

2023

Georgia Municipal Youth Football League



**GMFL
By-Laws**

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Article I - Introduction

The Georgia Municipal Youth Football League, **hereinafter referred to as the League**, is established to provide an organization for Member Associations to participate in youth football programs. It is formed for the majority and therefore the rights of the League must prevail over those of individuals, teams, or associations.

Article II - Objectives

The League is organized to recapture the spirit of development and competition through the game of Football: to inspire youth to good sportsmanship, teamwork, high moral standards, and the importance of academics as well as athletics at all school levels. It is organized to provide a mutual basis for improving the relationship between boys and adults of the community, using the medium of youth football as a catalyst. It is organized to discourage the commercial exploitation of youth and insure the continued growth of youth football in the communities by establishment of sound rules and regulations.

Article III - Purpose

It is the purpose of the League to provide youth able and desiring to participate in youth football programs in their communities which provides the opportunity to engage in the activity in a safe, healthy, pleasant, and highly supervised environment. It is because of the physical demands of the sport that it is our purpose that our programs be developed in such detail as to make the activity as free of potential harm as humanly possible. It shall be the purpose of the League to never lose sight of the fact that it is organized for the youth of the community.

Article IV - By-Laws

Section 1: League Address. The League shall share the address of the duly elected president of the GMYFL Board, unless and until the League secures a Post Office Box.

Section 2: Membership

- i. Membership shall be restricted to municipal governed Associations. Individual teams shall not be admitted to membership.
- ii. Any association desiring membership in the League shall submit an application to the League by February 1st of the year desiring membership. Applications shall be in two forms:
 - a. The written application shall include the full name of the Association, name and telephone number of the Association President, and designated League representative, number of teams and players participating in the previous season, age groups, identify the League previously participated the previous season, standings, jersey colors, and the number of years the Association has been organized to play football.
 - b. A one-time commitment fee of \$500.00 will be submitted along with the application.
 - c. The oral application will be presented to the League Commissioners at a meeting called to decide on the application. Oral application shall consist of all additional information that the applicant desires to present on its behalf. The individual representing the Association should be prepared to answer all questions put to him by the League Commissioners.

- iii. The League Commissioners shall make such investigation as it deems necessary and appropriate and shall accept or reject the application. An application can be rejected for cause or conditionally. If the applicant is rejected for cause, the League is not required to divulge the reasons. If the application is rejected conditionally, the applicant will be advised of the conditions and given the opportunity to correct the condition and resubmit the application after a 30-day waiting period.
- iv. Approval of an application for membership will require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership. No vote on acceptance of an Association for membership can be taken unless three-fourths of the League representatives are present. Each member association is allowed a vote or votes as set forth in section 5.
 - a. (e) Once an Association is approved for membership its League commissioner shall be entitled to all rights of a League member with the following exceptions: (1) league commissioners of newly approved associations will not be eligible to run for or hold executive office until after their one-year anniversary of membership approval, (2), or until such time as it has withdrawn its membership, ceased to operate as an Association or is removed from membership for cause.
- v. A decision by the League to reject an application is final and not subject to appeal. An application rejected for cause may not be reconsidered unless 2/3 of voting members vote to reconsider after a 30-day waiting period.
- vi. Membership requires a 3-year signed commitment.

Section 3: Loss of Membership

- (a) League membership for an association having participated in the League for two or more consecutive full football seasons may be suspended or revoked for good cause by a 2/3 majority vote from the Association at the January meeting. League membership for an association having participated in the League for one consecutive football season may be suspended or revoked for good cause by a 50% majority from the Association at the January meeting.
- (b) Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, infractions of the League rules or of these by-laws or for conduct deemed detrimental to the interests of the League.
- (c) Conduct of any Association officer, representative, coach, or participant can be construed as conduct of the Association upon failure or refusal of the Association to take corrective actions as directed by the League.
- (d) Members are expected to have their representatives at the regular and special meetings provided proper and timely notice is given. The League may suspend voting rights of an Association that continually fails to attend League meetings.
- (e) A special hearing shall be held to debate the suspension or revocation of membership of an Association. The Association will be provided a 30-day notice of the hearing, advised of their rights to be present and submit arguments in their behalf. The Association against which the League is considering action shall not be permitted to vote in the decision.

