



2022 Youth Flag Football Operations Manual

Mission Statement:

The Greenville County Rec football league encourages youth development by providing opportunities for personal and athletic growth based around the game of football. The league promotes sportsmanship, fellowship, fair play, self-esteem, responsibility and life skills through a safe, fun, positive, and competitive youth football program. Greenville County Rec values the benefits of participating with a team that include accountability, respect and personal development.

Youth Associations and Partial Member Organizations:

What is a Youth Association?

A youth association is an independent, volunteer non-profit or 501(c)(3) entity that organizes players, coaches, and teams to play in youth sports leagues with Greenville County Rec. With a county department that serves the recreational needs in a community of over 500,000 citizens, Greenville County Rec partners with youth associations to help deliver youth sports opportunities. Greenville County Rec works especially close with youth associations to provide youth flag and tackle football. Compliant associations that meet the requirements shown below will be listed on the Greenville County Rec website.

Youth Association Requirements:

1. Provide proof of non-profit 501(c)(3) status
2. Provide by-laws that govern your association
3. Provide a list of active board members, along with their contact information (email and phone number)
4. Complete a seasonal Youth Association Agreement
5. Have an active website and/or Facebook page
6. Have a point of contact that will be shared on the Greenville County Rec website for the public to contact your association
7. Provide a certificate of liability insurance with the County of Greenville listed as the additional insured or the certificate holder
8. Must be an active participant in at least the youth tackle football league
9. Must attend one of the pre-season book/admin meetings
10. Complete all registration requirements
11. Submit a seasonal Athletic Field Rental Request as part of your seasonal agreement, if your association wishes to utilize Greenville County Rec fields for practices. Practice space is not guaranteed; Greenville County Rec will try to meet the needs of all associations
12. Have a designated representative and 2 alternates that serve on the Greenville County Rec Youth Sports Advisory Committee (YSAC). All associations are required to be active participants on the committee
13. Meet annually with the Greenville County Rec Athletic Department for a 1-on-1 meeting to discuss your organization (by phone or face-to-face)
14. Comply with all rules and guidelines of the Greenville County Rec youth football leagues

15. Agree to run your association with a safety-first and kids-first approach
16. New associations must complete a successful first year prior to having a vote on the YSAC, but may sit in on the meetings during this probationary period
17. To remain a voting member of the YSAC, associations must:
 - remain in good standing, with no board members serving a penalty resulting from disciplinary action,
 - have no more than one absence from a YSAC meeting in the past year,
 - and have no outstanding balances

Can teams participate in Greenville County Rec youth football leagues without being an association?

- Yes, teams may participate in the Greenville County Rec Youth Flag and/or Tackle Football Leagues without being an association. These teams do not have an active seat on the YSAC and are not listed on the Greenville County Rec website.

Minimum Requirements to Participate (Non-Youth Association):

1. Have a designated representative and 2 alternates (phone number and emails required for all 3)
2. Provide a certificate of liability insurance with the County of Greenville listed as additional insured or certificate holder
3. Must attend one of the pre-season book/admin meetings
4. Complete all registration requirements
5. Submit a seasonal Athletic Field Rental Request if your association wishes to utilize Greenville County Rec fields for practices. Practice space is not guaranteed; Greenville County Rec will try to meet the needs of all groups
6. Comply with all rules and guidelines of the Greenville County Rec youth football leagues
7. Agree to run your organization with a safety-first and kids-first approach

When is a Youth Association considered inactive and what happens if they wish to return?

- An inactive youth association is defined as a youth association that did not participate in one or two consecutive seasons. A season is considered either fall tackle football or spring flag football. Inactive teams will be removed from Greenville County Rec’s youth association list. Inactive teams will retain their spot on the YSAC, provided all of the youth association requirements are still being met and the association remains in good standing (compliant). Associations returning from inactive status must complete the seasonal agreement and ensure all their requirements, listed above, are up-to-date.

What happens to a Youth Association that is removed from league due to non-compliance or that is inactive for more than 2 consecutive seasons?

- Youth associations can be removed from the league and YSAC for not complying with league rules and deadlines. Once this happens, the youth association is considered NOT in good standing (non-compliant). Non-compliant associations will lose their vote on the YSAC. If these teams wish to return for future seasons, the organization must start over as a new association and go through the probationary process of being a non-voting YSAC member for the first year.
- Youth associations can be removed from the league and YSAC for being inactive for more than 2 consecutive seasons. Once this happens the youth association is considered NOT in good standing (non-compliant). Non-compliant associations will lose their vote on the YSAC. If these teams wish to return for future seasons, the organization must start over as a new association and go through the probationary process of being a non-voting YSAC member for the first year.

What is the Youth Sports Advisory Committee (YSAC)?

