

**2010
BRAZOS VALLEY FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS and RULES**

(Effective June 1, 2010)

**PLAYER CERTIFICATION & WEIGH-IN DATE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010**

**COACHES MEETING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010**

**MAKE UP PLAYER CERTIFICATION & WEIGH-IN DATE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2010**

**FIRST GAME DATE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2010**

**CONSOLATION & FIRST WEEK PLAY OFF GAMES
OCTOBER 30, 2010**

**BVFA SUPER BOWLS
BURLESON, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010**

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Brazos Valley Football Association 2010 By-Laws & Rules

ARTICLE I -- NAME

- Section 1 The name of the corporation is the Brazos Valley Football Association, Inc.
Section 2 The Brazos Valley Football Association, Inc. may be referred to herein, and in general usage as BVFA.

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE

- Section 1 The purpose and goals of BVFA are:
(A) To teach the fundamentals of football.
(B) To develop good character within each player.
(C) To encourage the development of a physically fit body.
(D) To create a healthy competitive spirit among the players.
(E) To ensure the safety of each player.
- Section 2 The motto of BVFA is: “The Child first, and the Sport second!”

ARTICLE III -- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Section 1 The period of duration of BVFA is perpetual.
Section 2 BVFA is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for such purposes that qualify BVFA as an exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- Section 3 No part of the net earnings of BVFA shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that BVFA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Brazos Valley By-Laws and Rules. No substantial part of the activities of BVFA shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and BVFA shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Moreover, notwithstanding any other provision of these By Laws, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.
- Section 4 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.
Section 5 Indemnification. The corporation does hereby save and hold harmless and indemnify the officers and directors of the Association to the fullest extent allowed by law while acting reasonable within the scope of their capacity as an officer. This

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indemnification shall be considered to act secondarily and in excess to any coverage afforded to any officer under any validity collectible insurance policy from any source.

Section 6 Dissolution - Upon the dissolution of BVFA, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the 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. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE IV -- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 BVFA membership is open to any non-profit organization that wishes to enter a football team into any one or all of the divisions of BVFA. Only one organization per school district will be allowed membership within the BVFA.

Section 2 Membership Fees - Each member of BVFA will pay a one-time nonrefundable fee of \$100.00 per team. If a town adds an additional team or teams it will be pay a one-time nonrefundable fee of \$100.00 per additional team.

Section 3 Application for membership in BVFA must be in writing and presented at a regularly scheduled meeting for discussion. All applications must be submitted by the March meeting. The vote to accept or decline an application will take place at that meeting, pending a 30-day investigation period of applicant by elected officials.

Section 4 No independent team from any town that has an organization that is a member of BVFA shall be allowed to join BVFA.

Section 5 Every effort should be made by the participating towns to have a Major, Minor and Bantam team for each League.

Section 6 Any BVFA expenses shall be equally shared by Member Organization.

Section 7 For an Association that is inactive to become active its Town Representative must attend a scheduled BVFA meeting.

Section 8 It is the goal of the Brazos Valley Football Association (BVFA) to ensure the safety of the children that participate in BVFA football activities. The coaches, directors, officers of each BVFA member organization and the BVFA Officers will be of a character and exhibit behavior that ensures child safety.

(A) Therefore, the BVFA Officers shall select an independent company to conduct background checks of all BVFA coaches, directors, officers and cheerleader coaches. The BVFA Officers will report the results of each association only to its Town Representative.

(B) Each member organization shall monitor their behavior to ensure that this goal is attained. Each member organization shall discipline or remove any person whose behavior or background is inconsistent with this goal.

(C) If a BVFA Town Representative or Officer is made aware of a situation in which the safety of a child is at risk or may be at risk, the member organization and BVFA must be notified so that the appropriate action may be taken to protect the child.

(D) If the member organization fails to act in the appropriate manner and allows a coach who failed to pass or submit a Background Check form, the Head Coach of the team shall be banned for the remainder of the season and the following year. BVFA Executive Committee shall also be authorized to take the disciplinary action that they

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deem appropriate against the individual or member organization, up to and including removal, banning, forfeiture of games and disassociation.

(E) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for an alcohol related offense within the past twelve months may not transport any BVFA participants other than their own children.

(F) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for a first DWI or misdemeanor within the past thirty-six months may not transport any BVFA participants other than their own children.

(G) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for a second DWI, a misdemeanor for illicit or illegal drugs, or a felony within the past sixty months may not participate in any BVFA activities other than being a spectator.

(H) Any person convicted of, on probation for, or accepting deferred adjudication for any sexual offense, injury to a child or child related offense from the time that he or she was seventeen years of age until the present time may not participate in any BVFA activities other than being a spectator.

(I) Member association shall pay the following for background checks: \$15 per application received by the first player certification date; \$20 per application received after the first player certification date; and \$25 per application received after the first game.

(J) Failure to disclose information on a Background Check Form is grounds for denial.

(K) If a person’s background check application is denied, he/she may appeal by appearing, in person, at the next scheduled BVFA meeting, and plead their case. The town representatives may overturn the denial, with a 2/3-majority vote. In order to call for a 2/3 vote, two-thirds plus one of the total number of Board members must be present.

ARTICLE V-- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

BVFA shall be managed by the Board of Directors. Each active member organization shall appoint one (1) individual to the BVFA Board of Directors. The appointed member of the BVFA Board of Directors is called a Town Representative. The term of each Town Representative shall be determined by each member organization for their respective seat on the BVFA Board of Directors, and until a successor is elected, or appointed, and qualified. An individual may not be both a Town Representative and BVFA Officer at the same time.

