

CBYF
TACKLE
FOOBALL
RULES

Last Revised August 2022

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COLUMBIA BASIN YOUTH FOOTBALL TACKLE RULES

1. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPALS OF OPERATION

- 1.1. All persons who indicate a desire to play football by meeting the registration requirements as they pertain to parental consent, weight and age shall become accepted participants in Columbia Basin Youth Football (CBYF).
- 1.2. There shall be no cutting of eligible players.
- 1.3. All players must have three (3) non padded and eight (8) padded practices before playing in any CBYF games.
- 1.4. Regular season games will consist of six (6) games followed by two (2) weeks of play-off games which culminate into a Super Bowl the following week at each Grade-based division level. League Practices can start August 1st, with regular season games beginning the weekend after Labor Day weekend.
- 1.5. During CBYF's regular season, which is marked by our season opening and our season ending Superbowl, there will be no "All Star" teams formed.
- 1.6. Sponsoring organization, league, city or group associated with CBYF refusing to register an eligible applicant before the end of the last sign-up date shall be suspended from CBYF for a period of one year.
- 1.7. The CBYF will allow one charter per high school boundary. Current approved charters are: Junior Falcons (Richland), Junior Mustangs (Prosser), Junior Bombers (Richland), Junior Riverhawks (Pasco), Junior Bulldogs (Pasco), Junior Leopards (Zillah), Junior Braves (Kennewick), Junior Lions (Kennewick), Junior Bears (Benton City), Junior Panthers (Finley), Junior Blue Devils (Walla Walla), Junior Coyotes (Burbank) , Junior Bulldogs (Hermiston), Junior Warriors (Mattawa), Jr Eagles (Connell), Jr Tigers (Ephrata), Jr Huskies (Othello), Jr Jacks (Quincy), Jr Knights (Royal) and Jr Cougars (Warden). Current probationary charters are: Jr Cadets(Yakima), Jr Grizzlies(Sunnyside), Jr Southridge Suns and Jr Rangers(Naches). Teams will substantially consist of players from within the district of each respective Junior Charters High School boundary. A player is deemed to be vested with an Out of District Charter once a Transfer Request Form is fully signed by both Charters. It is the receiving charters responsibility to maintain copies of these Releases for the duration of that player's CBYF career.
- 1.8. All players must be registered prior to Book Check certification. No player can practice or participate until that player is fully established in that respective Charters registration system.

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2. SPECIAL EVENTS

- 2.1. The schedule and format of the annual CBYF season shall be approved by the Board.
- 2.2. Any individual, coach, officer, player or parent of any sponsoring organization attempting to do business, schedule games or coordinate activities without the CBYF Executive Boards knowledge and or approval shall be suspended immediately, pending review of the incident by the CBYF Board.
- 2.3. All special events shall be approved by the CBYF Board of Directors.
- 2.4. Regular scheduled league games played at any of the CBYF sanctioned playing fields shall not be considered special events.
- 2.5. Playoff games and championship games shall be considered special events.
- 2.6. The field for all special event games shall be awarded to one of the member Charter cities. The CBYF Board shall determine the city.
- 2.7. The format for any special event game shall be approved by CBYF.
- 2.8. Format considerations will be: time, place, league or exhibition game, referee availability, insurance validity, travel plans, costs, etc.
- 2.9. The teams, times and locations for all playoff games shall be determined and approved by the CBYF Board.
 - 2.9.1. A special event shall be defined as any game or other activity that involves the use of the CBYF name. Any game or other activities not covered by this set of CBYF rules shall be considered a special event.
 - 2.9.2. Playoff system, after culmination of the six (6) game regular season, will be:
 - a. Playoff teams will be made up of teams from our North and South Divisions. Prior to the start of the season, the CBYF Executive board will determine how many teams from the North and South will be eligible for the playoffs at each age level. The Board will use the following equation to determine the number of playoff teams from each division; The division with the lower number of teams divided by the total number of teams multiplied by 8 and rounded to the closest integer.
 - b. Example. North division has 10 teams, South has 5 teams. $(5/15) \times 8 = 2.66$ rounds up to 3 playoff teams for the south division, the north would have the remaining 5 playoff spots.
 - c. If eight (8) teams or less per Grade-based division level —all teams shall qualify for playoffs. Highest seed plays lowest seed until two teams remain for the Super Bowl. If an odd number

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of teams are eligible for the playoff, the #1 seed receives a bye in the first playoff round. Highest seeded team per playoff game has preference on field location.