- Greenville County Rec staff has the authority to make all decisions regarding the administration of youth sports in Greenville County, including rule interpretations, rule changes, discipline, and protests associated with the youth football program. The Youth Sports Advisory Committee is a group comprised of representatives from youth football associations in good standing, along with community members and Greenville County Rec staff. The primary objective of the committee is to advise Greenville County Rec on youth football policies and procedures and provide helpful insight to guide the youth football league.

Meeting schedule: The YSAC will meet at least once every three months. The annual meeting schedule will be publicized at the first meeting each year. In the event a meeting needs to be called outside of the set quarterly schedule, Greenville County Rec will notify the YSAC members at least 48 hours in advance. One representative from each association must be in attendance at all meetings.

A Greenville County Rec staff person will take minutes at each YSAC meeting, which will be shared with all YSAC members following each meeting.

YSAC Composition:

1. Youth Associations
2. Greenville County Rec Staff
3. Community Members

What powers does the YSAC have and what do they vote on?

- In addition to its main role of advising Greenville County Rec on youth football policies and procedures, periodically an issue may arise that requires specific feedback from the YSAC and/or a vote. In these instances, each Youth Association in good standing will have one (1) vote. Community Members that serve on the YSAC will also have one (1) vote each. Youth association(s) involved in an issue or appeal will be recused from deliberations and voting. Greenville County Rec representatives do not have a vote.

What is the appeals process and what role does the YSAC play in it?

- Greenville County Rec retains the authority to make decisions on all matters based on guidelines, rules, and best practices, including decisions on ejected players/coaches, ineligible players, and any situation that impacts the safety and well-being of players in the league. In the event the individual or association in question does not agree with a decision made by Greenville County Rec, an appeal to the YSAC is the next step. The individual or association must submit the appeal in writing (see below) within 48 hours from the time Greenville County Rec communicates a decision. Once the appeal is received, it will be brought before the YSAC. An appeal can be brought before the YSAC either via email, conference call, or a full YSAC meeting depending on the circumstances of the matter.

What should you do if you ever have a concern or situation that you feel needs to be brought to the attention of Greenville County Rec?

1. Gather your facts and verify that they are accurate
2. Verify that your concern goes against the Greenville County Rec Youth Football Guidelines and Rules. If your concern poses an immediate threat to the safety or well-being of a minor in the football program, please contact the appropriate emergency services first and then notify Greenville County Rec.
3. Once you have a valid, verified concern supported with documentation, please submit it to Greenville County Rec via email to rdixon@greenvillecounty.org or drop it off at the Greenville County Rec

administrative office (4806 Old Spartanburg Road Taylors, SC 29687). Submission must be in writing, and be accompanied by any supporting evidence.

4. Once received, Greenville County Rec will review the situation, and take the next appropriate steps, which may include any of the following:
 - a. Greenville County Rec will make a final decision
 - b. Greenville County Rec will seek input from the YSAC, and then make a final decision
 - c. Greenville County Rec will request an email, phone, or in-person meeting with the YSAC to discuss and/or vote on the matter in question
 - i. For any issue that is voted on by the YSAC, whether at the request of Greenville County Rec or as the result of an appeal, the YSAC's vote is final and the matter will be considered closed after the vote. There are no further appeals or protests related to that matter
5. See pages 21-22 for further information on game protests

Please Note: This is a youth league that involves minors. Greenville County Rec takes the privacy and safety of minors in its programs with the highest level of caution. If the concern involves the name(s), picture(s), birthdate(s), or other personal information, do not distribute the information and treat it with the utmost privacy.



League Contact:
 Rich Dixon
 Phone: (864) 467-3460
rdixon@greenvillecounty.org
www.greenvillerec.com
 4806 Old Spartanburg Road | Taylors, SC 29687

2021 YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Fast Facts: \$200 per team. Registration runs January 11th – February 5th.

Entry fee covers a 6-game season, facility rental, field supervision for games, and coach's background checks. Official Fees are \$20 per game, per team, paid to the officials on the field prior to game time. Each game has two officials.

Games will be played on Saturday mornings at 9:00 am, 10:15 am, 11:30 am, 12:45 pm, and 2:00 pm.

Participants will be placed in a division based on their age on August 31, 2021.

League / Ages	Football Size
5 & 6	K2
7 & 8	K2
9 & 10	TDJ
11 & 12	TDY
13 & 14	TDY

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 11 th – February 5 th	Team registration (8:30am-5:00pm Mon-Fri, Greenville County Rec Main office)
Monday, February 8 th	Practice Start date
Monday, February 8 th	Administrative Book Meeting (Zoom @ 7:30pm), please RSVP to rdixon@greenvillecounty.org
Wednesday, February 10 th	Team Book Packets due by 12:00 NOON!! NO FAXES ACCEPTED. Email or in-person drop-off only
Friday, February 12 th	Initial Roster Minimum Deadline, 8 players with at least 75% of paperwork is due (players/teams dropped)
Friday, February 12 th	Last day to drop out and still receive a refund. No refunds after this date.
Wednesday, February 24 th	Mandatory Coaches & Officials Meeting at 6:30pm via Zoom. Details will be emailed closer to date.
Wednesday, February 24 th	Roster Freeze Date; no additions or changes past this point
Wednesday, February 24 th	Final Roster Deadline. Minimum of 11 players and 95% of paperwork is due (players/teams dropped)
Friday, February 26 th	Final Paperwork Deadline. 100% of paperwork is due (players/teams dropped)
Monday, March 1	Schedule will be posted online at www.greenvillerec.com and IMLeagues emailed to Association reps
Saturday, March 6 th	Season Begins

