

BY-LAWS OF

GOLDEN EMPIRE YOUTH FOOTBALL

Section 1

Purpose - Mission Statement

1.1 The purpose of this nonprofit organization is to provide a competitive youth tackle football program as well as a Sideline youth cheer program for elementary and junior high school students. The primary goal of this league is to provide a safe and educational training ground for the fundamentals of youth football and cheer, to develop sound mind, body and character while promoting an atmosphere of fun.

Section 2

Game Rules

- 2.1** The National Federation of State High School Association (hereinafter referred to as “NFSHA”) rulebook as well as modified internal game modifications will be used for the actual playing rules for Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football (hereinafter referred to as “GEYTF”) games. Copies of this book may be obtained by writing to NFSHSA, 11724 Plaza Circle P.O Box 2026, Kansas City, Missouri 64195-0626.
- 2.2** These By-Laws are meant to be a supplement to the NFSHA rules and internal modifications.
- 2.3** These By-Laws are also to be used in conjunction with all GEYTF “Core Values” as well as all approved policies, procedures, and protocols including the GEYF’ “Zero Tolerance Policy”. Golden Empire Reserves the right to amend the 2024 Bylaws at any time as needed and at the sole discretion of the organization.
- 2.4** Plan of action for the 2024 season prepared by the 2024 Executive Board. Plan of action for the 2019 season must be approved by two-thirds majority of quorum of its Executive Board to become effective immediately for the 2024 season. Unplanned events during the season must be presented to the Executive Board in writing, and then approved by two-thirds of the quorum of the Executive Board unless otherwise stated by the organization.

Section 3

Organization & Authority

3.0 The Executive Board is comprised of the League Commissioner, Area Representative Supervisors, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each member of the Executive Board will have a vote pertaining to GEYTF daily business. All GEYTF Board members in good standing will have full voting privileges with respect to all GEYTF daily business as well as all general and special board elections.

- 3.0a** The GEYTF **League Commissioner** shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing during the month of December. The League Commissioner shall preside over all board meetings, shall act as the Executive Officer of GEYTF, appoint Board Members and or staff to handle other duties, ancillary activities, and responsibilities, and act as a de facto member of all committees. The League Commissioner shall arbitrate all disputes within GEYTF, issuing expedient decisions that will be binding until the GEYTF Board can resolve the matter. The league commissioner shall enforce all GEYTF By- Laws, rules, policies, procedures, and directives from the Board, and promote the public image of GEYTF as a spokesperson for GEYTF.
- 3.0b** The **Treasurer** of GEYTF shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing during the month of December. The Treasurer will administrate all financial activity of GEYTF with Board approval. As an agenda item at all scheduled regular monthly meetings, the Treasurer shall prepare and submit for approval reports of GEYTF financial activities for the preceding month; the report to include, but not necessarily limited to, monthly expenditures, outstanding bills and status of the league's account balance. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit an annual budget for approval by the GEYTF Board.
- 3.0c** The **Secretary** of GEYTF shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing during the month of December. The Secretary will record and prepare all minutes of regularly scheduled meetings for presentation to the Board for approval and will maintain current copies of the League's Articles of Incorporation, By- Laws, rules, policies, procedures, and Board Membership directory. The Secretary is also charged with reserving monthly and special meeting locations. The Secretary shall establish and maintain the GEYTF official files at the GEYTF league office and have them ready for inspection per reserved request. The Secretary shall enforce all GEYTF By-Laws, rules, policies, and procedures.
- 3.0d** The GEYTF **Area Representative Supervisors** shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board members in good standing during the month of December. The Area Representative Supervisors shall perform all duties assigned by the League Commissioner. The Area Representative Supervisors shall be the direct link of communication to the Area Representatives and will assist each of his or her prospective conference Area Representatives with matters as needed. The Area Representative Supervisors will be responsible for the flow of information regarding all GEYTF activities and or announcements. The Area Representative Supervisors shall enforce all GEYTF By-Laws, rules, policies, and procedures.
- 3.0e** The GEYTF **Player Safety Director** shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing during the month of December. The Player Safety Director shall perform all duties assigned by the League Commissioner as well as duties listed below:
- Serve as the official league Liaison while assisting the League Director, Coaches At Large, and Area Reps with this process.
 - Assist with hosting and provide scheduling for the annual Football Clinics.
 - Assist with the coordination and preparation of annual instructional football camp.
 - Assist with the coordination and hosting of annual league coach's clinic.

- Assist with league registration when needed.
- Assist the League Director with the collection and processing of participant injury reports and enforcement of return to play protocol.
- Assist with and help coordinate annual equipment cleaning and fittings when applicable.
- Overall and continuous review, evaluation, and applicable implementation of league safety procedures as well as enforcement of established safety protocols.

3.0f GEYTF Area Representatives shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing during the month of December. GEYTF Area Representatives shall perform all duties assigned by the League Commissioner. GEYTF Area Representatives shall be responsible for the recruitment, selection, and nomination of all divisional coaches within his or her board approved geographical area. GEYTF Area Representatives shall be responsible for the overall supervision of his or her area up to and including the conduct of coaches, parents, players, and spectators. GEYTF Area Representatives shall be responsible for the management of all funds collected and or generated via fundraising efforts or any other financial endeavor within his or her prospective area. Working in conjunction with the League's Executive Director GEYTF, Area Representatives shall be responsible for the maintenance, distribution, and collection of all GEYTF equipment allocated to his or her area. GEYTF Area Representatives shall enforce all GEYTF By-Laws, rules, policies, and procedures.

