

# SOUTHERN OHIO YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC. – CONTRACT 2009 SEASON

Playing Season August 1, 2009, through Superbowl -- Ages for 2009:

PANTHER LEAGUE (11's): August 1, 1997 thru July 31, 1998; COUGAR LEAGUE (10's): August 1, 1998 thru July 31, 1999;

TIGER LEAGUE (9's): August 1, 1999 thru July 31, 2000 ; BOBCAT LEAGUE (8's): August 1, 2000 thru July 31, 2001;

WILDCAT LEAGUE (6 & 7's) August 1, 2001 thru July 31, 2004; PUMA LEAGUE (5 & 6) August 1, 2002 thru July 31, 2004

1. **SOUTHERN OHIO YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC. (hereinafter "SOYFAI") BOARD.** League Board will consist of members belonging to SOYFAI and outside professional help.
2. **LEAGUE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES.** Responsibilities of Board Members will be to do everything in their power to run the league honestly and to promote youth football in the Greater Cincinnati area. They will also handle all rules and rule changes. Organization President will be held responsible to the SOYFAI Board.
3. **MEETINGS.** Meetings will be determined by the Board of Directors. If an organization fails to have an Organizational Representative present at the monthly board meetings, the organization will be fined \$25.00.
4. **ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED.** The SOYFAI will consist of a Colerain, Deer Park, Delhi, Forest Hills, Harrison, Reading, Sycamore, Glen Este, Milford, Western Brown & Wyoming. The dates, times and game fields will be set up by SOYFAI.
5. **FINANCE.** The host organization will be responsible for paying the game officials. All other financing will be from time to time directed by the League Board. Two teams playing at a neutral site will split the cost for officials if no gate is collected for that day.
6. **SCHEDULING OF GAMES.** Dates and times will be set by the League Board. All games will be scheduled by organizations when possible. Example: Harrison plays Glen Este at Glen Este. Harrison will play all age groups of all Glen Este age groups at the same field the same day. This is to minimize travel and to make it convenient for parents having more than one child playing. Any schedule change must be mutually agreed upon by both organizations.

EXCEPT AS DEVIATED BY SCHEDULES games to be scheduled as follows: 5 & 6 YEAR OLD LEAGUE – 9:00 A.M.; 5, 6 & 7 YEAR OLD LEAGUE - 10:15 A.M.; 8 YEAR OLD LEAGUE - 11:30 A.M.; 9 YEAR OLD LEAGUE - 12:45 P.M.; 10 YEAR OLD LEAGUE - 2:00 P.M.; 11 YEAR OLD LEAGUE - 3:15 P.M.

It is imperative that the first game start on time. A minimum of 2 sanctioned or approved. OHSAA officials must be present. THE GAME WILL NOT START UNTIL A MINIMUM OF TWO OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT. ONE HOUR DELAY FOR GRACE PERIOD FOR START OF GAME DUE TO LATE OFFICIALS.

7. **INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS.** Player's agreements are for the 2009 playing season, which starts when the player signs the agreement and ends on the last day of the playing season. Players may not play on any other football team, without permission. It is recommended that all players have a physical examination and have a doctor's permission to participate in the football program. The player's home organization or the conference supervisor may require a doctor's permission before placing any player on a team.

8. **CONTRACTS.** All players must have a Birth Certificate or Record of Birth. Each football player and cheerleader will be provided with a uniform agreement (Contract). Each participant must have the Contract stamped by the League Supervisor to be eligible to participate in the football program. A complete roster must be on file by August 29, 2009 with SOYFAI before any player will be allowed to participate in SOYFAI. Only the League Board may grant extensions past the August 29, 2009 cut-off date or any exemptions as to what constitutes a legal roster team by this contract. Rosters for teams granted an exemption or extension must be on file by September 5, 2009.

All head coaches must have a copy of their complete player roster (stamped by the League Supervisor), Birth Certificate/Record of Birth and current picture at every game. Only rosters stamped by the League Supervisor are legal rosters. New players relocating into an established football franchise may sign up after the September 5, 2009 cut off date, but no later than October 3, 2009, and must also prove so by school enrollment documentation, and follow all procedures to the fullest.

