



RULES

BERT BELL MEMORIAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE, INCORPORATED

June 1985 through July 2011 +(inclusive)

*

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2011

Changes as a result of review of Bert Bell meeting minutes of 2010

- 2.1F Added section Time Clock
- 2.2B Added not about safety concerns with devices and type of materials used in holding ropes surrounding a field.
- 2.6 Equipment – removed reference to PIAA jersey numbering system
2.6e. changed verbiage to rubber cleats – 5/8 inch max.
- 4.1D Changed Older/Lighter Weight for 150s to 135 pounds
- 4.3A Upper Weights on Dual Rosters. A note has been added to reference PIAA text regarding Junior High/Middle School players involved with youth football programs. The full text covering the eligibility rules as been added as a section in the Appendix, Section 17.10.
- 5.6A Added flag rosters to be included in the roster turn in
- 8.1 The word “Commissioner” has been changed to “Bert Bell Officers”
- 8.3f Added Mercy Rule clarification when losing team’s coach refuses the running clock
- 8.5 Added section on smoking and animals at the field.
- 12.5 80lb Junior Varsity Exceptions. Added “after safety, ball moved to the 40”

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2010

- 3.1 Modified schedule preparation; added scheduling criteria
- 3.6 Added Bert Bell Bowl Series
- 4.4 C Added new section - Injury Reporting

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2009

Addition of procedures currently in use: (from review of Bert Bell meeting minutes of 2008)

- 2.1C Overtime (Playoff Tie Game)
- 2.1D Playing with a cast
- 2.7a Clarification of medical personnel requirements

- 3.4C Due to schedule limitation, added 3 division, 8 team playoff format

- 3.4D Added 150lb weight division playoff format.

- 5.2 Registration Records. Added:
 - 52.a.6 Signed Privacy Statement (17.9 is a copy of statement)
 - 52.b.3 Signed permission for clearances per By-Laws.

- 5.4c Coaches ID – valid photo ID required for identification

- 5.4d All coaches for each team must appear at the scale for ID check to be done at the beginning of each weigh-in.

- 7.3.1 Championship day coverage for league reps changed from all day to split sessions.

- 8.3d Mercy rule change – neither team can blitz while on defense and must play a regular defense.

- 10.3.1 Players considered close to the weight limit can weigh in at the end of any official weigh-in

- 13A Minor changes to Cheerleading General Rules relating to Competition Committee participation.

- 13B Addition of Competition Committee Definition & Responsibilities to the Cheerleading Competition and Exhibition Rules

- 16.3.5 Exchange of video film changed from limited exchange to no limit on exchange.

- 16.4 Addition of Game Announcing Protocol.

- 17.9 Privacy Statement.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2008

Section V11.8 By-Law addition: All age and weight changes must be approved by a three quarter vote.

- 1.4 Any age and weight changes approved will be implemented 2 years after the approval.
- 2.1A Quarters of 100 JV game increased from 8 minutes to 10 minutes.
- 3. Changes reflecting three (3) division schedule, playoff format and team seeding.
- 4.3/ 4.4 The 50% games played eligibility rule, previously used for the upper weights, has been extended to all varsity weight classes.
- 4.4 The minimum level of participation established for players on the 120 and 150 lb teams.
- 12.5 Added dead ball punt option for the 80lb JV team.
- 13. Changes made to the cheerleading general and competition rules.
- 16.2 Chains to remain on the home side.
- 17.8 Added Code of Conduct forms.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2007

- 3.4 Added a section that provides for a mid-week playoff for teams that would have made the playoffs except for one (1) team not having a bye.
- 4.1D Added five (5) lbs to the 145 lb team making it now the 150 lb team.
- 4.2A Regular season weight allowance changed to 1 lb per week from 1 lb every other game.
- 4.2B Two (2) lb night allowance changed from a 5:00 start to 12:00 noon start.
- 13. Minor changes made to the cheerleading general and competition rules.
- 16.3 The use of video during scouting has been approved.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2006

- 4.1 Older/lighter age eligibility changed from the end of calendar year to after November 30 of the playing year.
- 5.4 Added section on Coaches IDs.
- 5.7A. Added a waiver procedure process for players.
- 5.7B. Added a waiver process as applied to coaches.
- 7.4 All Star games discontinued.
- 12.6 JV C Teams. Follow Bert Bell rules currently in place.
- 13. Cosmetic changes/corrections to Cheerleader General Rules

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1 Introduction

1.1 Bert Bell Football Conference By-Laws and Rules

The Bert Bell Football Conference By-Laws and Rules will be in effect for all member clubs* during all pre-season, regular season, post season and scrimmage games involving inter-conference play. In addition, all such rules, with the exception of weight limitations, will apply to all games played with organizations which are not affiliated with this conference.

Effective May 1, 2011, the member clubs of the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference and their associated geographic territories are as follows:

Prior to beginning of each season, the member clubs and the Bert Bell Memorial Conference Board of Directors will confirm the divisional alignments of the member clubs and will announce the playoff configuration (i.e.; number of teams and playoff schedule)

1.2. Supporting Groups (Junior Varsity, Flag, Cheerleading)

Supporting groups are subject to all By-Laws and Rules of the Conference, unless exceptions are duly noted.

1.3. Fielding Teams

All organizations who are members of Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference are required to field a team in each weight category each year they are a member of the Conference.

The required levels for varsity teams include - 80, 100, 120 and 150 pounds.

A. Failure to Field a Team

Any club making **NO ATTEMPT TO FIELD A TEAM AT ANY WEIGHT** will result in the member club being fined \$400.00, and being placed on probation for the year. If this is to occur in subsequent years, the member club will face the same fine and termination from the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference.

The fine of \$400.00 and probation will be waived at the 150 pound level (**ONLY**) as long as member club can verify an **ATTEMPT** to field this team.

B. Dropping a Team (Varsity Level)

Any organization dropping a team from **ANY** of the weight classes **AFTER THE SEASON HAS STARTED** will face the same fines and restrictions as outlined above, plus pay a \$50.00 per game penalty for the games not played.

C. Dropping a Team (Junior Varsity Level)

Any organization dropping a Junior Varsity team after the season has started is subject to a \$50 per game fine based on board review.

1.4. Rules and By-Law Changes

A. General

As of June 1st of each year, no rules or by-laws change pertinent to weight, age, number of players, or any other phase of the playing of the game of football shall be brought before the Board for consideration until the end of November.

Rule changes are passed by a simple majority vote. The exception is rule changes applied to age and/or weight – those require a three quarter vote (see Section 1.4B).

B. Age and Weight

All age and weight changes must be approved by a three quarters (3/4) vote of the Bert Bell member clubs.

Any Age and Weight votes cast after the January meeting will take effect and be implemented two (2) years after approval.

2 General Playing Rules

2.1. Follow PIAA Rules

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association rules and handbook (interpretations) of the current year shall apply, with the following exceptions:

A. Quarters

Quarters shall be:

- 1) Ten (10) minute quarters for all Varsity Teams
- 2) Fifteen (15) minute running quarters for 80 lb. JV with ten (10) minute half time
- 3) Ten (10) minute quarters for 100 lb. JV
- 4) Ten (10) minute quarters for 120 lb. JV
- 5) There will be a maximum of ten (10) minutes at halftime of all games.

B. Point After Touchdown

Point after touchdown shall be:

One (1) if by pass or rush.

- 1) Two (2) if by place or drop kick
- 2) Two (2) if by pass or rush from ball placement at the 5 yard line. (This rule only applies to the 80 and 100 pound levels of play)

C. Overtime (Playoff Tie Game)

A game during the regular playing season can end in a tie and is counted as such (see Section 3.3 – Point System). However, a game during the playoffs (including a championship game) that ends in a tie must determine a winner. The PIAA tie breaking playoff procedure will be used with the following exception:

The line of scrimmage will be the 10-yard line instead of the 25- yard line.

D. Playing with a Cast

- 1) A doctor's note is required to be given to the official each week.
- 2) Cast must be completely covered and inspected by the game officials.

E. Jerseys

Players wearing the same numbers are allowed but can not be on the field at the same time.

F. Time Clock

The official time is kept on the field unless there is an official in the press box keeping time.

2.2. Playing Field

A. Goal Posts & Field Size

No less than one (1) set of goal posts. Field will be 100 yard (plus end zones) in length, marked in five (5) or ten (10) yard increments. There shall be no reduction in width, i.e., 160 feet. In-bounds line should be marked on the yard lines, if possible.

B. Crowd Control

Fields must be roped off including the end zones. For safety concerns, be aware of the devices and types of materials used to hold the ropes.

Sideline control (of parents and coaches) is the responsibility of both teams.

C. Sideline Game Personnel

- a) Team Coaching Staff
 - The head coach is the only one to communicate with the officials.
- b) Medical personnel
- c) Two (2) water boys
- d) One (1) camera person

2.3. Game Balls

- a) The game ball for the 80 pound team shall be the leather Wilson K2.
- b) The game ball for the 100 and 120 pound teams shall be the leather Wilson TDJ.

c) The game ball for the 150 pound team shall be the leather Wilson TDY.

2.4. Game Times

A. Regular Season

Prior to beginning of the season, each member club will announce their regular home game weekend schedule, which could be subject to revision on as-needed basis. Such schedule changes must be agreed upon by the home and away clubs, referees, and the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference.

All varsity games played on a given day must be played in sequence.

B. Playoff Games

At a Bert Bell Memorial Conference Board Meeting held one week before the playoff weekend, each home club will announce their preferred playoff game day and time. Once all clubs have announced their preference, a schedule will be agreed upon and announced that will ensure adequate referee coverage for each game.

C. Championship Games

To be scheduled according to field availability (see Section 7 Post-Season); Game order will start with 80 lb., followed by 100 lb., 120 lb., 150 lb. Championship Games.

2.5. Weather Conditions

A. Home Team

In inclement weather, it will be the decision of the home team to decide if the game will be played. Every effort should be made to play scheduled games. **If cancelled, communication will only be made by the home team's league rep.**

On Saturday rain-outs, the games should be rescheduled for Sunday if possible. If not possible and for those teams without lights, the home teams will travel on the following day (Sunday to the visiting team's field) in order to make-up the game. Original home team will remain the same for the purpose of the coin toss. Starting time will be at the discretion of the organization hosting the game.

The team in charge of the field which is being used Sunday for the purpose of make-up of Saturday rain-out has the option of canceling game if they feel condition of field warrants cancellation.

NOTE: Sunday Games canceled are to be rescheduled by the following Wednesday night at a neutral field with lights. If scheduled Home Team has lights on field, game will be rescheduled for Monday night.

Friday night games canceled will be rescheduled for Saturday a.m. at Home Team field.

Saturday night games canceled will be rescheduled for Sunday 1:00 p.m. start at Home Team field.

B. Cancellation Procedure

If the game is called, the League Rep for the Home Team is to call the League Rep, Alternate League Rep, or President of the Visiting Team, and the Head Official to cancel officials for the day. It is the visiting team's responsibility to contact people within their organization. **THE COMMISSIONER IS TO BE ADVISED OF ALL CANCELLATIONS AND GAMES RESCHEDULED.**

The following times are to be used by all League Reps to cancel games:

- 1) FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES MUST BE CANCELED BY 5:30 P.M.
- 2) SATURDAY DAY GAMES MUST BE CANCELED 2 HOURS BEFORE 1ST GAME.
- 3) SUNDAY GAMES MUST BE CANCELED 2 HOURS BEFORE 1ST GAME.

ADDENDUM: Should there be a problem contracting officials for rescheduled games due to availability of field, the Commissioner may waive this rule, if the situation warrants such action, so as to provide the required number of officials at each game site.

C. Violation

Failure to follow this rule shall result in a \$50.00 fine payable to the Conference. Officials' fees will be paid by the offending organization.

2.6. Equipment

Each player must be equipped as follows in order to participate in practices and/or games.

- a) Helmet - approved (NOCSAE) type with plastic or rubber coated steel face guard.
- b) Durable shoulder pads.
- c) Athletic supporter and cup.
- d) One piece (or two piece) pants with kidney, hip, spine, thigh and knee pads.
- e) Sneakers or football shoes with rubber cleats – 5/8 inch maximum
- f) Mouthpiece (colored, molded plastic/rubber)
- g) Socks must be worn at all games.

NOTE: No player will be allowed to participate in a practice and/or game unless equipped as listed above, except for non-body contact practice.

The Teams' Coaching Staff is responsible for players to wear all required safety equipment. Any player found to not be wearing the proper, required safety equipment will result in immediate ineligibility status.

No uniform modifications. A shield added to the helmet must be clear and requires a doctor's note be given to the official each week.

2.7. Medical Personnel

- a) A physician, nurse, or emergency medical (EMT) personnel or personnel with advance first aid certification shall be present at every game, and shall be provided by the home team.
- b) Each home team is responsible to have a form of communication to call an Ambulance.
- c) Each home team's emergency medical personnel must present a valid medical training ID to officials PRIOR to each game.
- d) Each home team's emergency medical personnel must guarantee that they will be at the game until its conclusion
- e) Home medical personnel should present themselves to the visiting team.

NOTE: If the home team does not have medical personnel on the field at the start of a game, and visiting team does, the game may start. This rule is to be used only if home team medical personnel is called away for an emergency prior to the start of the game.

A. Violation

Failure to have a physician, nurse or emergency medical personnel will result in cancellation of the game. Such cancellation will be a forfeit charged against the home team and officials must be paid by the home team. (There is no penalty if physician, nurse or medical personnel must leave for emergencies.)

3 Schedules/Standings/Playoffs

3.1. Schedules

Each year the member clubs decide the game schedule length (normally 9 games) and the type of championship playoff system they want (8,12, or 16 team playoff system).

A. Scheduling Committee

The Scheduling Committee (provided for by the By-Laws), is set up during the January Bert Bell meeting of each year and that committee puts together and publishes the season schedule. This is normally done as a series of schedules:

- 1) 80/100/120lb Varsity Schedule. March/April time frame and establishes your home and away schedule.
- 2) 150lb and Junior Varsity Schedule. August timeframe after member club commitments are made.
- 3) Flag Schedule. August timeframe after member club commitments are made. Scheduling of flag games will stay within the division.

B. Scheduling Criteria

The Scheduling Committee will try to incorporate special scheduling request but there is no guarantee. Each member club is allowed one (1) special request. Field availability, for those member clubs playing on school fields or sharing a field, will dictate the home and away schedule for those clubs.

The schedule shall consist of eight (8) or nine (9) regularly scheduled games, depending on the playoff schedule for the season. The first game is not to start before Labor Day each year and the playoffs are to be completed by the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Effective with the year 2010 schedule, the following criteria will be used to help produce a balanced scheduled on cross-over games.

- 1) Teams are seeded based on the winning percentages of the previous two (2) seasons. This seeding is NOT to include the 150lb games since not all clubs field that weight level and the 150s have their own schedule.
- 2) In odd numbered years:

	<u>In</u>	<u>even</u>	<u>numbered</u>	<u>years:</u>
1 seeds play – 1 and 3 seeds	1	seeds	play – 1	and 4 seeds
2 seeds play – 2 and 4 seeds	2	seeds	play – 2	and 5 seeds
3 seeds play – 1 and 3 seeds	3	seeds	play – 3	and 6 seeds
4 seeds play – 2 and 4 seeds	4	seeds	play – 1	and 4 seeds
5 seeds play – 5 and 6 seeds	5	seeds	play – 2	and 5 seeds
6 seeds play – 5 and 6 seeds	6	seeds	play – 3	and 6 seeds
- 3) Each division team will play the teams within their division (currently 5 games) plus two (2) cross-over games from each of the other divisions based on the above seeding.
- 4) Each division team will host two (2) cross-over games and travel for two (2) cross-over games. [2010]

The eight (8), twelve (12), or sixteen (16) team playoff system will determine whether nine (9) or eight (8) regular games count in the playoff point standings. If an eight (8) team playoff system is used, all nine (9) games count. If a twelve (12) or sixteen (16) team playoff system is used, only the first eight (8) games qualify for the playoffs and the varsity teams making the playoffs will play eight (8) games with week nine (9) designated as “wild card” weekend – see Section 3.4 Division Playoffs. A revised week nine (9) schedule will be set up for the remaining varsity teams and all Junior Varsity teams to complete the season. It is expected that all games will be played during the last week of the regular season (i.e.; week nine).