- 2.1.1 Head to Head competition will determine tie position to qualify for playoffs. If head to head is not applicable, Kansas City Tie Breaker will be used to determine seed position in the event of a tie position to qualify for the playoffs. Kansas City Tie Breaker to be played from the 25-yard line.
- 2.1.2 Head to Head competition determines tie position, in terms of seeding, for teams qualified for playoffs. Hat draw will determine seeding in the event that head to head is not applicable.

3 PARTICIPANT OBLIGATION (FOOTBALL – CHEERLEADER)

- 3.1 Participants are expected to maintain their school work at a passing level.
- 3.2 Participants are expected to be a credit to their community by practicing good leadership and fair-play.
- 3.3 The CBYF follows the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), the governing body of athletics and activities for secondary education schools in the state of Washington, rules on participant ejections.
- 3.4 Participants are expected to attend all team practices and chalk talks. The only excuses for absences shall be illness, injury or family emergency.
- 3.5 Participants are expected to take good care of and treat their equipment with respect.
- 3.6 A participant, who does not follow the preceding rules, does not show a desire to participate and learn by either their speech or actions creates problems, or dissension between other team members or coaching staff can be recommended for dismissal through the local youth football Charter.

4 PARENT/GUARDIAN OBLIGATION

- 4.1 The parent/guardian shall inform the participant's coaching staff of any medical or other problems the player may have.
- 4.2 The parent/guardian shall help the participant live up to their obligations as stated in the Participant obligation.
- 4.3 The parent/guardian shall help the participant take care of and promptly return (upon request) all equipment that has been issued to the player.

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- 4.4 The parent/guardian will attend as many of the participant's games as possible. Your encouragement and support play a big part in your players growth, desire to participate and in their overall feelings and self-esteem.

5 COACHES OBLIGATION (FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADER)

- 5.1 All members of a team's coaching staff shall treat all of their participants and participants on opposing teams with respect.
- 5.2 All members of a team's coaching staff shall, by example, teach participants sportsmanship and fair play.
- 5.3 Any coach or assistant coach who, by example or by encouragement, incites unsportsmanlike or disrespectful behavior by their participants shall immediately be ejected from the current game and will be subject to further disciplinary action upon review by the CBYF Board.
- 5.3.1 The CBYF follows the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), the governing body of athletics and activities for secondary education schools in the state of Washington, rules on coach ejections. The ejected coach can coach practices for the following week but cannot be on the property for the game following an ejection. Additionally, if the coach is ejected twice in the same season, the coach can no longer coach for the remainder to the season.
- 5.4 All members of a team's coaching staff shall, to the best of their ability, teach their participants the basic fundamentals of football or cheerleading.
- 5.5 It is required that all coaches be certified by the National Youth Sport Coaches Association, USA Football or the similar and have a background check from a credible source on file with the Charter. All coaches, assistant coaches or volunteers who violate any of the rules or Fundamental Principles of Operation, which he has been told about or given a written copy of, may be terminated from the CBYF and their position.
- 5.6 Violation of these rules shall be handled as follows:
- 5.7 First Violation: Warning letter to the coach or helper stating the infraction committed.
- 5.8 Second Violation: Two-week suspension from all practices and games.
- 5.9 Third Violation: Third Violation is cause for dismissal from the program.
- 5.10 Serious offenses committed by a coach, assistant coach, volunteer or official may be directed immediately to the CBYF Board to be ruled upon in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of the CBYF Organization.

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5.11 Probation is defined as not being allowed to vote on any and all matters in the CBYF for a period of one calendar year. The CBYF Board can by simple majority place an existing Charter on probation after the offending Charter has had the opportunity to present their case to the CBYF Executive Board. After a majority vote by the CBYF Board, a newly admitted Charter will be automatically placed on probation and after 1 year the CBYF Board will have a follow up vote on whether to grant full member status to the new Charter.

