

**Visalia Youth Football  
By-laws —2007**

**Article I —Name and Objective**

1. This organization shall be known as Visalia Youth Tackle Football, referred to as VYTF.
2. The general objectives of VYTF, is to practice the ideas of sportsmanship, self-discipline, physical fitness, and familiarize our youth with the fundamentals of football.

**Article II— Geographic Boundaries**

1. Players and Cheerleaders will participate within the boundaries designated by VYTF Board. The participants must play for the team, which corresponds, with the YVF boundaries in which, they live.
2. Anyone going to a private school must play for the VYTF boundaries in which they live.
3. All players who are cut from a team may go from their VYTF boundaries to a team in the same division in VYTF which does not have a full roster. It shall be the player's option to play for that same team for the duration of his eligibility in that division. Head Coach must sign a waiver or contract of player being cut.
4. Boundary hardship decisions shall be brought to the Board and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
5. Players can be waived from one team to another by mutual consent of both coaches involved. If mutual consent is not reached, then players shall be assigned to teams consistent with the addresses of the players and boundary limits of the teams.
6. A VYTF committee, consisting of Board members, will verify each player's contract to ensure geographic and divisional placement of participants.
7. Contracts –All verifications will be completed and contract signed off by the President, or in his absence, Vice-president and/or Commissioner.
8. Verification should consist of the following current documentation and not limited to phone bill, gas bill, utilities, etc., or any other method of documentation upon approval of President, or in his absence, Vice-president and/or Commissioner.
9. Furthermore, a map showing location of residence from the MapQuest Internet service shall be provided by coaches for each player.

**Article III— Membership**

1. VYTF is a member of the All Valley Football League (AVFL) larger school division, VYTF operates under the by-laws of AVFL
2. VYTF League consists of Bantam and Pee Wee football teams and cheer squads, Junior football teams and cheer squads, and Senior football teams and cheer squads.

#### **Article IV -Meetings**

1. All monthly meetings are mandatory, additional meetings may be called as needed.
2. President shall set date, time and place.
3. A quorum shall consist of a majority of active board members present.
4. Order of Business
  - a. Call meeting to order
  - b. Roll call
  - c. Approval of minutes/agenda
  - d. Treasurer's Report
  - e. Old Business
  - f. New Business
  - g. Adjournment
5. A simple majority vote of the quorum is required for the adoption of any motion or resolution.
6. A parent or guardian whose conduct and/or actions are found to be detrimental to the activities of VYTF may be requested to leave the premises.
7. Any interpretation of the by-laws shall be decided by voting board members.
8. Closed sessions may be conducted at the request of any board member.

#### **Article V-Election of Board Members**

1. All board positions will be voted on by board members in a closed session.
2. A simple majority of the quorum present is required to elect a board candidate.
3. All open board positions will be announced in the local newspaper.
4. All qualified applicants will be notified by mail or phone.
5. If possible, it is recommended that candidates for President, Vice-president and Treasurer of VYTF should have a minimum of 2 consecutive years experience on the VYTF board in order to be elected.
6. All newly elected board members will serve a probationary period of one year.
7. All newly elected board members will not have voting rights during their probationary period.

#### **Article VI- Board Members**

1. Executive Board Members shall serve for 3 years and shall consist of the following positions:
  - a. President (non-voting except for tie)
  - b. Vice president
  - c. Past President
  - d. Secretary
  - e. Treasurer
  - f. Commissioner/Game Administrator

## **Article VI— Board Members (cont.)**

2. Members at large shall consist of the following positions and serve unlimited terms:
  - a. Head Coaches –(6)
  - b. Cheerleading Coordinator –(1)
  - c. Pee Wee Representative (1)
3. All Board Members will meet the following qualifications:
  - a. Must be at least 25 years of age.
  - b. Reside within the VYTF League Boundaries (coaches may be exempt from this qualification.
  - c. No criminal record
  - d. Valid California Drivers License

## **Article VII— Concession Stand**

1. Lead worker/volunteers must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Workers/volunteers must be at least 14 years of age.
3. Each team and cheer squad will be responsible for providing volunteers to work concession stand at assigned games.

## **Article VIII— Coaches/Advisors**

1. Head Coaches and Advisors must be at least 25 years of age and assistant coaches at least 18 years of age. All coaches and supportive staff shall be of good moral character.
2. All coaches, advisors, and assistants may be required to submit to a personal record check by local police. Any individual found to have been convicted of morals charge shall be ineligible to serve in any capacity.
3. All coaches, advisors, and assistants shall not drink alcoholic beverage or use profanity while with the players in conjunction with a practice session or a game. No tobacco or alcoholic beverages of any type are allowed at any league meeting, games or practice field.
4. Coaches shall reserve criticism for private moments with the players or in the presence of the team if the balance of the team might benefit from constructive criticism.
5. Coaches must refrain from Lop-sided scores and/or intentionally running up scores.
6. Coaches must strive to have all players on their team participate in all games.
7. Assistant coaches must be introduced to the Board.
8. When a coaching position becomes available, other Head Coaches within the VYTF will receive first consideration. If an existing Coach fails to receive a 2/3 majority vote by the Board, a second vote will be taken. The coach/candidate's name will be placed with those also seeking that position. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected.