All Coaches must submit and pass a background check in order to coach. **Background checks from the Fall 2020 Season will be valid for the Spring 2021 Season.** All coaches must have a current USA Football Coaches Non-Contact Football Certification.

A \$15.00 administrative fee will be charged for teams dropping out on or before Friday, February 12th. A \$25 late fee will be charged to any team who registers after Friday, February 5th assuming openings still exist. We cannot guarantee any openings for teams wishing to register after Friday, February 5th. No refunds will be given after Friday February 12, 2021.

Special requests for game times, fields, or schedule changes will not be honored.

FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM PACKETS are due by 12:00 NOON on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 and should include the following:

Players (for each player)	Coaches (for each team)	Association
-Parent Consent Form (Waiver) -COVID19 Waiver	-Signed Coaches Code of Conduct -Signed Coaches COVID19 Waiver	-Signed Online Youth Association Agreement with required paperwork.
-Copy of Birth Certificate	-Completed Background Check for 2020, 1 per coach	-Typed Roster/Emailed for the Team (11-14 players)
-Signed Player & Parent Code of Conduct	-All coaches must be a Certified USA Contact or Non-Contact Football Coach.	- Typed/Emailed Photo Pages for the Team
-Signed Parents Code of Conduct	-Coaches Pass for All Certified Coaches	

****NO PHYSICALS NEEDED****

*****2021 ALL PLAYERS, CHEERLEADERS, AND COACHES MUST ALL SIGN AND COMPLETE A COVID19 WAIVER*****

^For Flag, NAYS Flag Coaches Certification will also be accepted. Email rdixon@greenvillecounty.org for details

Signed parental forms, birth certificates, and parents and players codes of conduct should all be in the same order as the names are listed on the roster (numerical order by jersey number). Teams that have not submitted a complete team packet to the Greenville County Rec office by 12:00 NOON on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 will be penalized by having their head coach sit out their first game and all subsequent games until that information is received. Youth Associations may submit paperwork to the following emails: chevalier@greenvillecounty.org & gville.athletics@gmail.com.

All associations are required to complete a payment authorization form. In the instance of a forfeit, Greenville County Rec will automatically charge the credit/debit card on file \$40.00 the next business day following the forfeit.

Weather Updates: Follow us on Twitter @gcrecfields or Text "gcrecfields" to 99000 to receive text alerts.

2021 Youth Flag Football Rules

(Please Note that the Youth Football Operations Manual continues on pages 19-22)

***Purpose:** The purpose of this league is to provide an enjoyable and safe environment to play the game of flag football. This league is designed to teach the fundamentals and basics of the game of football, and provide a format where a new player can be exposed to the game, while returning players can further develop their football skills.*

1. COMMUNICATION:

- Website: www.greenvillerec.com for information on schedules and updates
- Follow Greenville County Rec on Twitter @gcrecfields to receive alerts about weather and the status of games
- Text “gcrecfields” to 99000 to receive text alerts about weather and the status of games

2. CODE OF CONDUCT:

Parents, coaches and volunteers are role models of appropriate behavior both on and off the field. Please observe the following guidelines when attending games and practices:

- Remain seated in the spectator area during games
- Offer only positive comments and feedback to all
- Refrain from interfering with your child’s coach
- Refrain from using artificial noise makers at the games
- The Code of Conduct form (found at www.greenvillerec.com) must be signed by all parents and players
- Remember, this football league is for the kids

IMPORTANT 2021 DATES:

Registration	January 1- February 5th
Practice start date:	February 8
Administrative Book Meeting via Zoom @ 7:30 pm. Please RSVP via email to rdixon@greenvillecounty.org	February 8
Books Due[^]	February 10 at Noon. Email or in-person
Initial Roster Minimum Deadline, 8 players with at least 75% of all paperwork (Players and/or Teams Dropped)[^]	February 12
Last Day to Drop and Still Receive a Refund	February 12
Coaches Clinic (mandatory)[^]	February 24 @ 7:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference
Rosters Freeze. No additions or changes after this date[^]	February 24
Final Roster Deadline. Minimum 11 players and 95% of paperwork (Players and/or Teams Dropped)[^]	February 24
Final Paperwork Deadline and 100% of Paperwork (Players and/or Teams Dropped)[^]	February 26
Schedules Posted Online on IMLeagues	March 1
Season Begins	March 6

[^]Mandatory for each organization to be eligible to play in the league. All dates subject to change.