6 DRAFTING AND PLAYER / TEAM PLACEMENT

6.1 Every youth football Charter that has more than one team in any particular grade-based division will conduct a draft for each team whereas each coach subsequently selects players one by one.

6.1.2. Each youth football Charters' Teams will only consist of players that reside within that Charters High Schools boundaries, as delineated and periodically updated by each Charters School District or have a permanent waiver or seasonal waiver.

6.2 A newly registered youth football Charter player on the 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th, and 4th Grade division levels will try out and be placed in the draft for team placement, unless there is only one team at said level.

6.2.1 4th Grade division level: Each head coach and assistant coach will be allowed to have (1) child option on their team. For 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th Grade division level teams, only the head coach will be able to have (1) child option on their team.

6.3 Failure to comply with above requirements is a serious violation of the rules and may be cause for immediate suspension of the offending CBYF Organization youth football Charter member.

7 PLAYER / COACH REGISTRATION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

7.1 Parental Consent: No player shall be registered if they have not secured the written consent of their parent/guardian as well as the required head concussion form.

7.2 Players will be allowed to participate in a WIAA recognized Middle School football program as well as the CBYF.

7.3 The goal of CBYF and the Charter Junior Football programs is to build high-level competitive High School football within our region. As such, CBYF levels of play are based upon school grade-levels to facilitate cohesion of players entering High School. Player eligibility and team placement shall be determined as follows:

7.3.1 Player Grade level shall be determined by their school grade for the given season as determined predominantly by their school age as of a common school district age as of August 31st of the

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current year. In addition, a Player shall be allowed to play in their Grade level group as long as their age is not greater than one (1) year older than the common school district age.

- 7.3.2 8th Grade division level: Team members will largely consist of 13-year old's but may be 14 years old if player is in the 8th grade-level during the Fall playing season. There is no ball carrier weight limit for the 8th Grade division level.
 - 7.3.3 7th Grade division level: Team members will largely consist of 12-year old's but may be 13 years old if player is in the 7th grade-level during the Fall playing season. There is no ball carrier weight limit for the 7th Grade division level.
 - 7.3.4 6th Grade division level: Team members will largely consist of 11-year old's but may be 12 years old if player is in the 6th grade-level during the Fall playing season. There is no ball carrier weight limit for the 6th Grade division level.
 - 7.3.5 5th Grade division level: Team members will largely consist of 10-year old's but may be 11 years old if player is in the 5th grade-level during the Fall playing season. There is no weight restriction except for the ball carrier. Ball carrier weight limit for the 5th Grade division level is 120 lbs.
 - 7.3.6 4th Grade division level: Team members will largely consist of 9-year old's but may be 10 years old if player is in the 4th grade-level during the Fall playing season. There is no weight restriction except for the ball carrier. Ball carrier weight limit for the 4th Grade division level is 110 lbs.
- 7.4 Any player that has been placed on a team by using the pre-determined requirements above shall remain on that team for the duration of the season. A player must participate in a minimum of 3 regular season games to be eligible to participate in the post season.
- 7.5 Player Weigh-ins:
- 7.5.1 A player must be identified on the CBYF master roster by name, Grade-level, age and jersey number that is maintained by the CBYF Secretary to be eligible to play.
 - 7.5.2 All 4th & 5th grade players are to be weighed in before the start of the regular season and prior to the start of the playoffs. Weigh in dates will be set each year by the CBYF Board. Each official weigh in must use a copy of the official CBYF roster and each weigh in must be witnessed by at least two members of the CBYF Board or their designees.
 - 7.5.3 Player's ineligible to be a ball carrier(over the ball carrier weight limit) will have an "X" marked next to their name on the official CBYF Roster which denotes them as being ineligible to be a ball carrier. This roster must be initialed by two members of the CBYF Executive Board or their designees validating the weight. Each ineligible ball carrier will have a sticker on the back of their helmet identifying them as an ineligible ball carrier. Any protests in relation to ball carrier weight must be presented to the CBYF Executive Board.

