

OATKA/SOUTHERN TIER JUNIOR FOOTBALL AND CHEELEDING, INC.

**P.O. BOX 67
WEST SENECA, NEW YORK 14224**

PLAYING RULES

**ALL RULES PRESENTED HEREIN HAVE BEEN AGREED AND APPROVED
BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FORMING THE LEAGUE:**

LAKE SHORE

WEST SENECA EAST

WEST SENECA WEST

NCAAA

EMW

SOUTH BUFFALO

7. GOWANDA

REVISED: May 11, 2011

OATKA Objectives

THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE OATKA/SOUTHERN TIER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE ARE TO INSPIRE YOUTHS, TO PRACTICE THE IDEALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, AND PHYSICAL FITNESS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE LEAGUE ARE TO FAMILIARIZE ALL YOUTHS WITH THE FUNDAMENTALS OF FOOTBALL; TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE GAME IN A SUPERVISED, ORGANIZED, AND SAFETY ORIENTED MANNER AND TO KEEP THE WELFARE OF PARTICIPANTS FREE OF ANY ADULT AMBITION AND PERSONAL GLORY.

THE LEAGUE STANDARDS FOR STRUCTURE OF INTERLEAGUE COMPETITION ARE OUTLINED HEREIN.

THE LEAGUE COMPLIES WITH AND ABIDES BY THE OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYING RULES AND SPIRIT RULES PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, 11724 PLAZA CIRCLE, P.O. BOX 20626 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64195. DEVIATIONS FROM THE OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL PLAYING RULES NECESSITATED BY LOCAL CONDITIONS AND BASED ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ARE OUTLINED HEREIN.

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RULE 1 - OFFICIALS/FOOTBALL

1. Each official is to be presented with a copy of these rules and have a copy present at each game, should a dispute arise not covered by the official football rules.
2. Any complaint of officiating, must be submitted in writing to the Board of Commissioners for their action.
3. All games played in this league must be officiated by at least two (2) professional officials approved and scheduled by the league, except for the Pee Wee level which has no professional refs.
4. The referee shall remove from the game any player who appears to have been injured. The officials' decision is final should he judge the player to be removed for the balance of the game.
5. Each home organization must keep a ledger so that referees can sign in for the games they are doing. They must write down how many games they did that day and what they got paid for that game or games.

RULE 2 - DIVISIONS/FOOTBALL

The League will have four (4) age/weight divisions, No older lighter play down (retained) players.
The maximum age and weight for each division is as follows: (Except Varsity)

	1 PeeWee	2 Freshman	3 J.V.	4 Varsity
Age:	6-7 yrs.	8-9 yrs.	10-11 yrs.	12-13 yrs
Weight:	90 lbs. Max.	110 lbs. Max.	130 lbs. Max.	160lbs. Max.

2. Weight shall be that of a player wearing gym shorts and tee shirt.
3. Age refers to "League age" and is that age attained during the calendar year of any season, reference to August 1st, for the Pee wee, Freshman , Junior Varsity divisions and 13 & Under Varsity players. League age for the 13 Yr old Varsity player is referenced to August 1st. 14 year olds on or before December 1st.
All Pee wees must be 6 or 7
All Freshmen must be 8 or 9
All Junior Varsity must be 10 or 11

All Varsity must be no older than 14 by December 1st.

4. During the course of the season, a player who exceeds the maximum weight of his team will be allowed to move up to the next division provided the number of players on the team in that division does not exceed the maximum number of players allowed under Rule 10 of these rules. The player will not be playoff eligible unless he has 5 rostered games at the new division. The player once moved will not be permitted to move back to the original team if the player's weight subsequently decreases. When a roster change is made under this provision, the player's organization must give written notification to all teams prior to the next game.

RULE 2 - DIVISIONS/CHEERLEADING

1. Age and divisions will be the same as in football. With exception that if a girl is age seven, but entering the 3rd grade, she may move up to the freshman division., if she is age 9 and entering the 5th grade, she may move up to the JV division and if she is age 11 and entering the 7th grade she may move up to the Varsity division. Moving up by grade level will occur after the completion of open registration and at the discretion of the individual organization's coordinator.

