

Greater Puget Sound Youth Football League **By-Laws**

Revision Three 12th day of APRIL 2011

Unified Franchise

A&R Youth Sports Central Hornets	NW Tacoma Rams Youth Football Club
Enumclaw Jr Hornets	Parkland Raiders Youth Football Assoc
NE Tigers	Spanaway Spartans
Lions Youth Football Club	Tacoma Panthers Jr Football & Sports Assoc
MYTSA Jaguars	Tacoma Youth Sports Association Angels
	Upper Tacoma Youth Athletics Tigers

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ARTICLE I
PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. The Greater Puget Sound Youth Football League (hereafter referred to as GPSYFL) is established for the purpose of governing the collective body of youth football team clubs/franchises. Our purpose is to provide the youth of the greater Puget Sound area, regardless of race, gender, or creed:
 1. The opportunity to participate in controlled athletic competition of football and become acquainted with the fundamentals of the game rules, passing, running, kicking, blocking, and tackling as defined by the National Federation of State High School Associations and league special rules.
 2. To instill good sportsmanship, values of fair play, and good conduct.
 3. To promote tolerance between youth through their common interest.
 4. To encourage adults to behave in an exemplary manner when supervising youth while keeping the welfare of youth foremost and free from any adult compulsion for power and glory.
 5. To uphold the constitution and By-Laws of the governing conference.

ARTICLE II
UNIFIED FRANCHISE / FRANCHISE /COMBO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. A **UNIFIED FRANCHISE** is defined as an individual and independent organization or club that is structured to provide a minimum of three youth football teams to participate at specific grade levels, which shall be 4th through 8th grade; must have completed a one-year probation period at an exemplary level; and sign a two-year (consecutive) commitment contract with the GPSYFL. Upon satisfactorily completing these conditions, and by the approval of the GPSYFL Board, said organization shall be considered a **UNIFIED FRANCHISE**. A **UNIFIED FRANCHISE** member will consist of the traditional one team per grade. Any deviation from the traditional make-up will require approval by the Board prior to the beginning of the season. Each **UNIFIED FRANCHISE** shall be responsible for its own organization and will be represented on the Board of Directors for the GPSYFL, with voting power of one.

2. A **FRANCHISE** is defined as an individual/independent organization that is structured to field a minimum of three youth football teams that are organized to participate at a specific grade level 4th grade through 8th grade. It is assumed a Franchise member is made up of the traditional 1 team per age grade any deviation from the traditional make up will need a vote by the board prior to the season beginning The FRANCHISE will be required to sign a one-year commitment letter, and serve on a probationary period. It is assumed a Franchise member is made up of the traditional 1 team per age group, any deviation from the traditional make up will need a vote by the board prior to the season beginning. The FRANCHISE will play in competition in a schedule that best fits the GPSYFL. The FRANCHISE is allowed to play in the Jamboree, the playoffs and the championship games. They will not have voting rights in league business.

3. A **COMBO CLUB** is defined as a team (or teams) that will be responsible for its own organization and will be mentored and guided by a **UNIFIED FRANCHISE** of the GPSYFL. A **COMBO CLUB** shall be required to sign a one-year commitment contract with the GPSYFL and must serve a one-year probation term. A **COMBO CLUB** will be allowed to compete in the regular season, participate in the Jamboree, the playoffs, and the championship games. The schedule for said participation shall be assigned by the GPSYFL. A **COMBO CLUB** shall have no voting privileges in League business.

4. A **FILLER TEAM** is defined as a team that belongs to a league different from the GPSYFL, but is serving a position in the GPSYFL regular schedule to fill a “bye” game only. A **FILLER TEAM** may not play in the Jamboree, the playoffs, or the championship games. The **FILLER TEAM** will abide by all rules and guidelines set forth by the GPSYFL. A **FILLER TEAM** shall have no voting privileges in League business.

5. New Membership(s): A Franchise, Combo Club, or Filler Team must complete an application for admittance into the GPSYFL. The approval for membership will be held at each annual GPSYFL review. A new Franchise, Combo Club, or Filler Team shall be allowed to join the GPSYFL upon satisfactorily acquiring the required 2/3 vote by the Unified Franchises. The Board will consider the number and grade levels of the organizations or teams who are seeking membership. Any Combo Club seeking

membership may not have had any prior participation in a Unified Franchise or any other organization affiliated with the GPSYFL. The voting process for allowing a Combo Club to join the GPSYFL will include a background check. A Combo Club may proceed to the Franchise level by completing the steps necessary and outlined at the Combo Club level. Upon satisfactorily completing the Combo Club requirements, the Combo Club may advance to the Franchise level. Subsequent to reaching the Franchise level and upon fulfilling all of the Franchise requirements satisfactorily, then said Franchise shall have the opportunity to become a Unified Franchise, set forth by the established voting process.

ARTICLE II (continued)
UNIFIED FRANCHISE / FRANCHISE /COMBO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

6. Combo Clubs and Franchises seeking membership must complete the application process which includes accepting these By-Laws and Rules in writing prior to admittance into the GPSYFL.
7. All GPSYFL participants must adhere to the General Membership rules. In the event that the rules set forth by an individual Unified Franchise, Franchise, Combo Club, or Filler Team conflicts with the rules set forth by GPSYFL, the rules established by the GPSYFL will supersede all other rules.
8. Unified Franchise members of the GPSYFL are eligible for candidacy to any elected or appointed office or position of the GPSYFL.
9. All competition will comply with the rules set forth by the GPSYFL.