Any club that forfeits a scheduled game during the season will be responsible for paying the officials' fees for the game that has been forfeited, regardless of whether it is a home game or an away game.

C. Violation

Violation of the above will result in suspension from the Conference for one (1) season. However, the schedule must be played out as an "Exhibition" schedule.

3.2. Game Scores

Any organization, who fails to call or email in scores and weekend reports to the Representative who has volunteered to receive them, will be fined \$5.00, payable at the next meeting. A set time for scores to be called in will be announced by the Commissioner prior to the first game of each season.

3.3. Point System

A. Division Scheduled Games

Division standings are based on the win/lost record with points awarded for each win and each tie.

- 1) For a win, a team will receive ten (10) points,
- 2) For a tie, a team will receive five (5) points.
- 3) A forfeit is considered a win, ten (10) points for the team receiving it and a loss for the forfeiting team; and is recorded as a 2-0 score.
- 4) A Bye is recorded as 10 points, but if the ten (10) points enable that team to make the playoffs, over another team who did not have a bye, a mid-week playoff will be played at a neutral site to determine who makes the playoffs. The winner will receive that playoff position.

B. Bonus Points

Each team will receive bonus points based on the wins/ties recorded by a team that they defeat during the regular season, and are awarded as follows:

- 1) For each opponent's win, a team will receive 2 bonus points.
- 2) For each opponent's tie, a team will receive 1 bonus point.

3.4. Division Playoffs (Championship Series)

A. Division Playoff Format (8 Team)

In the event that the member clubs decide to play a 9-game schedule or the calendar year will not allow a four (4) week, twelve (12) team, divisional playoff, we will revert to a three (3) week, eight (8) team format, utilizing the structure above.

- 1) The three (3) divisional winners plus the next five (5) top point winners will be eligible.
- 2) The entire field of eight (8) teams will be reseeded based on the points and reseeded again after the first round.
- 3) Week one (1). Team one (1) vs. team eight (8); team two (2) vs. team seven (7); team three (3) vs. team six (6); and team four (4) vs. team five (5).

- 4) Week two (2). Team one (1) vs. team four (4); team two (2) vs. team three (3).
- 5) Week four (3). The winners from Week 2 meet for the Bert Bell Memorial Championship game.

B. Division Playoff Format (12 Team)

Effective with 2008, there will be four (4) weeks of playoffs between the top twelve (12) teams. The twelve (12) playoff teams will include an automatic berth for each division winner or winners, in case of division tie, and the next group of teams with the highest total points (see Playoff Seeding).

- 1) Week one (1). The top four (4) seeded teams receive a bye. Team five (5) vs. team twelve (12); team six (6) vs. team eleven (11); team seven (7) vs. team ten (10); and team eight (8) vs. team nine (9).
- 2) Week two (2). The winners from Week one (1) are re-seeded based on their original accumulated points as teams five (5) through eight (8). Team one (1) vs. team eight (8); team two (2) vs. team seven (7); team three (3) vs. team six (6); and team four (4) vs. team five (5).
- 3) Week three (3). Winners from Week two (2) are re-seeded based on their original accumulated points as teams one (1) through four (4). Team one (1) vs. team four (4); team two (2) vs. team three (3).
- 4) Week four (4). The winners from Week 3 meet for the Bert Bell Memorial Championship game.

A revised week (9) schedule will be set up for the remaining varsity teams and all Junior Varsity teams to complete the season. It is expected that all games will be played during the last week of the regular season.

C. Division Playoff Format (16 Team)

With the sixteen (16) team playoff format, there will be four (4) weeks of playoffs between the top sixteen (16) teams as determined by highest total points (see Playoff Seeding).

- 1) Week one (1). Team one (1) vs. team nine (9); Team two (2) vs. team ten (10); Team three (3) vs. team eleven (11); Team four (4) vs. team twelve (12); Team five (5) vs. team thirteen (13); Team six (6) vs. team fourteen (14); Team seven (7) vs. team fifteen (15); Team eight (8) vs. team sixteen (16)

- 2) Week two (2). The winners from Week one (1) are re-seeded based on their original accumulated points; Team one (1) vs. team eight (8); team two (2) vs. team seven (7); team three (3) vs. team six (6); and team four (4) vs. team five (5).
- 3) Week three (3). Winners from Week two (2) are re-seeded based on their original accumulated points as teams one (1) through four (4). Team one (1) vs. team four (4); team two (2) vs. team three (3).
- 4) Week four (4). The winners from Week 3 meet for the Bert Bell Memorial Championship game.

A revised week (9) schedule will be set up for the remaining varsity teams and all Junior Varsity teams to complete the season. It is expected that all games will be played during the last week of the regular season.

D. Playoff Seeding

Each team, including each division winner, is seeded, one (1) through eight (8), twelve (12), or sixteen (16), based on the total number of points accumulated (regular plus bonus). After each round of playoffs, the remaining teams are reseeded based on those same accumulated points.

E. 150lb Weight Division Playoff Format

Generally the 150lb weight class is two (2) divisions. The two (2) division winners plus the next six (6) top point winners are eligible for the playoffs; with all eight (8) being reseeded based on their points.

3.5. Tie Breakers

Tiebreakers for all playoff seeding positions, other than the last position, which determine week 1 playoff:

- 1) Head to head record
- 2) In division record
- 3) Out of division record
- 4) Opponent's overall record
- 5) Coin flip

Tiebreaker for the last playoff position:

- 1) Mid-week playoff at a "neutral" site.
- 2) Mid-week playoff for teams that would have made the playoffs except for one (1) team not having a bye. (Minutes, March 26, 2007)

4 Team Personnel

4.1. Age & Weight Standards

Note: The following age /weight guidelines apply to ALL Bert Bell weight classes (Varsity and all Junior Varsity teams).

The age and weight schematic provides a uniform series of two basic years of age qualification for each division of play. A third year of eligibility has been added falling under more stringent weight and age restrictions (the “older/lighter” player).

All players affected by the “older/lighter” rule will be listed separately at the bottom of the current roster format. The scale at weigh-ins will be adjusted to ensure the “older/lighter” player qualifies at the specified weight.

Member clubs have the PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY to verify that the player and state birth certificate presented are true and legal.

A. Eighty (80) Pound Team

A player may not weigh more than 80 lbs.

- 1) Players may not turn 9 years of age Prior to July 1 of the calendar Year of the football season to be eligible to play on the 80 lb. team.
 - a) The “older/lighter” rules allows a league age 9 year old to retain a third year of eligibility providing they do not exceed the 60 lb. restriction and meet the age restrictions
 - Player must be 9 years old by July 1 and
 - Cannot turn 10 until after November 30th of the playing year.
 - b) All weight allowances provided by the Bert Bell rules will apply.

The minimum age for the 80 lb. team is 7, which must be reached by July 1 of the playing year.

At the request of a parent and in agreement with the member club, a 6 year old flag player weighing more than 70 lbs. at the time of photo IDs can, for the year, move up to the 80 Junior Varsity or 80 lb. varsity (if there is no 80 lb. Junior Varsity available).

B. One Hundred (100) Pound Team

A player may not weigh more than 100 lbs.

- 1) Players may not turn 11 years of age Prior to July 1 of the calendar year of the football season to be eligible to play on the 100 lb. team.
 - a) The “older/lighter” rule allows a league age 11 year old to retain a third year of eligibility providing they do not exceed the 80 lb. restriction and meet the age restrictions.
 - Player must be 11 years old by July 1 and
 - Cannot turn 12 until after November 30th of the playing year.
 - b) All weight allowances provided by the Bert Bell rules will apply.

The minimum age for the 100 lb. team is 7. Age must be reached prior to July 1 of the playing year.

C. One Hundred Twenty (120) Pound Team

Players may not weigh more than 120 lbs.

- 1) Players may not turn 13 years of age prior to July 1 of the calendar year of the football season to be eligible to play on the 120 lb. team.
 - a) The “older/lighter” rule allows a league age 13 year old to retain a third year of eligibility providing they do not exceed the 105 lb. restriction and meet the age restrictions.
 - Player must be 13 years old by July 1 and
 - Cannot turn 14 until after November 30th of the playing year.
 - b) All weight allowances provided by the Bert Bell rules will apply.

The minimum age for the 120 lb. team is 8. Age must be reached Prior to July 1 of the Playing year.

D. One Hundred Fifty (150) Pound Team

Players may not weigh more than 150 lbs. (Minutes, March 26, 2007).

- 1) Players may not turn 15 years of age prior to July 1 of the calendar year of the football season to be eligible to play on the 150 lb. team.
 - a) The “older/lighter” rule allows a league age 15 year old to retain a third year of eligibility providing they do not exceed the 135 lb. restriction and meet the age restrictions.
 - Player must be 15 years old by July 1 and
 - Cannot turn 16 until after November 30th of the playing year.

- b) All weight allowances provided by the Bert Bell rules will apply.

The minimum age for the 150 lb. team is 10. Age must be reached prior to July 1 of the playing year.

E. Violation

If a player is ineligible due to age, all games in which player participated previously will be forfeited, and the player is suspended from all Conference play for the remainder of the season, plus Club is put on one year probation

4.2. Weight allowances (In Season)

The Commissioner has the authority to change the weight allowance, whether it be for a regular season or post-season game, if he/she feels it is in the best interest of the Conference.

A. Regular Season

An increase of one (1) lb. will be added each week for the duration of the regular playing season.

B. Night Games (and Afternoon Games)

For afternoon and night games, a team will be allowed to add two (2) pounds to the weight allowance for that game due to the time of day factor (games started by or scheduled for 12:00 noon or later).

For games rescheduled on Saturday from Friday night, the 2 lb. allowance will be permitted, regardless of the Saturday game time.

C. Playoff, Championship, Bowl Games

Weight allowances for Playoff and Championship Games will be one (1) additional pound.

4.3. Squad Makeup

- a) Each squad shall be composed of not less than fifteen (15) players and there shall be no maximum number of players on a team. The squad should also consist of a Head Coach, at least two (2) assistants, and an adult team manager.
- b) A player may not be on more than one weight team roster of a Conference Club. **Penalty:** all games forfeited in which the player participated and that team forfeiting its playoff participation.
- c) Not less than fifteen (15) players must be suited up and available to play in order to start a Conference game. **Penalty:** forfeiture of the game.

(NOTE: This can be waived with permission by the Conference Commissioner. A reasonable number of players must be available not less than 13).

- d) After the last Wednesday in September, a player may not be moved up or down from one weight group to another. **Penalty:** player suspended for the balance of the season.
- e) No player may be a MEMBER OF/OR ROSTERED ON MORE THAN ONE (1) ORGANIZED FOOTBALL TEAM SIMULTANEOUSLY, i.e., Bert Bell, school, Boy Scouts, etc., during a football season **Penalty:** all games forfeited in which the player participated and that team forfeiting its playoff participation. An exception is made for the upper weight teams – see Section 4.3A.
- f) An organized team is deemed to mean any athletic endeavor sponsored by a school, church or other civic organization scheduling football games during the regular Bert Bell season.

A. Upper Weights on Dual Rosters

120 and 150 pound team players may be rostered on and/or play on Bert Bell Conference 120 and 150 pound team and school affiliated team at the discretion of the member club.

- 1) Supplemental rules governing participation is at the club’s discretion.
- 2) Team must receive and keep on file a parental permission waiver document demonstrating their agreement that their child is playing for two teams.
- 3) All other Bert Bell rules regarding ages, weight, photo identification are applicable to the 120 and 150 pound team - no exception made in this policy.

Note: Coaches should be aware of the PIAA eligibility rules applying to Junior High/Middle School players who become involved with a youth football program. The full text can be found in the Appendix, Section 17.10 {2010}.

B. 50 % Participation Rule

Every 80, 100, 120, and 150 pound varsity player must make 50% of weigh-ins and be eligible to play in 50% of the games during the regular season to be eligible for the playoffs – see Section 4.4B – Participation During the Season. Approved Weigh-In rep will check off players who made weight on roster of opposing team at weight-in, sign it and date it, and FAX, MAIL, E-MAIL, OR HAND DELIVER TO CONFERENCE PRIOR TO NEXT GAME OR AT NEXT SCHEDULED BERT BELL BOARD MEETING.. **Penalty:** those players found not to have participated in 50% of the games will be ruled ineligible for the playoffs.

*Exception to be eligible to play is made for injured players.

C. Violations

Violation of the 15 player start of game rule will result in forfeiture of the game.

Violation of roster movement after it is closed will result in the player being suspended from the Bert Bell team for the balance of the season.

Violation of remaining articles shall result in all games forfeited in which the player participated and that team forfeiting its playoff participation.

4.4. Eligibility

A. Scholastic Requirements

IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONFERENCE TO MAKE NO SACRIFICE TO SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT. RATHER, IT IS OUR PURPOSE TO TEACH THAT FOOTBALL CAN ONLY BE PLAYED BY THOSE WHO PERFORM SATISFACTORILY IN THE CLASSROOM.

B. Participation during the Season – Playoff Eligibility

Each 80, 100, 120 and 150 pound varsity team is required to have all of the players play during each league game that he or she is eligible to participate in. The amount of playing time is left up to each individual member club. Failure to participate in a game in which the player is eligible will result in a loss of that player's post-season- privileges. Challenges to another organization's player eligibility will fall under Section 4.5.

C. Injury Reporting

Injuries are a part of football but with a 50% participation rule in place for post-season eligibility, the reporting and tracking of injuries becomes very important. Injuries will not keep a player from post-season eligibility if properly reported and tracked.

1. Conference Notification

- a) An injured player that is going to miss a game or games due to an injury must be reported to the conference.
- b) This notification must be done via email to the conference officers/directors giving the player's name, weight class, jersey # and duration if known; otherwise, reported each week.
- c) Injured players will then be listed in the published Bert Bell meeting minutes to be on record.
- d) Each week an injured player list will be distributed to the league representatives for use at weigh-ins.
- e) A player out for an extended period of time (two (2) weeks plus) due to an injury will require a written clearance (on appropriate letter-head) from the health caretaker (doctor/physician) prior to returning to the playing field. This clearance must give the players name and the date and nature on injury and must be submitted to the conference. (This should be a copy of what you should require as a club, for insurance liability, of any player coming off of an injury.)
- f) This notification does not replace the current roster check in procedures currently in place (Section 10.7). Injured players, if physically able, still need to cross the

scale and check in and not be shown as a “No Show (NS)”. An NS counts against a player's eligibility.

2. Penalty

If a player is found to have played in an outside game (School/CYO, etc.) while listed as being injured for Bert Bell, that player will lose their post-season eligibility.

D. Post-Season Ineligibility List

A post-season ineligibility list by weight class will be drafted and distributed to the member clubs by the conference at the conclusion of the regular playing season. This list is the result of analyzing the “signed” weigh-in rosters submitted and the injury list. This list must be reviewed and any discrepancies handled before the first playoff game.

4.5. Procedure For Challenging An Illegal Player

If an organization suspects the opposing team of illegal players, that organization must enter a protest (see By-Laws, Article XI) accompanied with a \$100.00 fee.

If a player is found ineligible, Bert Bell will immediately place the organization on probation for whatever term chosen by the commissioner (see By-Laws, Article XI) and suspend the player(s). The fee of \$100.00 will be refunded to the protesting organization.

If the player is found eligible, the protesting team loses its protest and the fee is retained by the league.

Definitions: Illegal player - Over-age, overweight, non-rostered and/or not within territorial districts or non-waived player from outside territory.

NOTE: Challenging team must submit challenge before next game

4.6. Physical and Age Requirements

No player shall be permitted to participate in any practices, scrimmages or games, or be listed on any Conference Roster unless they have presented to the Club and the Club maintains a file on the following:

A certificate attesting to player's sound physical condition, signed by a duly registered examining physician.

An ORIGINAL STATE BIRTH CERTIFICATE (**NOTE: State supplied. Certified Copy of Original** will be considered the same as original state birth certificate.)

Parental Consent - Each Conference team must keep on file written permission for participation signed by the parents or legal guardian for each player on its roster. It is understood that parental consent may be withdrawn by written notice from the parents to the head coach, at any time during the playing season.