A cheerleader must not be 15 before December 1st.

3. A cheerleader must have reached her 6th birthday by August 1st in the year in which they are participating.

A mascot must be 3 by August 1st, but may not reach the requirements of a cheerleader.

The maximum number of mascots per cheerleading squad is up to the discretion of the organization coordinator and head coach of that cheerleading squad.

Only bonafide, age appropriate members of a cheerleading squad will be allowed to participate in mounting or stunting.

RULE 3 - SPECIFICS/FOOTBALL

1. A player must have reached his (6th) birthday by August 1st in the year in which he is participating.
 - a. In the 90 lb. Division, a player may not have reached his (8th) birthday before August 1st.
- In the 110 lb. Division, a player may not have reached his (10th) birthday before August 1st.

In the 130 lb. Division, a player must not have reached his (12th) birthday before August 1st.

In the 160 lb. Division, a player must not have reached his (15th) birthday before December 1st.

It is the responsibility of the individual League Commissioners and his staff to verify that the players meet the proper age requirements.

Each organization will prepare, identification books that will contain individual clear plastic sleeves {one per player} containing in alphabetical order the following:

First page must have list of the team coaches and their certification numbers along with the Code of Conduct signed sheet.

A picture of the player within 2 years.

Original application

Copy of birth certificate

Medical approval form

There shall be one identification book per team which shall be certified by the area commissioner and used at all game weigh-ins. Any member of the League may be challenged with respect to the age of a player at any time. The challenging organization shall post \$50.00 (fifty dollars) with the League President and if the challenge proves false, the money will go to the League. Should the challenge prove to be correct, the violating organization will be required to pay \$50 for a missing birth certificate or picture and \$25 for a missing medical release and challengers money will be returned. These fines are per occurrence, not per book. All games the overage player(s) had participated in will be forfeited.

All Commissioners will carry an up to date roster to each game. This roster may not be used in the absence of a players' picture.

RULE 3 - SPECIFICS/FOOTBALL (cont.)

No team may use a shelter unless it provides the same protection for the visiting team. No team shall use a communication system unless it provides the same for the visiting team.

At all Oatka sponsored games, there must be a Commissioner and a Coordinator or a Designate at all times. Organizations that field 2 teams must have a Commissioner/Coordinator present at both fields.

All head coaches and assistant coaches must be certified by OATKA BOARD APPROVED certified prior to the first regular season game of each season. All commissioners, assistant commissioners, coordinators and assistant coordinators must be OATKA BOARD APPROVED certified prior to the first regular season game of each season. All of the above must have their accepted certification cards in the first page of the team book. Any of the above named Failing to have their certification cards in the book must be removed from within the ropes and is subjected to a \$10 fine per occurrence. Only exception to this rule will be Junior Cheerleading training program that utilizes 14 & 15 year old former cheerleaders as coach's assistants. These Junior coaches are permitted to help on sidelines as long as they are supervised by a certified coach at all times.

When adding a coach during the season, you must email the Board of the change and coaches name and provide a receipt of certification to the Board at the next meeting.

RULE 4 - REQUIRED EQUIPMENT/WEIGH-INS/FOOTBALL

1. Required equipment:
 - A. Head gear with suspension and face guard.
 - B. Padded football pants with all pads (Thigh, knee, hip and tail).
 - C. Shoulder pads with cantilever suspension.
 - D. Athletic supporter with fiber cup/jills.
Mouthpiece, either rubber or molded.
Football shoes or sneaker/football shoes with molded cleats or ordinary rubber soiled, sneakers. Removable female cleats are prohibited. Spikes must conform to E.C.I.C. high school rules (blunt/no cutting edge)
2. All players shall wear the following equipment at the time of the weigh-in:
 - A. Football pants with all pads (thigh and knee).
 - B. Girdle with all pads (hip and tailbone).
 - C. Males must wear athletic supporters with cups.
 - D. Girls must wear "Jills".
 - E. It should be noted that if a player is close to the weight limit, they will be allowed to weigh in wearing as little as gym shorts and tee shirt.