ARTICLE II (continued)
UNIFIED FRANCHISE / FRANCHISE /COMBO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
FEES

FEES

Each Unified Franchise or Franchise will pay a set league fee to cover expenses for:

Referees/Officials

Championship Trophies

Stadium fees for:

Jamboree

Playoffs

Championships

All Star Games (if applicable)

Each Combo Club will pay a set league fee for each of its teams to cover expenses for:

Referees

Championship Trophies

Stadium fees for:

Jamboree

Playoffs

Championships

All Star Games (if applicable)

ARTICLE III
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

General membership in the Greater Puget Sound Youth Football League is limited to adults of good moral character and standing in the community and who qualify for membership under the conditions provided herein and who express an interest in the League's objectives.

1. The parents and/or legal guardians of any child who actively participates in the Greater Puget Sound Football League shall be considered a member.
 1. Coaches and Managers of the current year, whether having a child in the program or not, shall be considered an active member.
 2. To be issued a field pass by the GPSYFL, all coaches, shall be NYSCA or USA Certified, to include head and assistant coaches and coordinators; i.e. offense, defense, special teams, or any other assigned titles. Fees/dues must be paid on the date(s) established by the GPSYFL. If they are not paid in full and/or on the time and/or the funds do not clear the bank the franchise gives up all rights to participate in postseason play and rights to host any post season games.
 3. All coaches and managers must submit to a background check and may be eliminated from working with children if they are confirmed to have a criminal record relating to children, the elderly, and/or people with disabilities. A list of the crimes that will eliminate an individual is attached and is known as Appendix A .

Section 2. ***Membership Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities.***

1. Membership in the GPSYFL requires participation of its members.
 2. Membership in the GPSYFL is an agreement to abide by GPSYFL rules. In the event that the rules set forth by an individual Unified Franchise, Franchise, Combo Club, or Filler Team conflicts with the rules set forth by GPSYFL, the rules established by the GPSYFL will supersede all other rules
 3. *Game contracts need to provide a forfeiture fee to be paid should there be a failure on the part of either party to carry out arrangements agreed upon. (A team cannot forfeit for any reason other than lack of players as outlined in the High school federation rules.*
- A. *If two weeks (14 calendar days) notice is not provided before the cancellation of a Game/contest/event, a forfeiture fee will be imposed. (Fee's to be determined by the board at least \$250 not to exceed \$1500), by board agreement, the forfeiture can be waived due to unforeseen circumstances i.e... Death of a player/coach or natural disaster.*

4 If a team is caught playing with ineligible players (based on age, grade, and suspension status), said team will forfeit all games in which the ineligible players participated. In addition, said team will be subject to disciplinary actions or sanctions set forth by the Board.

Section 3. CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the GPSYFL may be canceled for the following reasons:

1. A written resignation submitted by the Franchise to the GPSYFL Board of Directors.
2. Failure to pay any moneys owed to the GPSYFL within thirty (30) days after due date.

3 Terminations for Cause. This action requires a concurring vote by the Board of Directors, quorum present. The member in question shall have first been given written notice of the accusation(s) against him/her and an opportunity for a hearing before the GPSYFL Board of Directors. Witnesses, on behalf of the concerned member, may be present for said hearing.

4. Any member of a Unified Franchise/ Franchise/ Combo Club, Filler Team, and general member, participant, parent or guest who does not act in accordance with the GPSYFL

By-laws can be banned from any common game or practice venues by request of the GPSYFL Board.

ARTICLE III (continued)
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. NEW MEMBERSHIP

1. New Membership admittance must be approved by a majority vote of 2/3 (two-thirds) by the Unified Franchises (i.e. 10 Unified Franchises in league membership would require 7 votes to approve a new Unified Franchise; 12 Unified Franchises in league membership would require 8 votes to approve a new Unified Franchise; 14 Unified Franchises would require 9 votes in favor to approve a new Unified Franchise).

2. Combo Club and Franchises seeking membership must complete the process for application and accept these By-Laws and Rules in writing prior to a vote for admittance. Combo Club and Franchises will be evaluated for acceptance via the application process.

3. All new membership must commit by a date established by the board of application year and all fees will be due at set date(s) for the upcoming season and are non-refundable.

4. GPSYFL will not accept expansion by merger with other leagues. All expansion and growth will be by individual UNIFIED FRANCHISE/FRANCHISE/COMBO CLUB as defined in Article III, Sec. 4. Paragraph 2.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will consist of one (1) voting member from each UNIFIED FRANCHISE and one (1) non-voting member from each FRANCHISE/COMBO CLUB as designated by Article II. This representative will be designated by their respective organization.

Section 2. QUORUM REQUIREMENTS

A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the UNIFIED FRANCHISE representatives must be present at any regular or special meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business or the GPSYFL.

Section 3. AUTHORITY TO ACT

Every act and/or decision made by the Board of Directors at a meeting duly held, with which a quorum was present, is regarded as a decision of the Board of Directors and is thus binding on the GPSYFL as a whole; unless such decision is specifically prohibited by these By-Laws. A request to table a motion until the next scheduled meeting may be requested at any time, by any UNIFIED FRANCHISE/FRANCHISE/COMBO CLUB on any issue. This action will allow representatives to discuss issue with their own UNIFIED FRANCHISE/FRANCHISE/COMBO CLUB prior to voting.

Section 4. TERM OF OFFICE

Board members hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their respective successors are duly elected or appointed. Each UNIFIED FRANCHISE/FRANCHISE/COMBO CLUB will have one representative and one alternate representative on the Board of Directors.

Section 5. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

A member of the League Board of Directors may be removed from office accordingly:

1. By resignation, in writing, to the Board of Directors at any regular or special board meeting duly held at which a quorum is present.
2. By an affirmative recall vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special board meeting duly held at which a quorum is present.
3. By being absent without excuse from two (2) duly called board meetings within a twelve (12) month period. Alternate representative attending in lieu of representative is accepted as franchise representation.
4. By official request made in writing by the represented organization signed by its board officers.