9. **EQUIPMENT.** Shoes must either be gym shoes or molded cleats. No screw on cleats or any cleats other than molded. Helmet (NOC SAE) approved and bearing the warning label on the exterior of the helmet, shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh pads, knee pads, jersey, football pants and mouthpiece. Optional equipment will be rib pads or other blocking pads, arm or leg elastics worn under the pants, neck yokes and cup.

Any type of two-way communication on the field is prohibited.

10. **WEIGH-INS.** There will be a mandatory weigh-in of all participants on or before the preview game of each conference. Each player will be weighed in by the League Supervisor or appointed conference official and the head coach of each team (No Spectators). The League Supervisor is responsible for weighing the players, checking the contract for proper age group and signing the contract. It will be the responsibility of the League Supervisor to insure that electronic type scales, calibrated in pounds, are provided at the weigh-in site. Players will play in the league as specified in the official rules by age and weight class. No player may play up unless he is overweight. A player may only play up 2 years with the written consent of the parent or legal guardian. S.O.Y.F.A.I. is not liable or responsible for any player who decides to play outside of his official age group.

11. **FOOTBALL DISTRICTS.** Football districts are composed of public elementary school districts and alternate districts as composed by the Conference Board. Youth will play in the football districts so designated. Youth in private schools are classified according to the public school district in which they reside and alternate districts as composed by the Conference Board.

Any youth residing in an area that is not within a designated district may play for any franchise they choose. Any youth residing in an area that is not within a designated district and who has played for an established franchise cannot change franchises without sitting out one (1) year.

Any youth playing with an established franchise who moves out of the district designated to said franchise may stay with said franchise if the player so desires. If the youth choose to move to a new franchise, they may do so without sitting out one (1) year, however they cannot move back.

THERE WILL BE NO RELEASE OF ANY PLAYER TO OTHER SOYFAI ORGANIZATIONS. Any deviation to Rule 11 will be brought before the S.O.Y.F.A.I. Board of Directors for review.

12. **THE REGULAR PLAYING SEASON.** Is defined as the period from July 20, 2009 through the conclusion of the Super Bowl, and consists of a game schedule that must be played during this time.

13. All organizations may start official practice on July 20, 2009.

14. **INCOMPLETE GAMES.** Any scheduled game stopped because of rain or darkness shall be considered an incomplete game and must be completed as soon as possible. Games stopped for any reason, will be replayed from the period it was stopped, until completed. If an official needs to stop a game due to crowd control or fighting, the team leading at that time wins and a tie remains a tie.

15. **HEAD COACHES AND COACHES AGREEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The official team Head Coach will be held responsible for the correct eligibility information including: birth date and permanent address being shown on players agreement AS WELL AS BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND CURRENT PICTURES OF ALL PLAYERS. SOYFAI recommends that all head coaches have NYSA certification, NFICA membership or League Board approved equivalent to be eligible to coach.

Each Head Coach is also responsible for the conduct of the team's fans. The use of alcoholic beverages, profane language, or improper conduct will not be permitted at any football field while a youth football game or practice is in progress. Violation will result in immediate ejection from the field and further disciplinary action by the League Board. No game shall continue until the offender or offenders have left, or all persons shall be cleared from the field and the game will continue with the spectators removed. There will be no verbal contact between coaches and players of opposing teams during the course of a game. Infraction will result in a major penalty. This rules does not apply in an injury situation. If a coach is ejected out of a game he is suspended for one game immediately following the suspension and the organization he coaches for is fined \$200.00. When a coach/parent or spectator is ejected from a game, they must leave the facility in its entirety.

The League Board will require each Head Coach and all assistant coaches to sign a Coaches Code of Ethics Agreement before starting the season. The Head Coach and assistant coaches will be required to abide by this agreement.

16. **PERSONNEL ON PLAYING FIELD.** Only the official Head Coach or the designated coaches and the participating players shall be allowed on the player's benches or on the playing field during the progress of an officially scheduled game. All downs markers, chain crews and clock must be manned by adult responsible personnel. Failure to comply with this rule can result in forfeiture of the game by action of the crew chief.

17. **LEGAL TEAM.** Not less than fourteen players shall constitute a legal football team. If the team roster falls below fourteen players, the legality of the team is not affected providing no other rule applies. Any deviation to Rule 17 will be brought before the S.O.Y.F.A.I. Board of Directors for review.