I. League Policies

Rosters- A team may have a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 14 players on the roster. Teams must have 7 players minimum to start a game. Players are NOT allowed to play down an age group, but ARE allowed to play up one (1) age group. Any player, coach, or team associated with a person caught and proven guilty of cheating or misrepresenting any documents will be suspended indefinitely.

The following information must be submitted to **Greenville County Rec by February 10, 2021**. All forms can be found on the Youth Flag Football page on the Greenville Rec website www.greenvillerec.com.

- a. Team Roster- Rosters must be typed and submitted on the “Team Roster Form” template.
- b. Team Picture Book – Pictures for each player must be turned in on the “Picture Book Form”.
- c. Birth Certificate (COPY Only) for each player on the roster.
- d. League Waiver for each player on the roster.
- e. Player/Parent Code of Conduct for each player on the roster.
- f. Coaches Code of Conduct for each coach on the roster.
- g. Background Check for each coach on the roster.
- h. USA Football Certification for at least one coach per team.

Registration- Full details and league information can be found at www.greenvillerec.com .

2. Age Groups (Based on Player’s age on August 31, 2021)

Ages	Football Size
5 & 6	K2
7 & 8	K2
9 & 10 (Spring Only)	TDJ
11 & 12 (Spring Only)	TDJ
13 & 14 (Spring Only)	TDY

3. **Game Officials-** Each team will be required to pay a \$20 Officials Fee for each game. If this is not paid by the start of the game, the game will result in a forfeit.
4. **Forfeits-** If you know in advance that your team is not going to be able to attend a scheduled game, please contact Rich Dixon at 864-467-3460 or rdixon@greenvillecounty.org. This will allow a notification to be shared with the other team. There will be a \$40 forfeit fee that will apply to all forfeits. All associations are required to complete a payment authorization form at the time of registration. In the instance of a forfeit, Greenville County Rec will automatically charge the credit/debit card on file \$40.00 the next business day following the forfeit. See the chart on page 7 for official fee rates and forfeit fees.
5. **Weather Cancellations-**
 1. Saturday game cancellations will be decided by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the game or at the field.
 2. **Text: “gcrecfields” to 99000** to receive Youth Flag Football alerts from Greenville County Rec
 3. Follow weather updates on Twitter @gcrecfields. Some cancellations may be made at the field at the discretion of the officials and Greenville County Rec staff.

II. The Game “An Overview”

1. **The Field-** The game will be played on a field sized 80 yards x 40 yards. The field will be marked with 20 yard zones. The zones will be G, 20, 40, 20, G. The zones represent the first down lines and

the end zones. The neutral zone is the area from the ball and 3 yards toward the defense. There will be cones placed on the sidelines indicating the end of the neutral zone (3 yards from the ball). The 5-yard “Offensive No Rush Line” will be clearly marked on the field.

2. **The Teams-** Each team must start a game with 7 players on the field at a time.
3. **Time-** A game will be played with two (2) 20 minute halves and a 5 minute half-time. The clock will be a continuous running clock, except in the last 2 minutes of each half. During the last 2 minutes of each half, the clock will be stopped when there is an incomplete pass, the ball carrier goes out of bounds, change of possession, and on a timeout. Each team will have 2 timeouts per half. These timeouts will last 1 minute each.

4. **Scoring-**

a. ***NEW for 2021*** The extra point attempt will now be returnable by the defense. In the event the defense intercepts the ball during an extra point attempt, they can now return it to their opponent’s end zone for points. They will be awarded the points based on the type of extra point being attempted by the offense. For example, if the offense was going for 3 points and it was intercepted and returned by the defense, the defense will receive the 3 points based on the extra point try.

b. 5-6, 7-8 Divisions:

Type of Score	Worth
Touchdown	6 points
Extra Point from 3 yard line	1 point
Extra Point from 6 yard line	2 points
Safety	2 points

c. 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 Divisions (Spring Season Only):

Type of Score	Worth
Touchdown	6 points
Extra Point from 5 yard line	1 point
Extra Point from 10 yard line	2 points
Extra Point from 15 yard line	3 points
Safety	2 points

5. **Equipment-** Each player will be required to wear a team jersey. The team jerseys must match each other, and they must have numbers on them. The jerseys must be long enough to tuck in. Each player in the league is encouraged to wear cleats. NO metal cleats are allowed. Players must wear pants/shorts without pockets. Greenville County Rec will provide the flags at the fields. The flag belts must be worn around the waist and may NOT be tucked in. NO Jewelry may be worn during the game. Players cannot wear brimmed hats during the game. Greenville County Rec will provide age appropriate game balls at the fields (see page 7). **Players are required to wear a mouth piece at all times during the game.**

NEW* for 2021

6. **Alternative Jersey Rule-**Due to COVID19, we will NOT be providing any scrimmage jerseys or pennies at this time. All teams are required to bring alternative colored jerseys or shirts. In the event that both teams are wearing the same colored jerseys, the visiting team must change jerseys.