Section 2

Each member organization shall have only one vote (regardless of the number of teams) on all matters. There will be no proxy vote. An alternative Town Representative shall be allowed to vote with a signed letter providing authority from the recognized Town Representative.

Section 3

The immediate Past President may also serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4

The Board of Directors shall elect the Officers.

Section 5

The Board of Directors shall have authority over all matters of BVFA and shall write and/or amend the By-Laws or Rules & Regulations. If the Board of Directors is undecided or tied on any decision, the President shall determine the outcome of the issue.

Section 6

Any suggested by law or rule change must be made for the Board’s consideration

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before the season starts. No rule changes shall be made after June 1st of that season.

ARTICLE VI -- OFFICERS

- Section 1** The Officers of BVFA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Rules. The Officers shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 2** Elections of Officers for each season will be held by the Board of Directors during the last meeting of the year preceding the year in which the Officers shall serve.
- Section 3** If the office of President becomes vacant the Vice President shall assume the duties for the remainder of the elected term. If the offices of the Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, or Rules Chairman become vacant the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement to serve for the remainder of the elected term.
- Section 4** **Duties of the Officers:**
- (A) The **President** shall be the principle executive officer of BVFA and subject to the control of the Board of Directors. He shall determine the location and time of all BVFA meetings and instruct the Secretary-Treasurer to notify the Board of Directors and Officers.
- (B) The **Vice President** shall perform such duties from time to time that may be assigned to him/her by the President. In the President's absence, or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and shall be subject to the control of the Board of Directors.
- (C) The **Secretary-Treasurer** shall have custody of the BVFA By-Laws & Rules, BVFA Checkbook, and all other corporate and financial records of BVFA. He/she shall receive and disburse all funds with the approval of the BVFA Board of Directors. He/she shall keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed and shall submit a financial report at all BVFA Board of Directors meetings. He/she shall be responsible for corresponding with government agencies and filing any required reports. He/she shall transmit all corporate and financial records to any person elected to succeed him/her.
- (D) The **Chairman of Rules** shall be responsible for reviewing the BVFA By-Laws & Rules with the Board of Directors during the first quarter of each year. He is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in interpreting the BVFA By-Laws & Rules. After June 1 st through the end of the football season the Chairman of Rules and the Officers are responsible for making all rules interpretations.
- Section 5** **Executive Committee:**
- (A) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and Rules Chairman.
- (B) The Executive Committee shall establish the policies and procedures to ensure that the By Laws and Rules passed by the Board are implemented and followed.
- (C) Executive Committee shall determine and enforce the penalties established by the Board for violations of any Article, Section, Rule or Procedure.
- (D) A 2/3 vote of the Board is required to annul or reverse a decision of the Executive Committee. In order to call for a 2/3 vote, two-thirds plus one of the total number of Board members must be present.

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ARTICLE VII -- MEETINGS

- Section 1** There shall be a meeting in the 1 st Quarter of each year. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the coming year’s activities, problems with the previous year activities, review applications for membership in BVFA, and any proposed changes to the By-Laws and Rules.
- Section 2** A quorum of the Board of Directors must be present before any business can be conducted. The requirement for a quorum shall be met if the majority of the Board of Directors are present at a meeting.
- Section 3** The location and time of all BVFA meetings shall be determined by the President.
- Section 4** BVFA meetings shall be presided over by the President. If the President is unable to attend the meeting it will be presided over by the Vice President or in his absence the Secretary-Treasurer or Rules Chairman.
- Section 5** Notice of meetings shall be given by written notice, e-mail, telephone, or in person by the Secretary-Treasurer or any other BVFA Officer at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- Section 6** If a Town Rep or his / her representative or a BVFA Officer is not present at a BVFA monthly meeting that Town Representative’s Association or the BVFA Officer will be fined \$25.00 for each meeting missed. Each BVFA Officer will be allowed to miss one meeting without being fined. The fine will be paid to the BVFA Secretary/Treasurer. A monthly drawing will be held to determine which association receives the previous month’s fines. Only the Member Associations and BVFA Officers represented at the previous meeting will be eligible for the drawing. The BVFA Secretary/Treasurer will distribute the money collected to the winners of the drawings at the first regular BVFA meeting in August.

ARTICLE VIII -- CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS

- Section 1** Contracts. The BVFA Board of Directors may authorize the President or Vice President to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on the behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instruments.
- Section 2** Check and Drafts. All checks or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation shall be signed by at least two Officers.
- Section 3** Deposits. All funds of the league shall be deposited from time to time in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as Officers of BVFA may choose

ARTICLE IX -- BVFA REVENUE

- Section 1** Each Member Organization shall be allowed to sell Season Tickets and Single Game Tickets with the income going to the Member Organization that sold the tickets. The fees shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors and the charge shall be the same for all towns. Season tickets shall not cover admission to the Playoff/Championship Game Series.
- Section 2** **Season Tickets shall be sold for:**
(A) ADULTS ----- \$10.00
(B) STUDENTS (Grade 1 thru 12) ----- \$3.00

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(C) UNDER 1st GRADE ----- No Charge

Section 3

Single tickets shall be sold for:

(A) ADULTS ----- \$3.00

(B) STUDENTS (Grade 1 thru 12) ----- \$1.00

(C) UNDER 1st GRADE ----- No Charge

Section 4

The income gained from sales other than the gate admission (i.e., concessions) shall go to the hosting Member Organization.

