



# **SOUTHERN LOUISIANA YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (S.L.Y.F.A.) - BYLAWS**

## **Founded 1990**

## **Update 2006**

***The S.L.Y.F.A. is an independent, non-profit Domestic Corporation dedicated to teaching the fundamentals of football and sportsmanship to young people and to promoting healthy active life styles to the entire region served.***

### ARTICLE I NAME AND POWERS

The name of the corporation, effective June 1, 2006, shall be Southern Louisiana Youth Football Association (S.L.Y.F.A.) and it shall possess all the powers, rights, privileges, capacities, and immunities which non-profit corporations are authorized, and may hereafter be authorized, to possess under the Constitution and laws of this state, and particularly under Title 12, Section 201, et. seq., of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

### ARTICLE II NON-STOCK AND NON-PROFIT

- A. This corporation is organized on a non-stock and non-profit basis and is irrevocably dedicated to the general purposes stated in herein.
- B. No part of the next earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, board member, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the corporation in pursuit of one or more of its purposes).
- C. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation may not participate in or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidates for public office.
- D. The corporation shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax on the undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws or regulations.
- E. The corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws or regulations.
- F. The corporation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws or regulations.

### ARTICLE III GENERAL PURPOSE

The General Purpose of the League is to promote Sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation and competition in the participation of youth football and any other associated sporting events and activities. The organization is an

Equal Opportunity association and does not discriminate against its membership on the basis of Age, Race, Ethnic Origin, Religion, or Sex. Enrolled Player Participants in the Youth Football sporting events are limited on the basis of age as a safety factor and in accordance with current playing regulation of the member teams and as recognized by like national affiliations.

#### **Article IV Government**

1. A board of directors governs the S.L.Y.F.A. corporation. This board is composed of one representative from each Charter Member and Regular Member organizations within the Association. This board handles all protests and enforces the rules of the Association, including the conduct and sportsmanship of those participating in this Association by casting their vote on issues which come before the board for decision.
2. Voting by Members in all cases shall be construed to mean the members in attendance when the vote is actually called. If a vote is called for electronically via electronic mail, then all voting members must vote on the issue either electronically or at the next scheduled meeting of the board of directors.
3. Bylaw changes must be submitted between December 1 and July 31. The Bylaws may only be amended by a 2/3rds-majority vote of the Charter Member Organizations. The Charter Member Organizations are: Denham Springs, Galvez, Live Oak, Prairieville, St. Amant, Walker, Southside, Zachary, and Central.
4. Officers of the Corporation are elected from the representatives of each organization and can serve a maximum of four (4) consecutive terms (each term being approximately one year). These officers are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Athletic Director. They make up the Executive committee of S.L.Y.F.A. Corporation.

The duties of these officers are:

- President: Preside over meetings, arrange meeting time, place, & keep order.
- Vice President: Preside in the absence of the President, perform corporate business tasks assigned by the President, and administer safety and policies of the corporation.
- Secretary: Take minutes of meetings and keep business and corporate records in order. Coordinate verification and player eligibility.
- Treasurer: Maintain bank accounts, prepare financial reports, account for all revenues and costs associated with the Jamboree and Post Season games, collect and levy all fines and dues owed to the corporation.
- Athletic Director: Coordinate publicity work, Jamborees, Post Season Games, weigh-ins, and to manage the Association's Player Recognition awards.

Election of Officers will be held at the first S.L.Y.F.A. meeting following December 1, with acceptance of positions starting immediately but no sooner than January 1. These officers will serve until the next officer election subject to the term limits stated above.

5. The next meeting will be scheduled at the meeting in progress or in advance by the Executive Committee. There will be one-week notice of a special called meeting or changes to the next scheduled meeting by electronic mail or telephone (excluding protests).
6. The S.L.Y.F.A. reserves the right to remove anyone from its meeting place and to remove from office any officer at any time during his or her term. To remove an officer from office will require 2/3 rds majority vote of the Charter Members (6 or more of the 9 Charter members).

7. The Association is funded by a yearly flat fee of \$1,200.00 assessed to each member organization, and a one time entrance fee of \$1000.00 per organization. Additionally, all gate receipts from the Jamboree, League Play-offs, Superbowl, and any S.L.Y.F.A. sponsored Bowl game shall go to the S.L.Y.F.A. account. From these funds the Association maintains its non-profit Domestic Corporation status, supplies **league wide yearly insurance coverage**, officiating for Jamborees, League Playoffs, Superbowl, and any S.L.Y.F.A. sponsored Bowl Game. Additionally, S.L.Y.F.A. provides A,B and C team trophies as follows:

League Play: 1<sup>st</sup> place team receives individual football trophies.

