GOPHER STATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2nd-8th Grade Tackle

GSFL Policy For New Associations

Edited 05/18/2026

This policy refers to two different situations. Please see the explanations below.

1. Newly Formed Associations –

A. Newly formed associations must agree to follow the GSFL Team and Eligibility Guidelines and Best Practices.

B. Criteria for a newly formed association

i. An association did not previously exist.

ii. An association has existed, servicing multiple communities/school attendance areas.

iii. Local leaders are strongly encouraged to work out the details together while keeping the best interests of the participants in mind.

iv. "Attendance area" refers to the officially recognized public high school district boundaries unless otherwise approved by the GSFL Managing Directors.

v. Association must be of a perpetual nature; organized with the intent to exist on an annual basis.

vi. The association must be organized as an ongoing annual program with established governance, financial oversight, and succession planning.

C. Newly formed associations must notify the GSFL staff prior to June 1 and must provide the following information:

i. Name of the association

ii. Clearly stated community and/or the high school attendance area/district they represent

iii. List of board members and their roles

iv. A copy of their bylaws

v. A list of the grades they are offering opportunities for within their attendance area

vi. Acknowledgement that they will follow the GSFL Team and Eligibility Guidelines and Best Practices

vii. Proof of insurance coverage and any organizational registrations required by applicable law or GSFL policy

viii. Explanation of why the association is necessary with supporting documentation

ix. GSFL reserves the right to request additional documentation or clarification prior to rendering a decision.

D. Newly formed associations must be approved by the GSFL Managing Directors by a majority vote to gain participation in the GSFL.

i. The GSFL Managing Directors may consider the impact on existing member associations, participant opportunities, enrollment trends, geographic boundaries, and long-term league stability when reviewing applications.

ii. GSFL will provide written notification of approval or denial no later than June 15th whenever reasonably possible.

iii. Failure to comply with GSFL Team and Eligibility Guidelines and Best Practices may result in probation, suspension, or revocation of participation privileges as determined by the GSFL Managing Directors.

---

2. Existing Associations that wish to participate within the GSFL for the first time –

A. Must agree to follow the GSFL Team and Eligibility Guidelines and Best Practices.

B. Must have been in existence serving their community/school attendance area for a minimum of two years.

C. Must form at least 2 teams yearly to be considered.

D. Associations must field and operate a minimum of two rostered teams during each football season to maintain eligibility for participation.

E. Association must be of perpetual nature; organized with the intent to exist on an annual basis. The association must be organized as an ongoing annual program with established governance, financial oversight, and succession planning.

F. Association must be in good standing with any prior league affiliations and have no outstanding disciplinary or financial obligations.

G. Approved associations must maintain all insurance coverage, organizational registrations, and legal requirements required by GSFL and applicable law.

H. Failure to comply with GSFL Team and Eligibility Guidelines and Best Practices may result in probation, suspension, or revocation of participation privileges as determined by the GSFL Managing Directors.