7. **Mercy Rule-** If a team is leading by 28 points or more at any point during the game, the clock will run continuously. Only injury timeouts will be allowed during the mercy rule.

III. Game Play

There will be an “Offensive No Rush Rule” from the 5 yard line to the goal line. There will be no designed offensive rushing plays or handoffs in this zone. Only forward passes are eligible in the 5 yard zone. The 5 yard line will be clearly marked on the field. In the “Offensive No Rush Zone”, the QB can only run the ball after at least one play on the defense has crossed the defensive line of scrimmage.

1. Offense Overview

- a. The field will be marked into zones. These zones represent the first downs. They will be marked as 20, 40, 20. Once a team crosses into a new zone, it will result in a first down. The offense will have four downs to get to the next zone for a first down. The offense will start at the 14 yard line at the start of the game/half and after a touchdown. The offense will have the option to punt the ball on 4th down. Please see the punting section for specific punting rules (page 16). Forward progress and ball placement will be established based on the location of the ball carrier’s hips.
- b. The offense is allowed to advance the ball by running or passing. Once the flag is removed by a defensive player, the ball is dead at the spot of the flag removal. If a player’s flag falls off inadvertently before he/she catches the ball, after the catch, or while running the ball, the hand touch rule will apply. The hand touch rule allows a defensive player to use one-hand touch between the ball carriers shoulder and waist in place of pulling the flag when the flag has inadvertently fallen off. NO FLAG GUARDING IS ALLOWED.
- c. The offensive play will start with the ball being snapped through the center’s legs. There must be at least 3 players on the line of scrimmage. Line players can be in a 2-point stance.
- d. A fumble will never result in a change of possession. As soon as the ball hits the ground, or the ball carrier’s knee touches the ground, the play is ruled dead.
- e. The neutral zone will be marked by 2 cones controlled by the referee on the sideline.

2. Defense Overview

- a. Tackling is strictly prohibited. All players must reach for the flags and not the body of the ball carrier. If a defensive player tackles or holds a ball carrier that, in the judgment of the officials, had an open field for a touchdown, a touchdown will be awarded. The officials have the authority to eject any player that intentionally tackles another player.
- b. Defensive players will be allowed to defend the line of scrimmage. Defensive players must be 3 yards off the line of scrimmage (see neutral zone, page 14). Defensive players defending the line of scrimmage will be allowed to rush according to the “Rushing Specific Rules”, page 16.

- c. The defense may defend short line situations during a game. These short line situations take place at the zone lines (20, 40, 20) and the goal lines. This means that the 3 yards off the line of scrimmage does not apply in these short line situations.

3. Rushing Specific Rules

- a. The defense can only rush a maximum of two players on any down.
- b. The QB can only run the ball after at least one player on the defense has crossed the defensive line of scrimmage.

4. Passing/Receiving Specific Rules

- a. A pass that is intentionally thrown away (where there is no receiver near the ball, called at the discretion of the game official) will result in a 5 yard penalty (intentional grounding) and loss of down.
- b. Interceptions are allowed and can be returned by the defense, including interceptions that occur in the end zone.
- c. All offensive players on the field are considered eligible receivers.
- d. The QB can be considered an eligible receiver if he pitches, tosses, or hands off the ball behind the line of scrimmage. The lateral must be backwards. If a forward pass is thrown or handed by the QB, he is then an ineligible receiver.
- e. Players must have at least 1 foot inbounds when making a catch.
- f. Players who run out of bounds during a play are not eligible to come back onto the playing field to make a reception. This will result in the play being called an incomplete pass.

5. Punting Specific Rules

On 4th down the offense will have the option of "punting." The ball will not actually be punted. Instead, the offense will notify the game official that they want to punt. When notified, the game official will mark off 25 yards or half distance to the goal line. If the ball has NOT crossed the 40 yard line (midfield), 25 yards will be marked off for a punt. Half the distance to the goal line will be marked off for a punt when the ball HAS crossed the 40 yard line (midfield).

IV. Penalties

1. 5-yard Penalties

- a. **Illegal Procedure**-Either team moving into the neutral zone before the ball has been snapped, lining up in the neutral zone, or the quarterback in motion before the ball is snapped.

Enforcement: dead ball-5 yards from the line of scrimmage-replay the down

- b. **Delay of Game**- Not snapping the ball within the allotted 25 seconds, taking too long to keep the game from proceeding

Enforcement: dead ball-5 yards from the line of scrimmage-replay the down

- c. **Batting or stripping the ball**-any attempt to strike or grab the ball away from the ball carrier with forcible contact.