2<sup>nd</sup> place team receives individual football trophies.

Superbowl: Both teams receive individual football trophies.

S.L.Y.F.A. Bowl Game: Both Teams receive individual participation trophies.

Superbowl Champion: The S.L.Y.F.A. Superbowl Championship Trophy is a Team Trophy engraved with the Member Organizations name and year of championship. This trophy is passed from winner to winner over the years and should be proudly displayed at all Champions Home Games.

8. Specifically, the Association funds handle the fees for the 3 officials in the Jamboree, and up to 4 officials for Play-offs, and the Superbowl.

#### **Article V Members**

1. All new organizations entering the Association will be on a three-year probation and are considered probationary members. Violations of S.L.Y.F.A. By-Laws during that probationary time frame could result in dismissal without rebate of initial membership application. After three years of playing in the Association, probationary members can petition for Charter Membership. This petition requires a 2/3 approval by Current Charter Members. Non Charter members and Non Probationary members are considered regular members. Regular members may petition yearly for Charter member status.
2. No organization will be allowed to join the Association after the season has been scheduled. All members of S.L.Y.F.A. will have a voice in the meetings (as for voicing an opinion or idea). Regular and Charter members have voting rights with regard to Playing Rules. Charter members have voting rights with regards to By-Laws and acts of Corporate Governance.
3. The Association is composed of organizations with three teams. These teams will be made up of "A", "B", and "C" age groups. The organization must have these three teams in order to play in this Association.
4. Any organization which fails to send a designated representative to a duly called meeting shall be in default of their corporate duties and that default may only be cleared by payment of the fines to the Association outlined below or by a 2/3 approval of the executive committee. The amount of the fine is determined by the number of uncleared defaults attributed to the members record at the time of the next attended meeting as presented in the following schedule:
  - \$ 1.00 to for a single default.
  - \$ 10.00 to for two defaults.
  - \$ 100.00 for the three defaults.

\*\*\* Fines must be paid to the Treasurer or President at the next meeting attended or via mail to Registered Agent of Service for the Corporation as listed with the Louisiana Secretary of State. After the third meeting without having a Representative present or without having paid fines at outlined above, the offending organization will be on probation and subject to expulsion from the Association by a 2/3 rds majority vote of the non-default Charter Members. Additionally, any S.L.Y.F.A. organization in default can not place a team in the playoffs or Superbowl unless their default is rectified or they receive 2/3 approval of the executive committee. Forfeited playoff and superbowl positions will be filled by the next highest ranked eligible team.

5. The only protest that will be considered will be an infraction of the playing rules or bylaws for the S.L.Y.F.A. The protest must be made at the time of infraction, before next play, to the white hat. The protest must be discussed with the Referee staff. A time out will be charged. The opposing team will be charged the timeout if the play is overturned. Limited to 2 protests per game, per team. No Jamboree protests will be allowed. (Amended May 2003)

### **Article VI Insurance**

1. S.L.Y.F.A. Corporation provides Full Excess Policy insurance to all Association Member teams, their directors, coaches, players, cheerleaders, and other participants. The Policy details are available to each member organization from the Corporate Secretary. The policy and coverage is renewed on a yearly basis. The Executive committee is responsible for soliciting quotes and selecting coverage levels. A majority vote of the member organizations will then approve the policy purchase at the selected levels.
2. Each member organization is required to participate in the insurance coverage and may not opt out under any circumstance.
3. In line with the L.H.S.A.A. equipment safety guide lines each member organization agrees to administer the a Safety policy to insure compliance with L.H.S.A.A. guidelines. Each Member team will hold harmless all other member teams for failure of its individual players, cheerleaders, or participants.

### **Article VII Regulations for Games**

1. All games will be officiated by Louisiana High School Athletic Association (L.H.S.A.A.) officials. The officials will rule from the most recent L.H.S.A.A. rule book which each member organization must obtain by writing or visiting the website for L.H.S.A.A..
2. The home team is responsible for paying officials for regular season games. The pay schedule is negotiated by the Executive committee and is paid on a per game, per official basis. No more than 4 officials per game will be paid. (The rate for 2005 is \$30.00/official/game)
3. The Board of Directors will draw up the Association playing schedule, by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Schedule change requests must be submitted in writing to the Executive committee no later than June 1st and approved by majority vote of the Executive committee. Failure to play a scheduled game will result in forfeiture of all A,B, and C games for that member organization for that weeks games. In addition, failure by a visiting team to play a scheduled game will result in an Association fine of \$500.00 payable to S.L.Y.F.A. before their next scheduled

