

OVERVIEW: NORCAL goes by AYF national rules and California high school rules. In order to make sure all member associations in Nor Cal have equal say, Nor Cal by-laws state any change (tightening) to a national AYF rule must have 100% agreement from all member associations or it does not pass. Currently there are NO changes to national rules. The following procedures apply to local events such as playoffs, 6U rules, Jamboree, etc... not covered by Nationals and left up to each conference to decide.

NORCAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES (Updated May 1, 2021):

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## **NORCAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES (updated May 1, 2021):**

### **1.0 – RULES REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND NORCAL CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS:**

PLAYOFFS plan. Any changes must be authorized by the Nor Cal President and be necessary due to team drops.

SCHEDULE – Prior to the start of the season, Associations work with the Scheduler to determine times, locations and days games are played at their home field. Once the schedule is released, association president's ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE NORCAL PRESIDENT. If the games are played (and a complaint is filed) or not played due to an unapproved and officially announced change by the home association, the host will forfeit the games. Nor Cal will advise all associations of schedule changes in case teams want to scout or attend another game.

DIVISIONS (6U, 8U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U):

6U – Just as with the Tiny Mites all 6U teams will play in the Tiny Mite/6U Bowl with the winners moving on to the Area Playoffs and Championships. 6U teams will be divided into between 2-4 areas with 4-8 teams in each Area depending on the number of teams. We can have as many as four 6U champions instead of just two. If no 6U teams want to go to Nationals, Regionals or State games then the NorCal tie-breaker system (which uses opponents record/winning % but does NOT use points scored or score differential) will be used to decide which of the 6U champs is highest ranked.

8U through 14 U can have up to a maximum of 16 teams make the playoffs. As many as the top 8 teams, determined by record and the tie-breaking process, will complete in D1 playoffs(as long as there are the rule-mandated 4 teams minimum in D2). We will use the following chart to determine the number of teams in D1 and D2 for each Division.

NUMBER OF TEAM MAKING THE PLAYOFFS WITH 3 WINS (or 2 wins if there is room but teams that qualify for D2 will not be forced up to D1 to make room for 2 win teams):

7 teams or less – all teams are Division 1

8 teams – 4 D1 and 4 D2

9 teams – 5 D1 and 4 D2

10 teams – 6 D1 and 4 D2

11 Teams to 14 teams – 6 D1 and 5-8 D2

15 teams – 7 D1 and 8 D2

16 teams – 8 D1 and 8 D2

If needed the teams in D1 will be broken down into two brackets including the teams who want to go to

nationals (D1N) and the top 2 or 4 D1 teams that are not going to AYF nationals (D1L) for any reason (such as less than 16 players or cannot afford to travel etc...). Play-in games allow for up to 4 teams in either D1N or D1L (max 8 total). Teams forced to play in D1N do not have to go to nationals. Teams must declare if they want to go D1N or D1L no later than Sunday night of week 6. Only teams participating in D1 playoffs can advance to Nationals. There is no nationals for D2 teams in 2019.

#### QUALIFYING:

PLAYOFFS: It takes a minimum of 3 wins to qualify for the playoffs but there is no guarantee a 3 win team will make it into the playoffs. A team with two wins can request to participate if there is room in the playoffs, however 2 win teams that forfeit their games in either week 7 or 8 will not be allowed into playoffs without approval and paying a \$250 deposit, which will be returned if the team shows and plays or paid to the host if the team has to forfeit with 12 players or less. (Teams that qualify for D2 will not be forced up to D1 to make room for 2 win teams):

#### SEEDING INFORMATION:

Teams are seeded according to their record into D1N, D1L and D2. Identical records are broken by Nor Cal tie-breakers. The higher seeded team is home. If a team is hosting playoffs but is not the higher seeded team, they have the option of playing on the home side of the field. In that situation, the chains would also be on the home side of the field.

**TIE BREAKERS FOR SEEDING:** **TIE BREAKERS FOR SEEDING:** Tie-breakers for making playoffs or seeding purposes are:

(1) Head to head competition (includes if 3 or more tied, best head-to-head record or % vs teams with the same record). NOTE: In A three or more team tie, A team who lost to one team and did not play the other is eliminated from the top position but can still get the second position if the team that beat them advances over the third team who they did not play (Example: Team A beat Team B and are both tied with Team C. Team B is eliminated from the highest seed between the three teams and Team A and C are compared. If Team A advances on Common Opponents or Winning % etc..., Team B and C are then compared on Common opponents record etc...for the next highest seed).