18. **INTENTIONAL FIGHTING.** By participants including players, head coaches and/or other team personnel, parents and spectators may result in a minimum one year "calendar" suspension of said participant or may be subject to permanent expulsion. Any striking or offensive touch not in the normal course of a football game by a player, coach, or head coach of a referee before, during or after a football game shall result in a one year "calendar" automatic suspension or permanent suspension.

19. **INELIGIBLE PLAYER.** A protest may be made at any time during the regular playing season against a team carrying an ineligible roster player. If the protest is allowed, the team will be penalized by forfeiture of all the games that the ineligible player or players appeared on their team roster or player not on roster, and the ineligible player or players and Head Coach are suspended for the remainder of the season. A player declared ineligible is in violation of SOYFAI rules. This clause may not be invoked after the League Supervisor has certified the regular season final standings.

20. **PROTEST.** Protest must be filed in writing within 96 hours from game time with the League Supervisor; he will send a copy to the other team involved in the protest. The protest must be accompanied by a Twenty Five Dollar (\$25.00) check which will be returned if the protest is allowed. The protest will be ruled on within ten (10) days of the filing by the League Board consisting of the representative from each organization not involved in the game in question. Protests will be heard for alleged violations of league rules and any conduct detrimental to the league. No protest on officials decisions will be entertained.

21. **MOUTHPIECES.** All mouthpieces need to be colored. They cannot be clear.

22. **THE LEATHER RAWLINGS R5PW, Wilson K2** (or equivalent in size) or synthetic of equal size will be the official 6, 7, 8 and 9 year old league football. **The Leather Rawlings R5JR, Wilson TDJ** (or equivalent in size) or synthetic of equal size will be the official 10 and 11 year old league football. No rubber footballs allowed.

23. **LEAGUE STANDING.** By Team: Will be determined by the following system: Three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. Standings will be determined by total number of points awarded each team IN CONFERENCE GAMES. An official from each team (home & away) must call the League Secretary with the weekly game results no later than 8:00 a.m. the Monday morning immediately following the games for that week. There will be a \$25.00 fine per organization for scores not called in. The League Board will publish a weekly copy of standings for each organization.

24. **TIES.** All intra-division contests, playoffs and Superbowl that end in a tie at the end of regulation play will, without exception, play a sudden death overtime. This overtime will consist of each team attempting to score from 10 yards out from the end-zone. First possession will be determined by a flip of the coin. If the game remains tied at the end of this overtime, there will be a sudden death overtime beginning at the 5 yard line. If there remains a tie at the end of this sudden death, the ball will be moved to the 3 yard line until a winner is determined. There will be one time out per series with no time outs carried over from regulation play.

25. **PLAYOFFS.** Playoffs will be held at a date and time to be determined. Participants will be determined by the SOYFAI Board. All teams participating must be in good standing at the end of the regular playing season. The regular playing season runs from weigh-ins to the final regularly scheduled game of the season. Playoff games, tournament games and Super Bowls will be considered Post Season Play.

26. **SUPER BOWLS** will be at a date and time to be determined.

27. **OHSAA RULES.** This league will play under Ohio High School Football rules, with the exception of the rules previously stated. The second violation of these rules or any of SOYFAI's rules will result in an unsportsmanlike penalty and ejection.