- game. This fine will be transmitted from S.L.Y.F.A. before season end to the Home team of the missed game(s). Repeated violations will result in repeated fines and repeated forfeitures.
4. In the event of dangerous or unsafe weather conditions (excessive rain or lightning), lack of officials, or other acts of God which prohibit play from proceeding the Association President must be notified by 7:30 a.m. the day of the game in order to call the officials. It is the Duty of the Home team to notify the visiting team of the change. If the officials show up on a rain out (lightning), they will be paid for the first game scheduled or through and including the game they are working when the rain out (lightning) occurs.
  5. Missed games recorded under scenario 4 above should be made up the next available Sunday afternoon or as agreed to by the individual Member Presidents. The home team President has the duty to reschedule the missed game before the end of the regular season (or 8 days after the end of the regular season if the missed game is the last game). Failure to schedule the game will result in the Home team's forfeiture. Failure to play on the scheduled date will be treated as a missed game outlined in 3 above.
  6. A game should not be changed from planned playing field, unless it is for the convenience of the High School. All other Hardship relocations will be decided and determined by the 2/3 Executive committee ruling.
  7. If the proper numbers of officials (3) do not show up, it will require a unanimous decision of both organizations to play. Once a decision has been reached all three teams of each organization must abide. If the games are not played the S.L.Y.F.A. President or Vice President must be notified on the day of the game, and the games rescheduled as outlined above.
  8. The admission fee for all games is \$3.00, Children 5 years old and under will be admitted free of charge.
  9. All games will consist of (4) 8 minute quarters, with a 10-minute break between the second and third quarter. Jamboree games will consist of (2) 20 minute halves, Running Clock, 1 time out per half and a 10-minute break between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> half. When more than one set of teams are playing, (such as Jamboree and Play-offs) the teams will exit the field promptly upon completion of their game. The next teams to play will be ready to play when the field is vacated. When there is a time schedule, the time will be adhered to except when time changes are agreed to by both coaches. (Amended May 2003)
  10. S.L.Y.F.A. sponsored football games will be conducted using NCAA time clock procedures and not Federation rules. This will allow the clock to stop on first downs, change of possessions, and kickoffs. (Amended May 15, 1994)
  11. Ball Size - "A" Team = Official Wilson TDJ  
"B" & "C" Team = Official Jr. Wilson K-2

#### **Article VIII Additional Playing Rules (separate from the L.H.S.A.A.)**

1. Free Punt
  - B Team & C Team
  - Referee informs the defense of the offense's intentions. (Free Punt)
  - A Free Punt can only occur on a 4<sup>th</sup> down

- Offense & Defense must freeze until ball is actually kicked, which will allow for any error in the snap or ball handling by the punter. Once the punter's foot makes contact with the ball it is live. The play becomes a normal punting play in accordance with the LHSAA rules.
  - Penalty will be a 5-yard encroachment, repeat down for defense and 5 yard offside for offense.
  - No fakes, trick or hard counts, or any action by the punting team to deceive the receiving team. (Amended May 2003)
2. The "C" team may elect not to punt the ball on fourth down inside their own 50-yard line. They have the option on the fourth down only to give the ball to the official who will advance the ball twenty (20) yards up field where a change of possession will occur. (Amended July 24, 1994) 30 seconds will run off the clock at this time. (Amended July 28, 2004)
  3. Free Extra Point after Touchdown
    - A, B, & C Teams
    - Referee informs the defense of the offense's intentions. (Free Extra Point)
    - Offense & Defense must freeze until the ball is kicked or the ball is called dead.
    - The Referee will call a dead ball if there is not a clean snap to the holder.
    - Defense will not be required to line up.
    - Offense can not take any action to deceive the defense.

### **Article IX Eligibility of Players**

1. The S.L.Y.F.A. was organized with a weight limit, the weights are "A" Team 175lbs. (Amended May 2005), "B" Team 145 lbs. (Amended May 2005), "C" Team 115lbs. (Amended April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006) This weight limit applies to all players. All players must meet the required age limits as outlined in article #3 below. If a child is of age, but does not qualify because of the weight limit for his age group, he may move up and play in the appropriate weight limit group with parental consent.
2. Each player will be weighed on or before the Jamboree (Amended May 2005) and must make the proper weight to play. The Athletic Director will coordinate and the Executive committee will oversee the weigh-in. If a player does not meet his weight class he will not be allowed to play that game. That same child must weigh in and make weight at the S.L.Y.F.A. executive committees designated location prior to being eligible to play the next week. This process can be repeated until the 3rd week of the S.L.Y.F.A. season including the Jamboree. All re weighs must take place under the direction of the Executive committee and with a representative from each team, and the child's parent or guardian present.
3. The S.L.Y.F.A. age groups are as follows:
  - "A" team players cannot yet be 13 years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season;
  - "B" team players cannot yet be 11 years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season;
  - "C" team players cannot yet be 9 years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.
4. Team rosters are restricted to a maximum of 40 players in accordance with the age restrictions above. A photocopy of the child's Birth Certificate, and a recent photo must be supplied to

S.L.Y.F.A. 1 week prior to the Jamboree or prior to participating in any SLYFA sponsored event.