Section 5

Consolation/Playoff/Championship All Day Game Tickets. The Member Organization hosting the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series shall be responsible for selling All Day Game Tickets. All the income from the ticket sales less the payment for the game officials shall go to BVFA.

Consolation/Playoff/Championship tickets shall be sold for:

(A) ADULTS ----- \$5.00

(B) STUDENTS (Grade 1 thru 12) ----- \$3.00

(C) UNDER 1st GRADE ----- No Charge

(D) SENIOR CITIZENS (60 years old) ----- \$2.00

ARTICLE X -- LEAGUE STRUCTURE

Section 1

Active Member Organizations of BVFA and number of paid teams:

- (A) Alvarado Youth Association (6)
- (B) Brock Youth Football Association (3)
- (C) Burleson Boys and Girls Club (9)
- (D) Cleburne Football League (9)
- (E) Crowley Independent Football Association (4)
- (F) Itasca Youth Association (0)
- (H) Hillsboro Youth Association (0)
- (I) Joshua Pee Wee Football Association (8)
- (J) Kennedale Youth Association (5)
- (K) Midlothian Youth Football League (9)
- (L) Whitney Wildcat Football League (5)

Section 2

Inactive Member Organizations of BVFA and number of teams. If a member organization remains as an “Inactive” member for two years, or fields a team with another organization, it will be dropped from membership.

(A) NONE

ARTICLE XI -- DIVISIONS

Section 1

BVFA shall consist of Major, Minor, and Bantam Divisions.

Section 2

The **Major Division** teams shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Each player **must be in the 5th and 6th grades and not 13 years old before September 1st** in the year in current season. **No seventh (7th) grade players.**

(B) Players in the 4th grade may play in the Major Division, if there is not a Minor team, and with parents and coaches written permission. This must be submitted to the Board of Directors as a **Special Consideration** along with the **Official Weigh-In Form.**

(C) Any player that **weighs more than 115 pounds** (in shorts) at the time of the weigh-in shall be classified as a **Restricted Player.**

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- Section 3** The **Minor Division** teams shall meet the following requirements:
(A) Each player **must be in the 3rd and 4th grades and not 11 years old before September 1st** in the year in current season. **No fifth (5th) grade players.**
(B) Players in the 2nd grade may play in the Minor Division, if there is not a Bantam team, and with parents and coaches written permission. This must be submitted to the Board of Directors as a **Special Consideration** along with the **Official Weigh-In Form.**
(C) Any player that **weighs more than 95 pounds** (in shorts) at the time of the weigh-in shall be classified as a **Restricted Player.**
- Section 4** The **Bantam Division** teams shall meet the following requirements:
(A) Each player **must be in the 1 st and 2nd grades and not 9 years old before September 1st** in the year in current season. **No third (3rd) grade or kindergarten players.**
(B) Any player that **weighs more than 75 pounds** (in shorts) at the time of the weigh-ins shall be classified as a **Restricted Player.**

ARTICLE XII -- SCHEDULES & GAME SITES

- Section 1** All schedules shall be determined by the BVFA Officers.
Section 2 There shall be at least an 8-game schedule plus a Consolation/Playoff/ Championship Game Series.
Section 3 The first game shall be determined by BVFA Board.
Section 4 No two teams from the same town in Major, Minor, or Bantam Leagues shall play each other in a regular season, except a town has 2 teams in the same conference. They shall play in the Playoff/Championship Game Series if required by standing.
Section 5 Any town having a problem getting a field after the schedule is set must go to the other town to play, if possible, or accept the decision of the BVFA Officers. **BVFA Officers must receive notification by 8 PM Thursday prior to game time.** The four BVFA officers will decide the outcome; reschedule, declare forfeit, etc.
Section 6 The BVFA football season is from August 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE XIII -- CONSOLATION/PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

- Section 1** The location of the Playoff/Championship Game Series shall be determined each year according to listed rotation of towns. The opportunity to host the Consolation/Playoff/ Championship Game Series shall be rotated between all of the Member Organizations of BVFA. A Member Organization shall be given first choice based upon the rotation table listed below. The Member Organization that has first choice shall host the higher standing games. If that Member Organization declines to host the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series that year, the next Member Organization listed in the table shall be given the opportunity to host the games. The number of Towns hosting games shall be determined each year based upon the required games to be played. Teams from a Member Organization that is hosting the games shall play at that location. If teams from Towns that are both hosting games are playing each other in the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series the team with the highest ranking in the Standings shall host the game. If both teams have the same ranking in the Standings a coin toss shall determine which shall be the home team. If a town is hosting Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game games its teams will be on the Home Team

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side. A coin toss shall determine which shall be the home team if teams from Towns that are both hosting games are to play in the Consolation/Playoff/Championship Game Series. If a new organization joins the BVFA, they shall be added to the end of the rotation table listing.

Section 2

CONSOLATION/PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING ROTATION

2010 – Burleson
2011 – Kennedale
2012 – Midlothian
2013 - Joshua
2014 – Alvarado
2015 – Brock
2016 – Whitney
2017 – Crowley
2018 – Cleburne
2019 – Itasca
2020 - Hillsboro

ARTICLE XIV -- PARENTAL PERMISSION AND INSURANCE

Section 1

All players must supply written permission from their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in the BVFA.