A. Violation

Violation of this Article shall result in not only forfeiture of all games in which player played, but the player is ineligible for the rest of the season.

5 Registration & Administrative Procedures

5.1. Member Club Records

All teams must file a certificate of LIABILITY INSURANCE coverage with the Commissioner's office the Wednesday before the first game.

A. Violation

Failure of a team to file a certificate of insurance coverage with the Commissioner prior to the first game shall result in a forfeit, and the game will not be played.

5.2. Registration Records

- a) Clubs are required to keep in their possession the following data for EACH REGISTRANT
 - 1) Signed registration form - including parental consent, agreement to Bert Bell Conference waiver statement, and signed disclaimer for address release for football promotions.
 - 2) Signed physician's consent for participation.
 - 3) Signed code of conduct for EACH REGISTRANT.
 - 4) Copy of state birth certificate.
 - 5) Team must receive and keep on file a parental permission waiver document demonstrating their agreement that their child is playing for two teams. This pertains to the 120 and 150 pound team (reference Section Squad Makeup).
 - 6) Signed Privacy Statement - see Appendix, Section 17.9 for statement.

The above may be inspected by the Conference officials for verification.

Each Member Club retains original Data Card, Photo ID, and backup Photo ID.

- b) Clubs are required to keep:

- 1) Signed code of conduct for each parent.
- 2) Signed code of conduct by each coach/volunteer.

3) Signed permission form for coaches/volunteers clearances – see By-laws Article IIIA, Child Abuse Background Check.

c) Conference retains a copy of Photo ID.

5.3. Photo Identification Procedure

Certification per issuance of Photo ID card by Conference that states birth certificate WAS shown by player, photographed, and that Data Card information was in agreement with state birth certificate presented to Conference.

This is a requirement for all football players and cheerleaders (except for flag team football players and cheerleaders)

a) Conference will supply Data Cards to club reps - to be completed for all new players and retakes.

b) Each member club is responsible to schedule their initial Photo ID session at their location and have it placed on a master calendar.

It is the club responsibility to schedule a location suitable for the session (inside, electricity, etc.), get the camera there and set up, with sufficient supplies.

Procedure: It takes three (3) people to run an efficient Photo ID session

- One to handle the camera and take the Photo ID (**Bert Bell League will arrange for photographer**);
- **Club Representative** to organize and process a team (verify original B/C in hand and Data Card complete);
- Conference officer to verify data (name, birth date and identified weight class are correct) on Data Card is correct compared to original B/C. Conference official collects all "Holds". The Data Cards and valid Photo IDs are returned to the Member Club.

c) Players present ORIGINAL STATE BIRTH CERTIFICATE (See Article X, Section B), and completed DATA CARD at photo session. Card verified, photo taken.

d) Photo ID cards returned to club representatives. Club Representatives responsible for safe-keeping and presentation at weigh-in.

e) New photographs will be required only for NEW registrants and players whose ID cards are FOUR (4) years old..

Note: A black and white copy of all Photo IDs for a weight class is to be taken and submitted to the conference. It is recommended that a second copy be made and retained by the member club.

- g) Players not having required data card or birth certificate may be photographed at time of scheduled sessions during the pre-season. Photo ID cards will be retained by Conference until required identification material is received.
- h) In the event of loss of all photo ID cards for a team/teams, the Commissioner is to be advised AT ONCE. Arrangements must be made to obtain the backup copies from the Conference. In lieu of backup photos not being available for all roster players, arrangements will then be made for games to continue and new photos to be taken.

If backup of photo IDs exist and are used, re-takes must be scheduled to provide backup again.

- i) In the event of loss of individual player photo ID card, club must make arrangements to obtain the backup copy from the Conference, or in lieu of a backup not being available, make arrangements for re-take of photo prior to next regularly scheduled game.

If a backup photo exist and is used, a re-take must be scheduled to provide another backup copy.

- j) In the event that the Photo IDs don't get to a game in time for weigh-in (traffic conditions, car problems, accident, etc.), the weigh-in will be done via roster and the game played under protest. If the Photo IDs arrive before the game is over (or backup Conference copies obtained), the protest will be nullified; otherwise, the game will be recorded as a forfeit.

Note: If the pictures arrive before the end of the game, the players from that team at the conclusion of the game must be matched to the Photo ID for the protest to be nullified.

- k) In the event of lost card/cards, clubs are SOLELY RESPONSIBLE for the presentation of players at weigh-in. Players being re-photographed will have to present ORIGINAL STATE BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR VERIFICATION THAT PRESENTER IS PLAYER ORIGINALLY PHOTOGRAPHED. If such data is not presented, clubs will be solely liable for penalties as provided for illegal players.
- l) Issuance of Photo ID certified by Conference based on player and data submitted does NOT preclude the assessment of penalties to Member Club if eligibility of a player is later found to be in violation of rules

5.4. Coaches IDs

Coaches ID pictures:

- a) Required for all football and cheerleading coaches 18 years of age or older.
- b) Good for 3 years
- c) Completed Child Abuse clearance and criminal background checks must be presented and approved by a league officer before a league ID is released. Every coach must present a valid photo ID at the time their picture ID is taken to affirm their identity (see By-Laws, Article III A).
- d) All coaches for each team must appear at the scale for ID check prior to the game. Any coach not having their ID checked by a member of the opposing team or a Bert Bell board member may not have field access for that day's game(s). Coaches must have their ID in plain view to have field access.
 - 1) The coaches ID check will be done at the beginning of the official team weigh-in.
 - 2) Roster must contain the names of all coaches for that team and are to be checked off.
- e) Head coaches and assistants will have different color lanyards to allow referees to quickly identify the head coach.

5.5. Rosters

Each team must be on a separate roster and photo IDs must be by roster. No multiple Junior Teams on one roster.

A. Contents

- 1) Team rosters are to be TYPED with players listed in jersey number sequence (low to high). Hand-written rosters are not acceptable. A fine of \$25 per game weekend will be levied until corrected.

Players falling under the “older/lighter” rule must be listed at the end of the roster.

Note; Team rosters generated by computer software products are acceptable if the rosters can be produced in jersey # number sequence.

- 2) Must be completed in their entirety with the following information (**sample form included in the Appendix**):

Team Information:	Club Name
	Weight Class
	Revision Date
	Jersey Colors (Home & Away)
	Pants Colors
	Helmet Color

Head Coach & Phone Number
All Assistant Coaches & Phone Numbers
League Rep & Phone Number
Alternate League Rep & Phone Number

Player Information: Player Name
Address
Date of Birth
Jersey #
School Attending

5.6. Roster Turn In

A. Initial Submission

- 1) Must be submitted to the league one (1) week prior to the first scheduled game - **designated "Roster Turn-In" on the calendar.**
- 2) Flag rosters included
- 3) Rosters are to be submitted with one (1) original, plus (1) copy for the opposing team plus copies for officers. The rosters do not substitute or take the place of Photo ID and Birth Certificate requirement. All information must be complete for the player to be eligible. Rosters not submitted in time for approval and distribution will result in forfeiture of the game scheduled to be played.

B. Violation

If Rosters are not received as required, the offending team will forfeit the subsequent game or games, until rosters are received, with the game or games being played as "Exhibition". Failure of a team to appear for any game which has been designated an "Exhibition" could result in that team's suspension from the Conference and from all Conference activities in which it, and/or its players might otherwise be eligible for participation.

C. Roster Changes

Teams may add to rosters each Wednesday during the month of September until roster cut-off (last Wednesday). A new original, plus (1) copy per member club plus (1) for each officer must be submitted to the Commissioner for approval. The information must be complete as outlined above. Upon approval the Commissioner will distribute the revised rosters to all member clubs. No phone additions or game day hand written additions will be accepted. Revisions and additions can only be made on the Official Roster Form. Unapproved players will be ineligible until approved on the Official Form.

Each revised copy submitted must be identified with a "Revision Date". An acceptable method of submission is via email to the Commissioner. In return, the distribution of the revised copies will be via email.

Note: For an electronic submission (email) of a revised roster, extra copies are not needed. If paper copies are needed, see the explanation above for the number of copies.

D. Final Roster Turn In

FINAL REGISTRATION DATE shall be the last Wednesday of September for all teams.

E. Dual Residency

Players with dual residency must choose one as their primary residence. This will become their residence for the requirements of the Bert Bell League. This residence once chosen will remain in effect for the duration of the season. No changes will be allowed after rostered with a team. This becomes their official residence for the Bert Bell Conference. Any changes after a player choosing a residency will require waivers prior to the season starting.

5.7. Waivers

The waiver is the vehicle by which a member club can release a person, deemed “theirs” by terms of the member club territory boundaries, to another member club upon request by parent or legal guardian. A waiver is NOT REQUIRED if the player/cheerleader resides in a designated “open” territory. The Appendix contains a sample Waiver request Form.

A. Waiver Procedure Process

- 1) The waiver must be initiated by the “granting” member club. This will give that club the opportunity to address the reason why the request is being made.
- 2) The waiver must be expediently processed, especially, if it is the playing season, for practice reasons.
- 3) The signed waivers must be brought to the next Bert Bell regular meeting and those waivers entered into the minutes.
- 4) The signed waivers must be kept on file by the “Receiving” member club.
- 5) It is the “Granting” member club’s choice as whether to approve the waiver request or not. Final resolution, if required, can be presented to the Recruitment and Due Diligence Committee for decision.

B. As Applied to Coaches

- 1) That any waiver for coaches in the Bert Bell Memorial conference who wish to leave one organization (team) in the conference to coach for another organization (team) in the conference be withheld until a verification of returned items from the departing organization (team) is obtained.
- 2) That any coach seeking a waiver in order to leave one organization (team) in the Bert Bell Memorial Conference to coach for another (team) in the conference sign a

consent allowing the new organization to interview officials of the departing organization in regards to that coaches departure.

6 Pre-Season

6.1. Camp Guidelines for Camps Conducted by Member Clubs

- a) Overview. A football camp conducted in the off season is to teach and reinforce fundamentals, work on technique, agility training, conditioning, and etc.
- b) Structure. Camp should be organized around work stations with NO separation of ages.
 - 1) There is no practice of or the running of organized plays or anything that could be construed as such.
 - 2) There must be no separation of ages. The exception could be to separate by a range of ages (example: 6 – 10 and 11-15) for safety reasons on specific drills, etc.
 - 3) No uniform equipment allowed (helmets, pads, etc.)
- c) Advertising. Advertising must be placed describing the camp and enrollment procedures and must be limited to the geographical territory granted the club per the Bert Bell Bylaws
- d) Permission from Bert Bell. A copy of the camp structure and advertisement must be given to each member club and be presented at a regular scheduled Bert Bell board meeting. The camp will be voted on by the member clubs.
- e) After approval, it is the Member Club's responsibility to maintain the integrity of what was presented and approved.

A. Violation

Penalties for violation of the above guidelines are.

- a) 1st offense. Organization loses 2 weeks of contact practice (no pads).
- b) 2nd Offense. No playoff participation.

6.2. Practices & Scrimmage (Practice) Games

- a) Practices shall not begin before August 1st of each year.
- b) Practices shall not last longer than two (2) hours at each session. Maximum of five (5) sessions. Maximum of ten (10) hours per week.
- c) After Labor Day, practices shall be limited to not more than three (3) per week.

Maximum of six (6) hours per week, not lasting more than two (2) hours per session.

- d) Three (3) or more persons constitutes a legal practice.
- e) Scrimmages may be scheduled, provided that not more than two (2) are played per week. Scrimmages ARE considered a practice time.

Scrimmages and practices may not be scouted by anyone. (Note: A scrimmage has no kick-off. Any conditions involving kick-offs and/or with officials present are considered GAME conditions.)

A. Violation

Any notification of a violation of the above Article must be submitted to the Commissioner, in writing, by the team official who has personal knowledge of such violation, and further, must be attested to by team's general manager. This is to be done not more than seven (7) days after alleged violations happened. A ruling will be handed down by the Commissioner within ten (10) days after receipt of notification of a violation of the above Article. There is no appeal from the action of the Commissioner.

6.3. August Coaches Meeting

One coach from each weight team must be present at the August rules review meeting (coaches meeting) or the club is subject to a \$10.00 fine for each weight class missing.

7 Post-Season

7.1. Conference Championship Game

The Conference Championship Game is held at a site selected and voted on by the conference members during the current playing season.

Any organization not having at least one (1) representative present for half (1/2) of a championship game played locally will be fined \$25.00.

7.2. Site Selection Criteria

The selection of any location will be based upon the following criteria.

- 1) Turf only
- 2) Concession and gate revenues retained by the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference
- 3) Use of warm up fields
- 4) Cost of \$6K limit
- 5) Saturday availability
- 6) Parking considerations

7.3. Game day

The following serves as a check list for game day preparation.

- 1) League Reps. League reps from ½ of the clubs will cover opening (8 am through 2:30 pm); League reps from ½ of the clubs will cover the remaining part of the day -- with one hour overlap (1:30 pm through close of day, approximately 8 pm). Club assignments will alternate annually.
- 2) Volunteers. Each member club will submit a list volunteers (usually 8) for a 2-hour shift during game day.
- 3) Weigh-ins. The weigh-ins are handled by the Conference officers or by those selected by them.
- 4) Medical. Each participating team must provide for their medical sideline coverage.
- 5) Footballs. Each participating team must provide a new football and a backup.
- 6) Captain coins. The captains of each participating team (4 per team maximum) will each receive a captain's coin from the coin toss.

7.4. Local Championship Game with Another Conference or League

Any inter-conference championship and/or post-season games may only be accepted with the approval of the Commissioner. Only the championship team in each division will be eligible to represent the Conference at a post-season game, unless two games are offered to the Conference. If the first or second place teams, as the case may be, decline to participate in a post-season game, then with the approval of the Commissioner, the next team (or teams) shall be asked to represent the Conference. If there is a tie for first place, the winner would be decided by a playoff game. The game would be played on a neutral field, decided by the Commissioner.

7.5. Traveling Championship Trophies

Any organization who has a traveling Conference trophy in their possession will be responsible for any damage done to the trophy. Trophy will be inspected by a member of the Board prior to presenting it. It will again be inspected by a Board member when it is returned at the end of the season. After it is inspected, if there is any damage, the organization returning it will be assessed the cost of repair. Missing engraving is to be inserted by the Conference, and billed to the club.

7.6. Runner-Up Trophies

A runner-up trophy, to remain in the permanent possession of the appropriate club, will be presented to the runner-up teams at Championship Games. Member clubs will be assessed for the cost of these trophies.

8 Sportsmanship

8.1. Unsportsmanlike Acts

- a) No coach, player, manager, team parent, or guardian, business manager, athletic director, club officer or official, etc., shall commit or be party to, either by their action or inaction, any of the following unsportsmanlike acts, or any other act, which hereafter is deemed to be unsportsmanlike.

- 1) Strike or threaten any game official, league official, opposing coach, player or fan.

A. Violation

If after presentation of the facts to the Bert Bell Officers, any person or persons are found in violation of any of the above provisions, the following shall be imposed:

For the acts defined above:

Person(s) committing the offense shall be suspended from Bert Bell Conference (time determined by the Bert Bell Officers) and may not serve with any club in any capacity.

ANY PERSON (including parents/spectators) who strike or threaten ANY game official, league official, opposing coach, player, parent or fan will be IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE SITE, AND WILL BE REQUESTED TO TAKE THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION. NEITHER THE ADULT NOR THE CHILD WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BERT BELL HENCEFORTH.

IN ADDITION, the club will be liable for the MOST SEVERE OF PENALTIES, including (but not limited to) player ineligibility, game forfeiture, probation and fines.

- Become overly argumentative with, or disrespectful to, any game official, league officials, opposing coach, player or fan.
- Interfere with the progress of any game, i.e., remove team from field before game is officially completed, or actually impede or stop progress of game.
- Knowingly allow an ineligible player to participate in a game.
- Repeatedly allow improprieties to take place at weigh-ins, or repeatedly allow players to weigh-in with improper equipment, falsifying birth certificates, etc.
- Head Coaches shall be subject to disciplinary action if person or persons committing the unsportsmanlike acts are directly under the supervision or jurisdiction of the head coach, i.e., assistant coaches, managers, team parents, etc.
- Persons who are party to such unsportsmanlike acts or conspire to commit same shall also be subject to disciplinary action.

