



## **Southeast Texas Junior Football League, Inc. Constitution & By-Laws Division 5A**

(As Amended August 10 , 2025)

### **ARTICLE I: NAME AND BOUNDARIES**

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known as Southeast Texas Junior Football League & Cheer, Inc., hereinafter referred to as (STJFL). It shall function as a non-profit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, educational and youth sport purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

SECTION 2. The STJFL shall consist of local youth sports associations within Southeast Texas who wish to participate in accordance with current and future rules and By-Laws adopted by this organization.

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE STATEMENT**

SECTION 1. Its purpose shall be to function as a non-profit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, educational and youth sport purposes.

SECTION 2. The goal of the STJFL is to promote and execute STJFL policies. It is Non-Commercial and tax-exempt and will be supported by volunteer efforts of the community. It will not discriminate based on sex, color, financial ability, religion, or creed. It will not discriminate based on player's ability and coaches shall ensure safety, teaching basic game skills and promote good sportsmanship during all practices and games.



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**ARTICLE III: MISSION STATEMENT**

SECTION 1. It shall be the mission of the STJFL to implant the importance of academics, good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, integrity, and courage of the children, parents, coaches and volunteers for the betterment of all involved in the STJFL now and for years to follow.

SECTION 2: The Southeast Texas Junior Football League is organized for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. Membership of the STJFL shall consist of any parent or guardian of a child who participates in the STJFL, or any adult volunteer duly appointed by the associate organizations, charter associations and non-charter associations.

SECTION 2. For an association to be accepted into the STJFL it must have the majority vote of the current STJFL Board of Directors and must have a duly appointed representative to sit as its representative on the STJFL Board.



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SECTION 3. The STJFL Board reserves the right to refuse membership to any member or charter association that has been found to have in the past or present engaged in any form of actions deemed detrimental to the successful operation of the STJFL.

SECTION 4. Once an association has been granted a charter into the STJFL by the board, it must operate according to the guidelines of the STJFL. For a charter to be amended, the association must petition the STJFL board for a change. The STJFL board must approve all amendments.

SECTION 5. For an association to be accepted into STJFL, it must meet the prerequisites of a viable organization by having a board of directors, a set of by-laws established within the boundaries of the STJFL By-Laws and appropriate monetary funding to sustain itself. The STJFL Board will approve these prerequisites upon receiving a petition of acceptance from the association.

SECTION 6. For an association to enter and participate into the STJFL, it must have at least (1) one team in 2 (two) different STJFL divisions of competition.

SECTION 7. New associations in their first year shall maintain a non voting board position. After January 1<sup>st</sup> of the first season they will gain voting privilege.

SECTION 8. The STJFL will not accept any proposals or applications for acceptance into the STJFL after the regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Directors in March of the current year.



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**ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT**

SECTION 1. A Board of Directors shall govern this League. This Board shall consist of an appointed representative from each charter association, hereinafter referred to as a (Delegate). Each Delegate shall have the power of (1) vote. If multiple members of the same association hold board positions, they will all have a voice; however, only the Delegate may vote. In the event of a tie, each Board Member shall receive five (5) minutes to restate his/her position on the issue at hand. A re-vote will follow. If the issue remains at a deadlock, the issue will then be tabled until the next meeting.

Any person serving on the STJFL Board of Directors shall be a member of their local association and shall have held that position for a minimum of one year. The Board of Directors positions will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Insurance and Safety Coordinator, Coaches Representative, Media Coordinator, Ethics Chairman, Rules Chairman, and Members at Large.

SECTION 2. In addition, each member association will designate an “Associate Council,” (AC), from their respective association to attend every meeting and serve as a consultant to his/her voting board member. This AC has a voice but may vote only by proxy in the absence of his/her respective board member. If a vote occurs virtually through an official group messaging application, only the Delegate may vote unless a special circumstance prevents the delegate from voting. In such a case, the President may authorize the Associate Counsel to vote.



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SECTION 3. The STJFL shall be held to strict compliance of all State and Federal rules and regulations that pertain to a non-profit, incorporated youth sports organization. All meetings of this organization shall be governed by the procedures set forth in “Robert's Rules of Order.”

SECTION 4. Regular meetings of the STJFL will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at a site to be determined by the board of directors at the end of each previous meeting. At the discretion of the President, the regular date and time may be changed. At the discretion of the President, meetings/votes can be held virtually. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President or by a request of a majority of the Board members. Except for Special Called Executive Board Meetings, all meetings of this league are subject to the “Open Meetings Act.”

SECTION 5. A simple majority of Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present or available, the planned meeting shall be considered null and void and recorded as same due to lack of a quorum.