Section 2

Each Member Organization is required to provide proof of General Liability Insurance and Excess Accident Medical Insurance. Minimum Liability requirement: \$1,000,000.00 in coverage -\$2,000,000.00 aggregate. Minimum Excess Accident requirement: \$25,000.00 per participant - per injury. Each Member Organization is required to name the Brazos Valley Football Association, Inc. as an Additional Insured on their policy. All teams and players must be covered, including Cheerleaders and Drill team members. Proof of the above paid insurance coverage must be received by BVFA by August 1 before any practices begin. No more than \$15.00 is to be charged per player to cover this expense.

Section 3

Member Organizations must have insurance on all players by the first practice and show verification of insurance to BVFA at the next scheduled meeting after weigh-ins.

ARTICLE XV – PLAYER RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS & SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 1

Only players living in or attending schools in a Member Association's school district, including private schools, can play for that Member Association's teams. Sign-up forms shall specify the name of the school that the player attends, the name of the school district in which the player resides, and be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

(A) Live In (LI) means that the player lives in and attends a school in the school district of the Member Association.

(B) Attends (ATT) means that the player does not live in the school district of the Member Association, but attends a school that is located in the district of Members Association.

(C) Children not meeting the Live In or Attends requirements and residing in areas that do not have tackle football programs, are eligible to play for a Member Association, subject to Special Considerations approval.

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(D) The residence declaration made at the player's first Player Certification & Weigh-in shall be applicable for the remainder of a player's career with that Member Association. The player must continue to play for that Member Association unless he or she moves to a school district of another Member Association. If the player moves, he or she may continue to play for the same Member Association for the remainder of his BVFA career, or move to the Member Association of his or her new school district. If the player elects to play for the Member Association of the new school district, the player cannot go back to the original Member Association unless the player's residential requirements change.

Section 2

Special Considerations

(A) Every Special Consideration request must be submitted on a **Special Considerations Form** and be approved by the Board of Directors. Special Considerations must be presented and approved before the player is Certified & Weighed In.

(B) There are two types of Special Considerations:

- (1) Residence Special Consideration.
- (2) Grade Special Consideration.

(C) A **Residence Special Consideration** allows a child who does not meet the "**Live In**" or "**Attend**" requirements to play for a Member Association.

(1) Reason for request must be stated and supporting documentation presented at the time of the request: copy of player's sign up form, proof of address and school district which the player attends (i.e., copies of utility bills, property tax statement, letter from school).

(2) The **approval date** of the **Residential Special Consideration Request** **must be stated on the Team Roster.**

(3) Once a **Residence Special Consideration Request** has been approved it will be valid for as long as the player remains active in BVFA and resides in the same school district. The player must continue to play for the Member Association that presented the **Residence Special Consideration Request** unless the player moves to a different school district.

(D) A **Grade Special Consideration** allows a player to play up in an older Division. A letter signed by a parent must state the reason for the request and must be presented, along with any supporting documentation, at the time of the request. The **approval date** of the **Grade Special Consideration Request** **must be stated on the Team Roster. A player will not be allowed to play down in a younger Division.**

(E) A copy of the **Approved Special Consideration Form**, signed by a BVFA Officer, **must be kept in the Coaches Book**; the original form must be kept by the Secretary of the Member Association.

(F) If a team is found to have one or more players that did not meet the residential requirements and for whom a Special Consideration was not approved, the offending team will not be allowed to participate in the BVFA Play Offs. The next team listed below the offending team in the Standings shall take the offending team's spot in the BVFA Play Offs.

Section 3

A player may not be added to the BVFA Team Roster after the Player Certification & Weigh In, if he/she met the "Live In" or "Attends" requirements at the time the Player Certification & Weigh In was conducted.

Section 4

No player shall be refused to sign-up until 24 hours prior to the Player Certification & Weigh-In, except for physical reasons or if a member association declares an earlier sign up cutoff date. An earlier sign up cutoff date may be no earlier

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than July 15th and must be declared at the regular June meeting. No sign ups may be made after the declared date unless approved as a Special Consideration.

Section 5

Any player ejected from a game for any reason is suspended from all team activities for the week following the game from which he was suspended. This includes practices and the next game. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** Any violation of this suspension will warrant further disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors, Town Representatives and Officers.

ARTICLE XVI -- PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

Section 1

All players are required to wear helmets with an appropriate face mask and four-point chin guard, shoulder pads, and football pants equipped with a complete set of pads. All players must wear a full mouthpiece that is attached to the helmet or face mask, unless the mouthpiece is doctor prescribed. A letter from the doctor must be with player's photo in Team Book. No replaceable or metal cleats shall be allowed.

Section 2

Coaches are requested to inspect all equipment periodically throughout the season to make sure it is safe for competition.

Section 3

The game jerseys must have numbers on both the front and the back.

Section 4

Only last name and/or first initial shall be allowed on jerseys, as it appears on official roster. Advertising may be placed on the front or sleeves of jerseys.

ARTICLE XVII -- UNIFORM COLORS

Section 1

The uniform colors listed in this section are the approved colors for the following Member Organizations:

(A) **ALVARADO** - All Teams: Jerseys –White with Gold Numbers outlined in Purple. Purple Pants.

(B) **BROCK** –All Teams: White Jerseys with Blue Numbers outlined in Gold. Blue Pants. Blue Helmets.

(C) **BURLESON** - All Teams: Red Jerseys with White Numbers trimmed in Black. Black Pants.

(D) **CLEBURNE** - All Teams: Black Jerseys with Gold Numbers. Black Pants. Secondary jerseys: White with Black numbers.

(E) **CROWLEY** - All teams: Black Jerseys with Purple Numbers trimmed in White. Black Pants.

(F) **HILLSBORO** – All teams: Maroon Jerseys with White Numbers trimmed in Black. Black Pants.

