

# By-Laws



ARANSAS PASS



PANTHERS



**NAME:**

1. The Region IV Youth Football Alliance shall be referred to as the "Governing Board" or "Alliance" in all matters pertaining to the uniform rules agreed upon for fair participation by its members.

**PURPOSE:**

1. The purpose of this association of leagues shall be to promote and supervise competition among league members and govern the eligibility and welfare of its participants.

**MEMBERS:**

1. Executive Board, shall consist of 3 positions. Commissioner, Secretary, and Treasurer. No one who sits on the Executive Board has voting privileges on any matters. It is the responsibility of the Commissioner to hold all associations to the rules and by-laws set by the Region IV Youth Football Alliance voting members. The Commissioner holds the right to pass down punishment or enforce rules according to the rules and by-laws.
2. The Governing Board shall consist of two (2) representatives from each league participating in our "Alliance" and labeled as "Committee Members".
3. Individual teams, not represented by an approved league shall be allowed to have one (1) representative from each location on the governing board, with the understanding that they will not have voting privileges on any matters that require a decision by the governing board. These representatives shall be considered "Associate Members".
4. Tenured Members, shall be anyone who has become non-active either on the R4YFA Board or their represented associations in a position no greater than team coach, or anyone that the members deem to be an asset to the R4YFA Board for business purposes.
  - 4.1. Tenured Members will:
    - 4.1.1. Reside on the board of directors in an advisory capacity.
    - 4.1.2. Assist in the planning and development of our "Alliance".
    - 4.1.3. Hold the "Alliance" and its intent in a higher regard than any sole member league.
  - 4.2. A Tenured Member will not:
    - 4.2.1. Be allowed to vote on "Alliance" issues.
    - 4.2.2. Be directly affiliated with any league wherein they are assigned to a position of authority whereas their influence can directly affect the daily operations of that league. Although, they may hold a position within a member league at a level no higher than team coach.
5. "Active Members" shall include two representatives from each member chapter who are eligible to vote on all matters pertaining to the "Alliance".
6. It is the responsibility of each individual chapter to provide their own representation on the "Alliance" governing board.
7. Any organization desiring membership in the "Alliance" must, submit to the governing board, its intentions and shall require a unanimous consensus of the standing members of the governing board. The standing "Alliance" board reserves

the right to accept new members as either "Active" or "Associate" members. "Associate" Members can achieve "Active" status by proclaiming their intentions to the "Alliance" board and receiving a majority vote by the "Alliance" board for acceptance.

8. Each year, each organization already in the "Alliance", shall submit the names of their representatives by February 1st to all other active members on the governing board.
9. Elected Executive Board members to the governing board shall remain active for two (2) years minimum. If no one appoints anyone to replace an Executive Board member, the person holding that position may stay in that position until someone is elected in their place.
10. In the event a governing board member(s) cannot fulfill their duty as a representative, it is the responsibility of their home chapter to select a replacement board member in a timely and positive manner.
11. All "Alliance" governing board members are required conduct themselves in a positive and professional manner.
12. Any organization that does not field three (3) teams for two (2) consecutive years must face an "Alliance" vote to retain its governing board voting privileges.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Governing Board shall mandate requirements for participation and a uniform code of conduct for all leagues within the "Alliance". While our individual league chapters shall be responsible for conducting and operating their own leagues and/or teams, the "Alliance" shall oversee all matters that directly affect the Region IV Youth Football Alliance as a whole. This shall include, but is not limited to; Rules of Play, player participation, disciplinary actions, scheduling of games and membership requirements for all leagues.

1. A fifty percent (50%) quorum of the sponsoring organizations is required to transact business at all league meetings.
2. Amendments to the by-laws and "Alliance" Rules for Participation shall be considered when two or more active board members make a motion to have a proposed change reviewed by the governing board. The proposed change will be accepted if a majority of governing board members approves the changes. (If a proposed by-law change does not receive a majority vote at the first meeting, then it is considered to be voted down.)
3. Any change to the age and weight structure must be made prior to the start of the current season and will be considered a permanent change that will remain in effect for the life of our "Alliance" or until changed through due process by the governing board.
4. All complaints and/or issues directed to the "Alliance" governing board shall be investigated to assess the extent and validity of the complaint or issue. Findings and recommendations will then be presented to and examined by the governing board for a final decision. All governing board decisions are final. There is no appeal process once the governing board has made its decision. Only the "Alliance" governing board can re-open an issue for discussion, with a majority vote, after a decision has been made. If issues and concerns do not involve other member leagues, and are solely within an individual league, it is the responsibility of that league to handle the matter internally using the uniform guidelines agreed upon by our "Alliance". Only when issues arise between two or more "Alliance" leagues or when a league in question seeks guidance, shall the "Alliance" governing board become involved in the process.

## **EXPULSION/PROBATION**

In keeping with the fundamental values of the "Alliance", the governing board reserves the right to "expel" a member league for behavior deemed detrimental to the "Alliance" or its members. In order for an independent league to be removed from the "Alliance", no less than 2/3 of the other voting members must approve of the expulsion. If it is decided by the board to remove a league from the "Alliance", all ties with that league shall be immediately terminated and under no circumstances shall the "Alliance" members conduct or participate in any "Alliance" events involving the expelled league so long as the league remains in bad standing with the Region IV Youth Football Alliance. The acting "Alliance" board may elect to impose "probation" on a member league for any violations deemed detrimental to the "Alliance" or its members. No less than 2/3 of the other voting members are required to place a member league on probation. If it is the decision of the "Alliance" board to place a league on probation, that league will assume "associate member" status until such time as the "Alliance" board deems to restore the league to "active member" status. No less than 2/3 of the voting members are required for reinstatement as an "active member".