3.0g GEYTF Coaches At Large (minimum of 2 Coaches per conference) shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing during the month of December. GEYTF Coaches shall perform all duties assigned by the League Commissioner. The GEYTF Coaches At Large shall serve as a league liaison to all divisional coaches in good standing within Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football. The GEYTF Coaches At Large will assist with the flow of information from the Board to coaches regarding the implementation of or change to existing GEYTF policies and/or procedures.

The GEYTF **Coaches At Large** shall be responsible for the on-going training of all GEYTF divisional coaches within his or her prospective conference. The GEYTF Coaches At Large will work in conjunction with the Executive Board to coordinate and oversee the GEYTF annual mandatory coach's clinic. During each season, it will be the responsibility of the GEYTF Coaches At Large to both track and report all scores and standings from each of his or her prospective conference. Scores and standings will be reported to the GEYTF Webmaster and local media after each day's games. The GEYTF Coaches At Large will work directly with the League's Executive Director in preparing post season team seeding. The GEYTF Coaches At Large shall enforce all GEYTF By-Laws, rules, policies, and procedures.

3.0i The GEYTF Cheer Coaches at Large (2 per conference) shall be nominated in the month of November and elected by GEYTF voting Board Members in good standing in the month of December. The GEYTF Cheer Coaches at Large shall perform all duties assigned by the League Commissioner. The GEYTF Cheer Coaches at Large will assist GEYTF Area Representatives in the recruitment, selection, and training of Area Cheer Coordinators and cheer coaches for his or her prospective conference. The Cheer Coaches at Large will be the direct link to the Board on all cheer related matters and will assist with the flow of information from the Board to all cheer coordinators and cheer coaches regarding the implementation of or change to existing GEYTF Policies and or procedures. The GEYTF Cheer Coaches at Large shall enforce all GEYTF By-Laws, rules, policies, and procedures.

- 3.1 Executive authority empowers the League Commissioner to take whatever action deemed necessary to preserve good order and proper government for the protection of the league, divisions, areas, and participants.
- 3.2 All Executive Board Members are empowered to attend any related program, practice, scrimmage, or game and will report to the Board any non – compliance of GEYTF rules.
- 3.3 The League Commissioner may appoint staff or Board Members to handle other duties and responsibilities of the league. These other members represent the League Commissioner in these fields as stated.
- 3.4 Monthly Board Meetings are for all Board Members to attend for developing policies, procedures, and rules for the benefit of GEYTF, to share problems and successes for the betterment of the league, its purpose and mission.
- 3.5 Board Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each calendar month at 6:00pm at a location pre-determined by the GEYTF Board of Directors.
- 3.6 GEYTF will bank at Mission Bank located at 1330 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA.
- 3.7 **Quorum:** Fifty-One (51) percent of the voting power shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.
- 3.8 **Attendance at regularly scheduled meetings is mandatory for all GEYTF Board Members. Any board Member who misses three (3) or more meetings in a calendar year, excused or unexcused, will automatically lose his or her voting privileges for the remainder of that year and that Board Member will be under review by the Executive Board as to determine his or her fitness to remain a member of the GEYTF Board of Directors. Unexcused attendance will be any meeting in which a GEYTF Board Member does not notify the League Secretary of intent to not be present. No proxy votes or fill-in voice from area accepted at GEYTF Board Meetings.**
- 3.9 Executive Board members may not head coach any team, unless granted a waiver by two- third (2/3) majority of a quorum of Board Members present at a GEYTF Board Meeting.
- 3.10 Board Members wishing to propose new rules or rule changes, additions, or amendments for GEYTF By-Laws shall submit their proposals to the GEYTF Board in writing by May 1st of the current year. All rules passed during the current season will not go into effect until the following year, unless the proposed rule or rules are approved by two-third (2/3) majority of a quorum of Board Members, to become effective immediately. The Executive Board may exceed the May 1st. proposal deadline if it is deemed to be in the immediate best interest of the league.
- 3.11 It is the intent of GEYTF to be inclusive, and new areas that will be equipped by GEYTF will receive consideration for incorporation with GEYTF under the following requirements:
1. Each dependent team within the area will be responsible for attaining a \$ 400.00 sponsorship per football team and each dependent program will be responsible for a \$ 500 cheer sponsorship per program. Sponsorship must be retained, and funds received by the GEYF Board of Directors by July 7th of current year and applied as team/program dues,

2. Coaching staff presented to GEYTF Board with applications in full of board and background approval pending.
3. There must be a minimum of four teams (unless approved by the Executive Board) participating from any proposed area to avoid league scheduling conflicts: (Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity) divisions. GEYTF Programs who fall short of the (4) four team requirements will be considered under review of the Executive Board.
- 3.12 League membership with GEYTF is voluntary and new areas shall be subject to one (1) year probation. After one year of probation, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a quorum of the Board will admit the area to full membership. The area on probation will have no voting rights. After one (1) year of probation and the area is approved by two-third (2/3) vote, the area will have one league Area Representative with voting rights.
- 3.13 The new area and its teams shall adhere to the league's By-Laws, policies, procedures, registration process, area boundaries, and playing rules as approved by the GEYTF Board of Directors.
- 3.14 **Termination of membership in the league by an area may be affected by:**
 - A. Voluntary withdrawal or resignation; all payments to GEYTF will be forfeited.
 - B. Failure to pay team participation registration payment on or before due date.
 - C. Unless immediate action is necessary by the Executive Board.
- 3.15 The local management and organization of an area is the prerogative of that area and not subject to the league's sanctions if said area is acting within league policy and except in situations where appropriate authority presents rules to the board. At such time, it will be the decision of the GEYTF Executive Board as to resolution.
- 3.16 Any area not abiding by GEYTF league By-Laws and regulations may be placed on probation and shall remain so for a period of not less than (1) one year. At the designated December Board Meeting the GEYTF Executive Board shall vote whether to reinstate that area in good standing and removed from probation. If the GEYTF Executive Board does not reinstate that area they shall lose all voting privileges for the upcoming year. If after the second year of probation this area still fails to be reinstated their membership will be terminated.