(G) **ITASCA** – All teams: Gold Jerseys with Black Numbers trimmed in White. Black Pants.

(H) **JOSHUA** - All Teams: Royal Blue with White Numbers. Royal Blue Pants. Secondary jerseys White with Blue Numbers. White Pants.

(I) **KENNEDALE** – All teams: Forest Green Jerseys with Black Numbers outlined in White. Black Pants.

(J) **MIDLOTHIAN** - All Teams: Blue Jerseys with White Yoke with White Numbers. Blue Pants.

(K) **WHITNEY** –Primary: Blue Jerseys with White Numbers outlined in Black. Black Pants. Secondary: White Jersey with Royal Blue Numbers; Black Pants.

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Section 2 If two (2) teams play that normally have like uniforms, **it is mandatory that the visitors differentiate for the games against each other** (Jerseys).

ARTICLE XVIII -- TEAM SIZE

Section 1 In any weight division, if **31 players** sign up there must be **two teams; three teams** if **55 players** are signed up; **four teams** if **81 players** sign up; and **five teams** if **101 players** sign up.

Section 2 No team shall have **more than 65%** of the team in the 6th grade in the Major, 4th grade in the Minor, and 2nd grade in the Bantam Leagues. The **only exception** to this rule shall be if there is less than 35% of 5th, 3rd, or 1 st grade players available for the Town Association teams, in which case the players will be divided equally.

Section 3 No player shall be cut from a team.

Section 4 If a team has 30 players and after the date of the weigh-in, a player (who meets qualifications) joins, the team shall **not** have to split. This will apply to all teams numbers listed in Section 1 above.

ARTICLE XIX -- COACHES

Section 1 A Head Coach must be declared at the time of the weigh-in for each team.

Section 2 Only the Head Coach shall be allowed to discuss any game matters with an official. All Head Coaches are responsible for their parents, spectators, and anyone on their side of the field.

Section 3 Each Head Coach shall be allowed up to 4 Assistant Coaches.

Section 4 The penalty for a Head Coach found guilty of the violation of any Article, Section or Rule shall be determined by the BVFA Officers up to a maximum penalty of being barred from Coaching. The Head Coach of the team in question shall be notified as soon as possible by the President.

Section 5 Anyone having direct communication with players and/or coaches from sidelines; (i.e., via headphones, electronic devices, etc.) will be considered a coach. Anyone with headphones, electronic devices, etc. must remain on sidelines between the 25 yard lines (not on the field or in the stands), excluding half-time.

Section 6 Any Coach pulling a team from the playing field during a game will be subject to NCAA and/or Brazos Valley Football Association rules and disciplined, as BVFA deems appropriate.

Section 7 Any coach ejected from a game for any reason is suspended from the next game and is also suspended from all the association activities for the week prior to that game. This includes practices and the next game. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** Any violation of this suspension will warrant further disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors, Town Representatives and Officers. After a coach's second ejection, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Section 8 If any **coach is ejected from a game**, both Town Representatives of the teams playing shall notify a BVFA Officer.

Section 9 There shall be no use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, in any form, by the Coaches during any event (meetings, practices, or games) associated with the Brazos Valley Football Association activities.

ARTICLE XX -- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

A Sportsmanship Plaque shall be given in each League at the end of the season. If there are Divisions for a League, then a Sportsmanship Plaque shall be awarded in each. The purpose of this award shall be to recognize the teams that exhibit the ideals and character of good sportsmanship throughout the season. This award shall be voted on by the Association Board of Directors and also by the Head Representative from the TASO Officials that worked the games that season.

ARTICLE XXI -- PRACTICES

- Section 1** No practice shall be held, other than organized football activities (i.e., football camps, spring football, 7-on-7), **before the first day of August** each year.
- Section 2** No more than one practice per day shall be allowed.
- Section 3** No more than 4 practices (including scrimmages) in a 7-day period shall be allowed. During season this means 4 organized meetings, including game.

ARTICLE XXII -- PLAYER CERTIFICATION & WEIGH-IN AND TEAM ROSTER

- Section 1** There shall be only two Player Certification & Weigh-Ins per season. The date of the Player Certification & Weigh In shall be determined each year by the BVFA Officers.
- Section 2** Each player must provide a valid certificate of birth (or other proof of birth date) and a current photo to the BVFA Representative conducting the weigh-in.
- Section 3** The Home Town Representative shall complete the BVFA Roster Form prior to the date of the Player Certification & Weigh-Ins (**not during the weigh-in**). **PLAYERS ON THE BVFA ROSTER SHALL BE LISTED IN ORDER BY THEIR GAME JERSEY NUMBER.** The BVFA Representative shall verify the furnished BVFA Roster Form for the following information:
- (A) Town
 - (B) Division
 - (C) Team Name
 - (D) All Coaches' Names & Phone Numbers
 - (E) Game Jersey Number
 - (F) Player Name
 - (G) Grade
 - (H) Age
 - (I) Date of Birth
 - (J) Qualification Option - New players will be identified as one of the following: "LI" for live in; "ATT" for attends; "SC" for Special Consideration. Returning players who played for the same association the previous year will be identified by the designation "RP".
- Section 4** The BVFA Representative shall **confirm** that the provided photo is the player to be weighed-in and also cross check the valid certificate of birth information. A BVFA Representative shall actually **conduct** the weighing of each player. There shall be a Brazos Valley Football Association Weigh-in and Roster Form furnished to each team in every member association.
- Section 5** All players shall be certified and weighed-in on the two specified dates. Any player remaining uncertified after the second date will be dropped from the roster.