Note: At the discretion of the President, for the purpose of establishing a quorum, virtual attendance of an in-person meeting shall constitute a member is present. A virtual meeting abiding by the requirements set forth in Article V, Section 4 shall constitute members present at a regular, special, or Executive Board of Directors meeting.

Note: Where-in the STJFL Bylaws require notification in writing, it shall be at the discretion of the President to accept virtual notification as fulfilling the requirement.



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SECTION 6. The President shall conduct nominations and elections to fill the necessary board positions. He shall also have the duty to appoint any vacated or unfilled positions on the board within 15 days of vacancy.

SECTION 7. The terms of office for STJFL Board Members shall be a period of one (1) year. The term of office shall begin at the first meeting of January of each year.

SECTION 8. It shall be the responsibility of the President to preside over all league meetings, to supervise the operations of the league and enforce all league rules and regulations. The president of the STJFL shall have 1 vote for the league they represent and be allowed to make motions and proposals. The president shall appoint ethics committee members as well as participate in ethics committee meetings.

SECTION 9. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President to serve in the absence of the President and to assist the President in the successful operation of the league and its mission.

SECTION 10. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to maintain an accurate written record of all STJFL business; to inform the public of all activities pertinent to the successful operations of the STJFL and assist the President in the successful operation of the STJFL and its mission.

SECTION 11. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to receive all money of the STJFL, and shall keep an accurate record of all receipts, expenditures, finance records and shall issue a statement of financial account at every monthly meeting of the STJFL. It shall be the



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responsibility of the Treasurer to maintain custody of the organization's checks. The monies of the STJFL shall be deposited in a bank selected by the Executive Board; withdrawals shall be authorized with signatures of the President or the Treasurer. At the end of the treasurer's term of office, he/she must, within 72 hours, return all legal holdings to the STJFL Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall submit an annual "END OF YEAR" (EOY) financial statement to the Board. This EOY financial statement shall consist of all deposits, expenditures, holdings, and monies received in a typed (computer generated) report. All receipts and deposit slips shall accompany the report. The Treasurer shall file in a timely manner with the Internal Revenue Service as required by the Internal Revenue Code, all documentation appropriate to maintain the Association's 501(c)(3) status and any other documents as required by law and assists the President in the successful operation of the association and its mission

SECTION 12. It shall be the responsibility of the Insurance and Safety Coordinator to inform all member associations of available & applicable insurance policies; to verify that each participant is insured; oversee the verification of appropriate medical records for each participant, proper equipment for compliance to NOCSAE standards, and verify that qualified first aid kits are at all practice and game sites as reported by each of the associations.

SECTION 13. It shall be the responsibility of the Coaches Rep. To represent the coaches of all associations at all organization meetings and to be available to answer questions, offer resolutions where possible and refer all unresolved matters to the STJFL Board of Directors for remedy. In addition, the Coaches Rep. shall assist in the certification of all



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participants and assist the President in the successful operation of the league and its mission.

SECTION 14. It shall be the responsibility of the Cheer Coordinator to represent the cheerleaders of all associations at all organization meetings and to be available to answer questions, draft rules, and recommend solutions to the STJFL Board of Directors regarding the Cheer Division. In addition, the Cheer Coordinator shall assist in the certification of all cheer participants and assist the President in the successful operation of the league and its mission.

SECTION 15. It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Cheer Coordinator to assist the Cheer Coordinator in the successful operation of the Cheerleading Division and assume the Cheer Coordinator duties in their absence and assist the President in the successful operation of the league and its mission.

SECTION 16. It shall be the responsibility of the Media Coordinator to help promote all STJFL events (cheer competition, play offs, championship, etc.) in the local news media.

SECTION 17. It shall be the responsibility of the Registration Coordinator to supervise all of the certification process concerning STJFL player cards. This position will have a clear understanding of Article XIII: Certification of Participants. It shall be the duty of the Registration Coordinator to administer and coordinate all registration and certification procedures, keep and maintain accurate required paperwork, files, software, scales and other equipment as needed and verify all players "Approved" through the Waiver Process and submit the





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entire waiver list to the STJFL President. The Registration Coordinator will submit player cards and roster sheets of all teams.

SECTION 18. It shall be the responsibility of a Member at Large to attend Board meetings and assist the President in the successful operation of the league and its mission.

SECTION 19. It shall be the responsibility of the Associate Council to confer with his/her respective board member concerning pertinent issues and to vote in proxy in the absence of his/her respective board member.

