



League Rules

Introduction

Below are some of the key rules established for this season. This includes some of those contained in the BTYFL By-laws, Coaches Code of Conduct, Parent & Player Rules & Regulations and any other rules set forth by the BTYFL Board of Directors. These documents are available in full from the Downloadable Forms section at <http://www.beltonyouthfootball.com>

General Objectives

The objective of BTYFL is to familiarize young participants with the fundamentals of football and leading. To provide them with the opportunity to play in an organized and supervised environment and to teach them that academics and athletics should be joint, communal efforts. Our focus is on having fun and teaching responsibilities, dedication, fitness, discipline and teamwork. **[excerpt above from BTYFL By-Laws Page 1, Section 1]**

To achieve this, BTYFL will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations incorporated herein and referenced in any addendum to this document. All Directors, Officers, and Members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and molding of future citizens is of prime importance. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. **[excerpt above from BTYFL By-Laws Page 1, Section 2]**

The BTYFL is dedicated to raising the standard of service to youth in sports through the enforcement of the Coaches Code of Conduct among its membership and pledges its support to the BTYFL Board striving to attain this same objective. The COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT defines the expectations for adults serving as coaches in youth sports and provides the tools to be used the Board, when necessary, to check behavior and to respond with resolve to protect all children from psychological, emotional, physical or social abuses that can be perpetrated against them by youth sport coaches. **[excerpt above from Coaches Code Of Contact Page 1]**

The Belton Tiger Youth Football League (BTYFL) has the right to implement rules and policies deemed necessary to ensure smooth management and integrity of the program. **[excerpt above from Player Rules & Regulations, Page 1, Section 1]**

Board of Directors

Membership in BTYFL may be terminated by resignation or action by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or terminate the membership of any Member at any time....

...The Board of Director shall in case of discipline of a Participant Member [Player], give notice to the head coach of the team on which the Participant Member [Player] is listed on the team roster. Said head coach shall appear, in the capacity of an adviser, with the Participant Member [Player] before a duly appointed committee of the Board of Directors, which shall have the full power to suspend or revoke such participant's right to future participation in BTYFL activities. **[excerpt above from BTYFL By-Laws Page 2, Section 3]**



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Coaches Appointment & Removal

Appointment. Prior to the start of each season the Board of Directors (or designated sub-team) shall appoint a head coach for each football team and select up to 3 assistant coaches per team. The limit for coaches for each team is four. All Coaches are required to submit to a national background check. Background checks must be completed before practices begin. The Board of Directors, at its sole discretion, will select only coaches that demonstrate and commit to strict adherence to the BTYFL By-laws, Code of Conduct and League Rules.

Removal. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend, or remove any BTYFL coach at any time. Notwithstanding the discretionary authority of the Board of Directors set forth in above, the Board shall immediately remove any existing BTYFL coach from his or her coaching position who is found to have:

- Committed violent acts against any coach, referee, parent, player or any other person involved in a BTYFL organization or event; or
- Verbally or physically threatened any other coach, referee, parent, player or any other person involved in a BTYFL organization or event.
- Background check discovers a violation of BTYFL criteria to coach.

[excerpt above from BTYFL By-Laws Page 3, Article VI, Sections 1&2]

Practices Policies and Rules

Team Practices will begin no sooner than the first week of August. Teams will be allowed to practice three times a week (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday) in the month before the start of the school year. Once BISD begins classes for the school year, teams are only authorized to practice two times a week. All practices will be strictly limited to 1 ½ hours & only at the BH9 practice fields, weather permitting. Head coaches will submit their request for days / time slots to the Board of Directors at which time practice fields will be assigned. Teams may choose to practice on other days or times as needed, only after submitting the request and getting approval in writing from the Board of Directors.

[excerpt from BTYFL By-Laws Page 4, Article VI, Sections 3]

Physicals are required to participate in the BTYFL. Until such time that physicals are turned in to the Board of Directors, no player should be allowed to participate in any physical exertion, or wear any equipment during practice. This includes helmets, shoulder pads and/or football pants.

Insurance for all participating players is only valid at designated facilities (Tiger Field, BHS9 Practice Fields & Wilson Kerzee) during approved practice or game times and only during the current season. This insurance ends after the last game of the season. For this reason, no coaches will be allowed to hold practice in any locations, or at any days or times other than is expressly approved in writing by the Board of Directors.



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Unless otherwise requested and approved in writing, Practice times and days of the week are fixed as Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 6:00pm – 7:30pm for the first 4 weeks. Once BISD starts classes for the school year, practice will be restricted to 2 days per week only. To request different times or days for Practice, please submit a Facility Request Form to the Board of Directors for review. (Forms located in the Downloadable Forms section of <http://www.beltonyouthfootball.com>)

Game Play Rules and Policies

All games for this season will be played at Belton Tiger Stadium. Both divisions will have the same length of time 4, 8-Minute Quarters.

JV Division will have a continual running clock. This means the clock will not stop until the end of a quarter, or when referees or coaches call a timeout. No rushing will be allowed during punts or point after kick attempts. Successful PAT conversions by run or pass will earn 2 points. Conversion by kick will earn 1 point.