(2) Better record or % against common opponents.

(3) Strength of Schedule - Winning % of ALL opponents:

(4) Strength of Victories - Winning % of Teams beaten

(5) Strength of Schedule exclude opponent byes

(6) Strength of Victories exclude opponent byes

(7) Better record without Byes

(8) Coin toss.

NOTE #1: Byes and games against non-AYF teams are considered wins.

NOTE #2: Regular season tie ball games go to OVERTIME if approved by the host president and the referees so a winner is declared. There will be NO MORE THAN TWO OVERTIMES. If overtime is not possible due to darkness, time constraints or is not decided in the maximum two overtimes, ties count as half a win and half a loss so a 4-2-2 record is equal to a 5-3 record.

#### **MATCH UPS –**

**If there are 8 teams in the playoffs, in D1 the First Round is 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3 in each semi-final bracket with the winners playing for the Bracket championship (Conference Semi-finals) the following weekend with bracket winners playing for the D1 championship.**

**D2: 1-8, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5 (or play-in up to 16 teams Exception: The Nor Cal The Nor Cal** President may make changes in the play-in and first round (including D1 first round with 4 teams) to reduce travel but the top 4 teams in a 7-8 team field or top 2 teams in a 4-6 team field in any division cannot meet in the first round.

#### **Gate Fees Maximums:**

**\$5 entry fee for 16 and older for Regular Season games and the Jamboree**

**\$8 for playoffs, TM bowls, and any other post-season events other than championships.**

**\$10 for Nor Cal and Regional championships**

**16 and under fee determined by home association**

#### **HOST FEES:**

**\$25 for each team at your Jamboree**

**\$75 per game for the TM Bowl**

**\$75 per playoff game, and any other post-season events other than championships**

**The majority of fees from first and second round playoff games (as well as fees for hosting the Jamborees) go toward AYF/C national championship travel.**

-HOME FIELD – **HOST TEAMS PLAY AT HOME WHENEVER POSSIBLE** - We make every attempt to have your teams play at home if you are hosting however if 2 teams are playing against one another and both associations are hosting, the **higher seed or if tied the** team that won their regular season game or tie-breaker will be at home and the other team will be on the road. So for example (This is an example only – it did not happen as listed) if both SR and VBE **have identical records and** are hosting and their 8U and 10U are scheduled to play in the playoffs, the 10U game would be at SR if SR won the regular season game and the 8U game would be at VBE if the VBE JP's beat SR during the regular season. If a host has a request (i.e. "I need my 12U as the last game of the day because they help with clean up") Nor Cal will try to incorporate the requests into the playoff schedule but no guarantees can be made on fulfilling the request. See note on page 2 with regard to host teams being on the home side of the field.

-GUARANTEED FIELDS – If a team claims to have a guaranteed field and is not allowed to play in the rain by their High School, the host team forfeits their playoff game(s) unless another field can be found that same weekend. EXCEPTION: where the Nor Cal Conference President or representative postpones the playoff games for the safety of the children (thunderstorms etc...).

NORCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – The Nor Cal Championships will be held the weekend following semi-finals at a site to be determined by the Conference. D1 Championships sites are not rotated between associations and go to the highest bidder if needed. D2 are also up for bid unless a combination of both D1 and D2 are possible and two associations would be chosen to host.

## 2.0 - NORCAL RULES REGARDING 6U/TM and the 6U/TM Bowl:

- 1) 6U/TINY MITES PLAYING TIME – Nor Cal will use the same MPR rules as the other levels.
- 2) 6U/Tiny Mites will play 25 minute running clock halves. If a game goes into the lop-sided score rules, the clock will not stop for time-outs or for any reason except injury.

For 6u/Tiny Mites all normal football rules apply except as follows which are in effect the entire TM season:

- One coach can be on the field behind his team
- NO kick-offs. Ball is placed on the 30 yard line
- NO punting. Offensive team can run a 4<sup>th</sup> down play or can change possession by giving the opposing team the ball at their 30 yard line
- Each half is a 25 minute running clock which does not stop during change of possession or after touchdowns.
- 6u/Tiny Mites teams will have two timeouts per half (not three).  
Scores are kept and reported and standings are kept.
- Defensive linemen are NOT allowed to line up on the center and MUST hit another offensive player before hitting the center.
- The QB sneak from a direct snap (center to QB) is not permitted and if the play is run it will be IMMEDIATELY blown dead and the ball returned to the original line of scrimmage with a LOSS OF DOWN (no yardage penalty). QB sneaks from shotgun formation are ok
- There is no blitzing. Only defensive lineman can rush the ball carrier and a team may not have more than six (6) defensive lineman.
- Linebackers and Defensive backs must play 3 yards off the line of scrimmage.