SECTION 20. It shall be the responsibility of the Ethics Chairman to confer with his/her appointed committee on matters pertaining to Amendment 1, individual waivers and any matters appointed to them by the President or STJFL Board of Directors.

SECTION 21. It shall be the responsibility of the Rules Chairman to preside over the rules committee starting in February. The rules committee, appointed by the President, shall serve until completion of the rules review. The Rules Chairman shall continue through the season to document rule issues that arise and turn over these findings to the next Rules Chairman for the next annual rules review.

SECTION 22. It shall be the responsibility of the President to appoint members to the ethics committee from the membership. Such members shall not be from the same association as the President and have held STJFL membership for one year. The appointed members will vote on a chairman and vice chairman. The makeup for the committee shall be split into equal distribution of 4A/5A schools to include the President's



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association. Ethics Committee Chairman and ethics committee members must follow the ethics procedures found in Amendment 1.

### **ARTICLE VI: VACANCIES**

SECTION 1. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors or associate council due to any reason, the charter association affected shall name a new board member or associate council to represent them within 14 calendar days and remit that name to the STJFL Board for acceptance.

### **ARTICLE VII: ISSUANCE OF CHECKS**

SECTION 1. For a check to be drafted on the account of STJFL, it shall require 1 signature; however, there shall be at least 2 signators on the account. Checks or debits in the amount of up to (\$250.00) may be drafted without prior consent but must be approved by the Board of Directors at the next regular or special meeting. The STJFL Board of Directors must approve any check or debit larger than \$250.00 before issuance.

### **ARTICLE VIII: LEAGUE AND INSURANCE DUES**

SECTION 1. Each association must pay dues of \$25.00 per team per year to the STJFL treasurer. In addition, each association must pay insurance fees at a per team rate that is deemed necessary by the Insurance Coordinator to the STJFL Treasurer. These dues and fees



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must be paid prior to or no later than the July regular meeting of the ensuing season.

### **ARTICLE IX: BOARD MEMBER/MEMBER REMOVAL**

SECTION 1. Any board member who has missed more than (3) three consecutive meetings (special or regular) without just cause shall be reviewed by the Executive Board to determine actions to be taken.

SECTION 2. The board shall review any board member, charter association or other participant whose actions are deemed harmful to the successful operation of the STJFL or whose actions violate the rules and by-laws of the STJFL in a timely manner to determine if removal, replacement or disciplinary actions are necessary.

### **ARTICLE X: SAFETY**

SECTION 1. Each charter association must have at least (1) adult volunteer in attendance that is qualified with the minimum of an American Red Cross standard first aid/CPR certificate of completion or its equivalent for each charter association sponsored activity, (i.e., fundraisers, practice, games, exhibitions). These adult volunteers must be always on site during these events. These certificates must be placed in the authority of the Insurance Coordinator of the STJFL no later than the July regular meeting.



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SECTION 2. No team or squad will be allowed to practice or perform any other group activity without at least (1) one qualified safety person present and a bonafide first aid kit available within 100 feet. SECTION 3. No pyrotechnic devices will be allowed at any STJFL event without unanimous approval from the STJFL Board of Directors. Any violation of this policy will result in a permanent ban from all STJFL events upon completion of an ethics committee review.

SECTION 4. No drones will be allowed at any STJFL event without the unanimous approval from the STJFL Board of Directors. Any violation of this policy will result in a minimum of a 2 week suspension from all STJFL events upon completion of an ethics committee review.

### **ARTICLE XI: WEIGHT DIVISIONS, AGES AND REGISTRATION**

SECTION 1. FLAG DIVISION: To qualify for a flag football team, the participant must be at the age of (6) six or under on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no weight limit for flag division football players. To qualify for a flag cheer team, the participant must be at the age of (6) six years old or under on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

SECTION 2. PEEWEE TACKLE DIVISION: To qualify for a Pee-Wee tackle football team the participant must be age (8) eight or under on August 1. Any Pee-Wee tackle participant weighing more than 95 lbs. will be restricted to a Line Only "LO" position as defined in section 5 of this article. Any Pee-Wee player weighing more than 125 lbs. will be restricted to an Offense Line "OL" position as defined in section 5 of this article. To



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qualify for a pee-wee cheer team, the participant must be age (8) eight and under on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

SECTION 3. JUNIOR TACKLE DIVISION: To qualify for a Junior Tackle football team a participant must be age (10) ten and under on August 1<sup>st</sup> Any Junior tackle participant weighing more than 120 lbs. will be restricted to a Line Only "LO" position as defined in section 5 of this article. To qualify for a junior cheer team, the participant must be age (10) ten and under on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

SECTION 4. SENIOR TACKLE DIVISION: To qualify for a Senior Tackle football team the participant must be at the age of (12) twelve years old or under on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Any Senior tackle participant weighing more than 140 lbs. will be restricted to a Line Only "LO" position as defined in section 5 of this article. A person who is enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher of the ensuing football season shall not be allowed to compete in the STJFL, Inc. To qualify for a senior tackle cheer team, the participant must be age (12) twelve and under on August 1<sup>st</sup>. A cheer participant who has reached the 7<sup>th</sup> grade may either participate with a school program or STJFL, Inc not both.