B. Violations

If after presentation of the facts to the Bert Bell Officers, any person or persons are found in violation of any of the above provisions, the following shall be imposed:

For all other acts or offenses as listed above:

First Offense: Person committing the offense shall be suspended for not less than two (2) games, including any playoff or championship game. Such offenders may not return to his position until suspension is over.

Second Offense: Person committing the offense shall be suspended for not less than six - (6) games, including any playoff or championship games. Such offenders may not return to their position until the suspension is over.

Third Offense: Person committing the offense shall be suspended from the Bert Bell Conference for life, and may not serve with any club.

For Head Coaches and others, as defined in Article XVII, B and C, penalties shall be imposed on the individuals and/or clubs involved as determined by the Commissioner.

8.2. Game Misconducts

Game misconducts cover players/coaches ejected from games.

1. Players. Players ejected from games, following PIAA rules, will serve a (1) game suspension. Any player receiving a second ejection will face a (2) game suspension and may have his playing season terminated.
2. Coaches. Coaches ejected from games will serve a (1) game suspension and following PIAA rules, must leave the playing field and facility immediately. The suspended coaches will be subject to club and Bert Bell review.

8.3. Mercy Rule

Any coach who runs up a score shall be subject to suspension per the schedule listed below. It will be the sole responsibility of the Bert Bell Officers to decide if a coach ran up a score, after discussing game scores with all parties involved. Those described as parties shall include Coaches, Game Officials, and Organization Representatives.

- a) To avoid the appearance of running up the score the following must be implemented when the score reaches a 28-point or more difference.
- b) The winning team shall make every effort to replace starting players with reserves, If reserves are limited, starting players should be placed in a different position.
- c) The winning team should stop passing plays, running plays intended to go outside the tackles or run any play that may be considered a trick play, i.e. reverses, odd formations, fake punts, counters, intentional onside kicks, draws.
- d) While on defense, neither team can blitz and, each team shall play a regular defense (i.e. 4-3, 5-3, 3-4) with defensive lineman, linebackers, and defensive backs in their normal positions.

- e) At the end of any quarter, the opposing Head Coaches and the Head official shall decide if the remainder of the game shall be played with a running clock. The coach of the losing team will have the final say as to whether a running clock is used.
- f) If the losing team's coach refuses the running clock (as is his right), the other components of the rule are still in effect – e.g. no blitzing, offensive play calling etc.

A. Violation

Any coach deemed guilty of running up a score shall be suspended for the following games:

- 1) First Offense: One (1) game
- 2) Second Offense: Three (3) games
- 3) Third Offense: For the rest of the season

8.4. Violation Procedure Process

Procedure for any member organization charged with violations of Bert Bell Rules or By-Laws:

- a) Commissioner will notify member organization of violation(s).
- b) Member organization will have the right to make an appeal to the Commissioner within a ten (10) day period from the time of notification of violation charges

The decision of the Commissioner will be final.

Discussion will be held as follows:

- a) Commissioner will call violating club/clubs.
- b) Conference Officers will meet with the violating club/clubs in private, prior to the next regular meeting, to hold discussion of the reported violation.
- c) Decision of the Officers will be announced at the Conference meeting.
- d) THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

8.5. Alcoholic Beverages

NO alcoholic beverages are to be brought to any playing field, **parking area, or streets adjacent to the playing field**. It will be the responsibility of each organization to inform anyone who is involved (e.g., coach, parent, fan) about this rule. Anyone who sees alcoholic beverages is to notify the Home Team Rep, Alternate or Club Officer. It will be their responsibility to take care of this problem. If it is a person from the visiting team who is breaking the rule, then the Home Team Rep, Alternate or Officer is to inform the

Visiting Team Rep, Alternate or Officer, and they will be responsible to resolve this problem.

A. Violation

Penalty for the above rule is:

- 1) A \$50.00 fine for first offense.
- 2) Second Offense will result in probation for the offending club.

ANY INDIVIDUAL(S) WHO ARRIVES AT A BERT BELL PLAYING SITE IN AN INTOXICATED CONDITION WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

It is the responsibility of the reps/clubs to attend AT ONCE to any such individual.

8.6. Smoking and Animals

- a) There is to be “No Smoking” at any member club field or Bert Bell sponsored function. The use of all tobacco related products by coaches on the sidelines is prohibited.
- b) For safety and insurance concerns, no animals are allowed at any member club field.

9 Officials

- A. It is the responsibility of the Commissioner to see that a master list of officials who are to officiate during the coming season is sent to each team representative not less than one (1) week prior to the season. However, the Commissioner has the sole responsibility to accept or decline the assignments of any or all officials.
- B. Any head coach may, in writing, recommend either deleting an official from the master list or adding one or more to it. This may be done prior to, or during, the season. However, the Commissioner has the sole responsibility to accept or decline such recommendations.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner to contract an assigner to assign officials.
 - 1) Four (4) officials per 120 and 150 pound game (Clubs may opt to use five (5) officials).
 - 2) Three (3) officials per 80 and 100 pound game (Clubs may opt to use four (4) officials).
 - 3) Five (5) officials for all Varsity post-season games.
 - 4) Four (4) officials for all Varsity night games (Clubs may opt to use five (5) officials).

- 5) Three (3) officials for all Junior Varsity games.
- D. All officials must be registered P.I.A.A. members.
- E. All officials must be dressed in P.I.A.A. uniforms.
- F. All game officials must be present at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the first game.

9.1. Fees and Payment of Officials' Fees

- a) Following PIAA guidelines, any official working any part of a game gets full fee for that game at fees established by the Commissioner. Those fees are to be paid by half-time to eliminate confusion at the end of a game.
 - 1) The official's fees are the responsibility of and paid by the host (home) team during the regular season.
 - 2) The official's fees for a regular scheduled game played at a neutral site are the responsibility of the team designated the home team.
 - 3) If a game is moved to another site due to weather conditions or other circumstances, the official's fees are still the responsibility of the original home team.
 - 4) If a game is suspended due to extreme weather conditions and played the next day or at a later date, the crew working the game receives full pay and the crew that works the rescheduled suspended game receives full pay. Because this is a financial hardship, Bert Bell will reimburse the member club(s) for the second set of fees but the normal procedure in paying the officials should be used to keep the game moving.
- b) The fees (established by the commissioner) for a playoff game are split between the two (2) competing clubs with the host (home) team paying the officials and the visiting team reimbursing the host (home) team.
- c) The fees for a Bert Bell championship game are split between the competing clubs and Bert Bell, with Bert Bell paying half.
- d) Official's fees, in the event of a post-season game held by a Conference member, will be established as to amount and by whom they shall be paid by the Commissioner.

10 Weigh-Ins

- 1. Visiting teams shall have access to scale for pre-weigh in.
- 2. Scale is to be calibrated with both clubs present.

Both representatives are present when the scale is calibrated. Calibration will occur prior to each weight level game.

3. All players present at the field at the time of the weigh-in must weigh-in at the official team weigh-in. Any player arriving after their game has started and prior to the start of the second half may weigh-in and participate in the remainder of the game. ***If a player arrives after the start of the second half of his game, he shall be ineligible to play until the following week. A player considered by an organization to be close to the weight limit for that week shall be permitted to weigh-in at the end of any official weigh-in on the day of the players' game. The weight limit shall be the weight in effect for that players' game.***
4. League supplied Photo ID card is necessary at time of weigh-in for inspection and approval by weigh-in representatives.

Teams must present cards and current copies of their roster before the players are lined up for weigh-in. Weigh-ins will not begin until completion of this step.

At this time, both representatives should advise which players on the roster are absent, hurt or expected to arrive after the start of the weigh-in.

5. Team must come to scale with their official team game jersey. Must be in numerical order from lowest to highest. Jersey does not need to be worn for the weigh-in but must be with the appropriate player.

Players will arrive in numeric order that will correspond to the roster with pictures in the same order as the roster. All rosters are typed. No handwritten rosters are acceptable.

Players listed on the roster for the “older/lighter” rule must line up at the end of the line. The scale must be adjusted to ensure the “older/lighter” player qualifies at the specified weight.

6. Weigh-in based upon natural body weight.

All players will have the opportunity to step onto the scale a minimum of 2 times before they are ruled ineligible for that week.

No weight allowances will be given at the scale.

Any allowances will result in the forfeit of the game by the team giving the allowance.

7. Official roster is to be checked at the weigh-in. No roster changes are allowed at the scale with the exception of game jersey number. If a game jersey number is changed,

barring unforeseen circumstances, the player assigned the number will wear it for the remainder of the game. The official roster of both teams is to be signed by both representatives and dated with the week number noted on the roster. Ineligible players, if any, are noted on the official roster. The playing of an ineligible player will result in a club fine (determined by the Bert Bell Board) and forfeiture of the game.

Since there is a minimum participation rule for the varsity weight classes, the status of the player must be clearly identified on the roster at weigh-in – if the player made weight or didn't and why (over weight, injured, quit, missing, etc.). If the status is unclear on the roster, the player will be considered missing.

- 1) A check mark (√) or OK if they cross the scale with no issues.
- 2) An X, NS (No Show), NO or a line through the name if not present.
- 3) An OW (over weight) or OVER if the player is over the weight limit.
- 4) An INJ if the player is there and crosses the scale but is injured. Use MED if a player is out due to sickness. (Minutes: August 28, 2008)

The home team representative takes possession of both signed rosters and turns them into the league at the next regular meeting time.

Without a valid roster spot and picture ID, the player will not participate in the game for any reason unless the Commissioner has given written authorization beforehand. If an ineligible player is allowed to play, the home team will forfeit the game played. This decision is the prerogative of the Commissioner and is unchallengeable.

8. League rules require that each team post these procedures in an easily visible location at the site of all weigh-ins.
9. All decisions on matters not covered above fall within the jurisdiction of the home team representative, who will have the responsibility of explaining such decisions, if requested by the members of the Rules committee.

A. Home Team Preparation For Weigh-Ins

NOTE: These steps are taken and in effect before the start of the season and maintained throughout the season.

1. A pre-determined area is set aside for all weigh-ins.

It is preferred that each weigh-in area is enclosed. For enclosed areas, there is a 30-foot privacy radius around the scale where only the players and the representatives of each team are allowed. For outside areas, this distance is a 60-foot radius.

No one is permitted within these privacy areas with the exception of players and authorized representatives. Each team is permitted one representative. This representative is either the official league representative, an alternate or a member of

the team's board of directors. These representatives are identified to the league prior to the start of the season and revisions are made as soon as practical. Failure to adhere to these regulations will result in the forfeiture of the game involved.

NOTE: The weigh-in list is arbitrarily set at 8 representatives per club. When your game schedules become available, you need to analyze the schedules to make sure that you are fully covered at any possible weigh-in when teams are playing away. If you have multiple JV teams, they most likely will be playing at different locations. If you feel you need more representatives, train them and submit their names to the Bert Bell secretary for distribution.

NOTE: A league representative who is a coach can weigh in his own team.

NOTE: The only other exceptions to these rules on who can observe weigh-ins are members of the Bert Bell board and representatives learning the procedures. This exception for those learning the process is in effect for the first 2 weeks of the season and trainees must be among those names submitted to the league prior to the start of the regular season.

2. Home team must have a 50-pound calibration weight. Weight must be certified every two- (2) years. Weights are to be solid 50-pound weights.

Scales are certified every two- (2) years as well. Certification stickers are often attached to scales, therefore, no receipt. During the course of the year, the Bert Bell board will verify the sticker.

Visiting representatives will note violations of this provision on one or more of the signed rosters that are turned in. Penalties for non-compliance are \$25 per day of games played.

3. Scale is to be provided by the home team.

If an unexpected problem develops as to a scale malfunction, the home team must correct the problem before the next series of home games – penalty is forfeiture of all varsity games unless agreed upon contingencies are agreed on by the Wednesday of the prior week with consent of the Commissioner.

B. Acceptable Practices During Weigh-ins

1. If a player steps on the scale in full uniform and it hits the top, the player can step off, remove articles of clothing and step back on until he either makes weight or he doesn't. You can usually tell how much clothing a player may need to remove by the reaction of the scale when stepped on. Start with the heavy articles like cleats, etc.
2. The goal is to get the player to make weight.

11 Open Territory

- A. Effective with the 1991 playing season, any player living in open territory who has played one season or more for a particular club is committed to that club. If the player chooses to change clubs, he will need a waiver. If the player moves from one open territory to another territory, he will be allowed to choose a new club.
- B. A player residing in open territory which is subsequently allocated to a new member organization shall have a one time choice during the initial membership year (probationary) PLUS 1 (additional) year of the new member club as to which club he chooses to play for. Waiver to change clubs would be required subsequent to this.
(4/93)

12 Junior Varsity (B/C) Teams

12.1. Structure

- A. JV teams are considered an auxiliary program. They should be structured to allow playing time and training to the player who is at the younger, lighter, less experienced or less aggressive status than the varsity player.
- B. Member clubs of the Bert Bell Conference are not REQUIRED to field JV teams.
- C. Teams wishing to commit to JV teams at any weight must do so NO LATER THAN THE LAST MONDAY OF AUGUST of each year.
- D. The Junior Varsity program for any club can begin:

Once a team rosters 35 players, that team may decide to field a Junior Varsity team from those players. The minimum amount of rostered players on the Varsity team must remain at least 18 if a Junior Varsity team is fielded.

- E. Parents/guardians of JV players should be made aware of the differences in guidelines for JV and varsity teams.
- F. All players rostered on JV teams are expected to play in each JV game.
 - * Note: Coaches must have the ability to exclude or limit playing time of players from games who have not regularly participated in practice sessions, but overall it is considered reasonable to expect rostered players to participate in each game for which they have prepared.
- G. Injured or overweight players are subject to Bert Bell rules regarding sideline dress.
- H. JV players may not be rostered on varsity roster at the same time they are on the JV roster.

12.2. Rosters

- A. JV players may not move up and/or down from varsity to JV, or vice versa, more than one time each from time of initial roster turn-in to final roster turn-in.
- B. JV players may not be "borrowed" or moved up to fill vacancies and/or shortages on varsity squads, due to injury, illness, etc.

12.3. Schedules & Games

- A. Until such time as all member clubs field JV teams at specified weights' JV teams will be considered to be in one (1) division.
- B. Scheduling for JV teams will be drawn in conjunction with varsity schedule. Clubs with JV teams playing each other at varsity level will play each other at JV level. Clubs playing clubs without JV teams will be scheduled either with a bye or versus another open team, as feasible.
- C. All Junior Varsity level schedules remain the same as the Varsity scheduling, but that the Bert Bell Conference Officials make a secondary schedule (if needed) to make sure that all Junior Varsity teams play a minimum of seven games. The secondary schedule, if needed, will be FINAL.
- D. JV games rained out do not have to be rescheduled. Time, field conditions, etc., permitting, games may be rescheduled if possible.
- E. Any changes in scheduling from published schedule are to be phoned to Officials and Commissioner NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY OF THE WEEK PRECEDING GAME. (This includes change of time, location of scheduling of open/bye dates.)
- F. There will be points assigned in accordance to Varsity rules.
- G. Junior Varsity game results will called into the league commissioner in accordance to the rules the Varsity program follows. The commissioner will keep the Junior Varsity standings and distribute standings and results via email in the same fashion as the Varsity standings and results.
- H. There will be no running up of scores. Games with point differential exceeding 30 will be investigated. Penalties for running up scores, if necessary, will be per standard Bert Bell Rules (see Sportsmanship Rule). Referee's fees for JV games will be split equally between clubs playing on neutral fields.
- I. In the event games are played on a neutral field, teams playing will be responsible to make satisfactory arrangements for providing medical personnel. (This may include use of each team's medical personnel, arrangements by both teams to use one team's personnel, or arrangements by both teams to use "home field" medical personnel, if applicable). The cost of such personnel will be divided equally between clubs playing.

12.4. Post-Season

There will be no crossover playoffs or Conference-sponsored Championship Game for JV teams.

12.5. 80lb Junior Varsity Exceptions

The following provisions apply to the 80lb Junior Varsity program only.