28. **PLAYER RULES, PUMA LEAGUE (6).** Five & six year old team. On the fourth down there is an optional free punt of 25 yards, but in no circumstance can the ball be placed inside the 10 yard line. The team will be limited to five & six year olds who have not reached their seventh birthday before August 1, 2009. Weight will be 80 pounds.
29. **PLAYER RULES, WILDCAT LEAGUE(7).** Five, six and seven year old team. On the fourth down there is an optional free punt of 25 yards, but in no circumstance can the ball be placed inside the 10 yard line. The team will be limited to five year olds, six year olds and seven year olds who have not reached their eighth birthday before August 1, 2009. Weight will be 90 pounds.
30. **PLAYERS RULES, BOBCAT LEAGUE (8).** Eight year old team. On the fourth down there is an optional free punt of 25 yards, but in no circumstance can the ball be placed inside the 10 yard line. Any player who has not reached his ninth birthday before August 1, 2009. Weight will be 100 pounds.
31. **GAME RULES, PUMA, WILDCAT AND BOBCAT LEAGUE.** Two coaches per team permitted on field during play. Ten yards behind the deepest player and must remain silent at break of huddle. Teams will have 35 seconds to put the ball in play after the ball is blown ready for play. This league will play under Ohio High School Football rules, with the exception of the rules previously stated. The second offense will result in a unsportsmanlike penalty and ejection.
32. **PLAYER RULES, TIGER LEAGUE (9).** Any player who has not reached his tenth birthday before August 1, 2009. Weight will be 112 pounds.
33. **PLAYER RULES, COUGAR LEAGUE (10).** Any player who has not reached his eleventh birthday before August 1, 2009. Weight will be 124 pounds.
34. **PLAYER RULES, PANTHER LEAGUE (11).** Any player who has not reached his twelfth birthday before August 1, 2009. Weight will be 136 pounds.
35. **GAME RULES.** These leagues will play under Ohio High School Football rules with the exception of the rules previously stated.
36. The Tiger, Cougar and Panther teams are required to punt. No free punt.
37. THERE WILL BE NO DEVIATION TO THE WEIGHT LIMIT OR THE RULES OF EACH LEAGUE.
38. THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE WEIGHT LIMIT CONSIDERED IN ANY AGE GROUP UNTIL THE YEAR 2009.
39. **GATE.** Admission of \$2.00 per adult and children 12 and under free gate admission to all SOYFAI games. All coaches will pay the normal gate entry fee. Money collected to be used for paying game officials, equipment, uniforms, etc.
40. **GATE-DIVISION PLAYOFFS, CHEERLEADING EXHIBITION & SUPER BOWL.** Admission: \$4.00 for adults & children 12 & under free.
- 41.. ANY ASSOCIATION or team belonging to the SOYFAI that is scheduled for a regular season game that does not show up for participation will forfeit and be assessed \$100.00 per game. The fine will be assessed the current season, payable to the appropriate conference prior to the playoffs. This fine also applies to organizations that do not work assigned playoff, weigh-in or superbowl games.
42. **ASSOCIATION FEES.** All Association fees must be paid to the league treasurer on or before weigh-ins.

#### **CHEERLEADING RULES**

Other than the rules listed below, all cheerleaders, coaches & coordinators must abide by the rules and regulations as set forth above including the Ohio High School Athletic Association rules.

1. There will be no tryouts for squads allowed. Cheering on teams will be on a first come, first serve basis.
2. You may NOT pay a choreographer to put your routine together.
3. There will be a maximum of 30 participants per squad.
4. The birthday cut off is August 1st.
5. A copy of each registration, medical information form, birth certificate, and a picture of each participant is to be kept with the head coach at all times. A copy of the roster for each squad, including mascots, coaches, and team moms must be turned into the coordinator before the start of the football season. No exceptions.
6. Attendance by all organizations and their cheer squads at exhibition is mandatory. Any teams electing not to show will be subject to a fine.
7. Each year, a different organization will host exhibition. Each participant will receive an award for participation. Each roster will be checked on the day of the event.
8. Coordinators must listen to all music and approve it before it is used by the squad. No inappropriate dance moves (provocative, booty smacks, etc.)
9. There will be a fine for inappropriate music (cussing, suggestive language, etc.).
10. All participants from each squad must be given the opportunity to perform in all events. If the participant is not able to perform, (Injury) this must be presented in writing prior to the start of these events.
11. During exhibition, there will be designated areas for cheerleaders, coaches, team moms and coordinators. NO ONE else will be permitted in this area. This is for the safety of the participants. This rule will be strictly enforced.
12. Mounts & Pyramids: All SOYFAI sponsored events must abide by rule 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 of the OHSAA Sports regulations, which reads as follows: 10.1.1. Pyramids & mounts by cheerleaders are prohibited. Individuals may not stand on another's shoulders or support another individual in any type of mount. 10.1.2- Mini trampolines are prohibited.
13. APPROVED STUNTS: These stunts are not to be performed on a track! They are to be performed only on the grass or a mat. Penalties for the coach and team ay be handed down. Penalties may include fines and the team may also not be allowed to perform stunts anymore: a) holding hands cartwheel, b) holding hand aerials, c) linked back flip either in a line or just two people, d) leap frog onto a roll or toe touch, e) scorpion, f) handstand balanced by two people as long as they are not holding the person's leg in tight grip (the handstand person's leg is just resting against the person's flat or cupped hand), g) backbend over girl's arms, h) leg extensions (other girls can hold leg as long as one foot is on the ground), i) girls can sit on ground with a girl sitting on her back.