SECTION 5. UNLIMITED SENIOR TACKLE DIVISION: Each STJFL association has the option to participate in either Section 4 or/and Section 5. To qualify for an UNLIMITED Senior Tackle football team the participant must be at the age of (12) twelve years old or under on August 1<sup>st</sup>. A person who is enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher of the ensuing football season shall not be allowed to compete in the STJFL,



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Inc. Associations must notify STJFL Board of Directors by June 1st as to which section their association will participate in (Section 4 or/and Section 5).

**SECTION 6. EXCEEDING WEIGHT:** If a player exceeds weight in their division, they may move up to the next division. However, they must follow the weight requirements of the next division.

**Line Only "LO"** - If a player exceeds the maximum running back weight for the division they will be considered a Line Only "LO" player and be restricted to a lineman position tackle to tackle on offense, and must be in a 2 or 3 or 4 point stance when playing offense, between the offensive tackles on defense and must be in a 3 or 4 point stance, and line of scrimmage for kick off receive only. On defense, the player must line up from "A" gap to tackle. The player may pull as a lead blocking lineman if they started on the line of scrimmage. The player may not advance the ball under any circumstances and the ball will be blown dead at the point of possession. The player's helmet and certification card must be marked accordingly.

**Offense Line "OL"** - - If a player exceeds the maximum LO weight for the division they will be considered an Offense Line Only "OL" player and be restricted to a lineman position tackle to tackle on offense and must be in a 2 or 3 or 4 point stance, The player may NOT play on defense or special teams and may NOT pull as a lead blocking lineman. The player may not advance the ball under any circumstances and the ball will be blown dead at the point of possession. The player's helmet and certification card must be marked accordingly

**SECTION 6. STJFL Registration Policy:** Any association that is a charter member of the STJFL will be required to hold an open registration. Open Registration – allowing any child in the associations outlined boundaries an equal opportunity to register for participation in



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the league. No selecting of individual children will be permitted, no calling of certain individuals to allow them to sign up first will be permitted, and it must be equal for all. Each association must turn in dates, times and locations for at least two or more registrations to the STJFL board prior to registration starting. Any member of the STJFL may attend an association's registration unannounced. Registration must be held open until at least June 15<sup>th</sup>, it may be held open longer at the discretion of the individual association.

Each association must use (3) three of the following methods of advertising for registration:

1. Fliers to the school
2. Fliers around the community
3. Small vinyl roadside signs in community
4. Newspaper ads in local paper
5. Community bulletin board on TV
6. Visit the school in person
7. Social Media

Each association must turn in to the STJFL board the methods they choose to use.

### **ARTICLE XII: DRAFTING OF TEAMS**

#### **SECTION 1:**

- 1 Players shall return to the team from the previous season if they qualify for the same division. If a parent and/or coach requests a certain player not return to the same team, they must submit a



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request in writing to the local charter association's board of directors for approval. If approved the player will be put back into the draft.

2 A draft will be conducted for all new players except coach's options (protected players) but they must count as a draft pick.

3 Head coaches of each team will draw for draft order.

4 If a returning player has a brother who is eligible for the open draft, that brother will be placed on the same team and count towards the team's total roster prior to draft. When there are siblings entering the open draft; if one of the siblings is drafted, the other sibling must be picked in the next available round. EXAMPLE: If the first sibling is drafted in the second round and the coach takes an option in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round the other sibling must be taken in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

5 The charter association will hold a tryout and players will be drafted by talent. There will be no hand picking teams.

6 If the teams in the same division have a differential 3 or greater, the team with the least number of players will be awarded 2 for 1 pick starting in 4<sup>th</sup> round. The teams will draw numbers to determine who will pick first in the draft. 2 for 1 pick will be every other round until each team has even numbers, once teams have reached even numbers the draft will be 1 for 1 for the remainder of the draft. The draft will end with each team picking 1 for 1 in the last round. After starting 2 for 1 pick in the 4<sup>th</sup> round and picking 2 for 1 every other round it may be necessary to have 2





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for 1 in back-to-back rounds, the back-to-back rounds will be determined prior to draft starting. Note: All protected “coach’s options” will be picked in the order of the draft sequence and must be taken in the rounds designated. The second pick of a 2 for 1 round will be taken at the end of a round.

