

AIKEN COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL

1. Mission

The mission of the Aiken County Youth Football is to provide a safe and positive environment for eligible youth between the ages of 7 and 12 years old and their families to enjoy the game of football. Aiken County Youth Football emphasizes character, self-discipline, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, leadership, and good sportsmanship.

2. Operation

Operation of the Aiken County Youth Football (ACYF) will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The mailing address is PO 3681 Box, Aiken SC 29804.

3. Organization

- Teams will be divided into three divisions: 8u years old (Division III), 10u years old (Division II), and 12u-year-old (Division I). Age must be attained as of June 1st. Any 6-year-old must have turned six **on or before June 1st**. Any 13-year-old must have turned thirteen **on or after June 1st**. A copy of a government issued birth date verification document is required.
- Teams will be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) players. No exceptions will be made.
- If a youth is on a middle school team anytime during the season, he or she is **not allowed** to participate in ACYF.
- Not more than (3) three weeks following the first game, a player who has relocated to the Aiken community may register for a team. Verification of relocation is required.
- A parent may choose to transfer their child to another team **once** during their eligibility to participate in Aiken County Youth Football. If a parent chooses to transfer their child an additional time, that child must sit out one (1) football season. Parents may appeal a transfer to the Aiken County Youth Football Board for hardship situations.
- The recruiting or proselytizing of ACYF athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations governing Aiken County Youth Football. A student may not be subjected to undue influence or any special inducement by any person or group in any attempt to entice an athlete to transfer teams. Some examples of undue influence are as follows:
 - A player or parent asked by a coach, administrator, or team parent to transfer from one team to another. Offering privileges, financial aid, or special considerations to induce or influence a player to transfer from one team to another because of their athletic ability.
 - Encouraging other players or friends to influence an athlete to transfer teams.

- Any player transferring as a result of recruiting or undue influence may be declared ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation. Any games played by this player will be forfeited and any team violating this rule will be subjected to disciplinary action by the League.

4. Coaches

- The Team Administrator will appoint a Head Coach.
- Each Head Coach may select his own assistants but must be approved by the Team Administrator.
- Every Head Coach football all five coaches and every assistant **must be certified** to participate in games or practices.
- Each Head Coach will be solely responsible to the Aiken County Youth Football Organization for their actions and the actions of their assistants in all coaching activities. They will ensure that all rules and policies of the League are followed. A coach willfully violating rules of the League will be suspended.
- Coaches will always strive to develop good physical fitness and good sportsmanship in their players.

5. Game Management

- The ACYF Organization through the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) head official will retain officials.
- ACFY will contract electric clock operators.
- Chain crews will be the responsibility of the home team. Chain crews must be at least of high school age and include one adult on the box. They will not cheer on the home team and conduct themselves with appropriate behavior.
- Each home team will provide a game ball: Pee wee for 8u, Jr. for 10u, and Youth for the 12u year old. Do not buy compost.

6. Kickoff Classic

- The season will start with a Kickoff Classic. The Kickoff Classic will be held the 1st Saturday after Labor Day. Administrators will turn in a roster of their team with names and jersey numbers on the Wednesday prior to the Kickoff Classic. If all other required information is not submitted by this date, ALL games will be forfeited until required documentation is submitted. All ball carriers must be certified with weigh-in at the league wide certification prior to or during the Kickoff Classic. Final rosters will be frozen at the Kickoff Classic. However, a team with a hardship situation may present a request to the Board to add additional players prior to the first game. No child will be allowed to play until a valid birth certificate is presented. The Team Administrator is responsible for submitting required information to the League.