Section 4: Membership Meetings

- (a) Time and Place. The Commissioners shall determine the time and place of the meetings.

- (b) Notice. Notice of special called meetings shall be given each member not less than three (3) days prior to the time of a Special Meeting.
- (c) Contents of the Notice. Notice of Special Meetings or Regular Meetings shall be made by e-mail, phone, or in person.
- (d) Notice of a Special Meeting. Notice of a Special Meeting shall contain the reason(s) for the meeting. A majority of member Associations may call a special meeting.
- (e) Regular Monthly Meetings. The League Commissioners will meet, monthly, or as frequently as deemed necessary by the League Commissioners.
- (f) Elections of league officers will be held at the December meeting of the 3rd year beginning in 2024. Officers will be elected based on majority of votes cast (closed ballot) subject only to quorum being present.

Section 5: Voting Rights. Each Member Association shall be represented by a League Commissioner(s), League President or his alternate and have one vote in matters coming before the board. Attendance by person in addition to the League Commissioner will be at the discretion of the League Commissioners. The Chairman of the meeting shall recognize only the Official Association League Commissioner or his designated representative. Commissioners must be present at the meeting to cast a vote and in the absence of one, the second commissioner may cast a vote for an association at his option.

- (a) A vote will be recorded by voice, by e-mail or ballot, at the option of the Commissioners. There will be no proxy votes accepted.
- (b) A member may be denied voting rights for disciplinary reasons; for failure to attend meetings; and/or failure to pay League fees or other obligations due to the League. Voting rights will remain suspended until the debt is paid.
- (c) A quorum must be present to make a by-law change during the January meetings. A quorum represents 2/3 of the total votes available among all member associations. If all members are voting and a tie vote occurs, an arbitrator will be brought in for a tie breaking issue.

Section 6: Annual Fees. An annual fee for each association entered in the League will be assessed by the League Commissioners; not exceed \$500. Those fees are considered operational fees for website, administrative supplies, other items which may be needed to function efficiently.

- a) Other shared fees include playoffs and championship awards.
- b) The amount to be determined annually will be based on officials' fees for playoffs and championships. Other fees shall include the cost of awards for championship games, which will be a shared cost between each association; not to exceed \$500. All association fees will be paid at a time designated by League Commissioners but not later than roster certification date. No team roster will be accepted without the annual fee.

Note: All fees (including membership fees and fees for officials) are due when billed. Any association having outstanding billings of any kind at the time of a jamboree or postseason play will not be allowed to participate until all amounts owed to the league are paid in full.

Section 7: GMYFL Board. Perform the following duties:

- (a) Schedule Meetings
- (b) Take and publish minutes of Meetings
- (c) Prepare schedules
- (d) Receive League correspondence
- (e) Receive protests
- (f) Arrange for officials
- (g) Issue League certified team rosters
- (h) Serve as the League Treasurer
- (i) Coordinate league playoff, and championships
- (j) Produce League awards for playoff and championship teams
- (k) Such other League administrative duties as may be necessary

The purpose of this appointment is to designate a central point of contact for coordination of all League matters.

Article V - Playing Rules

Rule 1: Team Composition A team shall have no more than 30 players on the roster. If you have an instance that will require more than 30 players on the roster, it must be approved by the GMYFL board.

Rule 2: Team Roster

- (a) The League shall establish the time and date for turn-in of the official team roster. As a minimum the roster will contain the following information:
 - (1) Full name of all players. If player is participating under another name than that appearing on the birth certificate, a notarized statement from the parent or guardian attesting to this fact shall be presented with the birth certificate.
 - (2) Age and date birth of all players.
 - (3) Association name; team name; weight group; colors; name and telephone numbers of Head Coach and League Commissioner.