- 7 If the teams in the same division have a differential less than 3, teams with the least will start picking 2 for 1 pick in the 5<sup>th</sup> round until teams are even. The teams will draw numbers to determine who will pick first in the draft. After starting 2 for 1 pick in the 5<sup>th</sup> round and picking 2 for 1 every other round it may be necessary to have 2 for 1 in back-to-back rounds. Once teams have reached even numbers, the draft will be 1 for 1 for the remainder of the draft. A child on a waiting list or that signs up late will go to the team with the next pick in the draft and follow in that order each time a new player is placed on a team.
- 8 Players that do not participate in the draft will become a hat pick. Hat picks will be done after the draft pool is empty and will be to the team next in line to pick.
- 9 Each team will have 2 coach’s options picks per year. The first option must be taken in the 3rd round and second option in the 5th. If the head coach’s child is eligible for the draft, the child must be taken in the 5th round. All options must be declared prior to the draft and recorded as a draft pick. If the head coach’s child is a returning player on that team from the previous year,



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then that child is not considered a new player and does not need to be drafted.

10 Trading will be allowed after the open draft is complete. Coaches will have 10 minutes to trade players that are not returning players. The trade must be recorded with the Commissioner. 11 Draft shall abide by Article XII, Section 4.

12 If there is an expansion team in any division, see expansion draft policy.

### **SECTION 2: Expansion Team Draft Policy**

Expansion teams are defined as a team that did not exist the previous year and will be formed. The expansion draft policy is defined as follows:

Note: If a new division is formed, all teams in the division are not considered expansion teams. All players will try out and be drafted per STJFL draft policy.

1 The expansion draft will take place prior to any tryout and open draft. (Time will be set by the participating association).

Each existing team will protect 33% of the players on the current roster. (i.e. 15 players, you protect 5).

If there are brothers on an existing team and the team wants to protect 1 of them, they must protect both and they will both count towards your 33%. If the brothers are unprotected and the expansion team picks one brother, the other brother must be also taken and will count as part of the “equal percentage”.



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Existing teams with fewer than 3 players will not participate in the expansion draft. The expansion draft will last as many rounds as needed.

The expansion team will pick from the pool of unprotected players in the expansion draft until their numbers are equal to existing teams. They must pick equal percentages from both teams. The remaining players not picked by the expansion team will return to their respective teams. This will conclude the expansion draft.

The net effect is that each returning team will lose no more than 33% of their players. Expansion team's roster should not exceed any existing team's roster when the draft is completed

Brothers that are on the same team are considered as an "option". If the expansion team drafts one of the brothers, they receive both players to count towards their team total.

### **Example:**

If an association is expanding from 1 to 2 teams – the existing team protects 33% of its players, the remainder go into the expansion draft. If the existing team protected 5 players, the expansion team would pick 5 of the eligible players. The remaining unselected players would return to their respective team.

In the case where an association is going from 2 to 3 teams – both existing teams protect 33% of its players, the remainder go into the expansion draft.

In the case that one existing team puts more than the other into the draft (one team puts 10 and the other puts 8 - the same percentage of players shall be selected from each team. The



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expansion team will select players until it is even with the existing team with the least number of players. At that point the low existing team will pull back one returnee to its team. Then the expansion team will select another player from the appropriate team, keeping percentages equal. This will take place until all three teams are equal to the High existing teams 33%. Then remaining players will return to their respective teams.

- As defined in the Draft Procedure 1.0: "Players will remain on the same team if returning in the same division. Once a player is selected by a designated team, the player will stay with that team unless he/she moves into another division. If the participant has a sibling playing in the age/weight division they are moving into, they will be placed on the same team.
- If a player has siblings in another division that is moving up the sibling moving up is not eligible for the expansion draft or draft open and will count against the existing team's total after the expansion draft. He will not be part of the existing teams 33% if the returning sibling is selected as a protected player.
- There are "NO" coach's options for teams during the expansion draft. This should be considered when protecting players.

### **SECTION 3: Full Draft Option**

1. Associations can bypass the regular draft and expansion draft by choosing to conduct a Full Draft. Full Drafts can be conducted to prevent the inadvertent stacking of teams which can occur because of the nature of returning players or expansion drafts. Full drafts do not consider returning players or expansion of teams. All eligible players with the exception of 2 coaches options will be drafted.