ARTICLE IV (continued)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6. Any Director removed due to meeting absenteeism may be reinstated for his/her remaining term as a director by a concurring vote of the Board of Directors.
7. A Director is not regarded absent from any meeting if before said meeting he/she was excused by the President or any other Director presiding at said meeting.

Section 6. METHOD OF FILLING VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the event a vacancy should occur on the Board of Directors, the franchise creating the vacancy must fill the vacancy prior to the next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From the Board of Directors of the UNIFIED FRANCHISE will be elected an Executive Board consisting of:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Athletic Director
5. Treasurer

A UNIFIED FRANCHISE may not have more than one (1) representative on the Executive Board. Elections of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board Positions are for a two (2) year appointment.

Section 2. MAIN RESPONSIBILITY

The Executive Board's main responsibility is to convene on league matters unresolved by the Board of Directors. After gathering all relevant facts and making a recommendation on how to resolve the issue, the Board of Directors will vote on the recommendation. In the event of a tie, the Executive Board's recommendation shall carry the vote.

Section 3. POSITION APPOINTMENTS

A quorum must be established in order to proceed with position appointments. A simple majority vote of the Board of Directors shall suffice in appointing officers to the Executive Board. A nomination process will be developed after the initial Board of Directors are assigned this responsibility.

Section 4. TERM OF OFFICE

Board members hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their respective successors are duly elected or appointed. Each franchise will have one representative and one alternate representative on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI **MEETINGS**

Section 1. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will meet at least once a month unless there is a lack of business. These meetings are open to the general membership unless the Board calls a closed meeting.

Section 2. MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

1. Meetings of the general membership of the GPSYFL are scheduled for the calendar month of November.
1. Additional meetings of the general membership may be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors
3. The general membership is informed, by the GPSYFL Secretary, of any general meetings via newspaper advertising, phone committee, electronic medium, newsletters, and/or club representatives.
4. It is the responsibility of each franchise representative to inform franchise members of time, place, and date of said meetings.
5. To maintain the meeting times and length, ONLY the Unified Franchise/ Franchise/ Combo Club designated representative should address the board during the meetings. Individuals wishing to address the GPSYFL in meetings must ask to do so in writing and be placed on the agenda by the league secretary prior to the scheduled meeting.
6. If an issue must be addressed prior to the next board meeting each Unified Franchise can place a vote pertaining to the issue via email.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 1. CHECKS, DRAFTS AND/OR DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.

1. All checks and/or drafts issued in the name of the GPSYFL for any purpose of league business must be signed by two of the following members of the GPSYF Executive Board of Directors; President, Vice President, and/or Secretary.
2. All financial records are the responsibility of the GPSYFL Treasurer. Disbursements of funds, accounting procedures, etc. are to be performed with good accounting practices.
3. If, at the end of the season, the GPSYFL financial account exceeds \$10,000, all league fees shall be adjusted downward.

Sections 2. CONTRACTS

1. Any contracts that may be executed in the name of the GPSYFL must be consistent with these By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, and RCW 24.03 of the State of Washington.
2. The Board of Directors must approve all such contracts with a simple majority vote and a quorum present.

Section 3. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the GPSYFL is from January 1st to December 31st.

Section 4. AUDITS

1. The Board of Directors will request additional audits whenever the Treasurer is replaced or such other times as the Board of Directors deem necessary.
2. At any time, an outside, private, unaffiliated accounting firm may be hired by majority vote of the Board of Directors in order to perform a financial audit of the GPSYFL financial records and presented to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII **COMPLAINTS**

Any member having a complaint or grievance with the GPSYFL involving its operation must submit the complaint or grievance in writing to the Executive Board of Directors to request a hearing. The complainant must appear in person to present said complaint to the Board of Directors.

Every attempt shall be made to resolve a complaint or grievance against any part of a Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club by the respective Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club. If proper attempts at resolution have not been made prior to referral to the GPSYFL, the GPSYFL may defer the situation back to the representative of said Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club for proper resolution. **All decisions by the GPSYFL Board are final and not subject to further appeal.**

ARTICLE IX **GPSYFL STANDING RULES**

Youths in grades 4th through 8th.

Section I Eligibility:

1. 4th grade – Cannot be 11 yrs. old by December 1st
- 5th grade – Cannot be 12 yrs. old by December 1st
- 6th grade – Cannot be 13 yrs. old by December 1st
- 7th grade – Cannot be 14 yrs. old by December 1st
- 8th grade -- Cannot be 15 yrs. old by December 1st

2. NO AGE OR GRADE WAIVERS SHALL BE ALLOWED DOWNWARD.

Any special situation shall be reviewed and approved by the GPSYFL Board of Directors.

3. It shall be required for each Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club to submit records of each eligible player registered within its organization. All records will be kept by each individual Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club, and shall be made available to the GPSYFL upon request. These records must accompany each respective team during competition of League play. The GPSYFL Board of Directors shall have discretionary authority to address any unforeseen circumstances. All documents shall be reviewed personally by a designated League Representative prior to the first regular season scheduled game. The documents shall be reviewed or inspected prior to any and all playoff games, and at any time the Board deems necessary. There shall be a minimum of two days notice of any random inspection of said documents. The following are the items each Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club shall be required to submit to the

GPSYFL:

- A. Roster: *An official roster listing all players for the current season.*
- B. Birth Certificate: *Each player shall provide a state certified copy of his/her birth certificate, military identification, or passport, official medical records.*
- C. Verification of Grade: *Each player shall provide verification of his/her grade with a signed letter from the principal or school administrator; ASB card; school issued identification card; or official school progress report identifying the student's name and current grade.*
- D. Head Photo: *A head photo shall be provided of each player.*
- E. Player/Parent Consent Form: *An appropriate consent form signed by the player and the player's parent or guardian.*
- F. Physical Examination: *Each player shall provide verification that he/she has had a proper sports physical examination, signed with approval by a physician, nurse practitioner, or any medical expert. Physical examinations are good for two years.*
- G. Concussion Form: *Each player shall provide a signed concussion form.*

- H. The GPSYFL Board of Directors will have discretionary authority to address unforeseen circumstances.