NOTE: All teams must use the league certified roster format. Books will not be certified using any other format.

- (b) **The league will define a full team for certification purposes as having a minimum of 15 players on the roster AND having 75% of those players present at certification.**
- (c) **5U thru 11U team rosters are final on certification date and players cannot be added after that date. 12U teams may add to the roster (notwithstanding rule 2 (b)) until Wednesday prior to the third regular season game. Implement a makeup certification date for players missing initial date.**
- (d) **Any team falling below 13 players prior to the fourth game of the season may request that the League allow them to add back to a maximum of 17 players. Those players that are removed from the roster must be presented to the League and those players will be disqualified from further participation in League play for the current season. Any team falling below 13 players prior to the fourth game of the season may request that the league allow them to add back to a maximum of 17 players.**

- (e) Unless set forth above, once the team roster is certified, no player may be added to the Roster.
- (f) Team books that include rosters, birth certificates, certification sheet and pictures of each player are due no later than one (1) day prior to the first regular season game or roster certification date, whichever occurs first.
- (g) Coaches are REQUIRED to have the team book available for inspection by the opposing coach 30 minutes prior to all games. Inspection will consist of matching each player on the opposing team to his / her picture in the team book. See rule 4(c) for details.

Rule 3: Age and Weights

- (a) All players must be duly certified through the League Board or League Representative before becoming eligible to participate.
- (b) Proof of date of birth can be established through a State of Georgia ID or Passport. Any other forms of documents will have to be approved by the GMYFL Board. Those documents shall include original birth certificate, school records, hospital records, and such other official documents acceptable to the GMYFL Board. Associations have until 2024 to comply with the Georgia ID requirements.
- (c) The League age of all players will be determined by his age as of July 1st of the playing year.
- (d) The GMYFL Board or a League Representative will be responsible for certifying, revising, publishing, and distributing all League rosters.

Age Group		Ball Carrier Weight		
5U		Unlimited		
6U		Unlimited		
7U		Unlimited		
8U		Unlimited		
9U		Unlimited		
10U		Unlimited		
11U		Unlimited		
12U		Unlimited		

Rule 4: Pre-game book review

- a) The visiting team and home team must have a representative at the park at least 1 hour prior to game time to check in with Field Marshall or Head Coach. Team books must be inspected at least 30 minutes prior to official game time (see Rule 5 regarding official game times). At this time all players that are present will be reviewed by the opposing coach. **If all players are not present at this time the opposing coach should review the book but not sign off on the roster.** Opposing coaches will sign off on the roster after all players participating in that game have been certified. **There will be no players certified after 30 minutes prior to official game time for first half play.** Any player arriving after that time will be certified at half time and be eligible to participate in the second half of the game. Kickoff will not occur until books are reviewed by the opposing coach. **Note: Inspection of books and initialing of roster by each coach is a requirement. Players will line up in number order according to the roster and the opposing coach will verify each player against his picture. Each player will have helmet in hand and jersey on.**
Note: Coaches may not waive the rule regarding no player certification less than 30 minutes prior to official game time.
- b) The League will establish team age and groupings not later than August 1 of the playing year.
- c) A PDF copy of all rosters will be issued to all parks after the weigh in.

Rule 5: League Schedule.

(a) The league Board will be responsible for developing, publishing, and distributing the League schedule. The games scheduled will be played on Saturday and it is the intent of the Board to have all teams from each association travel together. **Game times will begin at 9:00 AM for 5U 6U and progress in age order through 12U at 8:00 PM.** In the event makeup games must be played, they will be scheduled on either Monday or Tuesday of the following week.

Note: In the event of game day delays due to inclement weather, the field marshal will announce official game times for all remaining games.

Rule 6: Non-League Games. Non-League games may not be scheduled if they interfere or detract from any League jamboree, regular season, playoff, or championship game.

