

Pike Area Youth Athletic League - 2025 Eligibility Regulations

I. Boundaries

- A. Pike County, PA
- B. Orange County, NY
- C. Sussex County, NJ
- D. Sullivan County, NY
- E. Monroe County, PA
- F. Wayne County, PA
- G. All other areas must be approved by the Executive Board.

II. Football Teams

Flag Football Divisions

1. Shall have (1) one Head Coach, not more than (2) two Assistant Coaches, and up to (2) two Junior Coaches for a maximum of (4) four approved people, other than players, can be on each sideline. All adult sideline personnel MUST be in compliance with PA Act 153 and have completed the USA Football coaching certifications.
2. There will be a minimum of (9) nine players and a maximum of (14) fourteen players on each team. The Board of Directors, reflecting the actual number of players that register, with teams being added or deleted as necessary, may adjust these numbers.
3. If a team cannot provide (7) eligible players at game time, they may mutually agree to play a modified game with a minimum number of (5) five players on each team.
4. The game shall be forfeited if between both teams the (5) five players per team minimum cannot be met. A forfeit shall count as a (1) one to (0) zero win for the team receiving the forfeit.
5. Rescheduled games must be approved by the league Commissioners and by both Head Coaches of the respective teams.

III. Participants

A. Age – All Divisions

1. Players must be at least (5) five years of age by September 1 and no older than (14) fourteen years of age by August 31 of the current calendar year. High

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schoolers may not participate regardless of age.

2. Proof of age shall be attested to by a certificate, duly issued by a government agency, religious organization, or hospital and must be presented at registration prior to Opening Day.

3. Age Divisions

a) Flag Football: 5-7 years old

b) Flag Football: 8-10 years old

c) Flag Football: 11-14 years old

4. The Executive Board reserves the right to place any eligible child in the most developmentally appropriate division with a majority vote.

B. Weight

1. Flag Football Division

a) no weight restrictions for the flag division.

C. Scholastics

1. Coaches should be aware that they are responsible to encourage each participant to do their best in school, and the league shall cooperate with school officials in any academic, disciplinary, or health-related issues.

D. Participation

1. Each player's gameday playing time should reflect their practice participation.

2. Player gameday eligibility due to practice attendance and/or participation will be determined at the discretion of the head coach.

3. Any player owing money or equipment to the league will be ineligible to play in any game until the debt is repaid.

4. A refund, as requested in writing by a parent/legal guardian, will be returned to a player at the discretion of the board.

5. Any participant who does not attend practice/games without notification for a period of 2 weeks will be considered a 'drop out' and be removed from the roster. The Head Coach is encouraged to obtain all equipment. The name of the player will be forwarded to the board.

6. Flag teams shall play their fully eligible football players at least the league minimum of 6 plays per half.

E. Parental Consent

1. No child shall be registered as a qualified participant if they have not secured the written consent of their parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s). The consent may be withdrawn at any time during the current playing year, by written revocation delivered to the board.

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F. Awards, Recognition, Donations, and Spirit Wear

1. All donations and awards made by anyone to any PAYAL participant must have prior approval from the Executive Board.
2. All Spirit Wear designs and ideas must be presented to the league and the league will place orders if the design is approved. Use of PAYAL logo or team logos is prohibited without prior consent from the Executive Board.

G. Player Movement

1. Movement of players from one team to another will be at the discretion of the executive board and with consultation of the football commissioner. These considerations are made on a case-by-case basis.

H. Coaches - All Divisions

1. Head coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and be nominated and approved each year by the Board of Directors.
2. Assistant coaches (max 2) must be eighteen (18) years of age and be nominated and approved each year by the head coach and the Board of Directors.
3. Junior coaches (max 2, in the absence of adult assistant coaches) must be under eighteen (18) years of age and be nominated and approved each year by the head coach and the Board of Directors.
4. No one under the age of eighteen (18) years of age shall be put in charge of a practice/game and may only assist under the supervision of approved adult coaches.
5. All potential coaches will be required to sign and agree to abide by the provided Code of Conduct.
6. All adult coaches, volunteers, and board members will complete required background screenings compliant with PA Act 153 and must submit copies of clearances to the PAYAL conduct coordinator. All coaches must have completed clearances before they are allowed to step foot on the field - NO EXCEPTIONS. FBI receipt may be used while we await pending results. Practices may not be held without a cleared coach present.
7. All adult coaches, volunteers, and board members are by Pennsylvania law considered Mandated Reporters of suspected child abuse.
8. A mandatory coaches meeting will take place at the same time coaches get their rosters.
 - i) At this meeting we will discuss updated rules, and changes to the requirements of coaches/parents/players. Coaches will also receive their coaching binders outlining all necessary paperwork to be

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distributed to the parents as well as copies of anything discussed at the coaches' meeting.

ii) Failure to attend this meeting will result in the coach's inability to coach his team until meeting with the football commissioner or another designated board member.

9. All head coaches are responsible for the actions of their staff and parents. If a problem arises:

a) The head coach will be given an opportunity to resolve the issue.

b) If the problem cannot be resolved the offending person will be ejected.

(1) The ejected person must meet with the Executive Board and the disciplinary committee within forty-eight (48) hours to review the matter for possible league action.

(2) Any disciplinary action will be determined by the Executive Board.

(3) Persons suspended may not reside on the playing field or inside the fence to distract players or coaches.

10. The only persons to be on the playing field are coaches (max 4), players, cheerleaders, officials, board members, or medical personnel.

11. All coaches must have a medical kit and coach's binder on the field at every practice and game for emergency purposes.

10. All adult coaches must obtain USA Football Coaching Certification prior to participation in practice sessions.

11. The Head Coach is responsible for making sure any participant who has had a concussion follows USA Football protocol guidelines regarding the progression of practice when returning to play. Coaches are responsible to confirm with league officials that proper medical documentation was submitted by the parent/guardian of an athlete with a head injury and that they are cleared to play.