- a) Each quarter shall be a 15 minute running clock.
- b) One (1) coach is permitted on the field during the game to coach the players (accepted practice).
- c) There is NO kicking game (kick-offs). A dead ball punt option is allowed. Team will have the option to have a player drop back 5 yards and have a free punt. There is no center snap. There is no defensive rush allowed. The ball is dead where it rests. [2008]
- d) After a safety, the ball is moved to the 40 yard line.
- e) All other Junior Varsity rules apply.

13 Cheerleading General Rules

BERT BELL CHEERLEADING CONFERENCE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE BERT BELL MEMORIAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE. UNLESS EXCEPTIONS ARE DULY NOTED AS NOT APPLICABLE.

A. General Rules – Non-Competition

1. DUES: Each member team shall pay dues on or before the September meeting of each year. The amount of the dues shall be assessed each year at the August meeting by the representatives. This fee is not to exceed \$100.00.
 - a) Failure to pay at this time will result in a late charge of an additional \$5.00.
 - b) A letter will be sent to the President and Treasurer of the organization to be fined. This will be sent to the club's address.
 - c) Failure to pay the dues by the October meeting will result in the forfeiture of registration for the current competition.
2. MEETINGS: Each organization is required to present a list of representatives (name, address and phone number) and two alternates by the April meeting. Each organization will email the Bert Bell Cheerleading Treasurer by the April meeting with their organization's President and Treasurer's names, physical addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. At least one representative must attend each meeting or be subject to a fine of \$50.00 per meeting missed.

- a) Meetings will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. The schedule of meeting dates will be announced at the mandatory March meeting. Meetings will last no longer than 2 hours.
 - b) Meetings are to be attended by the representative and/or alternates only.
 - c) The August and October meetings as well as the first meeting after competition are opened to all coaches.
 - d) Meetings are generally monthly (except January and February) unless cancelled by the President.
3. VOTING PROCEDURES: No matter how many representatives are present at a scheduled Bert Bell Cheerleading Conference Meeting, each organization is allowed only ONE vote on any issue raised. If your club is not represented at the meeting, your VOTING CHOICE IS FORFEITED. You must comply with whatever is decided upon by the organizations present at the meeting. The vote will be decided by a majority rule of those present and able to vote.
- a) A representative or the alternate shall not be entitled to vote if they are absent from two consecutive meetings of the board. They shall regain their right to vote after attending two consecutive meetings. They will need to register as exhibition.
 - b) The President shall vote only in the event of a tie.
 - c) A team must complete their one year probationary period within the Bert Bell League before being given any voting privileges.
4. TERMS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- a) The Executive Board of Directors shall be nominated at the March meeting and elected at the April meeting.
 - b) The officers of the Executive Board shall serve a term of two years and will be voted on in the following order:
 - 1. EVEN YEARS: President and Secretary
 - 2. ODD YEARS: Vice-President and Treasurer
 - c) Board of Directors job descriptions:
 - 1. PRESIDENT: Shall oversee all aspects of the Bert Bell cheerleading program which includes but are not limited to: hold monthly meetings, enforce all

bylaws, educate directors on rules and regulations of the Bert Bell and the sport of cheerleading, act as a liaison between Bert Bell board of Directors and the Cheerleading, update coaches on cheerleading related issues, participate on the Competition Committee and help provide a safe cheerleading program for all Bert Bell participants

2. VICE-PRESIDENT: Shall stand as President if the appointed president is unable to perform his/her duties. The vice-president is responsible for having a superb knowledge of the bylaws, keep the meetings running in an orderly fashion, assisting with competition, oversee the Attendance Committee, and helping the president when needed. This is not an all-inclusive list and other duties may be given throughout the season.
3. TREASURER: The treasurer is responsible for all monetary transactions that are made within the organization. They will collect all dues and money, check bank statements for accuracy, write checks, keep records of all transactions, update Bert Bell directors of account balances and notify organizations/people when money is owed. The Treasurer will participate on the Competition Committee. The treasurer will also be the time keeper at competition or designate a representative. This is not an all-inclusive list and other duties may be given throughout the season.
4. SECRETARY: the secretary is responsible for correspondence between the directors. They will keep the directory listings updated, take minutes from each meeting and distribute them to the reps. She is the liaison between the Bert bell secretary and the Cheerleading Board of directors. The Secretary will also mail/email necessary information to the cheerleading staff and commissioner when appropriate. The Secretary will participate on the Competition committee. The Secretary will also be the time keeper for the routines at competition. This is not an all-inclusive list and other duties may be given throughout the season.
5. **AGE REQUIREMENTS**: Cheerleaders must turn five (5) years old on or before June 30 and be no older than fifteen (15) years old on or before November 30.
 - a) All first time cheerleaders must present original birth certificates to their league the day they register and must show it to the board member taking ID pictures.
 - b) Physicals and parental consent forms are required before the first practice.
 - c) No cheerleader may begin practice unless there is a physical on file, signed by a doctor.
 - d) **ALL CHEERLEADERS** must have an ID taken. IDs for competition cheerleaders must be checked and signed at every game. This roster and ID must be presented at the October meeting and the day of competition.

e) An ID picture is only good for a total of 4 years.

6. ALL SQUADS

a) If a club cannot field a varsity squad at the September Meeting, a waiver for the season is given.

b) Rosters of all registered cheerleaders will be due at the September meeting. They are to include names, addresses and birthdates and school that they attend.

c) Cheerleaders cheering for squads must adhere to the following age rules according to the birth date.

d) If there is no 150lb team, it is at the discretion of the individual organization to allow 13-15 year old cheerleaders to cheer for the 120lb team.

e) Ages and teams:

- 1) 7-8 year olds on the 80 lb. team
- 2) 9-10 year olds on the 100 lb. team
- 3) 11-12 year olds on the 120 lb. team
- 4) 13-15 year olds on the 150 lb. team

f) If there is no 150 lb team, it is at the discretion of the individual organization to allow 13-14 year old cheerleaders to cheer for the 120lb team.

7. PROTOCOL FOR GAME DAY:

a) The coach of the home team should accompany her squad, with rosters and ID cards, when they are welcoming the visiting team. You only have to show ID cards for competition girls. When signing off, ALL CHEERLEADERS names should be called off and all photo IDs checked.

- 1) If there are no cheerleaders on opposing team, rosters will be signed off by a BERT BELL BOARD MEMBER.
- 2) Check-in can be done prior to the half-time routines.

b) Half-time program during the games will run as follows: The program consists of three cheers or one cheer to the opposing team and a one minute dance. The visiting team cheers first while the home team waits on the 30 yard line. The first cheer will be presented to the opposing team, using the opposing teams mascot and/or colors should be friendly and welcoming and the second and third cheers to their own team. Upon completion, the team should return to the 30 yard line to observe the home team's program.

- 1) An adult coach/student coach/team mom must accompany all stunt groups that perform on the field at half time. These names must be on the roster to go out on the field. Mascots are allowed on field if they are at least 5 years old. Based on your organization's insurance coverage
 - 2) No basket tosses are to be performed at half time or on any field at any time. This includes the all-star game.
 - 3) At the end of the game, both cheerleading squads should shake hands when the football players do, no exceptions. This should be done in a separate line from the football players.
 - 4) Any show of poor sportsmanship is to be reported immediately to any Bert Bell board member for resolution. Poor sportsmanship includes, but is not limited to spitting, not shaking hands, name calling or other conduct unbecoming.
8. WEATHER CONDITIONS: If the football game is played, the cheerleaders MUST BE PRESENT.
- a) A decision not to cheer is based on the league's decision. If the football team plays, the cheerleaders cheer.
 - b) A fine of \$15.00 per Varsity and Junior Varsity squad will be imposed for any team not fielding a squad during a regularly scheduled game. This includes Labor Day weekend and play-offs.
 - c) The Bert Bell cheerleading president is to be called when a decision is made not to field a squad.
9. COACH'S: IT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THEIR COACHES GET ALL THE PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM THE BERT BELL CHEERLEADING CONFERENCE.
- a) Directors: It is the representative's responsibility to see that EACH coach has a copy of the bylaws, the physical forms, an emergency card for each cheerleader, and a coaches phone list for each individual league. This should be kept with each coach for each team at all times.
 - b) It is the responsibility of the representatives to see that their coaches receive all of the pertinent information and are clear on all of the rules and regulations.
 - c) Cheerleading coaches in Bert Bell must attend either a coach's clinic or attend a coaches meeting prior to the first game. ALL coaches must know the rules and regulations from the league as well as the cheerleading by-laws. A cost may be collected for a clinic since an outside organization will be hosting it. Bert Bell

cheerleading will cover the cost for up to three (3) coaches per organization to attend an annual cheer coach's clinic it sponsors.

10. FLAG CHEERLEADERS:

- a) Flag cheerleaders will be permitted under the age of 7 at the discretion of each individual club. Flag must be registered and rostered and appear on all paperwork as flag cheerleaders. Individual clubs may choose to charge a nominal fee. Flag cheerleaders adhere to the same age/birth date requirements that the football players do.
 - 1) Flag cheerleaders are able to participate in practices.
 - 2) Flag cheerleaders may not participate in competition.
 - 3) Flag cheerleaders may perform cartwheels and thigh stands only.
 - 4) Mascots are accepted based on your organizations choice. They may cheer on sidelines only. NO FIELDING PERMITTED unless the child is at least seven (5) years old. They must appear on roster as a flag cheerleader.

11. POST SEASON COMPETITION

- a) Post season competition is allowed; however, a separate medical waiver must be obtained from your organization. Contact your league representative. You may use the Bert Bell name.

12. BY-LAWS. Any by-law changes, additions or deletions need to be presented at the March meeting, voted on at the April meeting and will go effect immediately after the April meeting.

- a) By-law changes, addition or deletion must be a majority vote in order for the bylaw to become effective in April.
- b) March is the only time during the year that bylaw changes may occur unless an unexpected incident has occurred.

B. Competition and Exhibition Rules:

- 1. Eligibility: Entries in competition are limited to Bert Bell cheerleading Conference members only, who are in good standing for the current year.
 - a) MUST cheer for 50% of the scheduled games. Special circumstances must be brought to the Bert Bell Cheerleading board's attention.
- 2. Fees: A registration fee will be negotiated and agreed upon at the September General Meeting.

- a) Fees are due by the October meeting. The fee is non-refundable.
- b) There will be a fee for both competition and exhibition teams.

3. Competition Committee Definition & Responsibilities [2009]

- a) At the November meeting a committee including the executive board, a member of the Bert Bell football board, and a representative from each division will be established to coordinate the next year's event. Committee responsibilities may be divided up as needed to accomplish the tasks.

b) Committee Responsibilities

- 1) By the August meeting, the committee must have secured and possess a signed contract for an appropriately sized competition facility.
- 2) Send each competing organization a copy of the competition judging sheets, a gym diagram with mat dimensions and a map to the gym location.
- 3) Employ a competent announcer who can keep the crowd under control.
- 4) Arrange for a professional sound system.
- 5) Arrange for competition T-shirts will be handled by the Bert Bell Cheerleading Board. The hosting club should hand in their design by the September meeting.
- 6) Arrange for a food and beverage vendor.
- 7) Produce a program to include information on all competing and exhibiting teams.
- 8) Determine a schedule to staff the cheerleader check-in, ticket, T-shirt, fund raiser and event program tables throughout the competition day. Each league will be required to contribute a certain number of people to staff some of these areas at appointed times of the day.
- 9) Set ticket prices and arrange for ticket pre-sales. Additionally, any maximum seating capacity restrictions should be published so all organizations can effectively communicate to their parents.
- 10) Determine event fund raiser items and arrange for pre-sale forms where appropriate.
- 11) Arrange for videographer and pre-sale forms.

12) Provide cash boxes and seed cash for ticket, T-shirt, fund raiser and event program tables.

4. Competition Day Format requirements:

- a) Cheerleading mats measured off in a 52' by 52' square with an "X" marked in the center of the mat.
- b) Have enough tables to seat six judges and the four Bert Bell board members in front of the competition mat and ensure the area is cordoned off appropriately to keep the crowd at distance.
- c) Have enough tables to sell tickets, T-shirts, fund raiser items and event programs.
- d) Have a separate walk-through and tumbling area for teams to warm-up on in facilities with sufficient height and size.
- e) Have a holding area for cheerleaders big enough for cheerleaders in the current session.
- f) Have a cheerleading check-in and registration area apart from the general ticket area.
- g) Have a professional sound system and announcer available to run the event and provide direction to the audience throughout the day.

5. Registration:

- a) Registration will begin one (1) hour before the start time of the competition.
- b) Each club being given 5 minutes for tumbling/stunting and five (5) minutes to walk through their routine in the designated warm-up areas for each competition and exhibition squad.
- c) Exhibition squads may opt not to do their walk through; these teams must notify board by October meeting.
- d) I.D. cards and rosters will be checked the day of competition. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

6. Age Division Requirements: the ages for competition only are determined as of August 31st, the exceptions to that are : seven year olds must turn seven (7) by June 30th and they may be no older than fifteen (15) years old as of November 30th as dictated by Bert Bell Football registration rules.

- a) Exhibition Squads: There will be a limit of four exhibition squads from each organization. No more may be entered. Each exhibition team can consist of cheerleaders ages 7-15 years.
 - b) Competition Squads:
 - 1) Pee Wee Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 7-9 years.
 - 2) Youth Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 7-10 years.
 - 3) Junior Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 9-12 years.
 - 4) Senior Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 11-15 years.
7. Competition squad requirements:
- a) No cheerleader will be permitted to cheer on two competition squads but may perform on both an exhibition and a competition squad. If a cheerleader is on two competition squads, both squads will be disqualified.
 - b) A club may not have more than one team in any Division and Category. A club may have a Junior Intermediate and Junior Elite team but may have two Junior Elite teams even if one is Small and one is Large.
 - c) Competition rosters must be submitted by the September meeting.
8. Order of Performance: The lottery will take place at the September general meeting.
- a) Exhibition squads will perform in the lottery order.
 - b) Any organization not present at the September meeting will automatically be placed in first performance position. If more than one organization is not present, then the organizations will be placed in alphabetical order.
9. Routine:
- a) Skill Level Categories: All skill levels will be available to the following Age Divisions: Novice – All (PeeWee, Youth, Junior, Senior), Intermediate – Youth, Junior, Senior, Elite – Junior and Senior.
 - 1) Novice Level
 - Standing tumbling limited to a cart wheel, round off and single back-handspring
 - Running tumbling limited to a single round-off back-handspring
 - Dismounts limited to simple cradles and straight drops, no twists allowed

No Basket tosses
Single leg stunts limited to prep-level liberty only
Extension stunts limited to two-legged only
Pyramids (braced or non-braced) limited to prep-level or below

2) Intermediate Level

Standing tumbling limited to a cartwheel, round-off and back-handspring (series permitted)
Running tumbling limited to multiple back-handsprings to a single back-tuck with a back-handspring
Dismounts limited to basic cradle or straight drop from one-legged stunts. Single full twists are permitted from two-legged stunts.
Basket tosses are permitted. No twists or helicopters
Single leg stunts are limited to extended liberties
Pyramids must follow AACCA High school and youth rules

3) Elite Level

Dismounts limited to a single full twist
Basket tosses limited to a single twist
All tumbling, stunts and pyramids must follow AACCA High school and youth rules

b) Sizes of squads: any organization, regardless of numbers may put up to 30 cheerleaders on the floor. If a category gets very large there may be a split of the category as follows:

- a) Small squad less than 15
- b) Large squad 15 – 30

c) Request of division and skill level: Squads must put their request for division and skill level categories in by October 15th. NO EXCEPTIONS.

d) Actual Routine:

- 1) Cheer/Dance combined for TWO TO TWO AND A HALF MINUTES (2-21/2 MINUTES). IT IS MANDATORY TO DANCE TO A MINIMUM OF 20 SECONDS WITH A MAXIMUM OF ONE MINUTE 15 SECONDS.
- 2) Exhibition squads may perform for a maximum of TWO MINUTES. Props are allowed.
- 3) Ten (10) point penalty for going over/under time on total routine. Will allow a five second grace period (1.55 or 2.35). This deduction will be applied to the final score.