Rule 7: Home Field and Team Responsibilities.

- (a) All games will be played on a regulation high school field.
- (b) If more than one field is available, the home team will specify which field is to be used. If that field must subsequently be changed, the League will be notified seven (3) days in advance. The Board will then notify all affected Associations and game officials. Any association that utilizes a high school field as its primary game field must have a backup location approved by the board.
- (c) The field will be equipped with the following items:
(1) Goal post with crossbar and pads.

- (2) Clearly marked sidelines and end zones.
- (3) Spectator restraining lines at least ten yards from the sidelines.
- (4) An electronic scoreboard and clock.
- (5) Sideline yard markers; 10-yard chains and down marker.
- (6) Suitable press box facilities.
- (7) Certified accurate scales.
- (8) Certification weight must be certified by a commercial scale company or by a state or federal government agency each year. Proof of such certification shall be presented at each weigh-in.
- (9) Balls will be furnished by both teams in all divisions; no rubber balls allowed, no colored balls. Teams may play with approved balls from higher divisions but are not able to play down in divisions with smaller balls. Game balls must be leather and clearly state the official ball size.

7U & 8U – K2 size/pee wee

9U, 10U & 11U – junior sized Ball

12U – Youth sized Ball

The complete game must be played with the same brand ball. Balls may be substituted in wet conditions however **NO BALL SUBSTITUTION WILL BE ALLOWED FOR KICKS.**

(10) Field must be equipped with tower lighting given games times.

- (d) If playing conditions at game time or during the game are such that they pose a threat to the safety of the participants and spectators, the game may be delayed or postponed. The National Federation of State High School Associations rules will govern. The Board will consult with the Directors of the affected teams to establish whether they are under a delay or postponement and establish an agreed upon date and time to complete the game if necessary. If the game is to be continued it will be from the point where the game was stopped. It is the responsibility of the home team commissioner to record the time, possession, position of the ball, and down.
- (e) Preparing and marking the field.
- (f) The home team is responsible for providing the chain crew. However, if the chain crew is on the same side of the field as the visiting team bench, the visiting team shall have the option of providing the chain crew.
- (g) Uniform colors will be as shown on the roster published by the League. No change in uniform colors will be allowed without prior League notification and approval. Home teams are required to wear a dark color and visiting teams are required to wear white.
- (h) The Home team's League Director shall notify the League within 24 hours following a game of the scores and will report any problems involving player, coach, spectator or referee discipline, or failure of players to make weight.
- (i) The home team is responsible for paying the officials.

Rule 8: Electronic Communication. The use of electronic communication equipment by either team can be used during a game (*coach to coach*) and has no restrictions. Electronic communication equipment is the responsibility of each team. All teams that wish to use electronic communication equipment must supply their own equipment.

Rule 9: Official Rule Book. The National Federation of State High School Associations/GHSA rules will govern unless specific exceptions are made within these by-laws.

Rule 10: General Rule Exceptions. The following rule exceptions apply to all League divisions:

- (a) Quarters will be 8 minutes for 5U – 9U and 10 minutes for 10U -12U.

- (b) Play clock will be 35 seconds 5U – 10U, 25 seconds for 1U and 12U.
- (b) The League will establish and provide Ball sizes before each season.
- (c) Points after touchdown will be awarded as follows:
Place kick - 2 points
Pass/run - 1 point
- (d) Mandatory 6 plays for all players from scrimmage.
- (e) Rules regarding jersey length will not be applied.
- (f) All games will be played to their scheduled completion unless a suspended game is in the second half AND under slaughter rule.
- (g) If any team leads another by 24 points or more at any point during the game the officials will run the clock continuously except for injuries. Once the clock becomes continuous it will not revert to normal football clock rules. Beginning in the fourth quarter when a game is under slaughter rule (24 point differential), there will be no kickoff, the ball will be placed on the 50 yd line after a score, the starting running backs must be replaced, passing is allowed by the team ahead, only four offensive plays by the team ahead, and the clock will remain continuous. The team that is ahead will be allowed only four offensive plays per possession. If at any point the score differential becomes less than 24 points normal play shall resume with a continuous clock. **It is not the opposing coach's option to not follow the slaughter rule.**