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- 7.5.4 All teams participating in playoffs will be required to have their Registration Books recertified before the start of the playoffs at a time and location set by the CBYF Executive Board. Ball Carriers are to meet the regular season weight limits for playoffs.
- 7.5.5 The CBYF Secretary will provide one master copy of the rosters to each member youth football Charter. The member youth football Charter will provide each head coach with a copy of the official master team roster and this roster is to be used for all games.
- 7.6 Players, coaches and official helpers not meeting the above eligibility requirements shall not be allowed to participate in the program.

8 TEAM MAKE UP

- 8.1 No team shall have more than 34 players unless a team split would cause extreme hardship for the member youth football Charter or create scheduling difficulties for CBYF. The CBYF Executive Board must approve any situation where a team will exceed the player limit. Any teams with less than 17 players must be approved by the CBYF Executive Board.
- 8.2 When the player limit is exceeded, the local youth football Charter member must notify the CBYF Executive Board immediately. The local youth football Charter member must then submit a procedure for controlling the team split.

9 TEAM ROSTERS

- 9.1 Team rosters showing the players name, Grade-level, age and jersey number, and the coach contact information must be provided at time of Book Check Verification by league Secretary and must contain all registered players. Rosters should be typed, and players listed by jersey number in ascending order when possible. Official rosters will be provided to all youth football Charter Presidents.
- 9.2 Any team that fails to present their roster by that time shall forfeit each subsequent game until rosters are presented.
- 9.3 All player weights must be recorded on the official weigh in roster. Weigh-ins must include player name, Grade-level, age, jersey number, weight and initials of those coaches present at time of weigh in. This roster must be initialed by the coaches validating the weight and it must be returned to the CBYF Secretary for record keeping.
- 9.4 With parent consent a player will be allowed to play up a Grade-level. Once they have moved up, they must play on that team for the entire season.

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9.5 Team Roster/Registration Book Check: Each team will be responsible for presenting a book for inspection to the league Secretary no less than 6 days prior to first league game. The book needs to include for each player on the roster:

- a. signed medical waiver
- b. signed concussion form
- c. birth certificate or passport copy for all players
- d. proof of address, school enrolled in and Grade enrolled in for Fall (utility bill can be used IF player is new to area)
- g. a picture of the player
- h. a roster needs to be provided that includes the players name, Grade-level, jersey number, and date of birth. Each organization will be responsible for supplying one team mom to help certify books.

10 PRACTICE

10.1.1 Each team is allowed a maximum of 4 practices per a week. This means 4 total get-togethers whether for chalk talks or field practices.

10.1.2 Practice sessions shall be limited to 3 hours each before the start of school and 2 hours each after the start of the school term.

11 FOOTBALL PLAYING RULES

11.1.1 Any questions regarding the rules shall be directed to the President of the CBYF Executive Board, who in turn shall seek clarification from the CBYF Executive Board as to the meaning and intent of the rule in question.

11.1.2 These rules are not intended to take control away from the youth football Charters. Each Charter may adopt rules for their own organization that do not conflict with the rules of CBYF.

11.1.3 Any rule adopted by a youth football Charter that will affect a team outside of their Charter, the rule must be submitted to all of the CBYF Executive Board members, so they will be aware of the rule (e.g., playing rule variations caused by local conditions, etc.). If the rule is not submitted, the visiting team will not be bound to it.

11.1.4 It will be the responsibility of the youth football Charters to give a copy of these CBYF Rules and Regulations and any other rules that may be enacted during the season to head coaches and their youth football Charter members, so they may be informed of the rules. Failure to do so could result in censure of the Charter.

11.1.5 The CBYF football playing rules shall be the same as the Washington State High School (WIAA) rules with the following exceptions.

11.1.6 A ball carrier is considered any player who lines up to receive the ball, including punts and kickoffs. If a player is lined up in the position of running back (including fullback), QB, TE, or WR he/she

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must meet the weight-limit for a ball carrier as not to deceive the opposing team. Players who intercept a pass or recover a fumble may advance it regardless of their weight. Players who are ineligible to run may field kickoffs, punts, or kick field goals but are considered down at the point of reception.