ARTICLE IX **GPSYFL STANDING RULES**

Section II - Rules

National Federation of State High School Associations regulations, using the most current published rulebook, will direct league play. GPSYFL Referee Liaison will brief the Board of Directors on an annual basis on all new rule additions and or deletions when become known.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. **Nine (9) minute, stop clock** quarters will apply to all games, playoffs, and championships for grades 4 through 8.
2. The half-time break shall be no less than six (6) minutes and no longer than ten (10) minutes.
3. The game officials shall keep the official game times and scores.

Each Unified Franchise, Franchise, or Combo Club shall designate a game day field representative or representatives for all games. The field representative(s) shall provide contact information to the GPSYFL prior to game day. The GPSYFL will provide each franchise with the contact information of their opponent's field representative or representatives.

The field representatives for both teams will work with the game officials regarding any problems or issues with parents or spectators. A Franchise Representative must be present @ each game.

The home field franchise shall be responsible for reporting all game scores, sportsmanship conduct, and any other observations made to the Executive Board's Athletic Director by 5:00 p.m. Monday of the following week.

The field representatives will inform game officials of the specific league rules set forth by the GPSYFL and remind them to keep as close to possible the kick-off schedule.

4. Field Reps will be assigned to supervise all contests. *The Field Representative of the home team shall notify the opposing team of any unnatural playing conditions.*
 5. All franchise/club representative, officers, and coaches will be issued a league photo ID with current season's year displayed.
 6. Punt Rule: For 4th and 5th grade only, on 4th down, the offensive team must declare their intentions to punt or go for first down yardage. No player may leave the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. All players must remain stationary until the ball is kicked. (Punt Rule) Once the punter gains possession of the ball he/she must immediately punt the ball. Violation of this rule will be a 5-yard delay of game penalty.
 7. For 4th grade only, teams may have one coach on the field during play. The coach must be five yards behind their team's formation of the deepest player before the ball is put into play.
 8. Certified Team Rosters with the eligible player's name, jersey number, submitted to league prior to league play commences.
-
1. *Mercy Rule – When a team is ahead at halftime by 26 or more points or becomes 26 or more points ahead in the second half, the clock will not stop during out of bounds, incomplete passes or first downs. The clock shall only stop for team time-outs, official time-outs, and scores. If the point differential becomes less than 26 points, regular timing resumes. While the Mercy Rule is in effect, there shall be no rules on passing or the on-side kick.*
 2. *Kansas City Overtime Rules: The GPSYFL has adopted that each team receives a possession starting at the defense's 25-yard line. This possession takes place like any other, so the offense has 4 downs to make a first down or touchdown. If a first down is made, 4 more downs are allowed. The offense can also choose to attempt a field goal to acquire*

points. If a touchdown is scored, the scoring team can attempt a 1-point or 2-point conversion

2.A In this way, a team can score between 3 and 8 points on their possession. The winner is the team with the most points after each team has had a possession. If there is a tie, then each team receives another possession from the 10 yard line until a winner is determined. (During the regular season, if games end in a tie after 2 possessions the game will be a tie, unless it is a winner in and loser out situation, in the postseason or championship game a winner must be determined.)

ARTICLE IX **GPSYFL STANDING RULES**

Section II - Rules (continued)

Only board approved accredited coaches such as NYSCA and or USA Football Certified coaches on the field. Parents and must be in the stands or behind the contained area. League Issued ID Badges require all coaches/team trainers/board members/team parents who are on the field of play worn on a lanyard around their neck and must be visible at all times. Coaches will also display their NYSCA Certification Cards.

Extra points shall be considered: two (2) points for successful field goal kick and one (1) point for a successful run or pass. If 4th and 5th grade teams are attempting a kick, no rush is allowed.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior: The GPSYFL stands by a zero-tolerance to fighting, verbal or physical abuse, and/or any threatening manner by any player, parent, coach, manager or affiliate of any Franchise or Club. The head coach of each team will be responsible for the behavior of their sideline; this includes coaches, players, parents, family, and anyone else on their sideline. Each respective franchise representative(s) are responsible for enforcing the rules of behavior for his or her own side of the field. A fifteen (15) yard penalty may be assessed to the unsportsmanlike team, if behavior warrants. If a game, in the judgment of the referee, has gotten out of control and the safety of his crew or the safety of the players is in question, he/she has the authority to call an end to the game. Reports from other franchises of unsportsmanlike behavior will be displayed for review by the Board. The Board of Directors may request suspensions of the offending member(s). The voting criterion which has been set forth by the GPSYFL within these By-Laws will govern the decisions and possible disciplinary actions. Repeat behavior by any team of any franchise may be grounds for forfeiture of the remainder of their games of the season. It is expected that all spectators and fans will be held to the same standards as above. Any spectator or fan deemed to be acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, per the observation of the field representative(s), the head coach shall be notified and it shall be the head coach's responsibility to remedy the situation. The situation may be reported to the individual Franchise or Club's board for review and said board shall have the right to rectify at its sole discretion.