## 6u/TM BOWL and PLAYOFFS

For the 6U/TM bowl teams will be broken down by area. There will be 2, 3 or 4 groups of 4 to 8 teams (minimum number preferred as decided by the NorCal President ) in order to reduce travel for the younger kids in the first round. Normal seeding within the 3 or 4 team groups will apply.

The 6U Bowl is part of the Conference Tournament. Teams may choose to participate in one game only if they notify the Nor Cal President by Sunday night of week 6. Unless a team notifies Nor Cal that they will only participate in one game, WINNERS ADVANCE TO THE NOR CAL PLAYOFFS and CHAMPIONSHIPS.

## 3.0 - NORCAL RULES REGARDING LOP-SIDED SCORES (NORCAL goes by National rules which are as follows): **NEW: SCOREBOARD IS SHUT OFF WHEN A TEAM IS WINNING BY MORE THAN 36 POINTS**

Once the score differential reaches 5 touchdowns (30 point minimum) the game clock becomes a running clock and can only be stopped for injuries and official time outs. It will be the losing teams

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preference as to whether they will receive a normal kickoff or choose to take the ball on their own 40 yard line. The winning team is prohibited from running any mis-direction, counters, reverses or trick plays of any kind. Skill position starters must be replaced whenever possible. Mandatory plays must be completed regardless of the score or game clock. If the winning team does not complete their required mandatory plays the full force of the mandatory play rule is in effect.

Nor Cal must investigate any reported losses of 36 points or more and will suspend any coach if it is determined that they intentionally ran up the score. Losing coaches or administrators who believe an opposing coach ran up the score must report the concern in writing to the Nor Cal president or Section leader by noon on the following Monday.

4.0 – NOT APPLICABLE

## **5.0 Pre-game, post-game and GAME DAY PROCEDURES**

PRE-GAME:

### **1) Game Notices are MANDATORY**

The Hosting team is required to email the visiting team no later than Tuesday of the Game week.

**Notice must include:** Game rotation and times; drive directions; any special field use requirements/restrictions (example; no sunflower seeds allowed in the stadium), Certification area.

**Tailgating if allowed or not.** Large bags and coolers will only be allowed in with the team when they enter. Water only is allowed on the field unless approved in advance by the host association, who is allowed on the sidelines etc... Associations cannot charge for parking.

2) Home team chooses jersey color if both teams have two sets of jerseys. Disputes if both teams want to wear jerseys with color will be settled by the referee.

3) Head coaches should start warm-ups at half-time of the prior game and report to the endzone at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for check-in.

4) Pre-Game check-in: Check-in for the first game FOR UNLIMITED WEIGHT TEAMS IS **on the field** in the end zone 20 minutes before SCHEDULED GAME TIME before their game or if games are already in progress, at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of game before their game to ensure the correct children are checked-in and playing. No player can leave the field without an escort from the other team (restroom) unless they are hurt and not participating. If they do they must be rechecked-in.

A) Head Coaches are responsible to conduct check-ins, however **Nor Cal staff is encouraged to attend and monitor check-ins especially during playoffs to make sure all rules are followed and address any related issues.**

B) Teams may use weigh-masters or an assistant if they choose but the head coach is still responsible

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5) MPR should be exchanged between teams with copies given to the announcer. If a jersey number needs to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances the change will be hand-written on the MPR with an explanation on the back. Jersey numbers cannot be changed AFTER CHECK-IN.

6) LATE BOOKS OR MPR – The player book and the MPR sheet MUST be at check-ins. It doesn't matter if current games are on or behind schedule. The team without their MPR or Player Book will have until 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the game (kids need time to weigh-in and warm up) to get the required book or MPR paper for weigh-ins or the game is

forfeited and the kids will scrimmage (Due to the emergency medical release the scrimmage will be limited to only those individuals whose player card is there or parent is present if no player card).

**GAME TIME PROCEDURES:** Associations can charge up to \$5 per person 16 and over. Each association can set it's own fees for Seniors and kids under 16 years old not in uniform. All children in uniform are free. Teams cannot charge more than \$5 for any Jamboree or Regular season game. **COACHES MUST HAVE THEIR BADGE BY the jamboree OR THEY MUST PAY AT THE GATE. Rosters will only be used for entry to the Jamboree if a coach has no badge and the host agrees.**

Players must check-in or check-in prior to the start of the game. Once the game starts players can not check-in and the late player cannot play in that game.

