

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

As Amended

July 2010

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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         | Little Eagles Football Club              |
| Collinsville     | Collinsville Raiders                     |
| Edwardsville     | Edwardsville Little Tigers Football Club |
| Fairview Heights | Fairview Heights Athletic Club           |
| Highland         | Highland Quarterback Club                |
| East St.Louis    | Flames Football Club                     |
| Little Devils    | Boys Football Club of Belleville         |
| Little Knights   | Little Knights Football Club             |
| 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: Twelve (12) organizations, nine (9) 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	Over 65 lbs = Striper
JR PEE WEE	7U	Unlimited	Over 85 lbs = Striper
	8U	Unlimited	Over 85 lbs = Striper
	9 (PlayDown to 8U)	55 lbs	None
PEE WEE	9U	Unlimited	Over 100 lbs = Striper
	10U	Unlimited	Over 100 lbs = Striper
	11 (PlayDown to 10U)	75 lbs	None
JUNIOR MIDGET			
	11U	Unlimited	Over 110 lbs = Striper
MIDGET			
	12U	Unlimited	Over 130 lbs = Striper
JUNIORS			
	14U	Unlimited	Over 150 lbs = Striper

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: \$150.00 fine, forfeit of the game and a 1 game suspension for the head coach of the team found to be in violation of this rule.
- Second Offense: \$250.00 fine, forfeit of the game and a two game suspension for the head coach of the team found to be in violation of this rule.
- Third Offense: \$500.00 fine, forfeit of the game, and a one year suspension for the head coach of the team found to be in violation of this rule.
- Play-offs: \$500.00 fine, forfeit of the game, and a suspension applicable to the offense(s) listed in this rule. 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 bylaws 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
16. RULES & DISCIPLINE - The Rules and Disciplinary committee will be split into two committees: (1) North R&D and (1) South R&D. Each of these committees will be chaired by the Regional Athletic Director (non-voting) from that region. Each organization is allowed to have one (1) seat on the R&D committee and will be a registered Tri-County Representative. In the event that the Regional Athletic Director is unable to serve for any reason, the President shall appoint a replacement chairman who will immediately, upon approval by the Executive Board, become chairman of the Rules and Disciplinary committee. Each committee is separated as follows:

North AD

Alton  
 Bethalto  
 Edwardsville  
 Troy  
 Highland  
 Collinsville

South AD

O’Fallon  
 Little Knights  
 Little Devils  
 East St. Louis  
 Red Bud  
 Fairview Heights

In no case shall the sitting R&D Committee have more than one member from the same organization. No member of the R&D Committee shall vote on a matter involving the member's organization.

- a) It shall be the duty and responsibility of this committee to continually study the playing rules of the game and the rules and regulations of the Tri-County football conference and make recommendations known to the Executive Board and By-Laws Committee.
- b) It shall be the duty and responsibility of this committee to continually study the behavior of Member organizations, members and individuals within the Tri-County Junior Football League and investigate unethical behavior as it pertains to the rules, regulations and policies of the Tri-County Junior Football League. Reports will be given to the Growth and Development committee for reference and filing.
- c) It shall be the duty and responsibility of this committee to conduct all hearings related to the violations of Rules, Regulations or Ethical violations committed by players, coaches, assistant coaches, field officials, or spectators; and any other disciplinary matters as may come before this committee in accord with the Rule, Regulations and policies of the Tri-County Junior Football League.
- d) The R&D Committee will meet during the football season two (2) times per month. A player, coach, assistant coach or individual who has been ejected from a Tri-County football game will be suspended from all Tri-County activities until the next scheduled committee meeting.

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: Twelve (12) organizations – Nine (9) 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.

## **ARTICLE 13 – RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

- A. Resolution of disputes shall be handled by the Executive Committee under the appropriate By-Law of the Tri-County Football League.
- B. Any individual Member Organization which files, or causes to be filed, any civil action in any court of law against the Tri-County Football League, shall immediately be suspended or disqualified from membership in the Tri-County Football League.

## **ARTICLE 14 – DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

- A. Disciplinary matters involving players, coaches, assistant coaches, officials (referees), administrators, teams, organizations or spectators shall be handled as set forth in the Standing Rules and By-Laws of the TCJFL. When a disciplinary matter has been decided by the executive committee and Tri-County members, the decision will be given in writing along with a notice of the right to appeal and the appeal procedure.
- B. Conflict between Member Organizations – In the event of a conflict between member organizations, upon written request of the member organization to the President of Tri-County Football League or the Secretary of the organization, the Executive committee shall assign the dispute to the Rules and Disciplinary committee and they will follow the procedure as set out in the By-laws of the organization.
- C. Investigation Initiated by Tri-County – In the event that the conduct of any player, coach, assistant coach, official (referee), administrator, team, organization or spectator is such that the interest of Tri-County Junior Football League, its Members and the sport of football in general be in jeopardy, Tri-County can conduct an investigation on its own initiative. Tri-County Football League, by a majority vote of the Executive committee shall have the right to initiate its own investigation and conduct a hearing through its Rule and Disciplinary committee including issuing a mandatory request for attendance to the necessary parties. At such hearing, the Rule & Disciplinary committee will render a recommended disciplinary action to the Executive committee against said parties, if necessary. Failure of a party to attend such hearing, except upon request for rescheduling of the hearing to enable such party to attend, received by the President or Secretary at least 5 days prior to the establishment of the hearing date, shall not excuse such party from being bound by the recommendation of the Rules and Disciplinary committee and/or decision of the Executive Committee.
- D. Organizations are encouraged to maintain discipline within the membership of its organization and during the games which it hosts. Failure to do so may cause the organization to be disciplined by Tri-County Junior Football League.

## **ARTICLE 15 – APPEALS**

- A. If an individual feels strongly that the decision of the Tri-County Board members, or the recommendation of the R&D committee is in error, the individual may lodge a formal appeal in writing.
- B. If an organization feels strongly that the decision of the Tri-County board and recommendation of the R&D committee is in error, the organization Tri-County representative or the organization President (and only these officials) may lodge a formal appeal in writing to the Tri-County board. Organizations may lodge a formal appeal on behalf of the organization or team. Organization may not lodge a formal appeal on behalf of an individual.
- C. The appealing individual or organization must notify the President of the Tri-County Board within 10 days from the receipt of the decision of the Tri-County

- board members. If the notice to appeal is not delivered within the ten (10) day period, the Tri-County member decision will be final.
- D. The Executive Committee shall review the information in the appeal and either decline to hear the matter, investigate it further, or decide the appeal on the facts contained in the appeal and evidence available. If further study is recommended, the R&D committee shall hold a formal hearing with all participants in the dispute present, including the President of the Tri-County Board and Organization President. A written response shall be given within 10 days of the receipt of appeal.