5. Additionally, each member organization is required to maintain on file a copy of every covered participants insurance card indicating primary coverage, and a signed parental or guardian waiver of risk form, and
6. No player can play on any other organized football team while playing in this Association.
7. On a yearly basis, a player who is accepted by a team in S.L.Y.F.A., and has played with that team for two weeks, cannot play for any other S.L.Y.F.A. team. If a child would like to move to another team within S.L.Y.F.A. before the two weeks, the original team will release him/her to the other team with no protest. In order for a child to be moved to another S.L.Y.F.A. team, after two weeks of playing, the child's parent/guardian must petition the S.L.Y.F.A. board for review. The decision of the board will be final. (Amended March 28, 1999)

### **Article X Regulations for Coaches**

1. Each coach is to have a copy of all player birth certificates and current picture on the sidelines during the respective games.
2. Two "C" team coaches from each team are allowed on the playing field, but must remain in the backfield at least five (5) yards behind the deepest back. They are to assist the players but are not to interfere in anyway as far as play, and may not talk or instruct players once the huddle breaks. This includes Defense as well as Offense. (Amended May 2003)

1<sup>st</sup> infraction will receive a verbal warning.

2<sup>nd</sup> infraction will result in a 5-yard penalty.

3<sup>rd</sup> infraction will result in a 5-yard penalty and removal of the coach from the field

3. Practice (With Pads) cannot begin before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the season. No organization may hold any clinics or spring football, which conflicts, with any organized football being held at the same time as the local schools.
4. S.L.Y.F.A. member organizations may not scrimmage or play any team not in the S.L.Y.F.A. without prior approval of a majority of the executive committee.
5. Coaching assistance on the sidelines is the responsibility of the Head Coach for each team. However, the number shall not exceed 8 coaches.
6. All Member Team Officials, Coaches, assistances, and volunteers are responsible for knowing, agreeing to, and abiding by the S.L.Y.F.A. code of conduct amended here to.

### **Article XI Jamboree & Post Season**

1. Prior to the start of the Regular Season the Members will participate in a Jamboree game as described above in Article VII Section 9. The Location of the Jamboree will be on a Rotating basis beginning in 2007. The team that draws the Jamboree will not be allowed to host again until every other Charter Member organization has hosted, or been given the opportunity to host and elected not to, the Jamboree.

2. Prior to the start of the Post Season, Playing location is determined by a draw of the programs involved represented by the 12 individual teams (4 members x 3 Squads A, B, and C). One location is drawn to host the 6 individual games.
3. Prior to the Start of the Superbowl, Playing location is determined by a draw of the programs involved represented by the 6 individual teams (2 members x 3 Squads A, B, and C). One location is drawn to host the 3 individual games.
4. The Post Season Game (Superbowl) should be played on/or before the third Saturday in November. Variations require 2/3 approval of the Executive committee and is binding upon all parties.
5. The top 4 teams with the best regular season record will be eligible for the playoffs. In the event of a tie, Head to Head regular season matchups will be used to break tie. Secondary to Head to Head records, will be POINTS ALLOWED in the FIRST HALF only. Thirdly, will be quality of wins as judged by the team record against other teams within S.L.Y.F.A. whose records are ranked in the similar manner. A "play-in" game will break any continued ties, location and timing to be decided by Executive committee in consultation with effected teams.

### **Article XII General**

1. All S.L.Y.F.A. sponsored football games shall be conducted without the use of confetti. Spectators or fans will also conduct them without the use of any noise magnification devices, artificial noisemakers, or instrument without proper accompaniment. (Amended April 24, 1994)

## **AMENDMENT #1**

### **S.L.Y.F.A. Code of Conduct Policy**

1. All S.L.Y.F.A. Members and Participants are subject to background checks and criminal history reports to the greatest extent allowed by law.
2. All S.L.Y.F.A. Members and Participants are to conduct themselves as role models for our youth and to portray the attributes of Good Sportsmanship, Honesty, and Integrity.