11 OR 12 PLAYERS - If a team has 11 or 12 players and must forfeit, **A CONTROLLED SCRIMMAGE MUST BE PLAYED.** Once a team goes under 11 players the scrimmage is stopped. If a scrimmage is not played the team refusing to play will be fined \$250.

**BADGES AND REFEREES** - All personnel on the sideline must have a badge for that level of play for the current game. Chain gang, MPR Monitors, Water Boys and a ball boy are the only ones on the sidelines who do not need a badge. A badge must have a picture on it to be good for free entry or to be on the sidelines. It is the responsibility of the individual to get a picture on the badge and get it laminated once it is received.

**NOTE: ELEGIBILITY** - Note: Any player can only be checked on by a Nor Cal commissioner or executive board member at any time.

**COACHING APPEARANCE** - Football coaches cannot wear plain white T-shirts on the sideline and should be dressed alike. Cheer coaches cannot wear flip flops or tank tops to a Nor Cal event.

1)See MPR National Rules Page 15. Key points include: 4 plays for 31 – 36 players. 6 plays for 26 – 30 players. 8 plays for up to 25 players. MPR must be completed by the end of the third quarter or players must immediately enter the game at the start of the fourth quarter. Two adults must be supplied to monitor the opposing teams MPR. Failure to complete the MPR by the winning team results in forfeiture of the game plus suspension of the coach on the second offense.

MPR 4<sup>th</sup> quarter rule: The penalty for not putting kids in at start of the 4<sup>th</sup> qtr/TM with 10 minutes to go and keeping the kids in until they complete their MPR is as follows: FIRST OCCASION - Head Coach suspended one week. SECOND OFFENSE – coach is suspended for the remainder of the season.

2) Both coaches MUST notify their Section Leader and President of NorCal in writing within 24 hours to avoid additional suspensions. Appeals may be considered if clear game film is provided to the NorCal within 48 hours of the end of the game.

3) MPR - Please make sure you provide clean MPR Sheets and limit the hand-written changes to those changes that need to be made at game time. If you need your MPR stamped then please make arrangements to do so.

4) Also on the MPR Sheet the "Code" must be written in as part of the CHECK-in process (see codes at the bottom of the MPR sheet and the "Code" column is the last column on the right of the form).

5) Follow all National and High school rules and AYPF code of conduct for good sportsmanship.

6) Game Day Sidelines: A) Board Members can be on the sidelines but are subject to limitations based on the written rules of the host association and can be removed if their presence causes any kind of disruption to the game) B) Chain gang must be 18 years old or older. The VISITING TEAM will be responsible to provide the Chain Gang.

C) SIDELINE PERSONNEL: Other than the ball boy, water boy and coach trainee everyone on the sidelines should be at least 21 years old. Please keep your sideline clear of former players, brothers of players and any non-rostered personnel under the age of 21. Presidents and AD's can make exceptions if appropriate but make sure the kids are not yelling on the sidelines and unintentionally intimidating the kids on the field.

7) Teams must have 16 players to form a team and 13 players to play a game. D1N playoff teams must have 16 on their roster at the start of playoffs which will be able and willing to travel to Nationals.

**POST-GAME** – Take a picture of your completed MPR and send it to the League Secretary (Details will be sent out in an email) and keep your completed MPRs in your Certification Book so they can be reviewed upon request. Failure to do so may result in a one week suspension of the head coach. Teams are also encouraged to take a picture of your MPR at half-time so the Head coach can see who needs plays and how many are needed for each player as well as making sure there is no half-time tampering complaints

A Game Day Evaluation form must be sent to the opposing president by Tuesday after your games even if all you say is “everything was fine”.

6.0 - STAYING ON SCHEDULE: In order to stay on schedule the following guidelines are in effect. THIS INCLUDES THE FIRST GAME OF THE DAY IF TEAMS START LATE:

If the game is starting 30 minutes late - the 4th quarter is a running clock.

If the game is starting 45 minutes late - the second half is a running clock

If the game is starting 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) or more late - **The entire game is a running clock**

It is up to the president and REFEREE to enforce these rules AND ADVISE TEAMS BEFORE THE GAME STARTS WHAT PART OF IT WILL BE A RUNNING CLOCK.