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- Section 6** A copy of the official BVFA Roster Form, the proof of age documentation (i.e., birth certificates), and a photo of each player must be carried to each game by the Head Coach. This information must be made available for review upon request **only** by the opposing Head Coach or Referee at the game location. The request must be made prior to the start or after the end of the game. The review shall be requested in a timely manner as to not interfere with a scheduled kick-off time.
- Section 7** Player jersey number and official weight shall be posted on the BVFA website. Posting players last names will be left to the discretion of the local association.
- Section 8** **No player may be added to a roster after the first game.**
- Section 9** The Secretary of each member association will keep copies of the official BVFA Roster Form for each team for 2 years.

ARTICLE XXIII -- GAME RULES & REGULATIONS

- RULE 1** **GAME RULES.** BVFA games shall be played under NCAA rules except where BVFA rules are different.
- RULE 2** **TASO OFFICIALS.** BVFA shall coordinate provision of three TASO Officials for each game and officials shall be paid by the Member Organizations hosting the games. If only one official is present the game shall be played. Should no officials show within 30 minutes of a scheduled start time, both teams may leave and the game shall be rescheduled by the Town Representatives, if possible. If the Representatives cannot agree on a rescheduled time, the BVFA Officers shall determine the time and location of the game. Should a team not show up within 30 minutes of a scheduled start time, the “No Show” team shall forfeit the game.
- (A) Official’s fees shall be determined each year by the TASO members. Three officials should be provided for each game. 2009 Official’s fee shall be:
- (1) **Three Officials \$40.00 per official per game** called.
 - (2) **Two Officials \$60.00 per official per game** called.
 - (3) **One Official \$90.00 per game** called.
- (B) TASO Officials, for a given season, cannot hold a position on BVFA Board of Directors, or be on the coaching staff or hold a position connected with any participating Town’s Association.
- (C) BVFA will provide a TASO Official to run the clock for all Play Off Games held at a field that has a scoreboard with a working clock.
- (D) BVFA will provide officials with an overview of the BVFA Rules that they should know in order to officiate BVFA games. The BVFA TASO Official will distribute a copy to any official that he assigns to work BVFA games. Member Associations may also provide copies for officials who work their games.
- RULE 3** **GAME TIME.** **Bantam, Minor and Major** games shall consist of **4 quarters lasting 8 minutes each with regulation clock.**
- (A) If a team should become 20 points behind in the second half of a game, the head coach of the trailing team may request the Referee to run the clock without stoppage where the clock would normally stop.
- (B) Time warnings shall be given to the Head Coaches of both teams via three, two, and one minute warnings in the second and fourth quarter of games.

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RULE 4

MINOR RULES. The following shall apply for the **Minor Division Only**:

(A) One Coach per team shall be allowed on the field for the first game only. After first game no Coach shall be allowed on the field except for injuries. The Coach must be **at least 10 yards from the ball** at the time it is snapped. No verbal comments can be made by the Coach after the play has started.

(B) If a team has a bye for the first scheduled game of the season, that team's Coach and the opposing Coach shall be allowed on the field for the second game day of the season.

RULE 5

BANTAM RULES. The following shall apply for the **Bantam Division Only**:

(A) One Coach per team shall be allowed on the field on offense and defense. The Coach must be **at least 10 yards from the ball** at the time it is snapped. No verbal comments can be made by the Coaches after the play has started, i.e., the ball is snapped.

(B) The playing field shall be **standard NCAA width and length** (100 yards).

RULE 6

LANGUAGE. Profane language and/or **trash talk** shall not be tolerated.

(A) 1st Offense is a warning to player and coach.

(B) 2nd Offense player will be removed from the game for 4 plays, 15-yard penalty, dead ball foul.

(C) 3rd Offense is ejection of player from the game, 15-yard penalty, dead ball foul

RULE 7

JEWELRY. No jewelry shall be worn. This is illegal equipment and there will be a 15-yard penalty.

RULE 8

RESTRICTED PLAYERS. **Restricted Players** shall follow these requirements:

(A) A restricted player **may play guard, center, or tackle and can be the end man on either end of the line of scrimmage on offense** at the time the ball is snapped, but **cannot advance the ball on offense**. They may play any position on defense. **On defense, he/she may advance the ball by pass interception, fumble recovery, or cover a lateral**. Violation of the rules shall result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down. The top of a restricted player's helmet must be marked with contrasting tape in the shape of an "X" across the top (a minimum of 6" long and ¾" wide).

(B) On offense a restricted player **may attempt to punt; kick a field goal; or kick a point after touchdown**. The player **cannot in any case advance the ball past the scrimmage line or attempt to pass the ball**. The player **must attempt to do what the playing position indicates** (i.e., no attempt to confuse the defense). Violation of this rule shall result in a 15-yard penalty and loss of down.

(C) A player shall be determined restricted at the time of the Player Certification & Weigh-in only. If a player gains weight after the weigh-in, he/she shall play the remainder of the season as an unrestricted player.

(D) A restricted player not properly marked (see above section B), automatically sets out for four plays and must be properly marked before entering game.

RULE 9

TIE GAME. In the case of a tie game during Regular Season there shall be a "Sudden Death" Overtime. There shall be a coin toss with the visiting team's captain making the Call. The winner of the coin toss shall have the opportunity to choose either an Offensive or Defensive start. The team that elects offense shall have a 1st and Goal situation from the opponent's 10 yard line. That team shall have 4 legal Downs to

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attempt to score in any manner (ie...touchdown or kick a field goal). Regardless of the outcome of the first offensive attempt to score, the other team Shall then be given the same situation on the same end of the field. If both teams Do not score or if still tied, then the 1 st and goal situation is repeated. If after 2 Opportunities for each team to score, the game is still tied, the game is officially a **TIE game**.

