



Founded 1996

Bahamas Youth Football League

Rules and Regulations 2017/2018

BYFL REGULATIONS

Sanctions on Clubs/ Teams: The following sanctions will be imposed on clubs / teams for violations of the rules and regulations:

- Warnings
- Fines
- Suspensions

1 Scheduling of Matches

1. Matches will be scheduled for Saturdays (Thursdays and Fridays for U-18 Boys Division) by the BFA for all divisions.
2. Cancellations will only be made by the BFA in the case of weather, national emergencies or any situations that the BFA deems rescheduling necessary. No shows will result in games forfeited and a fine of \$50.

2 Team Registration

1. The league will be divided into the following divisions:
 - Three (3) divisions for boys (13 & under, 15 & under and 18 & under)
 - Three (3) divisions for girls (13 & under, 15 & under, and 18 & under)
 - a. If there are not enough teams to create a division (4), the teams will be informed of the situation.
2. Clubs may enter more than one team per division, with the following stipulations:
 - a. Teams must have names that differentiate from each other.
 - i. Acceptable names – Mt. Moriah FC Knights and Mt. Moriah FC Lions (teams will be labeled as Knights and Lions respectively).
 - ii. Unacceptable names- Mt Moriah FC A Team and Mt Moriah FC B Team
 - b. Teams must have separate rosters.
 - i. Players in club cannot move from one team to another within the same age division during the season; if a move is required, a PTR must be completed during the transfer windows.
 - c. Teams must have separate coaches registered.
 - i. Teams cannot have coaches “covering” for another within a club if competing in the same division.
 - d. Teams must have an alternate uniform available when competing against each other.
 - i. If alternate uniforms are not available, the team must provide their own shirt/bib



1. Teams may register any number of players for teams in all divisions (Please see Law 8 for game day limits on teams).
2. Each player's must complete an online BFA registration form with the required TMS mandates.
 - a. Unless otherwise stated by the BFA (in certain circumstances).
3. Completed team sheets with player jersey numbers must be presented to match officials prior to the start of each match.
 - a. Jersey numbers apply to U-13, U-15, U-18 divisions only
 - b. The league will not assume the responsibility for preparing or providing team rosters on a daily basis.
 - c. Match officials have the right to deem a team sheet unacceptable due to
 - i. missing information
 - ii. illegible information
 - d. If a match official does not receive a complete team sheet by the required time before the match, the game will be called off.
 - i. This is subject to circumstances that can only be determined by the Venue Coordinator or Technical Director.
4. Teams using unregistered players (**players whose are not registered with the BFA and whose names are not listed on the team roster**) shall forfeit all points for the match in which the player participated, and shall be subject to a fine to be determined by the League Administrator.
 - a. All coaches are responsible for ensuring that they only field legal players. Any recognized team coach may challenge a player's eligibility by informing the Venue Coordinator on site.
 - b. Any disputes regarding the eligibility of players should be confirmed to the Venue Coordinator on the day of the match and confirmed to the League Administrator by the following Monday.
5. **AGE RESTRICTIONS:**

Division	Cut-Off Age
7 & Under (Recreational)	Born in the year 2011 or after
9 & Under (Recreational)	Born in the year 2009 or after
11 & Under (Recreational)	Born in the year 2007 or after
13 & Under Boys	Born in the year 2005 or after
13 & Under Girls	Born in the year 2005 or after
15 & Under Boys	Born in the year 2003 or after

15 & Under Girls	Born in the year 2003 or after
18 & Under Boys	Born in the year 2000 or after
18 & Under Girls	Born in the year 2000 or after

4 League Format

1. Each division will be run in a round robin style format
 - a. Divisions run in a different style (groupings) will be determined as a special case, and teams involved will be notified of the change in format prior to start of the season.
2. League format will apply points that will be awarded as follows:
 - Win – 3 points
 - Draw– 1 point
 - Loss – 0 points
3. Final Standings will be determined based on points.
 - a. In the event of a tie on points between multiple teams at the end of the season, the head to head score for teams will determine final standing between those teams.
 - b. If tied in head to head score, those teams shall be awarded medals/ trophies.

5 BFA Recommendations and Mandates

1. Recommendations
 - a. At least one (1) D License Coach per competitive team
 - b. At least one (1) person trained in CPR/ First Aid present at home games
2. Mandates
 - a. Club/Team President is responsible to act as club/team liaison to the league for the purpose of communication et al.
 - i. The club/ team president can name a person to act as the liaison for the club/team, and must notify the BFA of this appointment.