These guidelines do NOT have to be used UNLESS you have a 6 to 7 games scheduled at a field OR a game is scheduled to start at 6 pm or later in which case this rule MUST be ENFORCED. We cannot have games starting at 8 or 9 pm and ending at 1030 or 11 pm. ANY ASSOCIATION NOT ENFORCING THESE RULES WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$200 FINE PER GAME.

6.1 – TEN 10 minutes after sunset rule – If no lights, game is called by referees 10 minutes after sunset (Sunset is listed on schedule each week). NO EXCEPTIONS

## 6.2 - PROCEDURES FOR THE JAMBOREE

Jamboree – A) Host association will have either 1 association (pre-season game), 2 associations (Full Field rotation) or 3 (half-field rotation) visiting families of teams. Full field - 3 team round robin. 15 or 12 minute running clock with 1 time out per session (includes 6U who will only rotate once while 8U – 14U rotate twice).

B) HOST Locations rotate by priority including: 1) Returning Associations that did not host the prior year. (2) New associations, (3) Returning associations that hosted the previous year

C) Host pays \$75 per game for a 3 team round robin game, \$50 per game when there are only 2 teams playing in the Jamboree or \$100 for a 4 team Jamboree (\$25 PER TEAM).

SAMPLE JAMBOREE SCHEDULE): Estimated start times for sample game listed below . Includes a 15 minute running clock for the first session and a 12 minute running clock for the second session (unless the second session starts on-time: at or before the top of the hour). 1 time out per team per session.

Team listed first is on offense first starting out at their own 40 yard line (no kickoffs, punts are permitted).

FIRST SESSION (6U/TM gets one session only. Other levels get two sessions): 15 minute running clock

900 - 920 A vs B

920 - 940 C vs A

940 - 1000 B vs C

SECOND SESSION: 12 minute running clock for the second session (unless the second session starts on-time: at or before the top of the hour).

1000 - 1020 B vs A

1020 - 1040 A vs C

1040 - 1100 C vs B

## 7.0 - PLAYER AND COACH CERTIFICATION AND BADGE PROCEDURES

### PLAYER CERTIFICATION:

A) There will be a separate book certification at a location SET UP BY THE Nor Cal Certification Officer.

B) ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES OR CERTIFIED COPIES WITH A RAISED SEAL ARE REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION. NORCAL player cards may be used for certification since all players brought Original Birth Certificates or original government documents to certification last year.

C) After the Jamboree, ONLY THOSE PLAYERS WHO HAVE BEEN BOOK CERTIFIED GET TO CHECK-IN AND PLAY. Players whose paperwork has not been certified must go to late certification.

D) PLAYER CARD - If a player card comes into a game without a picture CERTIFIED TO THE CARD (fell off etc...) that player is not able to play and must recertify.

E) If a player has equipment from one Nor Cal association he/she cannot join another Nor Cal association until the equipment is returned. (Documentation of equipment issued and a receipt for returning equipment will be necessary for the Conference to take action).

(F) Cheer player certification must be completed before football weigh-in certification if they are done on the same day.

(G) Adding players after the national deadline and AVIODING FORFEITS: National rules do not allow the addition of players after September 15. In addition teams going to nationals must have a minimum of 16 players. So if a team falls to 14 players or below after Sep 15 and meets the criteria in the following paragraph entitled "PLAYOFFS" the team would not be allowed to go to nationals or participate in D1N

BUT that TEAM will be allowed to add back up to 16 after Sep 15 on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the Nor Cal President. According to National Rules any team that adds players after Sep 15 will NOT be eligible for national playoffs.

ALSO ON PLAYOFFS: ADDING PLAYERS AFTER CERTIFICATION: Medical notes from Doctors that a child cannot play football and/or drop forms must be provided on each dropped player in order to be allowed to add players. No players shall be added after Week 7. If the team falls below or to 14 players, needs additional players and cannot produce the drop forms; the players added after Sep 15 will not be allowed to participate in playoffs. Drop forms must be sent to the president of Nor Cal in order to get approval prior to adding players. National rules in 2018 state a player must participate in 4 regular season games (3 if a team had a bye) to be eligible for playoffs.

#### COACH CERTIFICATION

Head Coach of each team or a pre-approved representative must attend the Coaches Certification clinic held in July BEFORE THE TEAM CAN START PRACTICE. All coaches must complete the Nor Cal Certification test to receive a badge and be certified to a roster.

#### **Staff Certification/Badge Procedures**

NorCal will only certify 12 Board Members for an association and 10 adults per football team (recommended but not mandatory: 7 coaches, 1 Youth Coach, 1 Weigh Master and 1 Team Mom). Cheer staff will be allowed 1 Head Coach, 2 Assistants, 2 Instructors and 1 Team Mom.