Varsity Division will run a normal clock. Stopping for out-of-bounds, incomplete pass, etc. for the duration of the game. Successful PAT conversions by run or pass will earn 1 points. Conversion by kick will earn 2 point. This is in line with the PAT rules implemented for BISD 7th & 8th grade games.

JV Division Weight Limit for players advancing the ball is 80 lbs. This is for safety reasons and will be strictly enforced. This means that any JV players 81 lbs. or above can't advance the ball at any time on offense or defense.

Varsity Division Weight Limit for players advancing the ball is 135 lbs. This is for safety reasons and will be strictly enforced. This means that any JV players 136 lbs. and above can't advance the ball at any time on offense or defense.

Weight Limit Enforcement. All players that exceed the established weight limit, to advance the ball for their respective division, will wear a red stripe on the center of their helmets to aide coaches and referees in enforcing this important safety rule. If these players gain possession of the ball **at any time**, they will immediately be considered down and the play will be dead. No exceptions.

Defensive Alignments are restricted to **4-MAN FRONT ONLY**. Only 4-man pressure is allowed. All teams in all divisions must comply with this important safety rule. There will be absolutely **NO BLITZES ALLOWED** for JV Teams. Varsity Division Teams can only blitz 1 additional player at any time. The 5th man can come from anywhere.

Varsity Division CAN BLITZ ANYONE OR EVERYONE when the offensive line of scrimmage is inside the opponents 5-yard line. There are no restrictions on how many players can blitz or even where they are lined up. Special emphasis should be taught on safe tackling to protect defenseless players on blind side blitzes.



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Game Play Rules and Policies (continued)

Plays & Formations are restricted to those plays provided in the Belton Tiger Youth Football League Playbook for this season. Any changes will be considered a violation of the League Rules. Based on recommendations from the Belton High coaching staff, coaches should try to have a balanced approach of 50% under-center and 50% shotgun formation.

Issues related to violations in offensive or defensive plays & formations will be addressed by the Board of Directors, Rules/Enforcement Committee, Referees or BISD coaches.

There will be absolutely no complaints or protests lodged or allowed from on-field BTYFL coaches or assistants during games.

The Board of Directors, Referees and BISD coaches will handle any of the violations of plays or formations directly, in private with the head coach of any team violating these rules

Sideline Behavior.

- “Away” team will be responsible for providing 3 volunteers to handle the first down and line of scrimmage markers for each game.
- Under no circumstances will coaches be allowed to shout or yell at opposing coaches, game or league officials or players, **especially** during the course of a game.
- All BTYFL Coaches will be expected to refrain from discussions on the sidelines that refer to the other teams coaches, players or game officials in a negative light.
- Coaches need to remember that they are representing BTYFL as a role model for the players in the game & on the sideline at all times.

Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their Assistant Coaches, Players and Volunteers.

Coaching Advice & Direction will be available to every coach, every game with an emphasis on consistency of teaching and understanding. BISD Junior High Coaches will be on both sidelines, during every game. Their role is to observe and provide consult and insight to coaches related to how formations and plays are interpreted. They will also help to motivate and begin building relationships with the players involved in BTYFL. They are volunteering their time to assist in the development of our players & coaches, in spite of their many responsibilities at BISD. They should be treated with courtesy & respect and their directives should be followed when given.

Flagrant Personal Fouls. Players committing a flagrant personal foul as determined by the referee on the field, will receive a verbal warning and could be immediately ejected at the discretion of the referee. A second offense by the same player, in the same season, will result in an immediate ejection and minimum 1 additional game suspension. A third offense by the same player, in the same season, will result in an immediate ejection and suspension for the rest of the season.



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Concussion Protocol

A suspected concussion must be taken seriously by the athlete, the parents or guardian, the coaching staff, as well as the training and medical staff. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness to have a concussion, in fact, these only accounts for less than 10% of all Concussions.

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), and the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL), have certain guidelines suggested for management of a concussion in sports. BTYFL coaches will be expected to strictly follow these guidelines.

If a concussion is suspected by a Coach, Trainer, or Sideline Physician:

1. REMOVE THE ATHELETE FROM PLAY

2. Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

3. Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them information of concussions.

4. Keep the athlete out of play on the day of injury and until an appropriate health-care professional says he or she is symptom-free and gives the OK to return to activity.

5. The athlete should be observed following a concussion and never be left alone.

6. Athletes must know that they should never try to "tough out" a suspected concussion. Teammates, Parents, and Coaches should never encourage an athlete to "play through" the symptoms of a concussion.

7. If a concussion is suspected, **NO ATHLETE SHOULD RETURN TO PLAY OR PRACTICE ON THAT SAME DAY.**

Athletes will not be allowed to play or resume practice until the Board of Directors has received and reviewed written clearance by a qualified Physician.

Coaches Commitments

Coaches are reminded of their commitment to:

- ***"PLACE THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING OF PLAYERS AHEAD OF A PERSONAL DESIRE TO WIN. "***
- ***"TO TREAT EACH PLAYER AS AN INDIVIDUAL, REMEMBERING THE LARGE RANGE OF EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SAME AGE GROUP."***
- ***"TO DO YOUR BEST TO PROVIDE A SAFE PLAYING SITUATION FOR ALL PLAYERS"***