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2. Full drafts can be conducted for the entire association for all age divisions or for one or more age divisions within an association as directed by their association board of directors. Full Drafts will:
  - a. Place all eligible players (returners or new) into the draft. b. Follow the same administrative procedures as the regular draft.
  - c. Follow the same procedures for coaches options as regular draft. (2 coaches options per year)
  - d. Follow the same procedures for siblings as the regular draft. e. Follow the same procedures for hat picks.
  - f. Follow the same procedures for the open trading period. g. Follow all rules of Article XII, Section 4.

Note: The Full Draft is only different in that there are no returning players. Full Drafts should be conducted exactly like a regular draft would be conducted if this was a new association conducting their first draft.

### **SECTION 4: Additional Draft Procedures**

3. The STJFL Board of Directors must be notified in writing no less than 48 hrs prior to any draft taking place. Failure to notify the STJFL will result in the draft being void and possibly disciplinary actions for the association as determined by the STJFL Ethics Committee. Associations may request an emergency draft with less than the required notice if approved by the STJFL Board of Directors.
4. Any team that participates in any draft must ensure during the draft that the end results abide by the 60/40 Rule\* by monitoring during the draft the percentage of the two age ranges for that division. If the draft results do not conform to the rule then teams must use the open trading period to bring the draft into compliance. If a trade can not be agreed to, then the Association shall either force a trade, reconduct the draft, or conduct a full



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draft of that age division. Teams that do not abide by the 60/40 rule, unless otherwise decided by the STJFL Board of Directors, shall not be certified.

\*60/40 Rule- no drafted team shall be composed of more than 60 percent or less than 40 percent of either age group in their respective division.

Example- A Pee wee draft ends with 2 teams of 20 players. Neither team can have more than 60% of all 8 year olds or less than 40% of all 7 year olds in the division.

### Situation Example- Pee wee Draft

(Two Teams- 40 players total, (23)- 8 year olds, (17)- 7 year olds.

Neither team may have: more than (13)- 8 year olds or less than (10)- 8 year olds, or more than (10)- 7 year olds or less than (7)- 7 year olds.

Drafts Results: Team A (12)- 8 year olds/(8)- 7 year olds and Team B (11)- 8 year olds/(9)- 7 year olds) meets the 60/40 Rule.

## ARTICLE XIII: CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS/TEAM

SECTION 1. Certification of documents shall be completed online by the Certification Registrar or his designee(s). Certification shall be finalized in person at picture/weigh-ins. The final date of certification shall be determined by the Certification Registrar and finalized by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. The STJFL Board members and the Associate Council from each association are expected to attend all in person certification events.

SECTION 3. It will be the responsibility of the participant to upload: a copy of his/her birth certificate, most recent report card/proof of enrollment, physical by a doctor, intern or RN, and electronically sign parental consent form and STJFL Code of Conduct form. In the case where the participant is enrolled in a private school, they will have to



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upload proof of residence with a Letter from a Public Notary for proof of residence or Registration document on the school letterhead with the student's address. Any 5-year-old who was not enrolled in school the prior year and who does not have a report card, shall upload a current utility bill (water, gas, electric) for proof of residence. No participant will be allowed to certify without the proper documentation.

SECTION 4. All participants will be certified according to the school in which they attend. In the case where a school district has more than one elementary or junior high, the STJFL board will decide as to how the charter association will have to split the participants in their association. The Board of Directors board will consider the size of community, locations of schools, school boundaries, etc. while making its determination. Any child that attends private school must be certified in the district they live in. No child will be allowed to play outside of their school district without a waiver from the STJFL Board.

SECTION 5. All tackle football players must be weighed at certification. Each participant will be given two opportunities to weigh on an official certification day. If the participant is overweight on the first try, they may ask the weight official to recertify the scales and attempt to make weight again. The participant may not leave the sight of the weighmaster at this time, if the participant leaves the building, they will not be allowed to weigh again that day. If the second attempt to make weight is failed the participant may come back if there is an additional certification. If weight is not made at the last certification the participant will not be allowed to participate. All participants will be certified at the lowest level of their eligibility. The STJFL Board will consider any exceptions to eligibility except weight.

SECTION 6. Once a participant has met all certification requirements, they will be issued a player card with the official STJFL stamp on the back. Any participant certified as an LO/OL will have "LO/OL" clearly marked on the front of the certification card. Any participant without a card or a stamped card will not be allowed to participate. The card must



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also be signed by an STJFL official not associated with the same association as the participant.

SECTION 7. Once all members of a team are certified, the participants are certified as a team by approving and issuing a player card sheet provided the team has met all requirements of Article XII.