3. Weigh-ins will be performed at the following times: PeeWee, 30 minutes before game time; Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity during half time of the previous game. Weigh-ins will be not less than 15 minutes before game time. Players from any and all teams may be allowed to pre-weigh on game day. However, the coordination of this must be done in a reasonable manner giving the Commissioner or designated person sufficient forewarning, along with the understanding that this pre-weigh will not interfere with any of the other normal activities of the Commissioner or individuals involved in game-day events.
4. All weigh-ins will use a beam-type scale, which shall be furnished by the home team. Each scale will be certified annually prior to the first game by the Bureau of Weights and Measures with a seal affixed to it.
5. The home team is responsible for keeping all unauthorized personnel away from the scale.
6. Commissioners or a designated representative will be present to check each team's roster and identification book.

RULE 4 - REQUIRED EQUIPMENT/WEIGH-INS/FOOTBALL (cont.)

7. Only the elected Commissioner or alternate may be present at the weigh-in.
8. The scale will be calibrated before each game with a certified 50-lb. weight. This calibration will be done by the Commissioners and they shall be the sole judge as to whether or not the player has complied with the weight regulations.
9. The visiting team(s) must be weighed in first.
10. The scale weight will be placed in the correct beam position for the given weight of the division; if the beam touches the top bar and remains in that position, the player will be declared overweight for the game. This information is recorded by the Commissioners and given to the coaches and the officials.

Any player who arrives after the official weigh-in must wait and be weighed in at half-time intermission or at the discretion of the Commissioner(s).

12. Commercial padding and tape shall be allowed to be used at the discretion of each respective team covered under the high school rules, but can be challenged by the opposing coaches or Commissioners and the referees will be the deciding judges as to its necessity.
13. A cast must be covered by at least one (1) inch of foam padding. The Commissioner(s) must submit a doctor's written permission for that player to participate.
14. An official is authorized to expel any player who does not have all the proper equipment.
15. No rule may be waived by any coach, referee, commissioner, official or the league.
16. An adult female must be present at the weigh-in and equipment check for a female player.
17. All roster players must weigh-in and be present for a minimum of 5 games to be eligible for playoffs. (verified and submitted)

RULE 5 - FIELD SIZE, SCORING, QUARTERS, TIME OUTS

1. The length and width of the playing field shall meet the OATKA standards: The width shall be no less than 48 yards, or a maximum of 53 1/3 yards. The length of the field shall be a

minimum of 80 yards with two 10 yd end zones, or a maximum of 100 yards with two ten yard end zones. Violators will be subject to game forfeitures for each occurrence and a fine not less than \$50 or greater than \$250 per occurrence, amount of such fine being determined by the Board of Commissioners.

2. Goal posts may be used if regulation size posts are provided.
3. One point shall be awarded after a touchdown for a successful running play or for field goal kick. Two points shall be awarded after a touchdown for a completed pass caught beyond the line of scrimmage and downed in the end zone. Field goal kicking is allowed if regulation size posts are provided.
4. Varsity quarters shall be 12 minutes. Freshman and JV are 10 minute quarters.

5. All divisions shall follow NYS High School rules as the number of time outs permitted throughout the game. During a charged time out, in addition to rule 9-6 Article 1B of the Official State High School Association Rules, one coach from each team will be allowed to go out into the huddle of the field to instruct team members only.

RULE 5 - FIELD SIZE, SCORING, QUARTERS, TIME OUTS (cont.)

A 4 minute warm-up is mandatory at half-time and before game start.

During the course of a league game, a coach may twice request a rules interpretation from the referee without being charged a time out. Should the request concern a judgement call, the team will be charged with a time out. The coach will be called on to the field to meet with the official. No other coach or player will be allowed to participate in the discussion.

The officials are required to notify each bench 4 minutes before the half and 4 minutes before the end of the game.