#### JAMBOREE – NO BADGE

NOTE: It is ultimately up to the host to decide how he/she wants to handle it when an opposing team visiting their facility does not have badges. The following are guidelines:

President must [provide an approved stamped roster to leave at the gate for staff without badges

Staff without badges must provide a valid government issued identification to be allowed in without paying General ADMISSION.

Staff that arrives to the gate not listed on approved roster or no badge will pay General Admission

#### 8.0 - Association Sponsored OFF SEASON CAMPS:

Camps - Associations may hold a camp a maximum of 5 days in the off-season. To be a legal camp the entire Conference must be notified in advance in case any of their kids and coaches would like to attend.

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#### 9.0 Players changing associations and recruiting

Players are not allowed to move from one NorCal association to another without a change of address (unless outside the prior associations boundaries) or the approval of both association PRESIDENTS. Once certified the player will need the approval of both presidents, and the NorCal Conference President to change teams. Recruiting of players from another AYF Organization is not permitted by local or National rules. Any adult found guilty of doing so will be suspended for up to one year.

Vets of other AYF teams are not allowed to switch to another AYF association without the written permission of both associations.

Nor Cal does not have NOR PERMIT any disputes with regard to boundaries. Each association gets ONE high school boundaries as their territory. EVERYTHING ELSE IS OPEN. Please supply the name of the local HS you play and/or practice at. That local high school boundary is your territory.

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#### 10) NOR Cal follows high school rules which include the following

##### BANDANNAS:

Players cannot wear Bandannas under the helmet which are exposed. Also bandanna knotted and hanging on the backside near the neck to spine region are not permitted. Skull caps one piece are OK as long as they are not exposed. Exposed Bandannas are covered under Rule 1, article 5 section 3 of the NFHS rules.

##### MOUTHPIECES:

We are seeing mouthpieces that are clear or all white. By rule mouthpieces are to be any colors other than white or clear. Coaches don't seem to understand this rule. By the way aren't Youth mouthpieces supposed to be attached to the face mask too. Some players have been observed with unattached mouth pieces. Please remind clubs that mouth pieces can be any color other than white and/or clear plus attached to the face mask.

(11) SPORTSMANSHIP – Before being allowed to participate in the Jamboree each team must have every coach sign a CODE OF CONDUCT form. All coaches are to sign the same form and place it in their book

SPORTSMANSHIP –Please communicate to your coaches and fans we are not going to tolerate ANY poor sportsmanship by anyone including FANS or coaches. The head coach will be held responsible. We react immediately to these kinds of reports and take harsh actions against the Head Coach as well as the team if necessary to make sure everyone understands we take this subject very seriously. The only yelling by fans should be in support of their team. Please make sure EVERYONE in your program understands the KIDS are the ones that are going to be hurt if the adults do not act in a proper manner at all times.

Associations who are not demonstrating sportsmanship throughout the year will be notified in December by the Nor Cal president that they will not be included in Nor Cal's plans for the following season. They can reapply with approval of the Nor Cal President and must be voted back into the Nor Cal Conference (or NCSC) for the following year by a 2/3 majority.

KEEP PLAYERS OFF OF THE FIELD IF THERE IS AN INCIDENT– If there is an incident on the field or opposite sideline where players are fighting or a late hit etc... DO NOT LET YOUR PLAYERS LEAVE THE BENCH AREA TO GO ON TO THE FIELD. If the coaches need to go on to the field the proper thing to do with the kids is have an assistant coach or two gather them together to keep the kids safe and away from the incident. Just like in the NBA the players cannot leave the bench area during an incident. If players go on to the field during an incident like this, the head coach will be held responsible.

SIDELINE CONTROL – Most head coaches have their sidelines under control with only badged personnel for that game on the sidelines. However a few head coaches need help getting their personnel to follow the rules so we have asked the referees to follow the process below if it becomes an issue:

- The Head Official will remind the HC clear/control sidelines
- Next Warning to the HC to clear/control sideline
- Next Offense 15 yard penalty
- Final Offense forfeit of game

PERSONNEL ON THE SIDELINE – PRESIDENT'S are responsible to ensure only badged personnel for that particular game. If you have to have to go to the referees and have them stop the game until the sideline is cleared. Failure to control your sideline is considered a MAJOR sportsmanship violation.