New for 2021

1. When the QB is passing the ball. When the QB is passing the ball. The ball may be batted or attempted to be batted when the QB is passing the ball AND the ball has visibly left the QB's hand. IF the ball is batted or an attempt is made to bat it while it is still clearly in the QB's hand, the batting or stripping the ball rule applies.

Enforcement: Live ball-5 yards from the spot of the foul-replay the down

- d. **Holding**- Keeping the ball carrier from advancing the ball without getting the flag

Enforcement: Live ball-5 yards from the end of the run

- e. **Illegal Forward Pass**-Throwing the ball from in front of the line of scrimmage or a second forward pass.

Enforcement: Live ball-5 yards from the spot of the foul and a loss of down

- f. **Illegal Forward Lateral**-Handing or pitching the ball forward down field (past the line of scrimmage)

Enforcement: Live ball-5 yards from the spot of the foul and loss of down

- g. **Defensive Flag Guarding**- pulling the offensive player's flags before the player receives the ball

Enforcement: 5 yards from the line of scrimmage if the play is incomplete-replay the down. If the pass is complete-5 yards from the end of the run, or result of the play

- h. **Leaving your feet**- Hurdling or diving to gain yardage

Enforcement: Live ball- 5 yards from the spot of the foul- replay the down.

2. 10-yard Penalties

- a. **Illegal Contact** (on the line of scrimmage or incomplete pass) any contact initiated by a player, pushing a player out of the way or to the ground, or contact preventing players from running their routes

Enforcement: Live ball-10 yards from the end of the run-replay the down, or result of the play (incomplete pass-penalty will be assessed from the line of scrimmage).

- b. **Illegal Contact (completed pass)**- Any contact initiated by any player, pushing a player out of the way, pushing a player out of bounds, screen blocking (setting a pick) at the line of scrimmage or down field

Enforcement: Live ball-10 yards from the spot of the foul-replay down or result of the play.

- c. **Picking/Screen Blocking-** Taking a position too close to a player so they can't avoid contact. Taking a stationary position then moving before the opposing player does to force contact or block them from grabbing another player's flag. Running near the player with the ball to prevent the defense from getting to the ball carrier's flags.

Enforcement: Live ball-10 yards from the spot of the foul-replay the down

- d. **Flag Guarding-**The ball carrier using parts of his/her body to prevent the defense from getting to the flags. This includes the ball carrier batting the hand of defenders going for the ball carrier's flags. (Try to run with the ball in front to prevent arms hanging by the waist)

Enforcement: Live ball-10 yards from the end of the run. If the ball carrier made the first down, then the ball is spotted back 10 yards from the first down (the first down will count at this point).

- e. **Pass Interference-** Once a pass is thrown, and two or more players make contact attempting to catch the ball, pass interference will be called when one player pushes the other to gain an advantage or a player initiates contact to gain a competitive advantage on the other.

Enforcement: A. Defensive: 10 yard from the end of the play or the line of scrimmage-automatic first down.

Enforcement: B. Offensive: 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage-loss of down

- f. **Roughing the Passer-** Contact made by the defense on the passer before, during, or after he throws the ball. This does not include incidental contact made by the defensive player going for the flags. If the defensive player is overly aggressive going for the flag resulting in knocking down the QB, then roughing the passer will be called.

Enforcement: 10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down, or 10 yards from the end of the play and automatic first down.

3. 15-yard Penalties

- a. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct-** Excessive, intentional contact, over-aggressiveness during a play, or disrespectful conduct to the game officials and other players.

Enforcement: 15 yards from the spot of the foul.

The consequences for receiving this penalty could be as severe as a player being ejected from the game and possible suspension for the rest of the season.

- b. **Tackling-** Tackling of another player. This includes excessive contact as determined by the game officials. The officials have final authority to determine if contact is incidental or intentional.

Enforcement: 15 yards from the spot of the foul.

The consequences for receiving this penalty could be as severe as a player being ejected from the game and possible suspension for the rest of the season.

- c. **Fighting-** will result in immediate expulsion from the league for the rest of the season. Any other behavior such as cursing, disrespect to game officials, or any action deemed inappropriate by game officials or league officials will not be tolerated. Any of these behaviors can result in the following: ejection from the game, suspension for the rest of the season, and expulsion from all Greenville County Rec leagues indefinitely.

I. Operational Policies for Youth Tackle & Youth Flag Football

Wearing a Cast during Play

A player will be permitted to wear a cast while participating in a practice or league game only under the following circumstances:

1. Player with cast must have a signed physicians note clearing him/her to play tackle or flag football.
2. The cast must be covered with closed-cell, slow recovery foam padding no less than 1/2" thick.
3. The player/coach must present the physicians note to the field supervisor on duty and the head official at player check-in prior to the game. The head official will make the final determination if the player is eligible to play.