- (A) Penalties will be the same as a regular game.
- (B) Extra points will be attempted after each touchdown.
- (C) The defense can score same as a regular game.
- (D) If there is a turnover, then the defensive becomes the offense.
- (E) Time-outs- ONE (1) time-out per team in overtime

RULE 10

TIE BREAKER. If at the end of the season the conference records do not determine the final standings, the tiebreaker will be as follows. In the case of a three way tie, if one of the teams has defeated the other two teams during the regular season, then that team shall have the highest position. If the other two teams have played, and one has defeated the other, then that team shall have the next highest position. If there still remains a tie, the following guidelines will be used to break the tie.

- ** A plus/minus system will be used. Margin of victory or margin of defeat will decide a team’s plus or minus rating.
- ** All games played between the tied teams will be used in this tiebreaker.
- ** The cap for margin of victory is 16 points.
- ** The highest rated team will be the highest seed. The next team with the best rating will be the next seed.
- ** If two teams are still tied, a head to head winner will decide the highest seed.
- ** If teams are still tied, then division opponents will be used to break ties with the same guidelines are before. If still tied, then games played within the conference will be used to break ties.

Examples:

Team A 24	Team A 12	Team B 22
<u>Team B 16</u>	<u>Team C 30</u>	<u>Team C 14</u>
Team A is + 8	Team A is - 16	Team B is + 8
Team B is - 8	Team C is + 16	Team C is - 8

Team A total = + 8 - 16 = - 8
 Team B total = - 8 + 8 = 0
 Team C total = - 8 + 16 = + 8

- ** Team C is the highest seed based on rating.
- ** Team B is the next seed based on rating.
- ** If A and B would have tied based on ratings, Team A would be the next seed based on head to head competition.

RULE 11

PLAYOFF TIES. In Championship Games the regular season format shall be adhered to for the breaking of ties. All Consolation Games, if tied, will remain tied.

RULE 12

CANCELLATIONS. Games shall be played during inclement weather. **Games shall only be canceled by the Referee once started** and he will immediately announce to both Head Coaches. All teams shall go to the scheduled game location where the

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decision to play shall be made. Games once started and then stopped due to weather or other circumstances will continue later and proceed where game was when stopped. If a game cannot be continued on the scheduled day, the Referee shall report the following to the TASO Official -- time remaining in the game, the score, the location of the ball on the field, the name of the team in possession of the ball, remaining timeouts, and the number(s) or name(s) of any players or coaches who were ejected from the game. Elected Officers and Referees will confer about cancellation during Championship play.

RULE 13 **SIDELINE PERSONNEL.** The official sideline personnel for each team shall consist of the following - five (5) coaches, one (1) water person, one (1) statistician, and one (1) camera person.

RULE 14 **WATER BREAKS.** There will be one (1) water break per quarter called by the officials at approximately the middle of the quarter.

RULE 15 **FORFEITURE OF GAME.**

(A) A game shall be ruled as a forfeit if one or both teams fail to take the field 30 minutes after the scheduled time of the game. The score of the game shall be 0-0 and the team that failed to show up will given a loss. If both teams fail to take the field, both teams will be given a loss.

(B) Each team shall participate in the scheduled Consolation/Playoff post-season game(s) unless there are an odd number of teams in a Division, in which case the last place team in the Conference with the largest number of teams shall not be scheduled a Consolation game.

(C) Penalties

(1) Regular Season Game

(a) The Association of the forfeiting team shall reimburse the Association hosting the games the total cost of the TASO Official for the forfeited game.

(b) The penalties for the Head Coach shall be the same as if he/she were ejected (Section XIX. Section 7).

(2) Consolation/Playoff Game

(a) The Association of the forfeiting team shall reimburse BVFA the total cost of the TASO Official for the forfeited game plus an additional \$200.00.

(b) The Head Coach shall be banned from coaching in BVFA for the remainder of the season and the entire next season.

(3) Reimbursement for Regular Season game forfeitures must be paid by the last regular BVFA meeting at which time post-season games are scheduled.

(4) Reimbursements or fines to BVFA due as a result of Consolation / Playoff game forfeitures must be paid by the first regular BVFA meeting of the next season.

RULE 16 **HORSE-COLLAR TACKLE.** The horse-collar tackle is a maneuver in which a defender tackles another player by grabbing the back-inside of an opponent's shoulder pads from behind and yanking the player down. The penalty for making a horse-collar tackle is a 15-yard personal foul.

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RULE 17 **DISTANCE & DOWN MARKER VOLUNTEERS.** The visiting team must provide three (3) volunteers to run the distance and down markers, which will be utilized on the visiting team's sideline.

RULE 18 **GAME BALLS & PLACE KICKING TEES**

- (A) BVFA shall provide **GAME BALLS** for each team. Game balls are to be used for **games only** and are **not for practice purposes**. If BVFA does not have sufficient funds to purchase game balls each member association shall pay for their teams game balls. All game balls will be purchased by BVFA.
- (B) The Official Game Ball for the Major Division shall be the Wilson TDJ leather ball.
- (C) The Official Game Ball for the Minor Division shall be the Wilson K-2 leather ball.
- (D) The Official Game Ball for the Bantam Division shall be the Wilson K-2 leather ball.
- (E) Both Head Coaches shall meet with the Head Official at the coin toss before the game and certify that the Game Ball meets the above requirements. If other balls are needed because of poor weather conditions, they must also meet the above requirements.
- (F) Place kicking tees are optional.