Coaches are not to yell or talk to opposing players (except in friendly terms of course). In addition any coach yelling for his players to hurt the other player in any way will be suspended.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE TALK BY COACHES AND PLAYERS –We have coaches on the sideline yelling “kill them” and “break their legs” etc... I know they don’t mean it but I am not sure every single kid realizes that. Coaches need to keep their comments positive. Please speak to your coaches about the WORDS they are yelling out across the field during games. We have advised the refs and ask them to flag any unsportsmanlike comments by the coaches. CHANTS DIRECTED AT THE OPPOSING TEAM (This is our house etc...) ARE NOT ALLOWED. TEAMS WARMING UP IN THE ENDZONE WITH A GAME IN PROGRESS

MUST EXERCISE QUIETLY AND NOT DETER ATTENTION FROM THE GAME. For example teams are not to stomp on another teams logo in the middle of the field.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If there are any issues created by personnel yelling, swearing or complaining because they were not allowed on the sideline without a badge that person will be suspended for upcoming games and the head coach will also be held responsible.

12.0 - FORFEITS – Teams which forfeit must notify their opponent and the Nor Cal president immediately. If a team forfeits on the Thursday before the game or later up to 24 hrs before the game, they owe \$200 to their opponent whether they are the host or not. Any team that forfeits and gives less than 24 hours notice is responsible to pay a total of \$500 to the host to cover loss of expenses (refs, paramedic, janitors etc...). Any Super Conference association that does not have a full family, drops a team or forfeits games during the regular season is subject to being dropped from the Super Conference during the year and the associations remaining teams may receive byes instead of games on any given week. Teams have 72 hours to send in a claim for \$ on a forfeit. MUST send an email to league and opponent that forfeited with your claim.

If a team shows up with 11 or 12 players a scrimmage must be played and there is no fine.

A HOME team will be given “no game” if they lose a field through no fault of their own AND THE GAME(s) CANNOT BE PLAYED. It will be a forfeit if the visitor offers to play at a different field and the home team refuses to play. If a regular season game is cancelled due to loss of field not the fault of the home team, then the Visitor gets a bye. The Home team gets No Game. Since there are different circumstances in each loss of field or games not being played due to safety reasons, the final decision on no game, bye or forfeit will be made by the President of Nor Cal

### 13.0 - CONFERENCE AUTHORITY TO ENSURE EVEN NUMBER/COMPATABLE FAMILIES

If an association is going to drop a team, it is the Nor Cal Conference that will decide which team is being dropped. This rule is being put into effect to ensure we have an even number of teams on each level so there are no byes. In addition if an association has 3 teams or less, Nor Cal has the right to combine it with another association with 3 teams or less to try to make a full family.

14.0 CHEER TRAVEL - Cheer teams must travel, regardless of distance, with their Football teams if the opposing team has cheerleaders. If a team with cheerleaders is traveling to a team without cheerleaders, the cheerleaders do not have to travel to those games (Example association A is traveling to association B. Association B has cheerleaders on the JP and PW levels so Association A's JP and PW cheer squads must travel to those games. Cheer squads on the TM, Cadet, JM and M levels would not have to travel but may do so if they wish). If a cheer team does not show up the fine will be \$5 per cheerleader on the official team roster up to a maximum of \$100 which goes to the host association. The only exceptions are a change of schedule (listed on the Results as an upcoming change), or a Nor Cal cheer championship event. NOR Cal football games and events take priority over outside cheer events (such as Jamz).

14.1 CHEER COMPETITION - All teams that certify cheerleaders are required to participate at the NorCal Conference Cheer Competition

- Teams that do not participate will receive a fine to be paid before the start of playoffs for each rostered cheerleader EQUAL TO THE COST OF A CHEER LEADER WHO ATTENDS THE EVENT
  - Cheer registration must be paid by the last day of certification per the number of cheer teams certified
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15.0 NORCAL SUPER CONFERENCE (INCLUDES ALL NOR CAL TEAMS)

ASSOCIATIONS WITH 2 TEAMS OR LESS MUST BE VOTED BACK INTO NOR CAL (51%) THE NEXT YEAR.

Nor Cal is a Super Conference of competitive associations which attempts to field full families who meet sportsmanship standards with the purpose of increasing the level of competition and eliminating byes, forfeits and schedule changes. All Nor Cal associations are a part of the Nor Cal Super Conference.