Section 4

Indemnification

- 4.1 For purpose of this Section, agent means any person who is or was a Director, officer, employee or other agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a Director, officer, employee or agent of a foreign or domestic corporation that was a predecessor corporation of the corporation or of another enterprise at the request of such predecessor corporation; proceeding means any threatened, pending or completed action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative; and expenses include without limitation attorney's fees, and any expenses of establishing a right to indemnification under Subsection 4.4 or 4.5(c) of this Section.

- 4.2 Indemnification in Actions by Third Parties.** The corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor, an action brought under Section 5233 of the California Corporations Code, or any action brought by the Attorney General for any breach of duty relating to assets held in charitable trust) by reason of the fact that such person is or was an agent of the corporation, against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements, and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the corporation, and in the case of a criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct of such person was unlawful. The termination of any proceeding by judgment, order, settlement or conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the corporation or that the person had reasonable cause to believe that the person's conduct was unlawful.
- 4.3 Indemnification in Actions by or in the Right of the Corporation.** The corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action by or in the right of the corporation or procure a judgment in its favor, or brought under Section 5233, or brought by the Attorney General for breach of duty relating to assets held in charitable trust, by reason of the fact that such person is or was an agent of the corporation, against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action if such person acted in good faith, in a manner such person believed to be in the best interest of the corporation, and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. No indemnification shall be made under section 4.3.
- (a) In respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation in the performance of such person's duty to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which such proceeding is or was pending shall determine upon application that, in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for the expenses which such court shall determine.
- (b) Of amounts paid in settling or otherwise disposing of a threatened or pending action, with or without court approval.
- (c) Of expenses incurred in defending a threatened or pending action that is settled or otherwise disposed of without court approval unless it is settled with the approval of the Attorney General.
- 4.4 Indemnification Against Expenses.** To the extent that an agent of the corporation has been successful on the merits in defense of any proceeding referred to in Subsection 4.2 or 4.3 of this Section or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in the proceeding, the agent shall be indemnified against expenses and reasonably incurred by the agent about the proceeding.
- 4.5 Required Indemnification.** Except as provided in Subsection 4.4 of this Section, any indemnification under this Section shall be made by the corporation only if authorized in the specific case, upon a determination that indemnification of the agent is proper in the circumstances because the agent has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 4.2 or 4.3 by:

- (a) A majority vote of a quorum consisting of Directors who are not parties to such proceeding; or
- (b) Approval of the members (Corporations Code section 5034), with the persons to be indemnified not being entitled to vote thereon; or
- (c) The court in which such proceeding is or was pending upon application made by the corporation, the agent, or the attorney or other person rendering services about the defense, whether such application by the agent, attorney or other person rendering services about the defense, whether such application by the agent, attorney or other person is opposed by the corporation.

4.6 Advance of Expenses. Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be advanced by the corporation prior to the final disposition of such proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the agent to repay such amount unless it shall be determined ultimately that the agent is entitled to be indemnified as authorized in this Section.

4.7 Other Indemnification. No provision made by the corporation to indemnify its or its subsidiary's directors or officers for the defense of any proceeding, whether contained in the Articles, Bylaws, a resolution of members or Directors, an agreement or otherwise, shall be valid unless consistent with this Section. Nothing contained in this Section shall affect any right of indemnification to which persons other than Directors and officers of the corporation or any subsidiary of this corporation may be entitled by contract or otherwise.

4.8 Forms of Indemnification Not Permitted. No indemnification or advance shall be made under this Section, except as provided in Section 4.4 or 4.5(c) in any circumstance where it appears:

- (a) That it would be inconsistent with any condition expressly imposed by a court in approving a settlement.

4.9 Insurance. The corporation shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any agent of the corporation against any liability asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of this subsection; provided, however, that the corporation shall have no power to purchase and maintain such insurance to indemnify any agent of the corporation for a violation of Corporations Code section 5233.

SECTION (5)

RECEIPT, INVESTMENT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

5.1 The Corporation shall receive all monies, other properties, or both monies and properties, transferred to it for the purposes for which the corporation was formed (as shown by the Articles of Incorporation). However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of the money or property of any kind is contrary to the express purposes of the Corporation as shown by the Articles.

- 5.2 The Corporation shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Corporation.
- 5.3 No disbursement of Corporation money or property shall be made until it is first approved by the Executive Officers of GEYTF or the Board. However, the Board shall have the authority to appropriate specific sums to fulfill the objects and purposes for which the Corporation was formed and to direct the officers of the Corporation from time to time to make disbursements to implement the appropriations.
- 5.4 All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Corporation, and all written contracts of the corporation shall be signed by the officer(s) or agent(s), as the Board may from time to time by resolution designate.