### **ARTICLE XIV: COACHES**

SECTION 1. Anyone holding a head coaching position for football or cheerleading in the STJFL must be at least 21 years of age. Anyone holding an assistant coaching position for football or cheer must be at least 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. The head coach or assistant coach must be present at all practices and games.

SECTION 3. All student demonstrators will be under the supervision of the head or assistant coach. They cannot conduct practice.

SECTION 4. No coach shall receive any payment of cash or kind for services rendered as a STJFL coach. This includes any coach, expert, consultant, or choreographer regardless of his/her roster status.

SECTION 5. All coaches and adult volunteers must also have a visible official STJFL photo ID to be anywhere on the playing or practice field. Head coaches' IDs shall be RED and Assistant coaches' IDs shall be white.





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SECTION 6. Any Coach ejected from a game will be brought before the STJFL Board for review within 6 days of the incident. Penalty for ejection from a game will be determined by the STJFL Board and could include suspension of the coach and monetary fine to the charter association.

### **ARTICLE XV: DIVISIONS**

SECTION 1. 5A Division is defined as those associations in the top 50% of enrollments in their school district as defined by the latest released UIL numbers as of February 1st of the ensuing season compared to others associations within the STJFL. If there is an odd number of total teams, the association on the dividing line of 4A/5A in question will remain in their previous season division unless otherwise directed by the STJFL Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE XVI: GATE / ENTRANCE FEE**

SECTION 1. Hosting STJFL organizations reserve the right to enforce or waive gate/entrance fees for spectators to STJFL sanctioned events. The gate/entrance fee amount will be a standard league fee made by a 2/3rds majority vote of STJFL board members.

### **SECTION 2. GATE / ENTRANCE ADMISSION CHARGE**

#### **A) REGULAR SEASON**

CHILDREN (11 and Under) \$3

AGES 12 AND UP: \$5

#### **B) PLAYOFFS**

CHILDREN (6 and Under) FREE

AGES 7 AND UP \$10



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### **ARTICLE XVII: AMENDMENT TO 5A BY-LAWS**

SECTION 1. Any amendment to the STJFL 5A by-laws must be made by a 2/3rds majority vote of 5A STJFL board members present and voting at a regular or special called meeting. Any proposed 5A by-law change can be brought to a full STJFL Board vote by a proper motion and second prior to or after any 5A by-law vote. Each 4A/5A STJFL board member must be duly notified in writing at least 15 days in advance of the proposed vote or change. Amendments to the by-laws shall become effective immediately upon a proper vote.

### **ARTICLE XVIII: DISCLAIMER**

SECTION 1. Should these by-laws now, or in the future become invalid, outdated, or judged to be detrimental, or in violation of any State or Federal guidelines, STJFL will immediately decide to make the necessary amendments to ensure that this Association be in full and complete compliance.

### **ARTICLE XIX: EARNINGS**

SECTION 1: No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposed set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization



shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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#### ARTICLE XXX: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: Upon the dissolution of this organization, any assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.



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### **Amendment 1A**

#### ***Handling of Ejections/Appeals***

Ejections from any STJFL property by an STJFL yellow badge will be reported by the yellow badge in writing to the ethics committee email ([ethics@STJFL.net](mailto:ethics@STJFL.net)).

Ejections by a game official on STJFL property will be reported to the head referee and in writing to the ethics committee email ([ethics@STJFL.net](mailto:ethics@STJFL.net)).

Included in the ejection report will be the date, time, and place of the ejection. It must include the name of the STJFL yellow badge who initiated the ejection, the name of the party ejected, a narrative explanation, and what STJFL policy, rule or bylaw that was violated. Notification (email) of the ejection must be completed by midnight of the same day of the ejection. Failure to do so may result in the ejection being dismissed and no further action taken unless a written request for more time is received by the deadline and approved by majority vote of the ethics committee.

The ethics committee will review the STJFL yellow badge ejections no later than 48 hours after receiving the ejection notification if:

- 1) The ejection was a result of violating a STJFL policy, rule, or bylaw AND,
- 2) The ejection DID NOT occur during their duties just prior to, during, or following a regular or post season game.

Ejections that do not meet the above criteria must be handled by the association in which it originated and the notification to the ethics committee is for record purposes only. Once the association has completed their in-house process of the ejection, the outcome should be reported to the ethics committee within 24 hours after a decision has been made. The ethics committee does reserve the right to review the association outcome and recommend to the STJFL additional punishment/suspensions depending on the severity of the violation.

The ethics committee will review all ejections by game officials or STJFL yellow badges which occurred *during* performing their duties just prior to, during, or following a regular or post season game no later than the following Sunday.