EXPECTATIONS: Expectations for the Super Conference AND BEING A PART OF NOR CAL each association must:

- (1) Be a highly competitive association able to compete against Division 1 caliber teams every week.
- (2) The association must STRIVE TO have full family and expect to have a full family of teams willing to travel for the upcoming season.
- (3)

Association must exhibit excellent sportsmanship during the prior season at all times

- (4) Association must meet all deadlines for paying fees and turning in paperwork

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Sportsmanship is the center piece of the Super Conference. Super Conference Associations MUST demonstrate good sportsmanship at ALL TIMES. This is youth sports so there are always going to be problems and disagreements. All members and their coaches are expected to work through problems

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and find solutions in a level-headed manner without attempting to intimidate or bully (yelling, shouting and/or threatening) other volunteers. In addition off-the-field, the super Conference associations need to be and act as good teammates and business partners (not enemies or rivals) with the other associations in the Super Conference. Any team or association can be suspended or not invited back for demonstrations of poor sportsmanship anytime during the season. All coaches, players and a parent of each player must read and sign the Nor Cal Code of Conduct in order to be certified. PAGE 17

FINANCES and DEADLINES: Super Conference members MUST set the example and meet ALL deadlines on paperwork and pay all fees, including hosting fees, on schedule in order to maintain membership.

#### BENEFITS:

- 1) Full families get to travel and stay together each week.
- 2) Financial benefits of playing your 4 home games against associations with large followings and strong parent support.
- 3) Less (if any) byes, forfeits and games against D2 teams
- 4) More competitive games throughout the season
- 5) Fewer schedule changes (if any)

#### CODE OF CONDUCT COMMITTEE –

The Code of Conduct Committee will meet as scheduled by the Nor Cal President to review complaints, issues and administer disciplinary action against individuals or teams as required. Committee and Chairman will be appointed by the Nor Cal President based on which teams are involved in the complaint. Only the Nor Cal president will administer disciplinary action against an association.

Recommendations for violations are as follows:

- 1) Violation of the Code of Conduct, Nor Cal procedures or AYF procedures including chants after, during or before the game directed at an opposing team for any reason – one week suspension of the individual(s) involved.
  - 2) Team fighting but the head coach took the team to the side for safety and kept their fans in the stands – one week suspension of those individuals in the fight
  - 3) Team fight where players and/or fans go on to the field - [teams will/can be suspended for the remainder of the year if two teams or the fans of two teams are involved in a fight with the opposing team or fans.](#)
  - 4) Taking a team off of the field before the game is over – one-week suspension of the head coach
- Since each circumstance is different the Committee has the right to place an individual or team on probation or extend the action to suspension for the remainder of the year.

All fines including money owed to other associations must be paid in full to proceed to playoffs or the teams from that association are not allowed to participate in playoffs.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Nor Cal President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer roles and responsibilities are spelled out in the Nor Cal bi-laws

**CERTIFICATION OFFICERS** – Are responsible to set up the times, dates and locations of coach's clinics for teams in their area as well as player and team certification and the Jamboree. Certification Officers may be used by the Nor Cal president to communicate with associations and associations are encouraged to contact their Certification Officer with questions although communication between the association presidents and the Nor Cal president can take place at any time. Certification Officers are also responsible to communicate with the Nor Cal President to settle disputes between associations especially during playoffs (which officer is ultimately responsible, depends on the home field but they should still always work together to get the correct answer).

**PRESIDENTS** – are responsible for all aspects their association including but not limited to forming teams, finding a field and paramedics for practices and/or games, selecting coaches, paying for all their team equipment and game day expenses, ensuring the equipment is safe, making sure coaches complete all Nor Cal and AYF training requirements, controlling the sidelines during games as well as their board members/coaches and overseeing game day when they are the host.

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

Nor Cal will offer football programs on the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U levels. What this means, as a general rule is as follows:

5 year old players will be playing against 6 year olds

7 year old players will be competing against 8 year olds

9 year old players will be competing against 10 year olds

11 year old players will be competing against 12 year olds

13 year old players will be competing against 14 year olds.

Because some associations have indicated they may not have any 12 or 14 year old players on their 12U and 14U teams this year, come playoff time, we will offer 11U and 13U playoffs for teams that qualify and do not have any 12 or 14 year old kids.

While we have asked people at this point what they expect to have; nobody is going to be held to what they are currently saying they have team strength-wise. So teams will not be asked to declare if they are going 11U (OR 13U) until early October. But please not eh following: Players 12 or 14 years of age may not be dropped in order to qualify for 11U or 13U playoffs. IF they quit on their own or are injured so you end up with all 11U that is acceptable but you cannot drop a player to qualify for 11U playoffs.