1. Competing teams and Coaches shall take the same side of the pitch, each on either side of midfield line.
2. Supporters for both teams shall take the opposite side of the pitch, unless otherwise stated at the facility.
3. All coaches, players, supporters, etc. must stay clear of the touch line between the corner flags.
4. The referee or assistant referees may at any time, restrict the side-line movement of coaches, team officials, players and supporters.
5. A chalk or cones line shall be placed 3-5 yards behind the touch line to keep coaches, team officials, players and supporters back from the field and out of the way. This applies to all fields and all ages.
6. Game officials will be responsible for enforcing and reporting any violations.

THE LAWS OF THE GAME

As it is applied to the BYFL

LAW I – THE FIELD

1. Dimensions

The field of play shall be rectangular, its dimensions shall be:

Division	Length	Width	
7 & Under Co-ed	30 yds	25 yds	NO GOAL KEEPER
9 & Under Co-ed	30 yds	25 yds	NO GOAL KEEPER
11 & Under Co-ed	50 yds	30 yds	
13 & Under Girls	70 yds	40 yds	
13 & Under Boys	70 yds	40 yds	
15 & Under Girls	110 yds	70 yds	
15 & Under Boys	110 yds	70 yds	
18 & Under Girls	110 yds	70 yds	
18 & Under Boys	110 yds	70 yds	

2. Goals

Division	Goal size
7 & Under Co-ed	Four (4) feet high by six (6) feet wide.
9 & Under Co-ed	Four (4) feet high by six (6) feet wide.
11 & Under Co-ed	Six (6) feet high by twelve (12) feet wide
13 & Under Girls	Six (6) feet high by twelve (12) feet wide.
13 & Under Boys	Six (6) feet high by twelve (12) feet wide.
15 & Under Girls	Eight (8) feet high by twenty-four (24) feet wide
15 & Under Boys	Eight (8) feet high by twenty-four (24) feet wide
18 & Under Girls	Eight (8) feet high by twenty-four (24) feet wide
18 & Under Boys	Eight (8) feet high by twenty-four (24) feet wide

LAW II – THE BALL

Division	Ball size
7 & Under Co-ed	Size four (4)
9 & Under Co-ed	Size four (4)
11 & Under Co-ed	Size four (4)



13 & Under Girls	Size four (4)
13 & Under Boys	Size four (4)
15 & Under Girls	Size five (5)
15 & Under Boys	Size five (5)
18 & Under Girls	Size five (5)
18 & Under Boys	Size five (5)

LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. Maximum and minimum amount of players

a. Non Competitive Divisions

Division	Maximum number of players on the field	Minimum number of players for a match to be official	Goalkeepers allowed
7 & Under Co-ed	Five (5)	N/A	NO
9 & Under Co-ed	Five (5)	N/A	NO
11 & Under Co-ed	Seven (7)	Five (5)	YES

b. Competitive Divisions

Division	Maximum number of players on the field	Minimum number of players for a match to be official	Number of players on a game day roster
13 & Under Girls	Seven (7)	Five (5)	Fifteen (15)
13 & Under Boys	Nine (9)	Six (6)	Fifteen (15)
15 & Under Girls	Nine (9)	Six (6)	Fifteen (15)
15 & Under Boys	Eleven (11)	Seven (7)	Eighteen (18)
18 & Under Girls	Eleven (11)	Seven (7)	Eighteen (18)
18 & Under Boys	Eleven (11)	Seven (7)	Eighteen (18)

2. Substitutions

Division	Substitution Rule
13 & Under Girls	Law III 2.a
13 & Under Boys	Law III 2.a



15 & Under Girls	Law III 2.a
15 & Under Boys	Law III 2.a
18 & Under Girls	LAW III 2.b
18 & Under Boys	LAW III 2.c