Weather Policy and Guidelines

Football is a contact sport that is played outdoors during varying weather conditions. As such, it is essential to ensure players, coaches, and spectators are safe from extreme weather conditions. Games may be played in the rain, heat, and cold.

Weather Cancellations:

- Greenville County Rec will generally make all weather-related cancellations by 4:30 p.m. the day of a game during the week and 8:00 am on Saturdays
- Some cancellations may be made at the field at the discretion of the officials, field supervisors, and Greenville County Rec staff
- Follow Greenville County Rec on Twitter @grecfields to receive alerts about weather and the status of games
- Text "grecfields" to 99000 to receive text alerts about weather and the status of games

Please see below for specific weather policies:

1. **Thunder and Lightning:** Once thunder is heard and/or lightning is seen, the game will immediately be delayed and the field and spectator areas must be immediately cleared. Players, coaches, and spectators must seek shelter or return to their cars. The delay will last 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is seen. Each time there is thunder heard or lightning seen, the 30 minute clock will restart. After the 3rd restart of delay time, the situation will be reevaluated to determine if the games will continue or not.

2. **Heat:** There is the potential that games and practices will be take place on hot days. Greenville County Rec will adhere to the following chart in regards to heat and humidity:

RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)

Temp	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
105°	100	105	113	123	135	149				
104°	98	104	110	120	132	143				
102°-103°	97	101	108	117	125	139				
100°-101°	95	99	105	110	120	132	144			
98°-99°	93	97	101	106	110	125	132			
96°-97°	91	95	98	104	108	120	128			
94°-95°	89	93	95	100	105	111	122	128		
92°-93°	87	90	92	96	100	106	115	122		
90°-91°	85	88	90	92	93	100	106	114	122	130
88°-89°	82	86	87	89	93	95	100	106	115	125
86°-87°	80	84	85	87	90	92	96	100	109	111
84°-85°	78	81	83	85	86	89	91	95	99	105
82°-83°	77	79	80	81	84	86	89	91	95	96
80°-81°	75	77	78	79	81	83	85	86	89	91
78°-79°	72	75	77	78	79	80	81	83	85	86
76°	70	72	75	76	77	77	77	78	79	80

- a. **Red:** No outside activities will be permitted
- b. **Yellow:** No equipment (helmets, pads, etc.) be used during activity.
- c. **Blue:** Equipment to be removed as often as possible (during rest breaks, on sideline, etc.). Careful monitoring of all athletes for signs of heat problems.
- d. **White:** Adequate water supply at all practices and competitions, with breaks every 20 to 30 minutes for rehydration.
- e. **Recommendations during hot weather:**
 - i. Later start time or delay game time.
 - ii. Extra water breaks during the game.
 - iii. Longer breaks between quarters and longer halftime.
 - iv. Players that are at risk for medical related issues due to hot weather are asked not to play.
 - v. Teams need to make sure to have extra water at the field.
 - vi. Team can bring pop up tents to provide shade on sideline.
 - vii. Rescheduling of games if it gets too hot to play or practice

3. **Cold Weather:** There is the potential that games and practices will take place in cold weather. Greenville County Rec’s policy is not to play in temperatures with wind chill below 25 degrees Fahrenheit. A determination will be made based on the Real Feel temperature on the Weather Bug App. Also taken into account will be cold temperatures combined with wet weather, humidity, wind, and other conditions.

a. Recommendations during cold weather:

- i. Mandate that all players wear cold weather gear. Extra layers of clothes, warm gloves, etc. are highly recommended.
- ii. Allow extra time for players to go to their cars to warm up.
- iii. Keep games moving to limit the exposure to the cold to 80 minutes or less.
- iv. Players that are at risk for medical related issues due to the cold weather are asked not to play.

II. RULES OF CONDUCT

Field supervisors, game officials, security, or other staff that work for Greenville County Rec will make reports to the Greenville County Rec Athletic Staff on any of the infractions listed below by anyone in attendance at a Greenville County Rec event. This includes players, parents, spectators, and coaches:

Infraction	Penalty
Ejection from Game	Minimum of 1 game suspension
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	10 day suspension
Profanity	10 day suspension
Threatening an Official	Season suspension
Hitting an Official	Indefinite suspension (no less than 1 year)
Drinking/ Public Intoxication	Season suspension
Fighting (on or off the field)	Season suspension (minimum)
Second Offense	Season suspension
Playing an Ineligible Player	Loss of game or games in which player participated. Possible action against the coach, team and association.