- 11.1.7 For 4th and 5th Grade, each quarter shall be 8 minutes with a 3-minute break between quarters when possible.
- 11.1.8 For 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, each quarter shall be 10 minutes with a 3-minute break between quarters when possible.
- 11.1.9 Half time break shall be 10 minutes when possible.
- 11.1.10 The free substitution rule shall be in effect at all times.
- 11.1.11 Kicked extra points shall be counted as 2 points. A run or pass extra point shall count as 1 point.
- 11.1.12 Playoff and Super Bowl games ending in a tie shall be decided by the “Kansas City” style tie breaking method and will be played immediately after the conclusion of the regular game. Playing overtime will begin at the 10-yard line. There will be no overtime in regular season games.
- 11.1.13 4th Grade division shall allow a free kick on any punts and PATs (point after touchdown). Coaches shall announce to head official of their intent to punt or kick the PAT. Head official will notify opposing coach. There is no rush allowed and ball is dead where it is possessed by the return team or comes to rest on field of play. Ball must be punted no exceptions. For PAT’s, the kicking team has 5 seconds from the time the ball is snapped to place and kick the ball.
- 11.1.14 There shall be no more than 1 head coach and 4 assistants on the sidelines during games.
- 11.1.15 One coach per team will be allowed on the playing field during 4th Grade division level games. Coach is not able to physically assist the player after the huddle has been broken on either side of the ball.
- 11.1.16 If any game, 8th through 4th Grade division, has a 30-point lead or more at half time, the game is continuing under a “running clock”. The clock will stop in accordance with WIAA rules.
- 11.1.17 To avoid interference with games, spectators are not allowed within a 10-yard perimeter of the coaches’ box and not within 5 yards of the rest of the sideline. Spectators are not allowed in the back of the end zones.
- 11.1.18 The 5th & 6th grade teams may choose to declare a punt, this will notify both teams and officials that the team intends to punt to assure his snapper protection in the event the punter is not lined up at least 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage. The defense cannot line head up over the center, or rush the center once a punt has been declared. In the event the ball is not punted after a punt has been declared, the ball shall be declared dead and returned to the original line of scrimmage. The penalty for falsely declaring a punt shall be loss of down.

12 GAME OFFICIALS

- 12.1.1 If no league assigned game officials are present for a game, the game shall not be played.
- 12.1.2 All coaches, players, parent/guardians and league officials will treat game officials courteously and with respect.
- 12.1.3 Coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, and fans and may be held responsible for any unsportsmanlike conduct and will be penalized for such.
- 12.1.4 The responsibilities of the Adult League Official/Field Representative are as follows:
 - 12.4.1 Maintain order of the officials, players and spectators.
 - 12.4.2 This person will be responsible for handling problems that may arise at their assigned field during the times which games are played.
 - 12.4.3 Any incidents must be reported to their individual youth football Charter president immediately following that day's games.
 - 12.4.4 The youth football Charter President is responsible for reporting the scores to the CBYF Secretary no later than noon on Sunday. Scores not reported will not be recorded for the official standings.

13 NO SHOWS

- 13.1.1 It shall be the home team's responsibility to notify the CBYF members of any schedule change at least 72 hours before game time, even when they are not the team requesting the change.
- 13.1.2 Any no call/no show games will be counted as a forfeit against the team that fails to show up on time for their game.
- 13.1.3 Any organization that does not notify the CBYF administration 72 hours prior to game time, that one of their teams will not play in their scheduled game will be charge a \$100 fine and game will be logged as forfeit.

14 BENCH AREA

- 14.1.1 The bench area is reserved for the players in uniform, 1 head coach and 4 assistants. All non-participants are not allowed on the sidelines unless pre-approved by CBYF.