9. Home teams will provide "Chain Crews" of adults, or high school football players may be allowed if approved by officials. Chain Crews will work on the home team side of each scheduled game. Chain Crews are considered part of the officiating crew. Chain Crews on the visitor side are subject to GPSYFL approval and the approval of the visiting team's head coach. "

10. Each Franchise shall be allowed to host home games. The home venue must be secured by the franchise when the schedule has been set. The home franchise will be responsible for:
 - A. Field set up – A minimum of 25 foot roped-off area required around the playing field.---
 - B. Grounds set up and cleanup.
 - C. Toilet facilities
 - D. Concession stands (optional to home team)
 - E. Official regulation and size Field, Equipment, Goal Posts and all other items to make for a regulation football field i.e. chains, yard markers, proper and visible lines etc.
21. 4th grade teams may use the size “pee wee” (small youth) football. 5th & 6th grade teams shall use 100-150 medium youth football. 4th, 5th & 6th grade teams may use the larger ball if the team chooses. 7th & 8th grade teams shall use the 200-250 large youth football. 7th & 8th grade teams shall use the High School regulation ball, but cannot use smaller than the large youth size football.
22. During the Jamboree, teams may have no more than two (2) coaches in the huddles for all teams. The coaches will observe the five-yard rule during scrimmage.
23. Only Head Coaches may talk with referees during the game and must be done in a highly professional manner. Officials will submit a brief report after the games regarding conduct and communication to the Board.

ARTICLE IX

GPSYFL STANDING RULES

Section III - Rosters

1. There is a cap to all rosters at 30 players per team.
2. Official Team rosters will be provided to the GPSYFL board of directors before the start of league games commences. Additional players cannot be added after second (2nd) Monday after Labor Day. Team rosters will be provided to the GPSYFL Poster Committee two Fridays before the Jamboree/Pre season weekend. Final Rosters changes/adds MUST be submitted no later than Tuesday before the first official GPSYFL Game. Additional players cannot be added after this date. All roster changes/adds must be submitted to the roster committee along with all proper documentation before the player can play in any GPSYFL sanctioned game. Jamboree and Preseason included. Any changes in jersey number must be submitted to the roster committee before the player can play in any game. Any players that are dropped must be submitted as well. The Roster Committee will have an official roster at all times and only those rosters are approved to check in players.

In order to have an approved roster each franchise must submit proof of age, grade, photo along with a signed concussion & registration forms to the committee. First due date is two Fridays before Jamboree/Pre season weekend. Once your roster is approved you will be given an official copy of along with all your paperwork. This roster will be used to check in each player before every game. Once the roster is approved documentation will not be used at

check in as the committee already approved and verified each document to add each player to the roster. Proof of grade must be provided no later than September 12th already on the roster, no new players

Roster will consist of Player name age, date of birth, grade, jersey number photo and GPSYFL approval

Rosters will be used to check in players one hour fifteen minutes before every GPSYFL sanctioned game. If any players who are not checked in play in a contest that team will forfeit the game.

3. There will be a roster pre-date at which time all Franchises must submit the required paperwork to the Athletic Director for review. For each team, all player information packets need to be 100% complete prior to submission to the Athletic Director; incomplete player information packets will not be reviewed. Refer to Article IX Section 2 for required player registrations items. A GPSYFL meeting will be held to exchange certified GPSYFL rosters between every franchise.
4. At the final roster date; rosters must be set and no player can be added after set final date. Only with a written request from any team may a player be considered as a new member on any roster after the final roster date. The Board will notify all Team Reps regarding the addition if such addition is approved by the board. There will be another GPSYFL meeting dedicated to roster review and the exchange of the final rosters between franchises.
5. A "red flag list" of any player(s) who have not returned equipment to their respective franchise will be submitted by the franchise that has incurred the loss. The GPSYFL will govern the list and no player on "red flag list" will be allowed to participate with any other franchise until restitution to the prior franchise has been made to their satisfaction and that said franchise removes the player from the "red flag list".

There is also a dropped player list of all players who have been removed from a team's roster. No one on this list may play for another GPSYFL franchise until the next season, unless there is sufficient cause (such as moved out of area change schools etc) and all transfers must be voted on by the Board of Directors

6. GPSYFL does not apply boundaries, however, players cannot change franchises during their current football season. A player cannot switch from one team/club/franchise to another during the season. The official season begins with the preseason event.

If Rosters are not submitted by cutoff dates above these teams will not be allowed to participate in pre season games.

Photos and names of all the coaches must be included on the roster All coaches must check in with players only coaches with badges and listed on one of the 5 team rosters may be on the sidelines during game play See section IV for coach requirements

Section IV - Coaches

1. Coaches Conduct: The head coach is responsible for the behavior of the players, and assistant coaches. The coach should be a good example for the players. Coaches shall treat parents and players in a respectful manner and expect the same type of treatment in return. Coaches should avoid critical comments to any league official, game official and/or player in the presence of the team.
- 2.
3. A Coach's roster will be required at the roster deadline. Any changes to the coaching staff will require a background check of the new staff member(s) and notification to the League in writing with a coach's roster revision. A coach roster will be part of the official team roster
4. All Coaches within the GPSYFL will be certified by an appropriate; League approved certification process and will also at all times during the course of their participation remain certified and have a completed criminal history background check on file with the League. It is the policy of the GPSYFL that the League maintain a standard of conduct and credibility among the participants, staff and volunteers in reference to clear criminal history checks to include a ZERO tolerance level for any listing or offenses related to children and/or sexual misconduct up to and all inclusive to registered sex offenders of all levels as mandated by the State of Washington sexual predator classifications.
5. All crimes listed in Appendix " A" is automatically disqualifying if the applicant will or may be involved with any child. By-Law Article III, Section 1. Paragraph 4 applies.
6. It is mandatory that all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, League Representatives, and Field Representatives from each Franchise or Club attend a GPSYFL coaches meeting covering the following areas:
 - a. All GPSYFL specific rules
 - b. Hydration and conditioning of athletes
 - c. Any additional topics deemed necessary by the GPSYFL

The GPSYFL will provide two (2) dates to host the mandatory meeting; attendance is required at one of them. One meeting shall be held during a weekend and one during a week night. The time and date of a make-up meeting shall be determined by the GPSYFL and there shall only be on make-up meeting offered.