- A. The Greenville County Rec Athletic Department, after review of reports, will carry out the above penalties and suspensions.
- B. The Athletic Department may present situations to the YSAC for further review.
- C. Associations may request an appeal of Greenville County Rec’s decision by the YSAC. During the appeal process, Greenville County Rec’s initial decision will remain in place.
- D. In the event a team fails to respect the official’s authority or decisions, officials have been instructed to call a forfeit in favor of the opposing team after one (1) warning has been given.
- E. If an official ejects a coach or spectator from a game, that person will be escorted to the parking lot and must leave the park immediately. If the person refuses to leave park, the game will be forfeited.
- F. Any player, coach, or person associated with a team who is caught and proven guilty of cheating or misrepresenting any record will be suspended indefinitely.
- G. **Coaches Code of Conduct:** Being on the front lines working with our youth, we hold the conduct of our coaches to the highest level at **all times**. These expectations are clearly outlined in the Coaches of Conduct.
 1. The Coaches Code Conduct is expected to be upheld at practices, pregame/during games/post games, and anytime while serving as a coach.
 2. Greenville County Rec supports the youth association in the implementation of the Coaches Code of Conduct within their association.

3. **Consequences:** These consequences will be determined by the youth association and/or Greenville County Rec on a case by case basis:
 - a. Verbal warning issued by an Official, youth association or Greenville County Rec.
 - b. Immediate ejection from the game, practice, or youth sport event.
 - c. Suspension as stated in the Youth Football Operations Manual or determined by the association and Greenville County Rec.
 - d. Permanent suspension from all Greenville County Rec Facilities.

H. Player, Parent, and Spectator Code of Conduct: The Parent and Player Code of Conduct is expected to be upheld to the highest levels at **all times**.

4. The Player and Player code is expected to be upheld at practices, pregame/during games/post games, and anytime while at a youth football event.
5. Parents and guardians are responsible of the behavior of those spectators that attend practices, games, and football functions with them
6. Greenville County Rec supports the youth association in the implementation of the Parent and Player Code of Conduct within their association and those spectators who attended as part of their association.
7. **Consequences:** These consequences will be determined by the youth association and/or Greenville County Rec on a case by case basis:
 - a. Verbal warning issued by an Official, youth association or Greenville County Rec.
 - b. Immediate ejection from the game, practice, or youth sport event.
 - c. Suspension as stated in the Youth Football Operations Manual or determined by the association and Greenville County Rec.
 - d. Permanent suspension from all Greenville County Rec Facilities.

III. PROTEST PROCEDURES

- A. Protests are to be submitted when there is an actual game where a potential infraction is involved.
- B. A legal protest shall be one which involves a violation of playing rules or the use of an ineligible player. (Note: Any team leaving the field of play with any time left in regulation or overtime waives their right to file a protest.)
- C. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
- D. The protest must be in writing and submitted to the Greenville County Rec Athletic Department in person. (**No faxed or e-mailed protests will be accepted.**)
- E. A \$100.00 protest fee, made out to Greenville County Rec, from the Association to which the team filing the protest belongs, must accompany the written protest.
- F. Greenville County Rec will rule on all protests. If Greenville County Rec feels that the protest needs to be brought before the YSAC, they will do so.
- G. If the protest is ruled valid, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is ruled invalid, the fee will not be returned.
- H. When a protest is filed, both coaches and the game officials will be interviewed.
- I. Decisions on protests are final. Decisions may be appealed through the process outlined in the YSAC portion of the Football Operations Manual found on page 3.
- J. The penalties in protests found valid can range from verbal warnings, losing a game, losing all games, to ejection from the league.
- K. The following is the protest submission schedule.
 1. Games played on Monday - The coach will have until 4:30pm on the following Wednesday to file a protest.
 2. Games played on Tuesday - The coach will have until 4:30pm on the following Thursday to file a protest.

3. Games played on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday - The coach will have until 4:30pm on the following Monday to file a protest.
4. Protests on playoffs or tie-break games must be submitted by 10:00am the morning after the game played.

IV. Reporting Procedures of Potential Infractions

- A. Greenville County Rec strives to run a fair and safe youth football league for the youth associations in the Greenville County Rec Youth Football Program. If you suspect that an infraction is being committed within the Greenville County Rec youth football league, please take following steps:
1. Ensure that the infraction is factual and there is strong evidence that an infraction is taking place.
 2. Compile as much information as possible. Please include full details.
 3. Submit the information via email to rdixon@greenvillecounty.org or drop it off at the Greenville County Rec administrative offices at 4806 Old Spartanburg Rd Taylors, SC 29687.
 4. The infraction will be reviewed by the Greenville County Rec Athletic Department. It will be reviewed with fairness and objectivity. If an infraction is found, the Athletic Department will follow the Rules of Conduct procedures (page 21). If needed, the infraction may be brought to the YSAC for further review.
 5. Please note that the privacy of minors and adults is taken very seriously. It is important that all sensitive information regarding minors and adults in the Greenville County Rec league be kept safe and not distributed or publicized in any way.

League Administrator

Rich Dixon, Athletics Manager

Office: 864-467-3460 Email: rdixon@greenvillecounty.org

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