9. All divisions will kickoff from the 30 yard line when playing on an 80-yard field. After a safety, the ball will be kicked from the 20 yard line when playing on an 80-yard field. When playing on 100-yard fields, the exception to the normal HS rules will need to be spelled out when we play on an 80 yard fields, the above change reflects this.
10. Division points and standings - each team shall receive two points for a win and one point for a tie game. Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams of each division at the end of the season based on final standing (total points). In the event of a tie or ties more than one trophy will be awarded for each place to qualifying teams.
11. All games throughout the League shall start at a uniform time. Such time to be determined annually by the Board of Commissioners.

RULE 6 - JERSEY NUMBERALS/TEAM COLORS

1. Each player's jersey must have two sets of numerals.
 - A. 8" or larger numerals on back.
 - B. 6" numerals on front or 3-4" numerals on sleeve.
2. Team colors: The following team colors are acceptable colors for competition in our league.

TEAM

HELMETS

JERSEY

PANTS

Lake Shore	Black	Green	Green
West Seneca East	Yellow	Yellow	Navy
West Seneca West	Yellow	Navy	Navy
North Cheektowaga	Red	Navy	Red
EMW	Maroon	White	Maroon
South Buffalo	Green	White	Green
Gowanda	Royal Blue	Royal Blue	Black

RULE 7 - HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITY

1. Lining and preparing the field for play.
2. Supply chain crew and yardsticks, downsmarkers, yard markers, goal line markers, and first aid equipment. The yard sticks and downs marker will be kept on the Home team's side of the field and shall have the points removed.

RULE 7 - HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITY (cont.)

3. Report the final score to the publicity directory by 12:00 p.m. on the Sunday of the weekend the games are played. Violated organizations will be subject to a \$25.00 fine.
 4. Maintain crowd control, keeping people not involved in the game at least ten feet from the playing field, including the end zone. The referee is authorized to penalize the home team 15 yards for not complying.
- A Qualified "EMT" (Emergency Medical Team) or first aid squad must be available for all league games, also local fire department phone numbers must be posted in concession stands and given to visiting commissioners/coordinators and League schedules with playing times must be provided to local fire departments. Any organization not providing on site EMTs must notify, in writing, all visiting organizations at the time of official roster submissions.
6. 15 minutes prior to first game, announcements and play by play where applicable should be done by adults only!

RULE 8 - FOOTBALLS

1. The game ball must meet the specifications outlined by the league. The ball used for each division will be specified each year by the Board of Commissioners. Each team will use their own ball. Ball specifications are as follows: (These are examples of specified footballs)

	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Baden</u>	<u>Mikasa</u>
A. Freshman	#1515	#100	#5006
B. Junior Varsity	#1515	#100	#5006
C. Varsity	#1517	#200	#5007

RULE 9 -HELMETS

1. After 3 years from the time of purchase or last inspection, helmets must be inspected or reinspected and tested unless they have a five or seven year seal from the manufacturer, all

reinspected helmets must have the NOCSAE seal affixed to them.

RULE 10a - TEAM ROSTER/FOOTBALL

1. Each team shall not have more than 40 nor less than 16 players on its roster. An organization can field a team of less than 16 players if it so chooses that is less than 16 players present at game time.
 - 1A. Each cheerleading squad shall not have more than 40 nor less than 5 participants on its roster. Such roster shall not be changed without the approval of the Oatka Cheerleading Coordinators.
2. A complete roster, including given name, phone number, date of birth, jersey number, actual weight of players, name of school district the player attends and coaches names and phone numbers must be prepared in numerical order by jersey numbers., cheerleading rosters must be in alphabetical order. Official Rosters must be furnished to the league secretary as a league record and to each organization commissioner/coordinator by the date set annually by the Board of Commissioners. Any member organization failing to meet their obligation under this rule is subject to a mandatory one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine for the initial week and fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each succeeding week until such time as the organization comes into compliance with the requirements contained within this rule. Further failure of any organization to pay any imposed fine under this rule shall result in loss of voting privileges and any

RULE 10a - TEAM ROSTER/FOOTBALL (cont.)