- 4) Five (5) point penalty for going over/under for dance/music routine. No grace period. This deduction will be applied only once to the final score.
 - 5) Ten (10) point penalty for each illegal stunt. This will be deducted from the final score.
 - 6) Five (5) point penalty for any jewelry worn. This deduction will be applied only once to the final score.
 - 7) Only at the beginning of the routine may tumbling start off the mat. Tumbling must finish on the mat. Any cheerleader who goes off of the mat at any time during cheer or dance routine will receive a five (5) point deduction will be taken off the final score.
 - 8) Props (pompoms, megaphones, banners, flags and signs only) are permitted in the competition routines. The cheerleaders must carry them on and off the mat. Only cheerleaders can use props on the mat. If the cheerleaders do not carry the props on and off the mat, a five (5) point deduction will be taken off the final score. Signs and pompoms may be off the mat. If banners or flags are on poles then they must be approved.
- e) Three adult spotters are provided by Bert Bell. Any organization who would like to add more spotters may do so; however, they may not be coaches. The spotters must be familiar with the routine and only assist if a cheerleader is falling. He/she may not help a cheerleader into a stunt. Spotters must wear sneakers. Spotters must know the proper way to spot.
 - f) No Cheer or Dance motions may be used by Competition squads, which includes but is not limited to NCA, UCA, ECA, FCC, etc. As determined by the judging coordinator. Words of the cheer may be used but not the motions to the cheer. No entire eight counts may be used. Any squad using a cheerleading camp routine will be disqualified and automatically receive Honorable Mention.
 - g) No paid choreographers are permitted for Bert Bell Competition routines.
 - h) UCA/AACCA guidelines will be followed at all times.

10. Judges:

- a) The number of judges will be voted upon at the August meeting. They must be UCA or NCA affiliated and not with any particular competing organization. No judge may have a prior coaching or mentoring experience with any competing organization.

- b) A UCA or NCA certified official will be a judging coordinator. He/she is responsible for answering any questions prior to competition.
- c) Judging sheets will be immediately taken to two (2) independent auditors (adults) for tallying. The two (2) independent auditors will each tally the sheets and run an adding machine tape for each sheet which will be stapled to each sheet. A master sheet will be given to each squad with all the scores of participants. All individual score sheets will be available at the end of competition. No coaches from Bert Bell Cheerleading Conference will approach a judge. If questions, contact the Independent Judging Coordinator.
- d) A written criteria should be given to judges for more efficient scoring.
- e) Independent Judging Coordinator/Tallier will complete the announcement sheet for each category to be used for announcement of awards. All competing squads will be listed on the award announcement sheet.
- f) Any changes made on a score sheet must be initialed by the judge, independent judging coordinator, and Bert Bell representative.
- g) The Bert Bell President will review deductions taken off final score before announcements.

11, Requirements for the judge table:

- a) Those allowed to sit at the judges table during the entire competition include: the officers of the Bert Bell Cheerleading league, judges, timers, and judging coordinator. No other representative, coach or individual will be permitted to sit, at any time.
- b) The two timers shall be the Secretary and Treasurer.
 - 1) Another board member may take the position depending on circumstances.
 - 2) The timers must be in good standing with the cheerleading league.

12. Requirements for Day of Competition

- a) The treasurer will be the time keeper for the walk through or will appoint a representative ahead of time)
- b) The only people allowed in the walk through gym are as follows: a board member, a coach/cheerleading/holding room parent from the team performing, the time keeper, security personnel and the host of the competition.

- c) The president shall oversee all parts of the competition and is responsible for making sure the event runs smooth.
- d) The cheerleading board and each cheerleading director shall be given special ID tags prior to competition.

14 Flag Team Regulations

- A. FLAG FOOTBALL TEAMS are considered an auxiliary program. They should be structured to allow playing time and training to all players.
- B. Member clubs of the Bert Bell Conference are NOT REQUIRED to field FLAG teams.
- C. Teams wishing to commit to FLAG teams must do so NO LATER THAN THE LAST MONDAY OF AUGUST of each year.
- D. All players on FLAG teams are expected to play in each FLAG game.

Note: Coaches must have the ability to exclude or limit playing time of players from games who have not regularly participated in practice sessions, but overall it is considered reasonable to expect Flag players to participate in each game for which they have prepared.

- E. Until such time as all member clubs field FLAG teams at specified weights' FLAG teams will be considered to be in one (1) division.
- F. There will be no crossover playoffs, Conference-sponsored Championship, All-Star or Bowl Game for FLAG teams.

14.1. Scheduling

- A. Scheduling for FLAG teams will be drawn in conjunction with varsity schedule. Clubs playing clubs without FLAG teams will be scheduled either with a bye or versus another open team, as feasible.
- B. We propose on the FLAG level that the scheduling remain the same as the Varsity scheduling, but that the Bert Bell Conference Officials make a secondary schedule (if needed) to make sure that all FLAG teams play a minimum of seven games. The secondary schedule, if needed, will be FINAL.
- C. Any changes in scheduling from published schedule are to be phoned to Officials and Commissioner NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY OF THE WEEK PRECEDING GAME. (This includes change of time, location of scheduling of open/bye dates.)
- D. In the event games are played on a neutral field, teams playing will be responsible to make satisfactory arrangements for providing medical personnel. (This may include

use of each team's medical personnel, arrangements by both teams to use one team's personnel, or arrangements by both teams to use "home field" medical personnel, if applicable). The cost of such personnel will be divided equally between clubs playing.

14.2. Age & Weight Standards

- A. Players may not turn 7 years of age Prior to July 1 of the calendar year of the football season to be eligible to play on the FLAG team.
- B. The minimum age for the FLAG team is 5, which must be reached by June 30th of the playing year.

14.3. Game

A. Game ball

- 1). The game ball for the FLAG team shall be the leather Wilson K2

B. Game Times

- 1) FLAG games should start at 12:00 NOON on SUNDAY if possible. The start time for flag games are at the discretion of the Home club.
- 2) FLAG games rained out do not have to be rescheduled. Time, field conditions, etc., permitting, games may be rescheduled if possible.

C. Field Dimensions

- 1) 180 feet long x 160 feet wide
 - a) 40 yards from goal line to goal line, marked every 10 yards.
 - b) 10 yards deep for end zone

D. No Game Scores.

- 1) There will be no points assigned for wins/losses/ties/ forfeits.
- 2) No Wins/losses, standings as such will not be published.

14.4. Uniforms

- A) Players of opposing teams must wear contrasting colored jerseys, without pockets, numbered on the rear. Jerseys must be:
 - 1) Long enough so they remain tucked in the pants/shorts during the entire down, or
 - 2) Short enough so there is a minimum of 4" from the bottom of the jersey to the player's waistline. The Referee will use a fist to measure the distance between the waistline and the bottom of the jersey.

- B) Each player must wear pants or shorts without any belt(s), belt loop(s), or exposed drawstrings. The pants or shorts must be a different color than the flags.
- C) Each player must wear a one-piece flag belt, without any knots. Flag belt must have TWO (2) flags with a VELCRO attachment. Flags must be worn on each side of the player.
 - 1) Excess belt adjustment must be tucked in at all times.
 - 2) NO Towels attached at the player's waist (flag belt only).
- D) No helmets, hard padding, or any other equipment that could cause injury is allowed. No watches or jewelry are allowed.
- E) Rubber cleats are encouraged but not required. NO metal spikes.
- F) ALL players must wear a mouthpiece.

14.5. Playing Rules

A. Length of Game shall be:

- 1) Playing time is 1 (one) Hour for FLAG teams.
 - a) There will be two halves per game.
- 2) There will be a 5-minute halftime.

B. Scoring shall be as follows:

- 3) Touchdowns = 1 point
- 4) NO Extra Points
- 5) NO Safeties

A. Number of Players There are only 11 players from each team on the field at any time during the game. Each team is required to have 11 players start the game.

- 1) 2 Coaches are allowed on the field with their team for team instruction only.
 - a) One offensive line coach and one offensive spokes person coach - Calling the plays.
 - b) Two defensive coaches, including one defensive spokes person.
 - c) Coaches may not interfere with game play.

B. Start of Game

- 1) There will be no “Kickoff” or punts. There will be a coin toss to determine which team will be on offense first. The ball will be placed on the offensive 40-yard line.
- 2) Each team will have eight (8) offensive plays in which to score.
- 3) There will be no “Turnovers”. At the end of the eight (8) plays, the possession will change and the ball will be placed on the offensive 40-yard line.
- 4) Defensive can score on interceptions only.

C. Line of Scrimmage

- 1) The offensive team must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the line of scrimmage. Once the center has placed his hands on the ball no offensive player may cross the ball until the ball is snapped to the quarterback.
- 2) Not following these rules warrants a false start, offside, or encroachment call.
- 3) There will be no defensive player over the offensive center's head on the line of scrimmage, (this player is commonly known as a defensive nose guard). This rule permits the offensive center to deliver the ball to the quarterback without being hit or disrupted. In addition, there is no blitzing through the gaps on either side of the center, (these gaps are commonly known as "A" gaps). Again, these rules are to protect the center and to allow a clean snap to the the quarterback.

D. Backward Passes and Fumbles

- 1) A player may not intentionally throw a backward pass out of bounds to conserve time or to avoid being downed. This will be penalized as an Illegal pass (loss of 5 yards); loss of down and the clock will start on the ready for play. If in doubt, the pass is backward.
- 2) Fumbles may only be recovered by the offensive team on a snap from center. If the ball is fumbled anytime after initial control is established by the ball carrier, then the ball is down where it hits the ground. Initial control is established when the offensive ball carrier crosses the line of scrimmage. If a fumble occurs in the backfield, only the offensive team may recover and advance. Otherwise Dead Ball.

E. Forward Passes

- 1) If a player is in the air attempting to catch a ball, the player must contact the ground with at least one foot in-bounds with the ball in their possession prior to going out of bounds, unless contact by an opponent causes the player to first touch out-of -bounds. If possession of the ball is lost simultaneously when they hit the ground, it is not a catch.

F. Blocking

- 1) Contact Blocking shall only be allowed in the free blocking zone. (the free blocking zone is the area occupied by the down line)
- 2) Screen blocking is allowed in the open field. Screen blocking shall take place without contact. A screen blocker can not use their hands, arms, elbows, legs or body to initiate contact. If they do use contact, it will be called a Personal Foul. The referee will grant a one time team warning, second infraction, the next player will be removed from the game for at least one play.

G. The Flag Belt

- 1) All shirts must be tucked in, and are not permitted to hang over the flag belt.
- 2) Should a player loose their flag belt legally or illegally during a down and should that player gain possession of a live ball, that player will be considered down when a legal tag (one hand touched by the defense between the shoulders and knees, including the hand and arm) is made.
- 3) Players must have possession of the ball before they can legally be deflagged. It is illegal for a defensive player to intentionally pull a flag from an offensive player who is not in possession of the ball. In cases where a flag belt is removed illegally, play should continue with the option of the penalty of the play (Penalty: Personal foul, 10 yards).
- 4) PENALTY: Live Ball Foul. Failure to have flag belt legally attached at the snap, 5 yards from the previous spot.

H. Guarding the Flag Belt

- 1) Runners shall not flag guard by using their hands, arms, or the ball to deny the opportunity for an opponent to pull or remove the flag belt. Flag guarding includes:
 - a) Swinging the hand or arm over the flag belt to prevent an opponent from deflagging.
 - b) Placing the ball in possession over the flag belt to prevent an opponent from deflagging.
 - c) Lowering the shoulders in such a manner which flag guards.
 - d) Shirts not tucked in, and hang over the flag belt.
 - e) Players cannot hurdle or jump over an opponent trying to pull a flag.

I. Play Clock

- 1) There will be 90-second play clock between plays. As the season goes on this 90 second play clock can be adjusted up or down with flag committee approval.

- 2) Failure to snap the ball before the play clock has expired will result in a “loss of down” penalty. The Referee will give the offensive team a one-time team warning per half, second infraction will result in a loss of down penalty.

J. Penalties

- 1) **NO TACKLING:** this will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. The referee will give a one time team warning for tackling, after the warning from the referee, any player tackling the opposition will be removed from the game for at least one play.
- 2) The only way to "tackle" the ball carrier/receiver is to remove one of his/her flags. No pushing the player out of bounds or to the ground is allowed. If one of the ball carriers flags falls off before the person is "tackled", the ball will be dead at the spot the flag was lost.
- 3) **FLAG GUARDING - 10 yards**
- 4) **OBSTRUCTING THE RUNNER - 15 yards**
 - a) A defensive player shall not hold, grasp, or obstruct the forward progress of the runner when attempting to remove the flag belt.
- 5) **PASS INTERFERENCE - 15 yards.**
 - a) It is pass interference if an eligible receiver is deflagged or touched prior to touching the ball on a pass thrown beyond the offense's line of scrimmage. If the pass interference by the defense is intentional and/or unsportsmanlike, the defense may be penalized an additional 10 yards.
- 6) **PERSONAL FOULS - 15 yards.**
 - a) Any act listed below or any other act of unnecessary roughness is a personal foul. Players shall not:
 - 1) Punch, strike, strip, steal, or attempt to steal the ball from a player in possession.
 - 2) Trip an opponent.
 - 3) Contact an opponent who is on the ground.
 - 4) Throw the runner to the ground.
 - 5) Hurdle any other player.
 - 6) Contact an opponent after the ball is declared dead.

- 7) Make any contact with an opponent which is deemed unnecessary.
 - 8) Deliberately block or run into an opposing player in the open field.
 - 9) Clip an opponent.
 - 10) Tackle the runner. (Warrants ejection)
- 7 STIFF-ARMING - 15 yards and an automatic First Down.
- a) Stiff-arming is not allowed; a personal foul will be called, and if warranted an unsportsmanlike conduct or ejection will result.
- 8) DELAY OF GAME – Loss of Down
- a) Normal football rules apply to fouls such as holding, pushing, interference, unsportsmanlike conduct. In addition, penalties for other fouls listed above are assessed.
- 9) All penalties are assessed from the “Line of Scrimmage”.

14.6. Officials

- A. There will be a referees scheduled for all FLAG games.
- One (1) adult volunteer from each team will act as a sideline judge on the opposing team's sidelines. This volunteer has no official ruling other than assisting the referee on out of bounds calls.
- B. An official assumes authority 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time, and until they have left the field.
- C. The officials have the authority to rule on any situation not specifically covered in the rules.
- D. His/her decision is final, unless ruled otherwise by the Conference.
- E. The official has the right to eject players or have them sit out of part or all of the game.
- F. Fans, coaches, and spectators are a part of a team and any fouls they commit will go against their team.
- G. The referee is there to enforce all flag rules agreed upon by the Bert Bell Flag committee. He/She is there to call penalties, remind players and coaches of the subtle rules of the game, and help promote good sportsmanship. Please reference your club's code of conduct for players and coaches.

15 Miscellaneous

15.1. Scouting

Scouts are not allowed to scout between the 20 yard lines, unless sufficient stands are not available. Scouts are allowed to walk between the 20s to get from one end to the other, but can not stand there to scout.

Scouts may not address game officials concerning the game being played except at half time or after the game, and then only to ask a question about an applied rule.

Scouts may not come within close proximity of either team they are scouting at half time or post game meetings. If they are required to pass it to leave, they must proceed directly out of the area.

Scouts/coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players with them, who are subject to the same guidelines.

Video Cameras can be used. See Section 15.3 for guidelines in their use.

15.2. Chain Crews

Note: After numerous incidents involving verbal sparring between parents and the chain gang, coaches and the chain gang, it was decided by the Bert Bell executive board, late in the 2007 playing season, to move the chains to the home side until further notice. [2008] This was voted to be permanent solution with one of the chain gang coming from the visiting parents (Bell Bert Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2008).

A. Rule

Chain crew shall consist of two (2) home club members and one (1) visiting club member and a minimum of one (1) alternate from each club. If either club cannot supply adequate personnel, the other club can supply the difference. The home club will decide what positions the chain crew personnel will occupy - i.e. box or chain.

- 1) The individual assigned to the box must be an adult (minimum 18 years of age).
- 2) The individuals assigned to the chains must be at least 16 years of age.

An individual can be removed from the chain crew by request of the head coach of either team to the head official. The official may approve or deny the request. The official's decision is final.