ARTICLE XXIV – VIOLATIONS OF BY-LAWS AND RULES

Section 1 Violation of any Article, Section or Rule shall bear a penalty as determined by the BVFA Officers. Penalties may range from a Letter of Reprimand up to being removed from BVFA. Penalties shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 2 Reporting a Violation

- (A) Only a Town Representative may report a violation of the By Laws and Rules to the Executive Committee. The violation must first reported by telephone and a complete written report must be submitted. Violations may be submitted to either the Rules Chairman or President.
- (B) Complete written report of the violation must state the specific Article and Section or Rule Number that has been violated; the date and description of the violation; identity of the person or persons who committed the violation; how and when the Town Representative became aware of the violation; and include any supporting evidence or documentation that may be necessary to support the allegation.
- (C) Violation that occur during, and affect the outcome of, a game.
- (1) Only a Head Coach of a team involved in the game may choose to report a violation.
 - (2) The Head Coach must put up a \$300.00 deposit (cash, money order or cashiers check only) with the complete written report. If the violation is upheld the deposit will be returned to the coach. If the violation is not upheld the deposit goes to the BVFA general fund.
 - (3) The Head Coach must report the violation to the Town Representative no later than 24 hours after the completion of the game. The Town Representative must report the violation by telephone to the Rules Chairman or President by the Sunday that follows the game, no later than 12:00 am.
 - (4) The complete written report must be signed by the Head Coach and Town Representative. It must be delivered to the Rules Chairman or President no later than 12:00 am of the first Tuesday that follows the Sunday in which the

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notification of the violation was given by telephone.

(5) The Executive Committee will meet and determine the outcome of the report of violation no later than the following Wednesday at 12:00 am. The President will telephone the Town Representatives of the parties immediately after a decision is made. An email will be sent to all Town Representatives explaining the reported violation and the Executive Committee's decision.

(6) A complete written report of a violation that occurs in the final game of the Regular Season must be presented at the BVFA Regular Meeting on the Sunday immediately following game. A decision will be made at that time and all Town Representatives will be notified of the decision by the resident at the meeting.

(D) Violations that do not affect the outcome of a game.

(1) Notification that a violation has occurred must be made by the Town Representative by either email or telephone to the Rules Chairman or President within 24 hours of the time he or she becomes aware of the violation.

(2) The complete written report of the violation must be received by the Rules Chairman or President no later than 72 hours after the telephone notification of the violation was made. This report may be made by email or letter and signed by the Town Representative.

(3) The Executive Committee will meet and determine the outcome of the report of violation not later than five (5) days after receiving the written report. The President will telephone the Town Representatives of the parties immediately after a decision is made. An email will be sent to all Town Representatives explaining the reported violation and the Executive Committee's decision.

(4) A complete written report of a violation that occurs in the final week of the Regular Season must be presented at the BVFA Regular Meeting on the Sunday immediately following the final Regular Season game. A decision will be made at that time and all Town Representatives will be notified of the decision by the President at the meeting.

Section 3

Teams as listed in Article X Section 1 may not be voted out of the BVFA for reasons other than for disciplinary action or for any misconduct exhibited by members of a team(s), including coaches, at or during a game. The Head Representative of TASO officials shall report to the BVFA President any misconduct by any member of a team. Disciplinary action shall be determined by the BVFA Officers.

ARTICLE XXV – MEDIA AGENCIES & VENDORS

Section 1

Definitions:

(A) A "media agency" for purposes of these criteria shall mean a daily or weekly publication, cable system, radio station, television station or television network, which issues Press Credentials to its employees.

(B) A "vendor" for the purposes of these criteria shall mean a person or company that promotes or exchanges goods or services for money.

(C) The "game area" for the purposes of these criteria shall mean football field and the surrounding area in which BVFA requires individuals to pass background checks in order to enter. The location of media and vendor employees shall be in the sidelines area outside of the Team Area (25 yard line to 25 yard line), which extends around the end zones.

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Section 2 **Media & Press.** Any Media Agency employee presenting current Media Credentials for admission to a game shall complete and sign the BVFA Media Agency & Press Credentials Agreement form. After the Media Agency & Press Credentials form is completed and signed the person will be admitted and allowed access to the game area and press box, if available and there is room.

Section 3 **Vendors**
(A) A vendor must submit a completed and signed Vendor Application & Agreement a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the date of the event or game at which the vendor is applying for approval to conduct business.
(B) If a vendor sets up, performs services and/or transacts business in the game area the vendor's employees shall be subject to the same background check requirements as BVFA Officers and Member Associations (Article IV. Section 8) and must wear IDs with photographs.

Section 4 **Approval or Rejection.** A Member Association shall approve or reject, unless the event or game is directly under the supervision of BVFA Officers. A Vendor application for an event or game directly under the supervision of BVFA Officers must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 5 **Approved Forms.** A Member Association shall make a copy of any Media Agency & Press Credentials form or Vendor Application & Agreement that it approves and keep it. The original form shall be sent to the BVFA Secretary-Treasurer no later than seven days after it is approved.

ARTICLE XXVI -- AMENDMENTS

The BVFA By-Laws and Rules may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose between February 1 and June 1 of any year. Special Policies, which ensure the safety and the health of players, may be instituted by the Board of Directors after June 1