Section 6

Coaches

- 6.1 It is the intent of the GEYTF Board of Directors, to create parity, fairness, and strong programs in area and division to approve the best possible selection of head coaches and assistants. GEYTF Board Members and or staff are encouraged to volunteer as youth football and cheer coaches within the league.
- Procedures have been established to critique the coach's overall league performance of past season, and to interview all coaches before final selection. There will be one (1) head coach per team who is to be assisted by no less than three (3) assistants (unless granted by the Executive Board) and no more than six (6) coaches. (7th coach must be in the press box or free of sidelines during games.)
- 6.2 Head coaches must be a minimum of twenty-one (21) years old and assistant coaches must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years old. All practices and games will always be supervised by a coach of twenty-one (21) years of age. All coaches will apply and be subjected to a background check before being interviewed and approval submitted by the Board to coach. **Coaches must not have been convicted of any crime, which causes them to register under Section 290 of the California Penal Code.** Coaches, Board Members, and or league employees are all subject to a background check. Criminal convictions and or arrests may disqualify an applicant.
- 6.3 All coaches will keep their First Aid and CPR cards current every year. First aid and CPR certification must be submitted during the application process. This process must be completed before the coach will be allowed to participate with the team. It is the responsibility of coaches to schedule and receive these courses of their own accord. Copies of certification by private or other public courses are acceptable but is the responsibility of the coach to produce this certification.
- 6.4 All head GEYF/GEYC coaches and assistants will be expected to attend the scheduled football clinics required by GEYTF.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of all the head coaches and all assistant coaches are required to know all Federation High School rules and GEYTF modifications. The head coach is responsible for seeing that

all rules and regulations are adhered to and that all team players and personnel are knowledgeable and in compliance with the same.

- 6.6a One (1) coaches from each team may be in the press box or home grandstands for two-way communications with the coaching staff on the field. Each team may provide their- own radios for two-way communication.
- 6.6b Only EMT, League Officials, Ball Person, Water Person, and Play Monitor will be in the team box during a game.
- 6.7 **Coaches code of conduct:** See Coaches Code of Conduct.

SECTION (7)

RECRUITMENT, TRY-OUTS, AND REGISTRATION

- 7.1 See **GEYTF Participant Try Out Policy**.
- 7.2 Recruitment of participants within an area is the sole responsibility of the Area Representative and head coach of each division. Participant must reside (the place where the participant sleeps, eats, bathes, studies, and interacts with his siblings and/or parent(s), guardians, or foster parents) within an area's boundaries, and must provide proof of residency in that area. Upon proper verification, participants involved in a dual family/residence scenario have the option to play in either respective area upon providing appropriate proof of residency at time of registration. Participants attending parochial schools must provide appropriate enrollment documentation and all requested league residential verification documentation to establish program eligibility.
- 7.3 All GEYTF prospective parent/participants must pay the current league registration fee and complete a registration/contract form and **Parental Rule Agreement** provided by GEYTF. Prospective parents/participants must provide an original birth certificate for league inspection along with two copies to keep on file. Prospective parent/participants must provide proof of residence via a current utility statement, rental agreement, mortgage statement, and league approved school documents as well as all other league requested verification documentation as stipulated by the organization. To ensure proper participant placement, GEYF reserves the right to require parent/participants to provide additional residence, age verification, and in some cases school current enrollment documentation. Any prospective parent/participant who fails to provide league deemed sufficient residence, school enrollment, and age verification can and will be excluded from league participation. In addition, any prospective parent/participant who willfully attempts to circumvent these bylaws and/or organizational policies will be excluded from league participation.
- 7.4 Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football will utilize an Age bracket system to determine placement of participant in division: **(See posted annual bracket Table)**
- 7.5 All participants will be notified of league division placement by the GEYTF Executive Board of Directors.

Once the head coach has selected a participant and received copy of participant's registration forms and payment has been made, he/she is an official member of one of the division teams in his/her area or

program. Once a participant has been registered, the said participant will not be allowed to change the GEYTF division, team, and or area without prior permission from the GEYTF Executive Board.

7.6 The Executive Board of GEYTF shall administer all divisions and areas.

7.7 Areas will participate in the GEYTF organization with freshmen, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity team. Each team will consist of thirty-five (35) players unless approved for a higher max by the Executive Board decree with no less than sixteen players (16) players under the direction and control of a head coach and a maximum of six (6) assistant coaches. Any GEYTF team whose roster falls below (16) players, must notify the league office immediately. GEYTF Executive Board will determine whether a team with a roster consisting of less than (16) players will be able to continue with league play. See minimum Roster Policy.

7.7a The Executive Board of Directors will make final determination of areas for assigning players to teams. In the event of any team losing a player through injury or other good reason, the Executive Board may, provided all regular eligibility requirements are met, fill the vacancy by selecting a replacement from the area waiting list. Placement of players on a team is subject to Executive Board approval.

7.7b GEYTF participants will adhere to pre - specified GEYTF Area Boundaries in accordance with the current High School Geographical Boundaries as well as pre-determined GEYTF approved boundaries. GEYTF participants attending parochial schools must adhere to GEYTF participant area placement requirements.

7.7 Participant Release: Participants who fail to make a GEYTF Roster via the GEYTF annual try – out process or are unable to be added to a GEYTF Roster because said participant’s team within his or her required GEYTF Boundary or program is full, may for a period of one season play out of area. After completion of said season, each participant must return to his or her original area or program for future consideration. Participants who can play out of area will be issued a written release from the GEYTF Area or program he or she is being released from. Participants must present said release to any GEYTF program he or she is attempting to participate in.

7.8 Participants may be released to play out of area by his or her prospective GEYTF Area Representative. GEYTF Area Representatives are neither obligated nor required to release any prospective participant but may do so on a case-by-case basis.