- (2 cont.) other penalties the Oatka Board of Commissioners may deem appropriate. All organizations will use a standard roster format as determined by the Board of Commissioners.
3. Game roster must include actual weights of player stripped as measured at preseason physical.
4. No player within a given age and weight division can be recorded on more than one roster.
5. A player may be dropped but not added to a roster after the roster has been mailed to the President and the Commissioners with the following exceptions:
 - A player held on a roster by one organization can be added to the roster of a team in the area of his new residence after he has moved. To play in the upcoming game, the player must meet the requirements under Article 2, and must have a statement from an official of the organization he is leaving stating that he was on the roster of that organization.
 - B. A player who has not participated in football and moves to a different area in the league after the rosters have been mailed may be added to the roster. The player must meet the requirements under Article 2 before he can play in a scheduled game.
 - C. Any organization that submits a team roster with less than 28 players may request an extension of increasing that team to a 28 player maximum. (The extension deadline will end at the next Oatka monthly meeting, no extensions will be granted after October.)

RULE 10b - TEAM ROSTER/CHEERLEADING

1. Each Coordinator must submit a complete roster before the first season game to the cheerleading coordinators.

2. To every game, each coordinator (or designate) must bring a copy of every squad's roster and give it to the other team's coordinator.
3. No changes in rosters will be permitted unless approved by the Board of Coordinators.
4. At the discretion of the Board of Coordinators, any cheer deemed to be unsafe may be brought to a vote and removed from Oatka.
5. The rosters that are submitted in August shall remain the same for competition rosters. No additions or combining of rosters will be allowed for competition rosters.

RULE 11 - REGISTRATION - FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING

1. A. All organizations in this league will accept applications for participation in football and cheerleading on a first come, first served basis as outlined in the playing rules. Those organizations with excess applications will direct excess applicants to organizations within this league that will best suit applicants needs and will also put excess applicants on a reserve list noting date and time application was received in case an opening arises on a current team originally applied for. (Also see By-laws Article 7/#3)
- B. A home organization must set aside the first day of registration for sign ups of veteran players and cheerleaders. (A player/cheerleader having participated the previous year.) Second sign up day would be for new applicants and veterans who missed the veteran sign-up day on a first come first served basis. If a veteran does not register on veteran's day he must register on the second day on a first come first served basis.

RULE 12 - INSURANCE

All member organizations must utilize insurance provided by the league.

RULE 13 - PRACTICES & FIRST SCHEDULED GAME FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING

- A. The official season calender for League purposes and participant membership for teams/squads shall run from March 1 through February 28 (or February 29th in the case of leap years}. In instances where a team/squad has been invited to participate in a national championship event carrying over to a new season, such organization may petition the League for a waiver from the provisions of this section.
 - B. Under no circumstances may a team begin practice more than 30 days prior to the first scheduled League game. The first game of the season will be scheduled by the Board of Commissioners.
 - C. Any gathering of any team members with any coach present constitutes a practice.
2. No player on any team shall participate in physical contact until he has experienced five days of conditioning practice such as calisthenics (see chart).
 3. No equipment shall be worn during the first 3 days of conditioning practice except helmets. The required football playing uniforms may be issued on August 1st; however, the helmet is the only piece of equipment that may be worn during the 5 day period of conditioning (see chart).

4. If a player will not participate in a game, it is his/her coach's responsibility to notify his/her Commissioner who will in turn notify the opposing team prior to the game.
5. Oatka Southern Tier Football League standards for structure of the interleague competition:

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RULE 14 - PARENT PERMISSION - FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING

1. Each player/cheerleader must have a parent or legal guardian's permission in writing to participate in this league.

RULE 15 - PHYSICAL EXAMINATION - FOOTBALL

Each participant, football and/or cheerleading, must have a complete physical given by a medical doctor after August 1st of previous year. Any participant not having a medical form signed by a medical doctor will not be allowed to practice or play in the league.

2. No child may participate in the league if missing 50% of any vital organ, e.g. eyes, lungs, kidneys, hearing. Home organizations are responsible for noting this rule on all medical forms so that the examining physicians are aware of the rule.

RULE 16 - CONDUCT - FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING

The conduct of the coaches, staff, players and spectators before, during and after a game should be exemplary. To assure this point, each Commissioner/Coordinator or acting Commissioner/Coordinator is to be recognized as an officer of the League. He/she shall have the authority to discipline and/or expel from league functions any member of his organization whom he finds in violation of these rules. Additionally, the game officials are authorized to request any coach or member of his staff to leave the playing field for any improper display of temper or poor choice of language.