Section V – Practice & Play

1. Practices will begin no sooner than July 5th. Practices must be scheduled at approved practice sights and within the field contract times.
2. Schedules will be set by the grade level with the age group that has the most teams being the deciding factor in the schedule layout. The bye games created by the holes in the other age groups will be left as byes.
3. Filler games can be scheduled by the franchise with the bye. No ill effect to the schedule already in place by the league will be permitted. I.e.: the normal games will still be played at the scheduled times. unless prior written approval from both teams and the Athletic Director no less than 48 hours before the first game is scheduled to start.
4. Franchise arranged filler game referee expenses will be covered by the league if referee association is notified one week prior to competition. League will not cover referee expenses if filler game is scheduled at a venue outside of the league.
5. Scheduling: League and play-off schedules shall be set by the GPSYFL Board of Directors. The GPSYFL Board of Directors shall provide the schedule to the franchises or clubs prior to August 15th of the football season. It is the intent of the League that regular season games will commence on the weekend prior to the Labor Day weekend. The regular season will consist of eight (8) games, with the playoffs and championship games concluding no later than the first weekend in November. The playoffs will follow a week after the end of the regular season and consist of two (2) cross-over games: one game between the first place team of the North/West Division and the second place team of the South/East Division; the second game between the second place team of the North/West Division and the first place team of the South/East Division. The two (2) winners will advance to the championship game one week later. No consolation games will be scheduled.
6. Games will be played at 9:00 a.m. for 4th grade; 10:30 a.m. for 5th grade; 12:00 p.m. for 6th grade; 2:00 p.m. for 7th grade; and 4:00 p.m. for 8th grade. If there is a vacant kick-off time with no fill-in game, the regular scheduled games shall have the option of moving to the earlier kick-off time pending confirmation by both teams of each grade.
7. Any Injury requiring medical attention during league play will require a league provided “injury report” filled with the Board of Directors. This report will be submitted from the team of the injured player.
8. During League games, only players, coaches, game/league officials, and emergency responders shall be allowed on the field. All spectators must remain in the grandstand/spectator area. A maximum of seven (7) adults with neck identification shall be allowed on the playing field or a team’s sideline nine(9) adults, seven (7) coaches and (2) photographers with neck identification are allowed on or around the playing field at any venue.
9. Home field franchise is responsible for field clean up and maintenance. All teams strive to police sidelines upon completion of practice and play.

- 10 Divisions: The grade level with the least amount of teams will be used to determine the split of divisions. The teams will be split evenly based on that number of teams from the Franchises within the League. This will create a pool of Franchises based on the amount of teams. The division will be selected randomly from the pool as to provide the same amount of teams for each division.
- 11 Playoffs and championship games will be scheduled at available venues. The venues maybe split by grades and or divisions.
- 12 It will be the goal and expectation of The Board to schedule each Franchise / Club with the equal number of Home Games.

Section V – Practice & Play (continued)

13. In the event that a scheduled game cannot be completed for unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances i.e.: inclement weather, etc. the game will be rescheduled, based on the following criteria: If less than 3 quarters of a game has been completed the league AD will schedule a makeup game and venue. If a franchise does not show up for the rescheduled game they will forfeit the game and the other team will be declared the winner. If 3 quarters or more of a scheduled game has been completed and the game is called for the same set of circumstances, then the official score will be determined to be final at the time the game is called.

11. GAME MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

1. All teams will play nine (9)minute quarters. (*Running clock except for timeouts and the last 2 minutes of each half.*)
2. Field Reps will be assigned to supervise all contests. *The Field Representative of the home team shall notify the opposing team of any unnatural playing conditions. There shall be no less than six (6) minutes between halves and no more than 10 (ten) minutes.*

Section VI – Discipline

SECTION 1. – UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

1. The GPSYFL stands by a zero tolerance to fighting or verbal abuse, physical or threatening manner, of any player, parent, coach manager or affiliate of any club/franchise. The head coaches of teams playing are responsible for the behavior of their sideline. This includes coaches, players, parents & family, and anyone else on their sidelines. Each franchise field representative is responsible for enforcing the rules of behavior at their venue. A fifteen (15) yard penalty can be assessed to a team if behavior warrants. If a game, in the judgment of the referee, has risen to an unsafe level, the referee may call end to the game.
2. If a head coach or one of his assistants is penalized for being unsportsmanlike, the head coach (and or the offending coach) will be on probation for the remainder of the season. A second offense in the same season will result in suspension of the head coach for a period of one week. If this coach commits a third offense then he will be relieved of all coaching duties for the remainder of the season.
3. There will be absolutely no abusive behavior or abusive language to players, coaches, Field Representatives, referees or Board members at any time.
 - a) If this occurs, the guilty party may be banned from games or the team will take a forfeit.
 - b) If guilty party refuses to adhere to ban, child may be released from football, cheer or dance team.
4. Fans should not interfere with players, coaches, Field Representatives, referees or board members at any time.
 - a) At no time shall a fan come to the sidelines or fence to talk to players, coaches, Field Representatives or referees during games unless requested by the coaching or Field Representatives.
 - b) Anyone approaching a player, coach, sponsor, referee or Board member before or after a game in a threatening way will be subject to immediate ejection from GPSYFL Association.
5. Coaching and Sponsoring Staff –
 1. Coaches and Field Representatives should never use profanity, Abusive language, or abusive behavior to players, parents, referees, or board members.
 - a) Violation of this policy will result in immediate dismissal.
 2. Coaches and Field Representatives should always conduct themselves in a proper manner consistent with GPSYFL Association Rules.