Once the ethics committee has reviewed the ejection report, they will issue a report to the STJFL on each ejection no later than 5pm the following Monday via email to each association. The ethics committee can choose to:



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- 1) Uphold the ejection and automatic suspension as issued.
- 2) Recommend to the STJFL additional suspension time up to and including removal from the organization.
- 3) Dismiss the ejection
- 4) Add additional time to investigate the ejection.

Any recommendation beyond the standard automatic suspension prescribed in the bylaws must be approved through the STJFL Board by majority vote. All suspensions are automatically in effect until:

- 1) The suspension is served.
- 2) The ethics committee dismisses the ejection.
- 3) The STJFL President and Ethics chairman unanimously grant a temporary hold on the suspension due to:
  - a. Reasonable doubt about the ejection violation.
  - b. Excessive time needed to properly investigate and/or obtain statements in which there is reasonable assumption that it may be overturned.
  - c. An appeal is filed and a request to temporarily lift the suspension is received.

Appeals must be filed by the ejected party within 72 hours after being notified of the ethics committee's review decision or STJFL vote. Appeals must be received in writing to the ethics committee email with reason and all supporting evidence for granting such an appeal. Any information, statements or evidence not included in the appeal will not be heard. The ethics committee will review the appeal and evidence supplied. The ethics committee can:

- 1) Grant the appeal and change the ruling/recommendation.
- 2) Reach out to other parties or organizations for additional statements.
- 3) Deny the appeal.

If the ethics committee rules to hear the appeal, it must be resolved within 48 hours and follow the same reporting/recommendation procedure as the initial review. If the appeal is denied, there is no further action that can be taken by the individual and the result is final. However, suspensions more than 1 calendar year can be reviewed. The individuals' host association by majority vote of their board can place the suspension on the STJFL agenda within 90 days of issuance. The association will have 5 min at the first available regular meeting to speak and provide evidence why it should be independently reviewed. If the request is approved by 2/3 majority vote of the STJFL membership, a



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subcommittee will be formed and consist of one representative from each association not to include any member of the ethics committee, host association or anyone directly involved with the initial investigation or appeal. The independent review subcommittee will have 1 week to review the initial investigation and appeal. The ethics chair will provide all materials used as well as a statement explaining the reasoning of the ethics committee on why the decision was reached for both the initial investigation and appeal. The subcommittee chair (chosen by the subcommittee) will report the findings with its decision to uphold or dismiss the suspension. The subcommittee cannot reduce or add additional suspension time. This independent review subcommittee's sole purpose is to identify any gross negligence in the reporting, investigation, or appeal process. Its decision will be final and unalterable.

Standard Ejection Protocols are as follows:

### **First Ejection/Violation:**

**Player:** If a minor is ejected from an STJFL event by a board member or game official the member will receive an automatic suspension from any STJFL Sponsored Event. The player Cannot participate in any STJFL Sponsored Event including Practice, game, or special event. The player will be allowed to return on the Monday after the next scheduled game. Probation will be imposed for the remainder of the season. The ethics committee will review the incident for further board action. When a minor is ejected, they must immediately leave the playing field but may remain in the spectator area.

**Adult Ejections -** If an adult is ejected from an STJFL event by a board member or game official the member will receive an automatic suspension from any STJFL Sponsored events. The adult Cannot participate in any STJFL Sponsored Event including Practice, game or STJFL Event. The adult will be allowed to return on the Monday after the next 2 scheduled games. Probation will be imposed for the remainder of the season. The ethics committee will review the incident for further board action. When an adult is ejected, they must immediately leave the premises.

### **Second Ejection/Violation:**

**Player:** If a minor is ejected from an STJFL event a Second time in the same season by a board member or game official the member will receive an automatic suspension from any STJFL



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Sponsored Event. The player Cannot participate in any STJFL Sponsored Event including Practice, game, or special event. The player will be allowed to return on the Monday after the next 2 scheduled games. Probation will be imposed for the remainder of the season. The ethics committee will review the incident for further board action. When a minor is ejected, they must immediately leave the playing field but may remain in the spectator area.

Adult Ejections - If an adult is ejected from an STJFL event a Second time in the same season by a board member or game official the member will receive an automatic suspension from any STJFL Sponsored events. The adult Cannot participate in any STJFL Sponsored Event including Practice, games or STJFL Event. The adult will be allowed to return on the Monday after the next 4 scheduled games. Probation will be imposed for the remainder of the season. The ethics committee will review the incident for further board action. When an adult is ejected, they must immediately leave the premises