Any coach, staff member, board member, player or spectator, who strikes or attempts to strike an official or referee before, during, or after a game shall forever be barred from participation in any activities involving the League and may be fined a maximum of \$500.00. Any altercations are to be reported by both commissioners to a League officer within forty-eight hours of the alleged infraction.

Any case of a coach, staff member, player or spectator who strikes or attempts to strike another opposing coach, staff member, player or spectator shall be penalized as follows:

- A. Automatic suspension for one calendar year and/or
- B. Forever barred from league activities.

Football coaches must stay within the 20 yard lines (80 yard field), players must stay within the 30 yard lines.

The League places a 15 yard penalty on unsportsmanlike conduct.

Any player or cheerleader caught doing any act of vandalism to anyone's property will be suspended from the League for the remainder of the season.

A player and/or a coach who is ejected from the game by an official for any unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically sit out the following game. If there is a second offense during the season, the player or coach will be ineligible for one calendar year from the time of the second offense.*For two offenses against a player and/or coach, an organization can request an investigation by the League to decide an outcome of the circumstances. Names of players and/or coaches who are ejected should be submitted to a League officer by both commissioners within forty-eight hours of the ejection for a matter of record including a brief explanation of the circumstances.

All Oatka organizations shall try to provide an alcohol and tobacco-free environment when coaching the players/cheerleaders at practice and at games.

Before the coin toss for each game, the captains shall line up at the center of the field, facing each other. The officials shall encourage fairplay and sportsmanship. Captains will stay out on the field for the coin toss and the remaining team members will retreat to their sidelines. Coaches and players/cheerleaders will shake hands with the opposing team members and coaches after the game.

Each organization within the League must submit to the OATKA Board of Commissioners a list of coaches names {football & cheerleading} who are on probation and/or suspension. This list will include all dates and terms of probation and/or suspension for each coach. It is the responsibility of each organization to submit updates to this list and to keep it current with the Board of Commissioners.

RULE 17 - POSTPONEMENT AND FORFEITURES - FOOTBALL

1. In order to postpone a game because of poor traveling conditions, the Commissioner of the opposing team shall be contacted no less than 4 hours before game time. If the Commissioner of the team requesting the postponement cannot reach agreement with the visiting teams Commissioner, he shall contact the President of the League for a decision.
2. Upon arrival at the playing field, the Commissioners of both teams shall make the decision for a postponement should the weather dictate it impossible to play.
3. Make-up games will be played as soon as possible and shall have at least one calendar day between games.
4. The League shall be notified within 24 hours by the home team Commissioner should there be a postponement, and/or the rescheduling of a game or in any case where the Commissioners are not in agreement.
5. Any contested game shall come before the Board of a decision which shall be final.
6. If a team does not show for a scheduled game, that team shall forfeit that game and be declared the loser 3-0.
7. If a team does not show for the scheduled game within one-half hour of the scheduled starting time, it

shall forfeit that game. The officials shall also wait one-half hour from scheduled game time.

8. The forfeiting organization shall be responsible for the reimbursement of referee fee incurred by the scheduled opponent and additionally be subject to a \$125 dollar penalty for each forfeiture. Subsequent forfeitures occurring after the first may face fines in addition to those above at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The League will reimburse the other team for the cost for the officials and in turn will assess such fees and penalties to the forfeiting organization. If the offending team does not reimburse the League prior to the next scheduled game or within 7 days if such forfeiture occurs at season's conclusion; its franchise shall be revoked the following season.

RULE 18 - ADMISSION CHARGE TO SPECTATORS

1. There will not be any general admission charges for any League games except invitational tournaments. It will be at the discretion of an organization whether to pass the hat at their respective home games.
2. Admission and program charges at "Super Sunday" may be allowed to finance programs and officials fees.