B. Procedure

Box and chain are to be kept on the backside of the sidelines on the visitor's side of the field. Box should be aligned with the forward most point of the ball with one end of the chain directly behind the box. The other end of the chain should be extended in the

direction of play with all slack removed. After the chain is in place, it should only be moved when:

- 1) An official signals a first down.
- 2) An official signals a change of possession.
- 3) A collision with a player or players may occur. In this event:
 - a) Step back quickly taking the chain pole with you.
 - b) If not possible, drop pole to the ground in a backward motion and get out of the way.

C. Conduct

- 1) Do not move until told by an official, and then move quickly.
- 2) Hand and body movement should be kept to a minimum to avoid the appearance of signaling.
- 3) No utilization of a cell phone.
- 4) Keep enthusiasm and disappointment to a minimum.
- 5) Absolutely no coaching. Examples include telling players to move here or there, watching for a run or a pass and that "they are coming your way".

D. Recommendations

Before the first game of the season, anyone who may be part of a chain crew should be assigned a game or games and instructed on the proper procedures and conduct.

At least 10 minutes prior to the start of each game, a home club representative should briefly explain the proper procedures and conduct to that game's chain crew and alternates.

15.3. Electronic Devices

A. Video Cameras

The use of video cameras are allowed when scouting an opponent. These guidelines are to be followed:

- 1) Individual(s) filming the game must adhere to the Scouting guidelines as set forth in section 15.1.
- 2) One individual per club per weight division is allowed to film the game. In other words do not send two (2) people with two (2) cameras to film one (1) game. The intention here is not to dictate how many people can be in a scouting group but to restrict

the filming of that game to one camera by that group. The scouting team brings one camera.

- 3) Restricted to varsity games only. Junior varsity games are excluded from the filming process.
- 4) The individual filming the game must sign in at the host facility (or report to the League Rep.).
- 5) Game films are the property of the team taking the film and are permissible to be exchanged with other Bert Bell clubs.
- 6) People assigned from one team to film another must abide by reasonable conduct expected of any spectator at any Bert Bell event. No Bert Bell team should allow any disruption of another team's filming by anyone attending the game.

B. Other Electronic Devices.

Other electronic devices may be used, providing home team and visiting team have equal access to electronic devices that are being used during game. (Example - Walkie-talkies, headphones).

AMENDMENT: Upon agreement of both teams.

C. Violation

Penalties for not following the above procedures will result in one (1) game suspension for offending head coach of weight division team involved.

15.4. Game Announcing

Announcing guidelines and code of conduct as adopted from the National Association of Sports Public Address Announcers (NASPAA). These are to be placed next to the microphone at any facility announcing games.

- 1) Announcers shall not attempt to be bigger than the game or event by doing play-by-play or by providing commentary in an effort to draw attention to themselves.
- 2) Announcers shall understand that because they have a tremendous influence on the crowd and that cheerleading or antics designed to incite the crowd for the purpose of gaining an advantage for their team is inappropriate.
- 3) Announcers shall promote good sportsmanship by what they say and how they act.
- 4) Announcers shall treat the opponents and their fans as guests, not the enemy.

- 5) Announcers shall respect the individuals who are responsible for the conduct and administration of athletic games and events, such as coaches, officials and administrators, and avoid making any comments that reflect positively or negatively on them.
- 6) Announcers shall respect the participants of all teams and remain neutral when introducing the starting participants, announcing substitutions and the outcome of plays or performances of the participants.
- 7) Announcers shall be competent. This means following approved announcing guidelines, expectations and policies, such as emergency procedures, provided by the administration or the host facility.
- 8) Announcers shall be prepared, such as being familiar with the correct pronunciations of the participants' names, knowing the rules of the sport, the officials' signals and how the game is played.
- 9) Announcers shall exhibit professional behavior and present their school, organization or association with respect and dignity at all times by what they say, how they act and how they appear.
- 10) Announcers shall avoid using alcohol and tobacco products at the venue.

16 Appendix

16.1. Statement of Submission

STATEMENT FOR INCLUSION IN/OR ATTACHMENT TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR USE BY ALL BERT BELL CONFERENCE MEMBER CLUBS (6/20/88)

This statement is to be signed by parent/guardian of all players registered.

(Statement is to be included with other required roster data submitted to Conference.
NOTE: See waiver (6/92) for one year. Member clubs to retain data for inspection by Conference, if required pursuant to photo ID system.)

I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF TRUE AND VALID DATA TO _____ (Club Name) IN COMPLIANCE WITH BERT BELL MEMORIAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS, FOR THE PURPOSES FOR PLAYING FOOTBALL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DATA (INCLUDING CONSENT, BIRTH CERTIFICATE & PHYSICIAN'S RELEASE) IS TO BE COPIED AND KEPT ON FILE BY BOTH THE CLUB AND THE CONFERENCE.

I AGREE TO VERIFICATION OF THE SUBMITTED DATA WITH THE STATE DEPT. OF VITAL STATISTICS, SCHOOL AND/OR PHYSICIAN OF RECORD, SHOULD THIS BECOME NECESSARY. VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER SUBMITTED, THROUGH SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, IS ALSO AGREED TO.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SHOULD ANY INFORMATION SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF _____ (Player Name) BE INCORRECT OR INVALID, THE PENALTIES STATED IN THE BY-LAWS AND RULES OF THE BERT BELL CONFERENCE WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE CLUB, WEIGHT TEAM (ALL PLAYERS) AND PLAYER (INDIVIDUAL), AND THAT THESE INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO) FORFEITURE OF GAMES AND SUSPENSION.

MY RESPONSIBILITIES ALSO INCLUDE ADVISING THE CLUB AND/OR CONFERENCE BOARD IF I AM AWARE OF AN ILLEGAL PLAYER ON ANY MEMBER TEAM

(Signature of parent/guardian)

(Date)

16.2. Game Weekend Summary Report

A Game Weekend Summary Report is to be completed by each league or alternate league representative describing any minor events (pro/con, good/bad) that took place. These are events that don't need immediate action but need to be documented for future reference. This report is to be emailed to the Commissioner each Monday morning following the weekend.

Attached is a sample report, but the report itself that is emailed can be free form.

There will be a \$10 fine on any club not submitting the report by noon time on the Monday following the game.

Email Address: Commissioner

Game Weekend Summary Report

Weekend of: _____

Email the Commissioner

Host Club: _____

Email the Secretary (**scores**)

Visiting Club: _____

Briefly describe any minor events you feel need to be documented and investigated. Areas to consider are (but not limited to):

Sportsmanship (positive and/or negative): Be precise.

Crowd/Player/Team control: Be precise.

Complaints (examples are, but not limited to, officials, rule interpretations and/or violations, problems at weigh ins, etc.):

List the PIAA Officials at game:

Friday night:

Saturday:

Sunday:

Scores

Team	80	100	120	150		80	100	120
	V	V	V			JV	JV	JV

Submitted by: _____

16.3. Waiver Request Form



BERT BELL MEMORIAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

WAIVER REQUEST

“Granting” Club Name: _____ Date: _____

I hereby grant _____ release from our territory to register
(Child’s name)

(Parent/Child’s Address) (Parent/Child’s Telephone Number)

(“Receiving” Club Name)

Reason given for request: _____

Parent’s signature: _____

Club Representative’s signature: _____

Bert Bell Director’s signature: _____

16.4. League/Alternate League Representative Responsibilities

The League Representative and/or Alternate League Representative is responsible for rules administration, rules compliance and for the overall flow of game weekend - ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Those responsibilities include but are not limited to:

A. General

- 1) Attendance at all league designated meetings.
- 2) Communication link between the member club and Bert Bell. Responsible for dispersing Bert Bell requirements and information.
- 3) Responsible for the Photo ID coordination and accuracy, completeness of the team rosters.

B. Game Weekend - Host

- 1) Make sure the field is set. Make sure there are personnel to man the chains. Make sure the game footballs are ready. Make sure medical personnel are available.
- 2) Host coordinator for the visiting team. You are the visiting team contact point. Introduce yourself to each head coach.
- 3) Greet the officials and ensure that they get paid. League rules say half time of first game but a convenient time is before the games begins - that way, it is out of the way.
- 4) Oversee (if not doing) the weigh-in process.
- 5) Crowd control. Roan the sidelines - make yourself visible.
- 6) Collecting the scores from the weekend games (including JV) and submitting them in a timely manner.

C. Game Weekend - Visitor

- 1) If the host team representative has not looked you up, be aggressive and find the other league rep or whoever is in charge for the day - introduce yourself.
- 2) Get your teams organized for weigh-ins. Oversee (if not doing) the weigh-in process.
- 3) Introduce yourself to the officials.
- 4) Crowd control - your side.

16.5. Organizational Information Sheet

The Organization Information Sheet is normally completed and submitted the night of the August Coaches meeting.

<Year> Football Season



ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION SHEET

Club Name: _____

Uniform Colors: _____

Helmet Color: _____

Club Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Website Address: _____

President - Name: _____

- Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

League Rep - Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

- Email Address: _____

80# Varsity Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

80# JV Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

100# Varsity Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

100# JV Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

120# Varsity Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

120# JV Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

150# Varsity Head Coach: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

Flag Football Contact: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

Cheerleading Contact: Name: _____

- Phone Numbers: _____

16.6. Sample Roster Form

16.7. Cheer Competition Score Sheet

Sample Cheer Competition Score Sheets and Talley Sheets.

Cheer Competition Score Sheet

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference

Squad Name: _____ Division: _____

Category	Points	Comments
Cheer Fundamentals		
Formation/Spacing (placement/use of flr)	1 2 3 4 5	
Expression Spirit Smiles,Voices,Showmanship	1 2 3 4 5	
Motions (Sharpness,Placement)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Synchronicity (Togetherness of team,Timing,Motions)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Cheer Skills: Jumps (Difficulty,Togetherness,Technique) (-3 if team jump not available)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Gymnastics Technique Used good height, landings(straight legs)	1 2 3 4 5	
Level of difficulty (cartwheel/round-ff only)	1 2 3 4 5	
Partner Stunts		
Difficulty	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Proper Technique	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Safety/Recovery	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Dance:		
Creativity (originality, Choreographg Flow, excitement)	1 2 3 4 5	
Synchronicity (Togetherness of Team. Timing)	1 2 3 4 5	
Overall Crowd Appeal		
Props	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Final Score	100	Judge Initials

Cheer Competition Score Sheet

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference

Squad Name: _____ Division: Exhibition

Category	Comments
Cheer Fundamentals	
Formation/Spacing (placement/use of flr)	
Expression'Spirit Smiles,Voices,Showmanship	
Motions (Sharpness,Placement)	
Synchronicity (Togetherness of team,Timing,Motions)	
Cheer Skills: Jumps (Difficulty,Togetherness,Technique) (-3 if team jump not available)	
Gymnastics Technique Used (good height, landings(straight legs	
Level of difficulty (roundoffs,handsprings Backtucks, etc.)	
Partner Stunts Difficulty	
Proper Technique	
Safety/Recovery	
Dance: Creativity (originality, Choreographg Flow, excitement)	
Synchronicity (Togetherness of Team. Timing)	
Overall Crowd Appeal (proper use of signs, poms)	

TALLY SHEET

Squad	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total Score

16.8. Code of Conduct

Following is the Bert Bell Memorial Conference Code of Conduct forms and they include:

Cover Page (March 2008) – which should be on Bert Bell letterhead, is signed, dated, and retained by the member club.

Disciplinary Code (March 2008)

Volunteer Code of Conduct (March 2008)

Parent, Guardian or Guest Code of Conduct (March 2008)

Participant Code of Conduct (March 2008)

Injury Release, Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement (March 2008)

The above forms are samples and are available separately in pdf format. The cover letter is on Bert Bell Memorial Conference letterhead.

<This is printed on Bert Bell letterhead>

I, _____, and on behalf of the following

Participant(s), _____,
as a Volunteer (Director, Officer, Coach, Concession or other), Parent, Guardian and/or
Participant in the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc, and its Member
Organizations, being a youth organization, understand that my responsibility and behavior
is of great importance, that my actions have the potential to significantly influence the
children I come into contact with and therefore We agree to conduct ourselves in accordance
with the following:

- Disciplinary Code (March 2008)**
- Volunteer Code of Conduct (March 2008)**
- Parent, Guardian or Guest Code of Conduct (March 2008)**
- Participant Code of Conduct (March 2008)**
- Injury Release, Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement (March 2008)**

By signing below, my signature constitutes that the participant and I have been
provided a copy of the above marked Bert Bell Code of Conduct(s), Disciplinary Code and
Injury Release, Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement; We have read, discussed,
understand and accept the above Disciplinary Code and Injury Release, Indemnification and
Hold Harmless Agreement; We have provided or discussed with all non-signing parties who
will attend sanctioned events the applicable Code of Conduct(s) and Disciplinary Code; We,
including non-signing parties, agree to conduct ourselves in accordance with the specified
terms and conditions of the Code of Conduct(s) and Disciplinary Code; and We fully
understand that failure to abide by the specified terms and conditions may result in
disciplinary action as stated in the Code of Conduct(s) and Disciplinary Code.

Dated:

Signature

Dated:

Signature

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc.
DISCIPLINARY CODE

All Volunteers, Parents, Guardians, Guest and Participants are required to review, sign and comply, or by their presence at a sanctioned event, agrees to comply with the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc. Code of Conducts. In the interest of providing a safe and positive environment for the children involved in Bert Bell and the Member Organizations, strict compliance with the Code of Conducts will be required and enforced at any and all Bert Bell and Member Organization functions, including but not limited to, sign-ups, practices, games, pep rallies, banquets, competitions and fund-raising events. Violations of the Code of Conducts will not be tolerated and violations will be subject to disciplinary action.

Violations will be brought to the Member Organization Board of Directors for review and determination as to what type, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate. The Board shall review the allegation/incident and render a judgment. If the Board, in its sole discretion, believes a hearing would be helpful in determining as to what type, if any, disciplinary action should be taken, the accused and aggrieved parties shall be given an opportunity to testify concerning the incident. There is no automatic right to a hearing. The Board, in its sole discretion, will determine who, if anyone, will testify or appear at a hearing. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to determine the appropriate disciplinary action for any offense. The disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- § Warning Letter**
- § Probation**
- § Letter of Reprimand**
- § Fine**
- § Practice/Game Suspension**
- § Season Suspension**
- § Lifetime Suspension**
- § Civil or Criminal Prosecution**

Due to the number of potential violations and varying degrees of severity, the Board, in its sole discretion, can decide to take or not take any disciplinary action. No warning is required. Additionally, Bert Bell or a Member Organization may pursue legal action as appropriate, including instituting a civil lawsuit and/or referring the matter for criminal prosecution, based on the nature and severity of the Code of Conduct violations. The decision of the Board shall be communicated to the accused and aggrieved parties and if either is from a different Member Organization, to the President or League Representative of that Member Organization.

In the event that the Board's decision and/or disciplinary action are in dispute, the accused or aggrieved party may request a review by the Bert Bell Commissioner. The request must be in writing. If, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, a review is warranted, the Commissioner may appoint a disciplinary review committee. The disciplinary review committee shall have a minimum of three members. Pertinent information on the incident including testimony, if any, shall be reviewed. The disciplinary review committee, in its sole discretion, may hold a de novo hearing. Upon review of all pertinent information, the disciplinary review committee shall either endorse or reject the Board's decision and disciplinary action by way of majority vote. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall cast the deciding vote. If the disciplinary review committee rejects the Board's decision and/or disciplinary action, the committee will be required to issue a recommendation on appropriate disciplinary action and the accused parties Member Organization shall enforce such action.