7.9 Participants may be released to play out of area if parent or guardian meets specific High School District employment criteria. (See GEYF out of area HSD employee policy)

7.10 Area & Division Recruiting

7.10a If any coach in any division attempts to recruit a player from another area he or she will face disciplinary action, and that action will be determined by the Executive Board up to and including suspension and possible permanent removal from the league.

7.10b Any head coach who knowingly has had an ineligible player participate in any practice, scrimmage or game will be subjected to disciplinary action as determined by the Executive Board.

- 7.10c** Once school has let out for the summer, all teams can practice a maximum of 5 (2) hours of practices in a (7) seven-day period. (non - Acclimation Period)
- 7.10d** Football equipment will be issued in early to mid-July of each season and upon issuance of equipment, the following equipment guidelines must be met.
- 7.11** The first 10-day period of preseason is devoted to equipment acclimation for all players. See League “Acclimation Policy” for regulated time periods, contact, and equipment worn.
- 7.12** See League “Acclimation Policy”.
- 7.13** Second, third and fourth weeks of practice is a maximum of (4) – (2) hour practices in a seven (7) day period. The seven-day period is Sunday to Sunday.
- 7.14** After school starts and during the regular/post season, practice for all divisions will be limited to three (3) two - hour practices in a seven (7) day period.
- 7.15** As of March 1st of each season all teams in each division may initiate get-togethers for try- outs, recruiting, and readying their teams for the upcoming season.
- 7.16** Get-togethers will not be mandatory for area-participants and may only be two (2) hours in length, no more than (3) three times in a (7) seven-day period. Area coaches must be in attendance, and no one athlete may participate in get-togethers until a waiver, release agreement and authorization has been signed by parent/guardian of participant. Coaches will always keep such agreements on hand.
- 7.17** Practice sessions are a gathering of any number of players and coaches where the following takes place: chalk talk/viewing of game film, skull session, group conditioning, play run through with or without equipment, and/or any scrimmage with or without another team. GEYTF may cancel or modify practice at any time.
- 7.19** No scrimmage will be allowed before the third week of full contact practices and will be allowed with the approval of the Executive Board. No team may scrimmage more than one (1) time in a seven (7) day period not to exceed more than two (2) hours in length. Teams may have other scrimmages during the pre - season, but only with other GEYTF teams within their division and with league pre-approval.
- At no time will a GEYTF team scrimmage or play a game against a team outside of their own division and or league. Any head coach and or assistant coach allowing his or her team to participate in an out of division or league game or scrimmage, will face league disciplinary action up to and including possible suspension and or immediate permanent removal from the league. The League Secretary and Area Representative Supervisors must be notified by each Area Representative a minimum of (48) forty-eight hours in advance of any one scrimmage.
- 7.20 Consumption of liquids:** Heat exhaustion is one of the primary concerns of GEYTF and accordingly, frequent water breaks for players will be given in accordance with heat, humidity, and level of activity. Hydrate your players!! (See extreme heat policy)

- 7.21 A first aid kit must be on the field/sideline of every GEYTF game, scrimmage, practice, or get – together.
- 7.22 No drill may be used where a group of players are instructed or encouraged to administer physical abuse or excessive contact upon any one player and or players. Conditioning should not be used as a form of punitive punishment. Only safe controlled contact or non-contact drills are to be utilized by GEYTF coaches. Safety must come first in all GEYTF football instruction.
- 7.23 No player will be allowed to participate in any contact practice until properly equipped by GEYTF or area football program.
- 7.24 Any participant under the direct care of a physician for either a preexisting medical condition and or injury resulting from participation in a GEYTF practice, game, or event, must provide a full medical release in writing to the league office prior to further participation in all GEYTF events.
- 7.25 It is the responsibility of each team’s head coach to report to all participants injuries as they occur. Head coaches must complete a GEYTF Injury Report and submit that report to his or her respective Area Representative within (24) twenty – four hours of the injury. Injuries considered to be serious in nature must be reported to the league office immediately.

Section 8

Equipment

- 8.0 All GEYTF Areas participating with and utilizing GEYTF equipment are responsible for assisting the staff or Board Members in readying area’s equipment for play. GEYTF Area Representatives and coaches will be responsible for participant’s equipment once issued. Responsibility includes preparation, distribution, and collection of equipment. Area Rep and Head Coaches select participants; therefore, the head coach will return equipment immediately if a participant resigns or is removed from team, **not at the end of the season.**
- 8.1 GEYTF equipment must be properly fitted to each individual player by authorized GEYTF staff only. No equipment will be issued without the signed GEYTF Equipment Requisition Form. GEYTF Requisition form must be signed by head coach or parent/guardian. No equipment will be issued without GEYTF Physician’s Consent to Participate form on file. No equipment will be issued prior to participant registration fee collected in full.
- 8.2 Equipment required for players participating in contact youth football.
- Helmet** issued and fitted by approved GEYTF staff. (Unless otherwise stated by the organization).
- Chinstrap** – 2- & 4-point hook up – soft or hard cup style.
- Colored mouthpiece:** All mouthpieces except for Orthodontist issued mouthpieces, must not be clear in color and must be securely attached to the facemask of his or her helmet.
- Shoulder pads** fitted by approved GEYTF staff.

Integrated Pants (2) two hip pads, (2) two knee pads, (2) two thigh pads, and (1) one tail pad. (Or integrated pant as substitute)

Cleats: Molded non-detachable rubber sole football cleats are acceptable. Detachable regulation cleats not to exceed ½ inch measured from the tip of the cleat to the sole of the shoe are acceptable. **According to NFSHSA Rulebook, under rule 1-5-1 states: there shall not be any metal-tipped cleats whatsoever.** GEYTF coaches are required to routinely check his or her player’s cleats to ensure no “metal is exposed”.