- a. Unlimited rolling substitutions can only occur, when signalled by the referee, during:
 - i. Restarts (when the ball has gone out of play or a goal has been scored)
 1. Teams are only allowed 3 Opportunities to Substitute per half (6 per game). Multiple substitutions can occur during each opportunity.
 - ii. After an injury or when the referee stops play.
 1. Injured players being substituted do not have to be substituted during a substitution opportunity.
 - iii. At half-time- will not count towards the 6 opportunities to make substitutions
- b. 18 & Under Girls- 2nd Half Re-entry Rule
 - i. A team may make unlimited substitutions, and each player is allowed one re-entry which must occur in the second half of the match unless the substitution was caused by a player injury resulting from a caution or send-off.
 - ii. The team will only be allowed four “Substitution Opportunities” (Sub-Ops) to make substitutions in a match, but are allowed to make multiple substitutions in one Sub-Op.
 1. Substitutions during half-time count as a Substitution Opportunity.
- c. 18 & Under Boys- 4 Substitution Opportunity Rule
 - i. A team may use all seven substitutes, but once a player is subbed out of the match, they are unable to re-enter the match.
 - ii. The team will only be allowed three “Substitution Opportunities” (Sub-Ops) to make substitutions in a match, but are allowed to make multiple substitutions in one Sub-Op.
 1. Substitutions during half-time count as a Substitution Opportunity.

3. Medals Issued (for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd)

Division	Number of Medals per placed team
13 & Under Girls	Fifteen (15)
13 & Under Boys	Fifteen (15)
15 & Under Girls	Eighteen (18)
15 & Under Boys	Eighteen (18)
18 & Under Girls	Eighteen (18)
18 & Under Boys	Eighteen (18)

4. Players Playing Up

- a. Players may ONLY play for the club/team they are registered with. This applies



to all divisions.

- i. Players can play up for a team within their club/team; players cannot play below their age division.
 - ii. It is advised that players should not play two matches on the same day
- b. Between 11 & Under and 13 & Under
- i. Players are allowed to move from the recreational league (U11) to the competitive league (U13) and vice versa within their club/team only.
 1. Player must be of the correct age to compete in U11 division.
 - ii. As Non-competitive teams and their players are not registered with the BFA, a player playing up must be registered to play in the U13 division.
- c. Between 13 & Under and 15 & Under
- i. If a team in a division does not have a game on the particular day, the player will be allowed to play in the higher age division on that day
 1. U13 Boys team does not have a game, player can play in U15 Boys game
- d. Between 15 & Under and 18 & Under
- i. U15 Boys players playing in U18 Boys games are acceptable (U18 Boys play on Thursdays and Fridays)
 - ii. U15 Girls players playing in U18 Girls games are acceptable ONLY
 1. If the U15 Girls team does not have a game on the particular day (U18 Girls play on the same days.)

LAW IV EQUIPMENT

1. Player Equipment
 - a. A player's equipment includes a jersey, shorts, socks, shin guards and shoes.
 - i. The goalkeeper must wear colours that are different from the colours of the other players and the referee.
 - b. A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery).
 - c. Shin guards are MANDATORY.
2. Club/Team Uniform Colours
 - a. Clubs must register their uniform colours (Shirt, shorts and socks)
 - b. It is advised that clubs register a home uniform and an away uniform. (ONLY APPLICABLE TO 15 & UNDER AND 18 & UNDER DIVISIONS)
 - c. In the event that the two teams are clashing in shirt colour or sock colour, the away team must make the change.



LAW V – THE REFEREE

1. Each club will be required to provide referees for their entire club's Non-Competitive Matches.
2. Each team will provide the referee with a completed roster of players with numbered jerseys (if applicable for that age group) prior to the start of the game.
3. The referee enforces the laws of the game. The referee's decisions are final.

LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

1. The duties of the Assistant Referee, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:
 - Ball in and out of play
 - Which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in
 - When a player may be penalised for being in an offside position
 - When a substitute is requested
 - When misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee.
2. The Assistant Referee also assists in the control of the match.
 - a. In the event of undue interference or improper conduct, the referee will relieve an assistant referee of his duties and make a report to the appropriate authorities.

LAW VII – DURATION OF GAMES

Division	Half lengths (minutes)	Game Length (minutes)	Halftime Break
7 & Under Co-ed	N/A	15	N/A
9 & Under Co-ed	N/A	15	N/A
11 & Under Co-ed	20	40	5
13 & Under Girls	20	40	5
13 & Under Boys	25	50	5
15 & Under Girls	30	60	10
15 & Under Boys	35	70	10
18 & Under Girls	40	80	10
18 & Under Boys	45	90	10

LAW VIII – START OF PLAY

1. All players must start in their own half of the field.



Division	Defending Players distance from centre spot (yards)
7 & Under Co-ed	5
9 & Under Co-ed	6
11 & Under Co-ed	6
13 & Under Girls	8
13 & Under Boys	8
15 & Under Girls	10
15 & Under Boys	10
18 & Under Girls	10
18 & Under Boys	10

LAW IX – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

1. The ball is in play until it has gone completely out of bounds, or unless the game is stopped by the referee for another reason.

LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING

1. The entire ball must cross the goal line into the goal in order to score.
 - a. The team that scores the most goals is the winner. A game may end in a tie.

LAW XI – OFFSIDE

Division	OFFSIDE RULE
7 & Under Co-ed	NO
9 & Under Co-ed	NO
11 & Under Co-ed	NO
13 & Under Girls	NO
13 & Under Boys	NO
15 & Under Girls	NO
15 & Under Boys	YES
18 & Under Girls	YES
18 & Under Boys	YES

1. It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position.
2. A player is in an offside position if:
 - a. The Player is nearer to his/ her opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.
3. A player is not in an offside position if:



- a. The Player is in his/ her own half of the field of play; or
 - b. The Player is level with the second last opponent; or
 - c. The Player is level with the last two opponents
4. There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from.
- a. A goal kick
 - b. A throw-in or
 - c. A corner kick

LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Fouls and misconduct are penalised as follows:

1. Direct Free Kick

- i. A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
 - 1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
 - 2. Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
 - 3. Jumps at an opponent
 - 4. Charges an opponent
 - 5. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
 - 6. Pushes an opponent
- ii. A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offences:
 - 1. Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
 - 2. Holds an opponent
 - 3. Spits at an opponent
 - 4. Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- iii. A direct free kick is taken from where the offence occurred.

2. Penalty Kick

- i. A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offences is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

3. Indirect Free Kick

- i. An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following four offences:
 - i. Takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession;

- ii. Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player;
 - iii. Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team mate;
 - iv. Touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate.
- ii. An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee:
- i. Plays in a dangerous manner
 - ii. Impedes the progress of an opponent
 - iii. Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
 - iv. Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player
- iii. The indirect free kick is taken from where the offence occurred.

4. Cautionable Offences

- i. A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offences:
 - i. is guilty of unsporting behaviour
 - ii. Shows dissent by word or action
 - iii. Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
 - iv. Delays the restart of play
 - v. Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
 - vi. Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
 - vii. Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission
- ii. A player who removes his jersey when celebrating a goal must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

5. Sending Off Offences

- i. A player is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following seven offences:
 - i. is guilty of serious foul play
 - ii. is guilty of violent behaviour
 - iii. Spits at an opponent or any other person
 - iv. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
 - v. Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
 - vi. Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gesture
 - vii. Receives a second caution in the same match
- ii. A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

LAW XIII – FREE KICKS

1. Opponents must be a certain distance away before the ball is kicked.

Division	Distance (yards)
7 & Under Co-ed	4
9 & Under Co-ed	4
11 & Under Co-ed	6
13 & Under Girls	8
13 & Under Boys	8
15 & Under Girls	10
15 & Under Boys	10
18 & Under Girls	10
18 & Under Boys	10

- 2. DIRECT FREE-KICK:**

This kick may be made and a goal scored without the ball first touching another player.

- 3. INDIRECT FREE-KICK:**

The goal may not be scored unless the ball touches another player after the kick is made.

LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

A penalty kick is awarded when a defending player commits a “direct free-kick” foul (see Law XII) within his or her own penalty area. This means the ball is put back into play by the attacking team with a kick made from the defender’s penalty mark, with only the goalie defending the goal.

LAW XV – THROW-IN

When the ball goes out of play over a side-line, the ball is put back in play with a throw-in. The thrower must keep both feet on the ground (U-10 and above), use both hands, and throw the ball from a position behind the head.

LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

When the attacking team plays the ball out-of-bounds over the goal line, the defending team puts the ball back into play with a goal-kick made from inside the goal area. The ball may not be played again until it has passed outside the penalty area.



LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

1. When the ball is played out-of-bounds over the goal line by the defending team, the ball is put back into play by the attacking team with a corner-kick made from inside a corner arc.
2. Opponents must be a certain distance away before the ball is kicked:

Division	Distance (yards)
7 & Under Co-ed	4
9 & Under Co-ed	4
11 & Under Co-ed	6
13 & Under Girls	8
13 & Under Boys	8
15 & Under Girls	10
15 & Under Boys	10
18 & Under Girls	10
18 & Under Boys	10