Rule 11: Overtime -

No game shall end in a tie. 1st Overtime ball placed at 10 yard line and given 4 plays to score or kick a field goal, 2nd Overtime ball placed at 10 yard line and given 4 plays to score or kick a field goal, 3rd Overtime ball placed at 2 yard line and given 1 play to score. That sequence will be repeated until we have a winner.

- (i) NOCSAE stamps are not required on face masks.
 - a) (j) No more than seven (7) certified adults are allowed on the sideline. Each must be certified and have passed a background check with picture and cards in roster book to coach on the sideline. These adults must have signed the League Certificate on the roster. In addition, two (2) water attendants are allowed by must be no older than 16.
- (k) Colored mouthpieces are mandatory.

Rule 11: Special Rules for 5U thru 7U

- (a) All penalties will be assessed in accordance with National Federation rules.
- (b) DEFENSE. The defense must line head up on the offensive guards but are not required to line up with his nose more than one yard wide of the centers nose. No defensive player can line up in the guard/center gap subject to the foregoing. The defense cannot line up directly on the offensive center and must remain a minimum distance of 3-yards off the ball.
- (c) PUNT. The offense may elect a 15-yard walk off instead of a punt when the scrimmage line is on the offensive side of mid-field. The clock does run during a punt walk off and runs for 15 seconds. Any attempt to pass or run results in a dead ball, loss of down. Except for the kicker when receiving the snap, no forward movement is permitted by either team until the kick is attempted. If the offense declares a punt the defense cannot rush. The kick

attempt must be made within five (5) seconds of snap or the official calls a dead ball loss of down. **8U Only may elect a 15-yard walk off or declare to punt for yardage of the punt.**

- (d) EXTRA POINT KICK. The team may declare an extra point kick. Any attempt to pass or run results in a dead ball, loss of down. Except for the kicker receiving the snap, no forward movement is permitted by either team until the kick is attempted. The kick attempt must be made within five (5) seconds of snap or the official's calls a dead ball, loss of down.
- (e) FIELD GOAL. The team may declare a field goal. Any attempt to pass or run results in a dead ball, loss of down. Except for the kicker receiving the snap, no forward movement is permitted by either team until the kick is attempted. The kick attempt must be made within five (5) seconds of snap or the official's call a dead ball, loss of down. If the field goal is unsuccessful, the ball will be returned to the 20-yard line or LOS, whichever is greater, and revert to the other team. An attempted field goal cannot be advanced by either team.
- (f) **Two coaches per team may be on the field for 5u and 6u. One coach is allowed on the field for 7u. In the 7u division beginning the 5th week, coaches will no longer be allowed on the field during play and must coach from the sidelines.**
 - (1) The coaches must retreat to a position at least 15 yards back immediately after the team line is set.
 - (2) The coaches may not make **ANY** communication OF ANY KIND after the center touches the ball. Silent hand signals are NOT permitted.
 - (3) Penalty for violation for the above is as follows: 1st infraction – 5-yard penalty, 2nd infraction – 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct and 3rd offense – 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct and removal from the game of the coach on which the penalty was called. **Note:** On the third offense by the team, the coach called for the infraction will be ejected even if he did not commit the first or second infractions.
 - (4) The coaches must refrain from conducting unauthorized conferences with officials and refrain from obstructing the officials in the performance of their duties.
 - (5) No electronic communication on the playing field.
 - (6) K2/Pee Wee ball leather or synthetic will be used, no rubber balls.
 - (7) No ball that closely matches the teams' jersey color will be allowed.