RULE 19 - COMPLAINTS: ALLEGED INFRACTIONS

All game day complaints are to be handled by both commissioners. Any complaints received by the League will be given to a committee appointed by the League President to investigate and may be presented to the League no later than as prescribed in subsections 2, 3 and 4 of this section

Alleged infraction must be verbally reported to a League officer within 48 hours of the alleged infraction(s). A written notice will follow within 7 business days along with a check or money order in the amount of \$50 that will be forwarded to the League President by the organization filing the complaint. The President shall call a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners should the complaint need immediate action. This money shall be forfeited to the League should the protest be ruled unfounded. Complaints should be as factual as possible.

RULE 19 - COMPLAINTS: ALLEGED INFRACTIONS (cont.)

3. The Board of Commissioners upon hearing all parties to a complaint may dismiss the complaint or take any of the following action(s):

- A. Notify in writing the violating organization of the violation(s) and the potential consequences should the violation continue or occur again.

Notification (as in "A") and assess a \$50.00 fine on the violating organization to be paid within 90 days of date set by the Board of Commissioners.

Notification and fine (as in "A & B" above) and placement of the violating organization on a one (1) year probation status: To include notification that any future violations may lead to expulsion according to League Constitution Article IV, Section 6.

The Board of Commissioners may also determine any other action(s) or notifications including fines, suspension and expulsion, the Board deems necessary and in the best interest of the League,

4. All communications shall be directed to organizations without reference to specific

individuals.

RULE 20 - RULE CHANGE AND/OR ADDITIONS

1. All proposals for rule changes will be submitted in writing at the scheduled meeting in December. All proposals will be open to discussion and/or changes at the scheduled meeting in January. The voting on final drafts of these proposals will take place at the scheduled meeting in February.
2. All League member organizations shall pay 25% of the League fees at or before the scheduled June meeting. The balance shall be paid at or before the scheduled August meeting (Insurance).
3. Trophies for football and cheerleading:

- will be
- A. Football teams: A first and second place (regular season/championship) trophy awarded.
 - B. Cheerleading squads: Participation awards go to all participants competing/exhibiting.

Commissioners Cup Award - To be given to the organization which best exemplifies the ideals of Oatka/Southern Tier Football and Cheerleading. Voting shall take place at the **first** Commissioners meeting following the completion of the League's regular season.

The Commissioner's vote shall be based on the consensus of his/her home organization. Voting will be done by paper ballot. In case of a tie, the Board will vote again. Only the tied organizations will remain in contention. In the event of a dead lock, the tied organizations involved will share the award.

Criteria - Vote shall be based equally on conduct of players, cheerleaders, coaches, directors, commissioners, coordinators, and fans, based on good sportsmanship, decorum of teams (players, cheerleaders and well as coaches) before and after games. We shall strive to achieve a win/humble and lose/gracefully attitude. The League will award a cup/trophy to the designated organization for it to keep. The League will also award a plaque to be retained by the League and passed on year to year.

RULE 20 - RULE CHANGE AND/OR ADDITIONS (cont.)

All Oatka organizations must have all of their teams participate in the OATKA competition. If an organization does not fully participate they may be fined accordingly; special circumstances will be discussed and voted upon by the Coordinators on an individual basis.

All OATKA Coordinators are to attend, actively participate and stay for the duration fo the OATKA Cheerleading Competition.

An organization may not attend another cheerleading competition in lieu of the OATKA Cheerleading Competiton, if that other competition is held on the same day as OATKA's.

All cheerleading head coaches must be at least 21 years of age as of August 1st.

An appropriate hello cheer is to be done during halftime of each game. The words for the hello cheer will be submitted at the coordinator's meeting before the start of the season. The cheer

must include the words “hello” and “good luck”; it should not include any degrading statements. Any hello cheer deemed inappropriate, by a majority of the coordinators, must be changed and resubmitted for approval.

Each organization will file annually with the OATKA League Secretary, within 30 days for that organizations annual reorganization meeting a complete roster of that organization’s Board of Directors and Executive Board members. Such roster to include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address {if applicable} for each member.

RULE 21 - PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. All organizations participating are required to play every player on the team(s) participating in every game a minimum of 5 plays, unless health, injury or disciplinary reasons prevent a player from participating.

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