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15 EQUIPMENT

- 15.1.1 All equipment shall be in compliance with the most recently mandated safety requirements as set by the manufacturer. It is the youth football Charters responsibility to be aware of the requirements and to strictly follow them.
- 15.1.2 Equipment required to participate in the CBYF shall include, but not be limited to: complete helmet with face mask, shoulder pads, thigh pads, knee pads, hip pads and pants. Tinted visors are not allowed. Other required equipment includes mouthpiece and game jersey. Athletic supporters are recommended but not required.
- 15.1.3 Players must have any equipment outside of that issued to them approved by their youth football Charter before they will be allowed to use it.
- 15.1.4 Metal cleats and removable hard plastic cleats will not be allowed for 5th, 4th, and 3rd Grade division level teams. Those on 8th, 7th, and 6th Grade division level teams will be allowed to wear standard non-metal football cleats.
- 15.1.5 All 8th and 7th Grade division level teams shall have the choice to use either an official youth size or high school sized ball. 6th and 5th Grade division level teams shall use either a youth or junior size ball. 4th Grade division level teams shall use either a junior or pee-wee size ball.
- 15.1.6 WIAA rules state all footballs must be brown, footballs of any other color will not be allowed for an official CBYF game.

16 SCHEDULING

- 16.1 The schedule will be determined and approved at least 5 days before the first game by the CBYF Executive Board.

17 PROTEST

- 17.1.1 The CBYF Executive Board shall rule on all matters relating to protests, parent/guardian complaints, rule violations, player eligibility, team makeup and other matters that may be brought before them.
- 17.1.2 Parent/guardians have the right to protest treatment of their players, CBYF By-Law infractions, etc. However, they must follow the guidelines established below.
- 17.1.3 A letter must be mailed or hand delivered to a member of their youth football Charter board stating the concern of the parent/guardian or the CBYF infraction.
- 17.1.4 The Charter board member shall, within 48 hours, give the letter to the Charter President.

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- 17.1.5 The Charter President upon receiving the letter shall set a meeting within 48 hours. The participants of the meeting shall include the Charter President, the involved coaching personnel and the parent/guardian. The purpose of this meeting shall be an attempt to solve the problems stated in the letter.
- 17.1.6 If the problem cannot be solved to the satisfaction of the participants, the parent/guardian may request that the letter be submitted to the youth football Charter board of directors for further action. If the problem cannot be solved by the youth football Charter's board of directors, the parent/guardian may submit a letter to the CBYF Executive Board.
- 17.1.7 All steps by the parent/guardian must be completed within 10 days. Charter board members and CBYF Executive Board members are required to schedule the meetings in a timely manner that will allow the parent/guardian to comply with the time frame.
- 17.1.8 In the interest of fairness, CBYF Executive Board members that are also members of the youth football Charter board representing the parent/guardian shall excuse themselves from taking part in and voting on the issue. The CBYF Executive Board President shall appoint a temporary alternate to take the place of the Board member being excused.
- 17.1.9 Protests on player eligibility or rule violations will be heard.
- 17.1.10 Protests on matters of Judgment as rendered by an official shall not be heard.
- 17.1.11 Protests must be presented in writing to be official and must follow the guidelines as set forth in Section 4. PARENT/GUARDIAN OBLIGATION.
- 17.1.12 The protesting team shall provide full names, number and position played or the rule violation committed with the protest.
- 17.1.13 If the protest is upheld, the guilty team shall forfeit all games in which the ineligible player took part.
- 17.1.14 The decision of the CBYF Board will be final.

18 FUNDRAISING

- 18.1.1 Fundraising events are the responsibility of the youth football Charters and do not normally require CBYF Board approval. However, CBYF reserves the right to review any fundraising event that does not appear to be in the best interest of the other youth football Charter members or promote the welfare of the CBYF Organization.

Addendum A

Summer/Pre-season Camps:

Each CBYF member may hold one summer/preseason camp. These camps can be held prior to the first official CBYF practice date. These camps are often hosted/run by the High School program. These camps will be non-contact, and will focus on conditioning, and football fundamentals. The camps must be open/available to all registered players within a junior program. Summer/preseason camps must be limited to 4 days in length, and a maximum of 3 hours per day.

A camp is defined as an organized practice session where more than 8 players get together with a coach or coaches to work together on football skills. This would include any summer conditioning program or summer practice program that is organized by a CBYF member Jr program or one of their coaches.