND GOVERNING DOCUMENTS – Review the existing by laws and governing documents and bring back recommended changes to the Executive Board for approval.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Can make decisions in the interim period between regular meetings on behalf of Tri County Junior Football Conference in accordance with the League’s adopted parliamentary authority.
  7. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT – Present to the Executive Board and prospective members wishing to join the League.
  8. INSURANCE – Solicit quotes regarding rates and coverage on make recommendation to the Executive Board.
  9. NOMINATIONS – Accept nominations and present ballot to the Executive Board.
  10. PLAY OFF OFFICIALS – Solicit officials from each organization and schedule according to each play off site.
  11. PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS – Updating of the web site and notification of any media deemed necessary.
  12. RULES INTERPRETATION – Coordinate the September special meeting for explanation of the general league playing rules and distribute By Laws.
  13. SCHEDULING – PLAY OFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS – The Executive Committee will solicit from member organizations interested in hosting play offs and championships and schedule sites.
  14. SCHEDULING – REGULAR SEASON – present the playing schedule for the upcoming season.
  15. WEIGH IN AND GAME CARDS – Distribute weigh in cards, stamps, ink pads, and game cards to each member organization
- C. SPECIAL COMMITTEES – Appointed by the President, consist of three (3) member organizations, to investigate situations as they arise and as deemed necessary. Report findings and recommendations to the Executive Board.
- D. ATHLETIC DIRECTORS - The Vice President shall appoint an ‘Athletic Director’ for each division (i.e.: North, South, Central) to assist with game cards, game issues, league standings and any special circumstances that may occur.

## **ARTICLE 9 – PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY**

- A. Robert’s Rule of Order shall prevail. Webster’s’ New World Robert’s Rules of Order Simplified and Applied Second Edition shall be adopted as the parliamentary authority.

## **ARTICLE 10 – DISSOLUTION**

- A. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Executive Committee, shall after paying or making provision for the payment of the corporation's lawful debts, shall distribute all assets to any of the following organizations: (1) each individual organization member, in equal shares; (2) organizations who have been organized and are operated for purposes consistent with those of the corporation who are operated as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States law); (3) organizations operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of such Code; (4) to the State of Illinois or a political subdivision thereof; or (5) to the United States of America, and to no other organization or person.

## **ARTICLE 11 – AMENDMENTS**

- A. These by laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the organizations. There must be at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the organizations (example: Nineteen (19) organizations – Fifteen (15) must be represented) present to constitute a quorum for amendments. No amendments shall be voted upon at the same regular meeting it is introduced, but shall be voted at the next regular meeting.
- B. Any changes in the by laws after the June meeting must be by unanimous vote of all organizations, as outlined in Article 9, Section A.

## **ARTICLE 12 – LIABILITY**

- A. The League officers, coaches, managers, referees, and all other supervisory personnel will not be held responsible for injuries to persons or damage to property.