Clear Helmet shields can **ONLY** be worn by GEYTF participants.

Only league approved helmet decals/stickers and awards can be utilized within GEYTF. League deemed inappropriate decals/stickers and awards will not be allowed.

Example: Skull and crossbones are not acceptable decals for use on GEYTF helmets.

Section 9 **Teams & Conferences**

9.0 GEYTF areas will form two conferences for the 2024 (American & National) football season unless otherwise stated or schedule dictates a needed change.

Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football Programs

(Conferences TBA annually and are subject to change)

American Conference	National Conference
BENGALS	CAVALIERS
BUULPUPS	COMMANDERS
CENTRAL	FREEDOM-BLUE
FREEDOM-RED	PRIDE
KNIGHTS	RAVENS
ROCKETS-RED	ROCKETS-BLUE
TROJANS	SABERS
WARRIORS	SOUTHWEST
WOLVERINES	TITANS
	WILDCATTERS

9.1 Golden Empire Teams will play a pre-determined number of league and post season games annually with no guarantee of game quantity.

The scheduling of said games and post season seeding criteria is at the sole discretion of the GEYF Board and are subject to change.

: Post Season Seeding Criteria (subject to change at league discretion) Phase (1) Best In - Conference Record

Phase (2) Head-to-Head in Conference Phase (3) Points Allowed in Conference Phase (4) Points Scored in Conference Phase (5) Multi Party Coin Toss

Final Phase Coin Toss:

(GEYF Reserves the right to determine post season seeding at its own discretion annually and the above criteria is subject to change.)

Phase (1)

Best In – Conference Record

In the event of a tie record:

Phase (2) Head-to-Head in Conference

Phase (3) If all respective teams have identical in – Conference Records and have beaten each other respectively, we will go to the most points allowed in Conference Scenario. The team and or teams that have allowed the fewest points scored in conference will receive the higher seed.

Phase (4) If all respective teams have identical in – Conference Records and have beaten each other respectively and have all allowed the same points in Conference, we will go to the most points scored in Conference scenario if applicable.

Phase (5) Final Phase - If phase 1 through 4 cannot break the tie, then GEYTF will go to a multi – party coin toss with the odd man out.

Out of Conference Play if applicable will not have an impact on 2024 Post Season Seeding.

9.2 Rosters: GEYTF team rosters in all divisions will not exceed thirty-five (35) participants without Executive Board approval with the exception of All Area Game. Any time a GEYTF team’s roster falls below twenty participants, it is the responsibility of that team’s head coach and respective Area Representative to notify the league office. *See standalone Roster Policy.*

9.3 Benching: GEYTF Head Coaches may bench from a game or practice and or reduce participants playing time for player misconduct, attendance, or improper dress. The respective GEYTF Area Representative must be notified of said coaches’ decision and must be noted on both practice roll roster and game MPR sheet.

9.4 GEYTF coaching personnel shall consist of one (1) head coach and no less than three (3) assistants and no more than a total of six (6) assistants. All GEYTF coaches must be approved by the Board, have a GEYTF application on file, and pass a background check. All GEYTF coaches must be First Aid and CPR certified. Proof of certification must be provided to the league office prior to coaching.

9.5 At no time shall a GEYF coach receive payment in cash or hire for payment in cash or kind a private “tutor” to instruct players for current or GEYF future competition.

9.6 Participants on each team will be certified at league registration. It will be the responsibility of all GEYTF head coaches to maintain and have in his or her possession always, a league participant registration book. The GEYTF Participant Game Day Book will be comprised of the following documentation. Participant registration form with required parental/guardian signature, current official copy of participant's birth certificate with board initialed league seal and signature, current participant AB 2007 concussion form signed by participant's parent/guardian, official game day approved master player roster. Any head coach who fails to provide to opposing team/ head coach Area Representative "League Participant Game Day Book" with appropriate documentation prior to the start of any one league game, may receive a forfeit.

Section 10

Scheduling of Games, Practices, or Events

- 10.1** All scheduling of games will be done by the League's Executive Director or League Commissioner to ensure parity, equality, and protection for GEYTF teams. GEYTF will schedule all preseason, regular season, and post season games and game sites with league need being priority. Post season team seeding will not dictate host site location and or home or away opponent placement. GEYTF reserves the right to schedule all GEYTF events based on overall league need. There will be no game schedule protests. In the event a game is stopped for any reason prior to its normal conclusion without the ability to be replayed, GEYTF Executive Board will have discretion as to who to award the victory based on but not limited to factors such as score when game was stopped. GEYTF will have the ability to award a draw in the event the game was tied when stoppage occurred but is not required to do so. Outcome can and will be determined by GEYTF Executive Board in such an event and will do so without protest. Games cancelled for any reason will also fall under the complete discretion of The GEYTF Executive Board as to determine outcome and will do so without protest. GEYTF Executive Board reserves the right to cancel, modify, or stop all games, practices, and or any league sanctioned events at any time.
- 10.2** Admission costs for all GEYTF games will be preset before the season and will be consistent throughout the league. All games played on regulation football fields will require admission fee.
- 10.3** Host area will be responsible for admission gate management. Game officials, clock operators, and EMT's.
- 10.4** The Mandatory Play Rule will be in effect for all regular, post season, and championship games unless otherwise stated by the league. Teams that participate in league sanctioned bowl games are expected to play their players but will not be bound by the League's MPR Policy except for the GEYTF All Area Game or otherwise stated.
- 10.5** The League's excessive scoring margin (**32-point rule**) will be in effect for all regular, post-season, and championship games when applicable. See policy.

