

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL
PREVENT NEEDLESS FORFEITS BY MAKING SURE YOUR PLAYERS MEET LEAGUE
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. **Age** - Coach should check a document (Original Birth Certificate, certified copy of Birth Certificate, Military ID, and Passport) proving the age of the player. No nine (9) year old(s) are allowed in City Leagues. Child's "league age" for youth tackle football is his/her age on September 30th. **Exception: A player who turns ten (10) years old during the league season (through November 30th) will be eligible to play as a ten (10) year old.**
2. **Area residency** - Coach should check the address of each player and make sure they live in Virginia Beach and are within the boundaries for your Recreation Association. Parks & Recreation uses the official address that the school has on file for the player. Any deviation must be documented when the contract card is submitted to the Sports Management/Athletics (SMA) Office. If a player is playing out of area, the Area Chairman releasing and the Area Chairman accepting should sign the release on the back of the contract card. Note: 80% of the team members must be Virginia Beach residents. See the General Bylaws for All Community League Sports for details.
3. **School attendance** - Coach should inform players that if they are not attending school or in an approved home school program, they are not eligible to participate. If a player is withdrawn, expelled, suspended, quits, etc., they are **not** eligible to play in the SMA community league. For out of school suspension (OSS) only, if a player has been suspended from school they may not participate in a sanctioned league game/practice until he/she is officially (physically) back in school. No exceptions.
4. **School sports** - Coach should inform players they are **not** eligible for community league play by being listed on the VHSL Master Eligibility List (Public School) and/or by being listed on the roster generated by the school (Private or Homeschool) in the same high school athletic program if the school and recreation programs overlap (from the first official practice to the last official game) and **will still not** be eligible even when the high school season ends. (Players may play both middle school and community league). If a player becomes a member of the high school team and then decides he/she does not want to play, he/she must be released from the VHSL Master Eligibility List (Public School) and/or school generated roster (Private or Homeschool) **before the first school league game is played** to be eligible for SMA community league play.
Note: Middle School Players are not eligible to play in the 11U B League.
5. **Contract Card and Roster** - Coach must ensure contract card is on file with the SMA Office (submitted at weigh-in) in order for player to be eligible to participate. **Physical exam is required.** Things to watch for (all on front of contract card): **player signature, parent signature, and coach signature.** Note: Providing false information will result in player ineligibility for one year (from all Parks & Recreation sponsored sports). **Team rosters must include an equipment roster matching helmet number to each player.**

Penalty for playing an ineligible player: remove the player(s) from their team for the remainder of the season and forfeit the most recent game played by the ineligible player(s). Playing a player(s) who are not under contract (no contract card on file) will result in an automatic forfeiture of all games played by that team. Please note that SMA may suspend any coach(es), additional player(s), or the entire team if it is determined that the Area Recreation Association intentionally attempted to deceive the program. The Area Recreation Association may also impose additional penalties.

Note: All of the above information is detailed in the Community League Youth Tackle Football bylaws and General Bylaws for All Community League Sports – **please read them!!**