SECTION 2 – REPORTS

1. Reports from other franchises of unsportsmanlike behavior will be reviewed by the board. The board to the offending member(s) may request Suspension(s). The board voting criteria already in place as indicated by these By-Laws will govern the decisions. Repeat behavior by

any team of any franchise will be means of forfeiture of the rest of their games for the season.

SECTION 3 – DISCIPLINARY SITUATIONS

- a. Discipline will first handled by the respective franchise of the person who committed the violation. The League Board of Directors will monitor for further violations.
- b. Parents may request a conference with the franchise. The conference must be set up at a mutual time and place and not in the presence of players. At the request of either party, it may be held in the presence of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The president will preside over a disciplinary committee of the entire GPSYFL board of directors. This committee will be responsible for reviewing any complaints and incidents that pertain to the possibilities of disciplinary actions regarding all GPSYFL members, players, coaches, parents, and board members. The franchise(s) the complaint is pertaining to will not be allowed to vote. All decisions by the disciplinary committee are final.

SECTION 5 – EJECTIONS

Any ejection of a player or coach by an official from a game will result in disqualification for the next game. A player or coach may petition the board concerning any ejections. The GPSYFL President must receive petitions no later than 5:00 P.M. Monday following the ejection. Disciplinary action will apply under the rules of the league in which the coach is participating.

A minimum of immediate game suspension up to and including ejection for the entire season. Ejection would include any play venue in which the players will be practicing or playing-

SECTION 6 – CONTACT

5. At no time shall any head coach or assistant coach, have any physical contact in an angry or threatening manner with any player, parent, or official at any GPSYFL event.

SECITON 7 – NO TOLERANCE

1. GPSYFL Association has a NO TOLERANCE Rule for abusive behavior toward any person at any GPSYFL Association function. This behavior will result in possible suspensions or banishment from all GPSYFL Association functions. If a parent refuses to adhere to disciplinary actions, his or her children will be released from GPSYFL Association. This is only after their franchise has been officially notified.
2. Parents, step-parents, grand-parents or other family members etc... should conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times.

Section VII – Fundraisers

No player, coach, administrator, or parent may organize, participate in, or sponsor any fundraising event in the name of the GPSYFL without specific written approval by the GPSYFL Board of Directors.

2. No parent group may organize or sell any products or services in the name of the GPSYFL without specific written approval from the GPSYFL Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

6.1 Amendment to the By-Laws or Articles: Portions of these By-Laws that are not governed by Washington State RCW Laws may be amended, altered or repealed, by a majority vote of the quorum present at any annual meeting, with prior notice. Majority of members desiring changes of the By-Laws must prepare a resolution, in writing, setting forth the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Such resolutions must be in the hands of Secretary of the Corporation at least seven (07) days prior to the next scheduled meeting. The Secretary shall, in its regular notice of planned meeting to the membership, set forth such proposed By-Law change as an action item within the meeting agenda. These By-Laws may also be amended by a 2/3 majority (quorum) vote of the membership (2/3 of league membership) at any regular scheduled or special meeting. The notice of such meeting shall include reference to the Article and Section of the By-Laws to be amended, and the general nature of the proposed amendment, at the written request of twenty (20%) percent of the members, or by a resolution of the Board of Directors. A special meeting of the members shall be called for the purpose of voting on a proposed amendment. Representatives and Alternates will be given notice of special meeting via email with at least three (3) days notice.

ARTICLE XI

AUTHORITY TO CREATE STANDING RULES

7.1 Authority to Create Standing Rules and Codes of Conduct: The Board of Directors was given the authority to create Standing Rules (Article IX) and Code of Conduct (Appendix B) for the administration and operation of the Corporation on the 31st day of July, 2006. Standing Rules (Article IX) and Code of Conduct (Appendix B) established by the Board of Directors will follow the same process for changes and additions as outlined in Article X.

BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES REVISION ONE(1) ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES on the 26th day of February, 2007.

BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES REVISION TWO(2) ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES on the 23rd day of March, 2010

Ruth A Jackson, President

Derrick Russell, Vice President

Jenny Wilson-Beard, Secretary

Appendix A

List of Disqualifying Crimes

Arson (1st degree)
Assault (1st, 2nd, 3rd degree) (3 or more years)
Burglary (no degree or 1st degree)
Carnal Knowledge
Child abuse/neglect as defined by RCW 26.44020
Child Molestation (1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree)
Child buying or selling
Child abandonment
Child abuse (violating a restraining order)
Communication with a minor for immoral purposes
Criminal Mistreatment (1st or 2nd degree)
Custodial Assault
Custodial Interference (1st or 2nd degree)
Custodial Sexual Misconduct
Dealing in Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexual Explicit Conduct
Extortion (1st or 2nd degree)
Incest
Indecent Exposure/Public Indecency (Felony)
Indecent Liberties
Kidnapping (1st or 2nd degree)
Malicious Harassment
Manslaughter (1st, 2nd or 3rd degree)
Murder/Aggravated Murder
Patronizing a Juvenile Prostitute
Promoting Pornography
Promoting Prostitution
Prostitution (3 or more years)
Rape (1st or 2nd degree)
Rape of a Child (1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree)
Registered Sex Offender
Robbery (1st or 2nd degree)
Selling or Distributing Drugs or Narcotics (Felony)
Selling or Distributing Erotic Material to a Minor
Sending or Bringing into the State Depictions of a Minor
Sexual Exploitation of Minors
Sexual Misconduct with a Minor
Unlawful Imprisonment
Vehicular Homicide (negligent homicide)

Appendix B

GPSYFL CODE OF CONDUCT

The GPSYFL Code of Conduct applies to all personnel associated with this League. To include: All franchise and league administration personnel, all coaches assistant coaches, team managers and trainers, all cheer staff and cheerleaders, all parents, relatives and friends of players, and all players.