Section 11

Games and Playing Rules

11.1 Playing Rules: The rules for playing football in the GEYTF League will be the current published rules of the NFSHSA. GEYTF may modify these rules by the Executive Board.

11.2 Length of quarters: all teams will play regulation ten (10) minute quarters.

11.3 Intermission between quarters will be one (1) minute, and between halves ten (10) minutes unless longer period granted by the Executive Board.

11.4 Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity divisions will be allowed a maximum of three (3) time outs per half. Freshmen division will be allowed a maximum of four (4) time outs per half.

11.5 Excessive Point Margin - Mercy Period: If a team is trailing by thirty-two (32) points or more, the GEYTF Mercy Rule will be automatically triggered with an immediate running clock and the removal of all kick- offs during this period. The game clock will run continuously and will not stop except for injuries and or at the discretion of game officials. GEYTF Executive Board Members or Director may also run the clock at any time when warranted.

The leading team will have the ball placed on its own twenty (20) yard line after or in the event the trailing team scores.

The team leading by thirty-two (32) points or more will no longer be able to pass the ball except for passes thrown behind the line of scrimmage except for the Varsity Division who will be able to both pass and run. If the leading team, while thirty-two (32) points or more ahead, passes the ball, they shall turn the ball over to the other team on that plays initial line of scrimmage.

The team trailing by thirty-two (32) points or more will have the ball placed on its own forty (40) yard line in the event the opposing or leading team scores.

Trailing Freshmen teams will have the ball placed at the fifty (50) yard line in the mercy period. Normal placement of ball in Freshmen games is at the thirty (30) yard line and will be utilized in the Mercy period for leading teams.

Ball placement for all scored safeties will be the same 20/40 rule for upper divisions and 30/50 rule for Freshmen Division. Safety Punt option will be eliminated during the Mercy Period if applicable.

Two (2) point conversion attempts are mandatory during the Mercy Period.

11.6. This is not a time for the team that is leading by thirty-two (32) points or more to play for complete domination. Any coach who attempts to run up the score, will face disciplinary action by the GEYTF Executive Board up to and including suspension and or removal from the league.

11.7 The thirty-two (32) point margin Mercy Period will not affect a team's ability to utilize all its time outs.

Once in the Mercy Rule, the running clock will remain in place even if the trailing team eclipses the thirty – two-point margin.

11.8 Scoring:

- A. Touchdown 6 points
- B. Field goal 3 points
- C. Safety 2 points
- D. PAT by kick 2 points (Junior Varsity & Varsity)
- E. PAT by run or pass 1 point (Junior Varsity & Varsity)
- F. PAT by run or pass Freshmen & Sophomore Divisions
1- yard line = 1 point 3-yard line = 2 points

11.8 a. Overtime Scoring: GEYTF will utilize old CA Ten (10) yard line O.T. Rules for all divisions with extended O.T. play requiring two (2) point conversion attempts.

11.9 Conduct toward game officials: The head coach, his or her staff, participants, parents, and spectators must accept the decisions of the game officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability. GEYTF coaches in all divisions are encouraged to submit a Referee Evaluation form at the completion of each GEYTF game. Forms may be acquired through each Area Representative. (Refer to GEYTF Coaches Code of Conduct for disciplinary rules for coaches).

11.10 There will be no ties in regular season, post season, championships, or bowl games.

11.11 Game scores will be turned into Area Representatives who will contact each conference respective “Coach At Large” and report those scores. League rankings and scores will be supplied to coaches upon request as well as being posted on the GEYTF Website (WWW.GEYF.ORG).

It will be the responsibility of each conference Coach At Large to track league scores and rankings as well as report those scores and rankings to the GEYTF Webmaster and local media.

11.12a In all cases, the injured player must leave the field for a minimum of one (1) play. The team with injured player cannot take a charged time out to allow the player to remain in the game.

11.12b Official time out for injured player for an obviously fake injury, the officials will first warn the head coach. Second occurrence of fake injury, official may penalize for delay of game, unless flagrant when the penalty will be unsportsmanlike conduct.

11.13 Except for adult play monitors, no unauthorized persons without proper GEYTF League issued credentials will be allowed on the sidelines of any GEYTF game. No pets will be allowed on GEYTF sidelines at any time without League preapproved service.

11.14 No member of any team or its staff may go beyond the twenty-five (25) yard line along the sidelines. Only three (3) coaches may be in the area between the sidelines and the six (6) feet team boundary.

11.15 Behavior from the sidelines: No individual, be it Board Member, coach, player, guest or employee shall make negative verbal exchanges with personnel from the opposing team and or game officials. All verbal remarks from the sidelines during a game can only be directed to one’s own team. Remarks will be limited to coaching instructions and positive reinforcement and cheers for the efforts of one’s own team.

11.16 No member of a team, coach, parent, and or guest may go the opposing team's side of the field for stealing play calls or signaling back to his or her team.

11.17 **THERE ARE NO GAME PROTESTS.**

SECTION 12 **GAME DAY REQUIREMENTS**

12.1 A yardage chain and down marker will be provided by the hosting area. The yardage chain and down marker will be maintained and run by the home team. It will be the responsibility of each home team regardless of site to properly man both yardage chain and down marker. Only high school age students and above are allowed for chain crew.