## **MEETINGS**

1. Regular meetings shall be scheduled at the convenience of the "Alliance" governing board.
2. Meeting locations shall be determined by the governing board and are not limited to any one specific location.
3. Only the elected representatives may attend the governing board meetings of the "Alliance", without the consent of 2/3 of the governing board. For this reason, all "Alliance" board meetings shall be considered "*Closed Meetings*". If a non-member is allowed to attend by receiving 2/3 of the board's consent, that meeting shall be considered "open" for as long as the non-member(s) are present. No motions or voting shall take place in an "Open Meeting".
4. In the event a member cannot attend, he/she must notify the "Alliance" governing board members in advance. If a league chooses to send a "*temporary*" representative to the meeting, it is understood that the "*temporary*" representative will be required to act as an "*Associate Member*" for that meeting and will not have voting privileges.
5. Any representative missing three (3) consecutive meetings shall automatically be moved to "Associate Member" status until which time he/she has attended three (3) consecutive meetings and shall then resume full active member status.
6. Meetings shall be conducted by the "Alliance" Commissioner or host league in the area which the meeting is taking place. It is the Commissioner's (or designee's) responsibility to set an agenda for the meeting, record the proceedings and report the minutes to all "Alliance" board members. Each representative shall have equal time to discuss issues that they wish to present to the board.
7. The Commissioner shall send out, via email, a list of agenda items to be discussed prior to the meeting to all "Alliance" league representatives. Each league shall have the right to add an item(s) to the agenda for discussion.
8. Only the active "Alliance" representatives will have the power to make a motion or to vote on all matters concerning the Region IV Youth Football League.

## **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

1. In order for a "Special Meeting" to be called, no less than three (3) active "Alliance" board members must be in agreement that a special meeting is necessary.
2. B. "Special Meetings" may be held at any time during the season, so long as all active AOL board members are in agreement to the time and location of the special meetings.
3. C. All meeting rules shall apply to "Special Meetings".

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL COACHES**

### The Components of a Thorough Volunteer Screening Process to Determine Eligibility:

To ensure that the children affected by a youth sports organization receive the highest quality experience, the organization has the responsibility to select the most qualified individuals (those who understand the organization's goals and who will not create additional risks for the organization). Also and equally important, the organization must exclude individuals that have certain criminal histories or who may increase the level of acceptable risk to the organization overall.

The concept of "due diligence" must be embraced by youth sports organizations. This refers to the complete and careful effort made to investigate a potential volunteer's background. It is the organization's responsibility to identify and exclude volunteers who pose risks to young athletes.

Today a thorough Criminal History Background Check should include the following components:

- Statewide Criminal Search

### What **DISQUALIFIES** a potential volunteer?

Before we look at the information obtained from the Criminal History Background check, the following automatic disqualifiers are important to note:

1. An applicant provides inaccurate information in their application
2. References provide unpleasant or disturbing information about the potential volunteer
3. The volunteer refuses to complete the screening process

### What **DISQUALIFIES** a potential volunteer on what is found on the background check?

1. Alcohol Offenses:
  - 1.1. Any misdemeanor offense in the past 3 years
  - 1.2. Any felony offenses in the past 7 years
  - 1.3. Misdemeanor charges between 4 and 7 years will be looked at on an individual basis
2. Illegal Drug Offenses:
  - 2.1. Any misdemeanor offense in the past 3 years
  - 2.2. Any felony offenses in the past 7 years
  - 2.3. Misdemeanor charges between 4 and 7 years will be looked at on an individual basis
3. Sexual Offenses:
  - 3.1. Any and all sexual offenses, whether misdemeanor or felony offenses
4. Violence Offenses:

- 4.1. Any felony violence offenses
- 4.2. Any offenses involving a child or domestic violence offense convictions
- 5. In the eyes of the law, any charges with a child, the individual is guilty until proven innocent. If charges are brought against any individual involving a child, that individual will automatically be dismissed, until innocence has been proven.
- 6. Any "deferred" offenses, other than sexual offenses or any charges involving a child, will be looked at on an individual basis and probation for said volunteer may be used.

All Background checks will be kept confidential and only reviewed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner will be the only person who makes the decision to Approve or Disqualify/Deny a potential coach. In the event that a coach is disqualified or denied, they may ask for a board review. The entire Region IV Youth Football Alliance Board will hold a meeting and review each case (in the event of multiple cases are at review) confidentially with the coach. The board will then excuse the coach and take a confidential vote. This vote will be final.

Each year a new background check will be completed for all coaches, regardless of previous season background check results.

The Region IV Youth Football Alliance has the right to approve or disqualify/deny any coach that falls into any of the above categories and/or has had issues inside this league or any other league or any of the associations of the Region IV Youth Football Alliance.

## **AGREEMENT**

As Commissioner of the Region IV Youth Football Alliance, I confirm that the aforementioned by-laws are essential to the growth and stability of our alliance, and willfully acknowledge the acceptance of these by-laws to be the standard practice for governing the Region IV Youth Football Alliance.

The By-Laws stated were updated and voted on August 26, 2015 by a vote of 10 votes "For" and 0 votes "Against".

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Jimmie Dooms  
Commissioner  
Region IV Youth Football Alliance

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Date