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc.
VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

I understand that my responsibility as a volunteer (Director, Officer, Coach, Concession or other) for the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc and its Member Organizations, a youth organization, is of great importance and that my actions have the potential to significantly influence the children I come into contact with and therefore I agree to conduct myself in accordance with the this Volunteer Code of Conduct as follows:

1. I recognize that I am a role model for all participants and the families involved in the Bert Bell and the Member Organizations. I shall at all times control my behavior so as to promote a positive attitude and experience for the children. I shall place the emotional and physical welfare and development of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
2. I will treat each player, opposing coaches, officials, parents, and administrators with respect and dignity at all times.
3. I will thoroughly become familiar and follow the letter and spirit of the bylaws, rules, regulations, requirements and objectives of Bert Bell, the Member Organization and the sport.
4. I will communicate to my players and their parents what is expected from each participant, parent or guardian, family and invited guest.
5. I will cooperate with the administration of Bert Bell and the Member Organization in the enforcement of the bylaws, rules, regulations, requirements and objectives and will report any irregularities to Bert Bell Band the Member Organization.
6. I will do my best to protect and preserve the health, safety and welfare of all participants entrusted to my care and supervision.
7. I will comply with Bert Bell and Member Organization participation requirements and make every effort to ensure active participation by each of my players in every game or competition.
8. I will not use profanity or make disparaging remarks or gestures of any type to any person, whether an official, coach, parent, participant or other nor will I publicly disparage or humiliate any of the above-named individuals.
9. I will not use or be under the influence of any illegal drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco during any practice, game, competition and/or sanctioned activity and will immediately report any person who I believe to be using and/or under such influence.
10. I agree to submit to a criminal background check and child abuse clearance in accordance with Bert Bell rules and regulations, which shall be a precursor to my ability to volunteer and be permitted on the football field.
11. I shall comply with and enforce the Bert Bell Code of Conducts and if I fail to do so, I may be subject to discipline as provided in the Bert Bell Disciplinary Code.

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc.
PARENT, GUARDIAN OR GUEST CODE OF CONDUCT

I understand that my responsibility as a parent or guardian involved in a youth organization is of great importance and that my actions have the potential to significantly influence the children I come into contact with and therefore I agree to conduct myself in accordance with this Parent, Guardian or Guest Code of Conduct as follows:

1. Participation in the Organization involves travel and outdoor activities. Attendance is required at all scheduled games, home or away, good weather or bad. If the football team is playing, the cheerleaders are cheering. Transportation to and from an event or activity is the parent or guardian=s responsibility. The parent or guardian agrees to participate in volunteer activities and duties associated with the Member Organization, to include but not limited to, snack bar, field set up, field clean up, and general maintenance.
2. A risk of injury is inherent in participation of the sports of Football and Cheerleading. A parent/guardian or a duly authorized adult will be present during all practices, games, events, competitions or organization activities in which their child is attending or participating.
3. I understand that all Football/Cheerleading equipment issued to the participant is the property of the Member Organization and will be returned to the Member Organization at the conclusion of the season or at such time as requested by a coach or other club official. I agree to keep the equipment clean and well maintained. Whether or not provided by the Member Organization, I agree to regularly check and insure that the participant’s equipment is properly fitted and worn and understand that ill-fitting and/or improperly worn equipment may cause or facilitate serious bodily injury to the participant. Parent/guardian will be financially responsible for equipment and/or uniforms that are lost or not returned to the Member Organization at the end of the season. Equipment will not be issued until the Member Organization receives the full registration fee, which is non-refundable after August 1st of each season.
4. I give permission to the Member Organization to transport or have transported my child to the hospital in the event of an unforeseen accident or emergency. In the unlikely event that emergency medical treatment is required and neither a parent/guardian nor duly designated agent is present or immediately available, said parent/guardian hereby authorizes the child=s coach and/or another adult member of the organization to make any necessary medical decisions, until such time as the parent/guardian can be present or contacted. Said parent further represents the child is covered by medical insurance and/or assumes full financial responsibility for any medical treatment or service provided.
5. I will exhibit Agood sportsmanship@ at all times, and shall not boo or openly criticize players, coaches, officials, or opposing teams, nor will I incite others to do same. I shall comply with and enforce this Parent, Guardian or Guest Code of Conduct. I further accept responsibility for my guests, non-signing spouse, non-signing parent, family members, friends, and other invitees, who attend games, practices, competitions or any Bert Bell or Member Organization activity, and shall insure they exhibit good sportsmanship and comply with the Parent, Guardian or Guest Code of Conduct, which shall be applicable to and enforced against them as if they had read, agreed and signed same. Any and all violations may be subject to discipline as provided in the Bert bell Disciplinary Code.
6. I will not use or be under the influence of any illegal drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco during any practice, game, competition and/or sanctioned activity and will immediately report any person who I believe to be using and/or under such influence.

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc.
PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

The participant does hereby agree to participate in the Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference and the Member Organization. The participant understands that they must conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner and agrees and pledges that the participant will comply with the following:

1. Be respectful of my parents, coaches, teammates, opponents, Officials, and teachers.
2. Complete all homework assignments and work to improve my grades at school.
3. Attend all practices and games, be on time for practice and games and at all times, and be physically and mentally ready to play or perform.
4. Work to improve myself as a player/cheerleader, teammate and person.
5. Encourage all participants, whether my teammate or opposing squad.
6. Bring my own hydrating beverage to practices and games.
7. Keep all issued equipment clean, safe and in my possession at all times.
8. Return all issued equipment in clean condition and when requested.
9. Notify my coach as soon as first possible, if it is necessary for me to miss a game or practice.
10. Not use foul or demeaning language.
11. Not mock, taunt, or demean another member of my team or an opposing team.
12. Not fight with another player.
13. Not talk back to or be disrespectful to my parents, coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and school employees or teachers.
14. Not damage the property of another.
15. Comply with and enforce the Participant Code of Conduct, and if I fail to do so, I may be subject to discipline as provided in the Bert Bell Disciplinary Code.

Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference, Inc.
INJURY RELEASE, INDEMNIFICATION
AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I am the parent or guardian of the participant. In consideration of such participation and intending to be legally bound, and after discussing the contents of this document with the participant, we recognize, acknowledge and understand the following:

1. The participant shall participate in all Conference or Member Organization games, practices, competitions and other activities and we assume the risk of such participation.
2. The participant shall use all facilities and equipment and we assume the risk of such use.
3. Participation in Football or Cheerleading can be physically, emotionally, and psychologically demanding and that a risk of physical or psychological injury or illness, is inherent in the sports of Football and Cheerleading.
4. The risks and demands of participating in Football or Cheerleading and we hereby voluntarily agree to assume such risks and demands.
5. I certify that the participant is physically and psychologically capable and able to participate in Football or Cheerleading the participant and I recognize, acknowledge and understand that participation in Football or Cheerleading may involve violent and significant physical contact which may cause physical (bodily) or psychological (mental) injuries or illness.
6. I have no knowledge of any physical or mental impairment that would affect the participant's ability to fully participate in Football or Cheerleading. I represent and warrant that I am covered by appropriate medical insurance and/or assume full responsibility for any provided medical treatment or service incident to the participant's participation in Football or Cheerleading.

I, BEING OF FULL AGE, WITHOUT PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DEFICIENCY OR INCAPACITATION, DO VOLUNTARILY AND WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF MY ACTIONS, HEREBY AGREE TO ASSUME THE RISK AND AGREE TO RELEASE, DISCHARGE, HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY BERT BELL MEMORIAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE AND ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, SHAREHOLDERS, MEMBERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, SERVANTS, AGENTS AND/OR THEIR SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY PHYSICAL (BODILY) INJURIES OR ILLNESSES, PSYCHOLOGICAL (MENTAL) INJURIES OR ILLNESSES, OTHER LOSSES AND/OR HARMS, OF WHATSOEVER NATURE OR KIND, RESULTING FROM PARTICIPATION IN FOOTBALL OR CHEERLEADING.

16.9. Privacy Statement

**Bert Bell Memorial Football Conference/Member Organization
Privacy Statement**

The Bert Bell Memorial Football and their Member Organizations strongly believe in protecting the confidentiality and security of information they collect about its volunteer and participants. “Nonpublic Personal Information” is nonpublic information about volunteers and participants that they may necessarily obtain in connection with registering you as a volunteer and your child for either football or cheerleading (“participant”). Nonpublic Personal Information will not be disclosed about current or former volunteers and participants to anyone, except as permitted by law, or contained herein. Volunteer and participant name and address may be disclosed to third party companies with which there exists a joint marketing agreement. For example, participant name and address information may be disclosed to a football organization to provide football participants with information regarding football camps or to provide cheerleading participants with information on camps such as UCA or NCA. If this information is provided, it is in the form of completed mailing labels and not in electronic or other format, with the express language prohibiting the recipient from selling, distributing or disseminating the information to another or from using such information inconsistent with the stated purpose. We protect volunteers and participants information by allowing only certain authorized Bert Bell and member organization officials to safeguard, possess and use such information so as to comply with the applicable Bert Bell Memorial League Football Conference, Cheerleading and Member Organization By-Laws and Rules.

By signing below I agree with the contents of this Privacy Statement and agree to permit Bert Bell and its member organizations to use and disclose information consistent with this Privacy statement.

Print Name:

Participant Name(s):

16.10. Important Junior High/Middle Schools' Football Eligibility Information (PIAA) [2011]

The following is the full text as it currently stands. All Bert Bell coaches must understand and follow.

7th and/or 8th grade students who become involved in a youth football program that includes full physical contact activities prior to MONDAY AUGUST 15, 2011, the first Practice date of the PIAA-defined football season, will become INELIGIBLE to participate in interscholastic football for one year following such participation. This interpretation is consistent with the PIAA position on out-of-season football related activities that involve physical contact (ARTICLE XVI, SEASON AND OUT-OFSEASON RULES AND REGULATIONS, Section 2, Rules and Regulations, subsection C, Football, of the PIAA By-Laws).

If a 7th and/or 8th grade student-athlete wants to participate in both a youth football program and an interscholastic football program that student-athlete MUST NOT ENGAGE in any FULL PHYSICAL CONTACT activity prior to Monday August 15, 2011 and that student-athlete may not wear any football gear except a helmet and shoulder pads prior to THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 2011. The use of a member school's helmets and shoulder pads must be approved by that member school's Principal.

17 Archives (Items No Longer in Active Rules)

Note: - Effective 2008. With the Bert Bell Memorial Conference at 18 member clubs, it was voted to have three (3) divisions – East, Central and West.

*Note - Effective June, 2001 . . . when the Bert Bell Memorial Conference membership fell down to 10 member clubs, the division status changed to one division. If at any such time there shall be 12 or more member clubs, the division status will return to Eastern and Western Divisions. Therefore, throughout the Rules, if Eastern and Western Divisions are mentioned you can ignore if not in keeping with that current year's division status and replace with the one division status.

1) Saturday/Sunday Day Schedule

Recommended start times.

- b) 80-pound games will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.
- c) 100-pound games will start 10 minutes after 80 lb. finishes.

- d) 120-pound games will start at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.
- e) 150-pound games will start 10 minutes after 120 lb. finishes

2) Lighted Fields

- a) 80 lb. and 100 lb. games may be played on Friday night, starting at 7:30 p.m. with the 80 lb. game, followed by the 100 lb. game, by mutual agreement of organizations prior to the start of the season. Any organization refusing to play on Friday night, games will be played starting at 3:00 p.m. with the 80 lb. team on Saturday afternoon, followed by the 100 lb. team. (Regular Saturday night schedule (see below) for 120 and 150 lb. teams will apply.

- b) 120 lb. and 150 lb. games will be played Saturday night starting at 7:00 with the 120 pound game.

JV games, if applicable, may be scheduled either prior to 3:00 p.m. start or for Friday night, by mutual agreement of organizations, and availability of officials.

Playoff Games

Recommended starting times but actual times are set during a meeting with the officials.

- 1) Saturday Morning - 9:30 a.m. - 80 lb., 100 lb.
- 2) Saturday Night - 7:00 p.m. - 120 lb., 150 lb.
- 3) Sunday - 12:30 p.m. - 120 lb., 150 lb.

3.6. Bert Bell Bowl Series [2010]

After the teams are seeded for the Bert Bell Championship playoffs, the remaining teams are then seeded (using the original points) and will participate in the Bert Bell Bowl Series.

The schedule will be put together during the same league meeting covering the championship playoffs. The following criteria will be used:

- 1) Depending on the number of teams involved, mid-week games may be required.
- 2) Higher seeded teams will host games.
- 3) Referees limited to two or three.
- 4) Final game hosted by the higher seeded team at their field. A trophy will be provided by Bert Bell to the winning team.

Recommendation: A Photo ID session goes a lot smoother and quicker if the IDs are completed (in their entirety) and retained by the league/alternate rep prior to arriving at the session. If filled in at the session, everything bogs down amid confusion and people become irritated because they have to wait.

7.7. Bert Bell Bowl Trophies [2010]

A Bert Bell Bowl trophy will be presented to the winner of the post-season Bert Bell Bowl. These trophies will be provided by the Bert Bell Conference.

7.8. All Star Game

Note: Per Minutes of Bert Bell Conference Meeting dated June 27, 2006.

1. Current format of All Star games is discontinued (until a new format is proposed and approved).
 2. All Star selections will be recognized at the Championship game. Participation is mandatory.
- a) The Bert Bell Board of Directors will collect an All-Star fee, amount to be determined, from each club at the mid-point of the season. These funds will be used to offset the cost of the All-Star Games. Referees fees, jerseys, etc. By pooling our funds together, the All-Star game could be moved from club-to-club each season with little concern for the hosting team regarding the financial burden associated with the All-Star game. As well as providing more visibility throughout the league, a greater sense of achievement for the players being named All-Star .
 - b) No admission fee to be charged.
 - c) Alternating Divisions yearly - alphabetically. If Club designated declines - next club alphabetically in division is selected.

- d) Division Champion coach will coach the team, with his chosen staff. In the case of a tie, the team that won the regular season game between those two tied teams will win the coaching position. If the regular season game was a tie, a coin flip will decide the coach.
- e) Weights to be set by the Conference Board of Directors.
- f) Team Jerseys - Jersey color will consist of red for one division and blue for the other division.
- g) Each organization will decide how to pick their players
- h) Each club is to submit the name of players from varying positions, i.e., Offensive Lineman, Defensive Lineman, Offensive Back, and Defensive Back, and may not submit more than one player from any position (i.e., may not submit 2 Offensive Backs).

(FINE for refusal to do this will be levied in the amount of \$25.00)

A. Practices

Practices will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Practice fields will be selected based on geographic convenience. Bert Bell Board will select location prior to the start of practices.

A representative of each club will attend ALL PRACTICES. This rep will be required to sign in. The name of the club rep is to be submitted along with the players' names. (A fine of \$25.00 will be levied if this rule is not adhered to.)

Players are expected to attend all practices.

-B. Game

The All-Star Game CAN end in a tie.

ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY AT LEAST ONE (1) QUARTER (if all practices are attended). Playing players who have missed practices due to illness is at the discretion of the coach.

Game balls are to be supplied by the host field.

Each organization must have two (2) persons to help at game (crowd control, chain crew, etc.). Reps are to be at host field at 11:00 a.m. on game day.

Players cannot play both ways - must use separate offensive and defensive units.

Players will keep game jerseys

C. Participating Teams

1) 120 Pound Team

- There will be 25 players from each Division.

- An equal number of players will be submitted by each Division club. Players must be submitted from different positions, i.e., 1 OL, 1 DL, 1 OB, 1 DB.
- In order to reach full compliment of 25 players per Division, coaching staff may choose number of players required to fill vacancies from any club within the Division.

2) 150 Pound team

- There will be 25 players from each Division.
- An equal number. of players will be submitted by each Division club. Players must be submitted from different positions, i.e., 1 OL, 1 AL, 1 ON, 1 DB.
- In order to reach full compliment of 25 players per Division, coaching staff may choose number of players required to fill vacancies from any club within the Division.

B. JV players are not eligible for varsity All-Star Game at 120 and 150 pound levels. JV All-Star Game is not permitted.

12.6. C Team Specifics

C teams will follow Bert Bell rules currently in place. The players are rostered on a separate roster, will have a picture ID and will have to cross the scale following the Bert Bell weight guidelines.

- a) C teams are considered an auxiliary program. They should be structured to allow playing time and training to the player who is at the younger, lighter, less experienced or less aggressive status than the varsity and JV player.
- b) All players rostered on the C team are expected to play in each game.
- c) Injured or overweight players are subject to Bert Bell rules regarding sideline dress.
- d) C Players may not be rostered on a JV roster at the same time they are on a C roster.
- e) C players may not move up and/or down from JV to C, or vice versa, more than one time each from the time of the initial roster turn-in to the final roster turn-in.
- f) C players may not be “borrowed” or moved up to fill vacancies and/or shortages on JV squads, due to injury, illness, etc.