12.2 Team's players, coaches and parents are responsible for cleaning up trash on their sideline after the game.

12.3 Host site area will be responsible for providing game announcer. The cost for that game announcer will also be the responsibility of host area.

12.4 Crowd control is the responsibility of both the home and visiting teams and Area Representatives.

12.5 The head coach is directly responsible for the conduct of his team's and spectators.

12.6 Game Day Officials are required to always keep By Law's on their body.

12.7 A qualified medical Para-professional (EMT) must be present all GEYTF games. GEYTF will assign an EMT for each game except for independent areas who provide their own league pre- approved EMT. Independent areas may elect to have GEYTF provide an EMT but will be responsible for payment of EMT.

Section 13 **Mandatory Play Roster**

13.1 All GEYTF participants must meet preseason bracket registration requirements. (*See posted GEYTF Bracket Chart.*)

13.1a Head coach, upon request must present to apposing head coach and or Area Representative/Board Member GEYTF Participant Registration Book. The GEYTF Participant Registration Book will be comprised of the following documentation. Participant registration form with required parental/guardian signature, AB 2007 Concussion Sheet. Current official copy of participant's birth certificate with league seal and signature. The current participant league approved the player roster. The GEYTF Participant Registration Book must be presented to the opposing team's head coach prior to the start of each game, (see pre - game book exchange policy for presentation time and player

verification protocol). Failure to provide the GEYTF Participant Book prior to the start of the game with all correct and required player documentation may result in forfeiting for the team in question.

- 13. 1b** Late arrivals; in the event a player is not present at time of GEYTF Participant Book exchange and arrives after the start of game or book exchange period, said player will be allowed to play in the second half only and after both head coaches and Area Representatives confirm eligibility of said player. Only eligible and correct divisionally placed players can play in games. They are still bound by the MPR policy.

Section 14

Mandatory Play Rule

14.1 See MPR Policy.

14.2 Each league issued MPR form will list each player by name and numerical jersey order. All league issued MPR forms will be signed by adult play monitor, head coach, and GEYTF Board Member when compliance with MPR is completed or at the end of the game.

14.3 All GEYTF participants will play under the MPR except for the following.

14.3a Player injured or under disciplinary rule by head coach or league: Playing time will be determined by head coach and must be noted on back of MPR form as well as communicated to each team's opposing head coach prior to the start of each game. League MPR Table will be utilized for play reduction when applicable.

14.4 Each team shall provide one (1) adult mandatory play monitor for each game. The mandatory play monitor must use the league issued MPR form signed by the team's head coach. Except for ineligible players, the MPR player "check-off" section will remain blank until official play has started. **NO PLAYS WILL BE MARKED OFF UNTIL EXECUTED.**

14.5 Any team not having an adult play monitor to perform the MPR roster duty, will provide an assistant coach to perform those duties. Assistant coach will not perform any coaching duties until the MPR process has been completed.

14.6 All league MPR forms must be signed and all appropriate parties in agreement before game can be determined to have an outcome.

14.7 Penalty for failure to meet MPR rule requirements: Any team that fails to play all its players the minimum required plays in a game, game will be counted as a forfeit-loss for the team that failed to meet MPR rule requirements. The MPR form will be annotated, and the league will be notified immediately. A second violation will result in the same penalty and will result in the head coach and or assistants being removed from the league.

14.8 “Required play”: a required play from the line of scrimmage with or without penalty. All special team plays with or without penalty are considered a “required play”.

14.9 See GEYTF MPR Table for assistance.

Section 15

Games Fields & Jerseys

15.1 There is no required number sequencing for GEYTF game jerseys. Players may participate at any position regardless of jersey number.

15.2 At no time while in GEYTF game play will multiple players on the same team with the same number be on the field at the same time. (GEYTF reserves the right to modify this rule for dedicated events).

15.3 GEYTF game jerseys must be numbered numerically from zero (0) to ninety-nine (99) with single- or double-digit numbers being visible always.

15.4 All GEYTF games will be played on league approved regulation football fields. GEYTF scrimmages and or practices may be conducted on regulation league approved or non-regulation league approved game or practice football fields.

Section 16

Punting

16.1 Punts must be snapped in all divisions. The Freshmen kicking team cannot leave the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked. The Freshmen receiving team (defense) must have seven (7) players on the line of scrimmage at time of punt and cannot “rush” the punter. Clock will be stopped until both teams are ready to execute and receive the punt.

16.2 Sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity punting rules are in accordance with NFSHSA rules.

Section 17

Game Officials

17.1 Minimum game referees: a minimum of three (3) GEYTF approved game qualified officials are required for all divisions.

17.2 A minimum of four (4) GEYTF approved game qualified officials are required for post- season play-offs, championship, and bowl games. GEYTF may elect to use five (5) game qualified officials for post season play.

17.3 All officials must be from a GEYTF approved official’s association or otherwise approved by the league.

Section 18
Complaints and Protests

18.1 THERE ARE NO PROTESTS.

18.2 A complaint may be filed against any adult or child who breaks or abuses any rules and or philosophies designed for the common good of youth football by GEYTF.

18.3 Complaints must be made in writing within seventy-two hours of the alleged act and must be filed with the league office. The person filing the complaint must sign the complaint and include all pertinent information including names and contact information of all witnesses.

Section 19
Certificate of Secretary

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the presently elected and or acting Secretary of Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, and the above By-Laws, consisting of twenty-one (21) pages, are the By-Laws of this corporation as adopted by the Board 6/15/2019, and they have not been amended or modified since that date.

Executed on 4/01/2024, at Bakersfield, CA



GEYTF – Secretary