7. League Champion

- In the event of a tie, the team that won the regular season game will be the top seed. A coin toss will be used if necessary.
- Team awards will be presented to each division champion and runner-up

8. Rules

- No practice will be more than two active hours in duration.
- ACYF follows NFS Rules.
- The first date of practice should not be held prior to the 1st Monday in August.
- A team will not practice or play more than four (4) days per week after the first day of school.
- There will be no practice or games on Sunday.
- No player will be allowed to participate in a game until he/she has met the eligibility requirements stated.
- No player will participate in a contact practice of any kind without wearing his/her helmet and mouthpiece. Each player must wear a complete set of pads for any contact practice.
- Contact practices with full uniform and pads shall not be held prior to the first day of school. No player will participate in a game without a uniform consisting of helmet, mouthpiece, shoulder pads, jersey, pants with hip, thigh, and knee pads, and cleats. No metal or hard cleats will be used. Game jersey numbers must match the number assigned on the roster at the beginning of the season. If jersey is deemed unusable during the season, the Board Chair must be notified.
- No games will be played without at least one (1) official.
- During a game, only the teams, coaches, officials, administrator, and cheerleaders will be allowed on the field.
- Players must play a minimum of two plays per half.
- During a game, a team will not have more than five (5) coaches on the field. No exceptions.
- During a game, the players who are not playing will remain in the bench area.
- During a game, the five (5) designated coaches will be allowed to move up and down the sidelines between the 30-yard markers.
- When a team obtains an 18-point lead, the officials will call a time out and all skilled players on the leading team must be substituted. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in game forfeiture by the offending team.
- Simulated punts for the Division III teams: thirty yards inside opposing team is thirty yards line. **No rush on punts for the older teams.**
- All teams will play (4), eight (8) minute quarters.
- Time clock will stop only during the last 2 minutes of each half.
- Teams will play a sudden death during the regular season from the 50-yard line if the score is tied at the end of regulation time. The team that gains the most yardage or scores will win.

- During the playoff and championship games overtime will be played with two attempts from the ten by each team. Third attempt will be yardage if no score.
- During games, no unauthorized person is permitted within the fenced area. No parents will be allowed on field area unless their child is injured, they are providing certified medical assistance, or they are assisting with the chain crew.
- All playing fields are under local law enforcement authority.
- All players and parents who participate in the ACYF are required to sign a Code of Conduct which also includes a no alcohol, drugs or tobacco use clause.
- Score for Point after Touchdown (P.A.T.) is as follows: two points if run in, one point if kicked through the up rights.
- **No rush on field goals or P.A.T.'s**
 - A. No defensive lineman in front of center
 - B. Maximum of eight defensive linemen, defensive lineman must have hand in the dirt if not it's a blitz.
 - C. Maximum of three linebackers who must be three yards off the line and inside the defensive tackles. They are allowed to have hands up as to distract or block kick.
 - D. Field Goal will count for three points.
- If ball is muffed or fumbled on a punt, field goal, or P.A.T., the ball becomes live.
- No fake kicks P.A.T.'s
- Helmets may be worn at **NON-CONTACT** practices as of August 7, 2013.
- Jersey numbers do not determine position of player. Any jersey number may be worn by any position of a player.
- If a player is expelled from school, they will be suspended for one game and will be required to go before ACYF Executive board before being reinstated.

9. **Protests**

- Protests shall be made only on the ineligibility of a player or players or violation of a league rule.
- All protests on game rules will be made in writing to your administrator. The protest should include player number, age group of player, and date of incident. The administrator makes the final determination of presenting the protest to the Board. The Board may make a recommendation which may include forfeiting the game. All protests will be retained on file.
- All protests on ineligibility of players shall be filed with the league within twenty-four (24) hours after the game in which the player or players participated.

- The league reserves the right to suspend, dismiss or bar any coach, player, parent/guardian, or spectator whose actions the league determines to be detrimental to the program.
- There will be no profanity, verbal abuse, or physical abuse towards any player, coach or administrator including but not limited the word "cheating". The League expects that all coaches and administrators will not say or imply to players that another team or player cheated. Use of these types of words and/or actions may result in suspension.

10. Skill Player Eligibility

Running backs in the 7-8 division may not exceed 90 lbs.; 9-10 division players may not exceed 125 lbs., and 11-12 division players may not exceed 165 lbs.

11. Scheduling and Playoffs

The playoffs will begin the first Saturday following the last regular season game.