### **Article VIII - Coaches/Advisors (cont.)**

9. All Head Coach Candidates are subject to interview by President-appointed committee.
10. All first year Head Coaches and Advisors are on a one-year probation period.

### **Article IX -Disciplinary Action**

1. Anyone associated with VYTF may be removed from his/her position within VYTF if the Board determines that:
  - a. Said person is unwilling or incapable of properly instructing or directing participants or activities related to VYTF.
  - b. Said person is unwilling or incapable of properly discharging the duties and the responsibilities associated with the VYTF.
  - c. Any other conduct determined by the Board to be detrimental to VYTF or its participants.
2. Person subject to disciplinary action shall be notified in writing by Board President, or other assigned Executive Board Member.

### **Article X - Appeals or Investigation**

1. Charges shall be in written form to VYTF Board.
2. All parties of hearing have the right to present witnesses and testimony in their behalf.
3. All parties must be notified of hearing as to place and time.
4. The VYTF Board must issue a written report within one week of the conclusion of the applicable authority, and penalty imposed.

### **Article XI— Player/Cheerleader Eligibility**

1. In order to be certified to a team roster, a player must be eligible under the following requirements:
  - a. A player/cheerleader must furnish the coach with written consent to play football or cheer from his/her parents or legal guardian. He/she must also present a Birth Certificate or proof of age. (Baptismal Record, School Record, etc. –If other than Birth Certificate, 2 proofs are required.)
  - b. A player must furnish the coach with a written statement from an examining physician as to his/her physical fitness to play tackle football or cheer. If a physical subsequently determines that the player/cheerleader is no longer physically fit, said player/cheerleader is immediately ineligible. In order to

resume position on the team, a player/cheerleader must have a non-conditional release from their physician.

- c. If a participant's parent and/or school should determine that the participant's continued participation in VYTF is adversely affecting their schooling and so advises the team's coaches, said child is immediately ineligible.
  - d. A player must weigh in at or below the maximum weight allowed for his/her division at all games or carnivals. A player shall be ineligible if it is found that devices, methods, or medicines were employed in order to temporarily attain required weight. Prescriptions by a physician will be accepted.
2. A Head Coach/Advisor may request a parent/guardian to remove his child from the team. This action is to be taken only when such disciplinary action is absolutely essential to the welfare of the team and in a discreet manner which will not embarrass the child or parent/guardian.
  3. The VYTF must declare a game forfeit by any team, in which said team weighed in, suited and/or played an ineligible player under this article.

#### **Article XII - Registration Fees**

1. Fee to be set by the Board at the beginning of the calendar year.
  - a. Should it be determined that prospective participant is financially unable to meet the registration fee requirements, the Board shall assist participant appropriately. The Board will make appropriate decisions on a case-by-case basis.
  - b. All registration fees must be paid by the first League Game or the player will found ineligible until fees due are paid. The Board will make appropriate decisions on a case-by-case basis. AU past due fees must be paid for the player to become eligible.
  - c. Refund policy -Fees with the exception of \$25.00 will be refunded only if a player is cut by the Head Coach.
  - d. Football and Cheerleading funds will be maintained in the VYTF Checking Account. VYTF Treasurer will collect and distribute all funds in connection with cheerleading with Board Approval. All checks and money orders need to be made payable to VYTF.

#### **Article XIII - Schedules, Practices and Games**

1. Schedules, practices and games will be controlled by AVFL.
2. Practice sessions:
  - a. At the direction of AVFL.
3. Games post-season, bowl games must have AVFL and VYTF Board approval.
4. No player shall have physical contact without a minimum of 10 hours of conditioning.

#### **Article XIV - Insurance**

1. Insurance is in accordance with AVFL and VYTF Board approval.

2. Coverage shall include all candidate players, (otherwise known as tryouts) and cheerleaders, coaches, and duly authorized volunteer workers officially connected with this insured team.

**Article XV - Cheerleading**

1. Cheerleading funds will be maintained in the VYTF Checking Account. VYTF Treasurer will collect and distribute all funds in connection with cheerleading with Board Approval. All checks and money orders need to be made payable to VYTF.
2. All contracts will be verified by VYTF Board to ensure proper geographic and divisional placement.
3. Advisors must participate in all VYTF Fundraisers.
4. Advisors must keep an accurate set of books for their squad. VYTF Board has the authority to inspect books at any time.
5. Advisors are responsible for cleaning up the cheer area and removing all signs and tape from fences after games.
6. If an extended half-time is required, Advisor must first get approval from Head Coach.

**Article XVI— Fundraising**

1. . All Board members, Coaches and Advisors (Bantam, Pee Wee, Jr. & Sr.) must participate in all VYTF fundraising activities.
2. All fundraising revenues shall be submitted to the VYTF Treasurer.
3. All purchases must be approved by the Board Members of the VYTF Board.
4. All fundraising activities must be voted on and approved by VYTF Board.
5. ~~All Head coaches (Bantam, Pee Wee, Jr. & Sr.) and all Cheer Advisors (Bantam, Pee Wee, Jr. & Sr.) will sell a minimum of 3 advertising signs.~~

Date By-laws Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_