Members of the GPSYFL have become very important personnel amongst a very special and unique organization. As a member your conduct and behavior reflects directly upon our youth football league. Every person listed above is an ambassador of the GPSYFL.

1. All personnel listed above are expected to conduct themselves with sportsmanship, fair play, and friendly competition at all times.
2. Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are strictly prohibited at any franchise/league practice, game, and/or function by members of the GPSYFL.
3. Any form of physical, emotional, and/or verbal abuse is prohibited by anyone listed above.
4. "Foul" language, ethnic/racial slurs, and/or inappropriate language are strictly prohibited.
5. League members and guests may not yell and/or argue with officiating personnel.
6. League members are expected to treat others with respect and kindness.
7. Any violation of the Code of Conduct may lead to suspensions and/or removal from the League. All serious violations will be brought to the league Board of Directors for review and recommendation for action.

Appendix C

GPSYFL Coaches Conduct and Rules

The new Coaches Rules that have been adopted by the Greater Puget Sound Youth Football League for 2008 and beyond is designed to hold All Coaches/Managers to a higher standard. Creating teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie. The following plan means "Zero Tolerance".

Coaches using foul language towards or in the presence of, Parents, Players, Kids or any other organizations will be **SUSPENDED** for two games on first infraction. (This means the game you are currently coaching plus the following 2 games. During the suspension you will not be allowed to conduct or attend practice/games at any venue. You will be **REMOVED** permanently from the league on second infraction.

Drinking, Smoking is prohibited on all fields. You will wear your league badge during the games or you will not be allowed on the sidelines.

In the case of a "Bad Call" or Loss, or Another franchise's parent's ill behavior, **DO NOT LOSE YOUR TEMPER**, the league has franchise reps at every game to handle situations with parents.

FIGHTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED; REGARDLESS OF WHO THROWS THE FIRST PUNCH, ALL PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING PLAYERS/PARENTS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LEAGUE.

- I will lead, by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will do my very best to provide a safe playing situation for my players as well as other franchise's players.
- I will insure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of Football, and that I teach these rules to my players.
- I will remember that I am a youth coach, and that the game is for the children and not adults.
- I will respect the Referees .

This is your first and only warning. By signing this form you agree to the Greater Puget Sounds Youth Football Leagues Rules. By electing not to sign you will not be allowed to coach in this league.

UNIFIED FRANCHISE / FRANCHISE /COMBO CLUB _____

Coaches Name (print)_____ Grade level_____

Coaches Signature _____ Date_____

President Name (Print)_____

Signature_____ Date_____

League Athletic Director_____ Signature_____

League President's Initial _____

Appendix D

GPSYFL Exceptions from NFHS

1. For 4th and 5th grade only, on 4th down, the offensive team must declare their intentions to punt or go for first down yardage. No player may leave the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. All players must remain stationary until the ball is kicked. (Punt Rule) Once the punter gains possession of the ball he/she must immediately punt the ball. Violation of this rule will be a 5-yard delay of game penalty.
- 1a. Nine (9) minute, stop clock quarters will apply to all regular season, playoff, and championship games for grades 5 through 8. For 4th grade games ~~only~~ there will be a 15-minute running clock, with a stop clock in effect the last two (2) minutes of each half.
2. For 4th grade only, teams may have one coach on the field during play. Coach must be five yards behind their team's formation of deepest player before the ball is put into play.
3. Mercy rule will be in effect after a 26-point lead. This will include a running clock until the game is finished or the lead falls below 26 points. Losing Team and official time outs will stop the game clock.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, the "Kansas City" overtime rule shall take effect. 4th and 5th grade teams shall start possession at the 10 yard line. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teams shall start play at the 20 yard line. During possession, the offense will have four (4) downs to make a first down or touchdown. If a first down is made, four (4) more downs are allowed. The offense can also choose to attempt a field goal or acquire points. If a touchdown is scored, the scoring team can attempt a 1-point or a 2-point conversion. The winner is the team with the most points after each team has had at least one possession. If there is a tie after each team has had at least one possession, then each team receives another possession starting at the 10 yard line. If, during a regular season game, the score is tied after two (2) possessions, the game will result in a tie and be recorded as such. Games that determine a playoff berth are playoff games, or championship games, must have a winning team.

Only NYSCA certified coaches are allowed on the field. Spectators must be in the stands or viewing area. All coaches, team trainers, board members, or team parents who are in the team's sideline area must wear a League-issued badge that is visible at all times. Coaches will also display their NYSCA certification cards.

6. Extra points will be: 2 pts for a successful kick. Rushing to block the kick by the defense is not allowed. 1 pt is awarded for a successful run or pass. If a 4th or 5th grade team wishes to run or pass on fourth down, they must declare they are not punting or kicking.
7. Unsportsmanlike like Behavior, The head coach of each team will be responsible for the behavior of their sideline; this includes coaches, players, parents, family, and anyone else on their sideline. Each respective franchise representative is responsible enforcing the rules of behavior on his or her own side of the field. A fifteen (15) yard penalty can be assessed to the team if behavior warrants. If a game, in the judgment of the referee, has gotten out of control and the safety of his crew or the safety of the players is in question, he has the authority call an end to the game.
8. 4th, 5th & 6th grades will use 100-150 (small) youth football. 4, 5 & 6 may use the larger ball if

team chooses. 7th & 8th grades will use the 200-250 (medium) youth football. 7th & 8th grades may use the High School regulation ball, but cannot use smaller than the medium size.

- 13 During Jamboree, teams may have no more than two coaches in huddles for all teams. The coaches will observe the five-yard rule during scrimmage.
- 14 Use of electronic communication devices between a coach and player on the field is prohibited.
11. Nine (9) minute, stop clock quarters will apply to all regular season and playoff games for grades 5 through 8.
12. Only Head Coaches should talk with referees during the game and must be done in a highly respectful manner.