Rule 12: Play-off and Championship Games-The League Commissioners will establish the playoff and championship formulas. In establishing the standings of teams, the following rules apply:

- (a) Teams will be seeded for playoffs using won-lost percentage, (dividing the total games into the games won). Ties will be broken in the following order: head-to-head win / loss results, **common opponent**, points allowed (over the course of the full season), points allowed (games involving the teams that are tied) and coin toss.
- (b) The League Commissioners will determine awards to be presented to team's playoff and championship games.
- (c) A gate fee may be charged for (\$5) playoff games and the (\$10) super bowl.
- (d) **The playoffs will consist of the top 8 teams from each age group to participate. NOTE: Teams will be reseeded after each round so that the top seed will play the lowest seed (and so on) in each round.**

Rule 13: Play Eligibility.

- (a) All players shall meet age and weight requirements for the team. Players must show adequate proof of date of birth.
- (b) Any game in which an ineligible player participates shall be forfeited by the ineligible player's team. If both teams are found to have ineligible players, both teams will receive a loss on their record. If a player is found to be ineligible and it is found to be probable that proof of age was altered, the head coach may be banned from further participation in the league. The association sponsoring the team in question may face other penalties up to and including expulsion from the league at the discretion of the board. In determining severity of penalty levied against any individual or association, the board will consider (in order) intent, history and pattern and practice.
- (c) A player can practice, participate, and play on a (7th or 8th Grade) Middle School team and the league without penalty. No player in the league can practice or participate in Freshman, Junior Varsity or Varsity Football.

Rule 14: Conduct.

- (a) All persons, including players, coaches, League Commissioners, spectators, and officials are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and observe all rules of the League.
- (b) Any player, coach, or other adult supervisor found by the League to be cheating or misrepresenting any record may be banned from further participation in the league. (Also see 13b above for severity of penalty)
- (c) Any conduct deemed detrimental to the League, including the willful attempt to disrupt a game or practice, public displays of profanity, or appearance under the influence of alcohol or drugs, at a game or practice by any coach, League Commissioner, or Association official shall be subject to indefinite suspension, suspension for a specified period, probation or reprimand as determined by the League.
- (d) Spectator misconduct will be prevented by the appropriate team. Failure of a coach to undertake appropriate action to contain his spectators shall be guilty of misconduct and subject to appropriate punishment. (It is recognized that in some circumstances it is beyond the capacity of the coach to control his spectators. However, the coach must make a genuine attempt to restrain his spectators.)
- (e) Any player, coach or sideline personnel ejected from a game are suspended for the next scheduled game (Suspensions will carry over to the following year if applicable). The subject coach, participant or team attendant **shall not have any role in nor be in attendance with his team from 1 hour prior to game time until the end of the game while he is under suspension.** Upon a second violation, during the same year, the subject coach, participant, or team attendant shall not be permitted to participate in the next two (2) scheduled contests subject to the same requirements as above. After a second violation during the same year, the subject coach, participant, or team attendant, during the same season the association shall investigate and submit a written report to the league board of the findings. If

the person ejected does not leave the playing field, the game will be stopped, and the teams will be sent to the side lines and the local authorities will be called in to remove the ejected person. The person will be suspended until such time that the league board convenes to address the matter. Once the ejected person is removed, the game will resume. The Field Marshall must be notified of all ejections.

Rule 15: Protest.

- (a) Protest involving the judgment of an official will not be accepted.
- (b) Protest involving rule interpretation must be declared to the referee and the field marshal before next play.
- (c) All protests must be endorsed by the association league representative.
- (d) Protests involving the interpretation of a rule must be delivered to the league board in writing by 4:00pm the following Monday with all supporting documents. Protests and/or documents delivered after that time will not be accepted.
- (e) A cash deposit of \$250.00 shall accompany each protest. It will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- (f) Protests involving player ineligibility because of age shall be submitted upon discovery.
- (g) When the protest is filed with the league Board, a Protest Committee will be selected by the league Board and consist of the 4 league commissioners. The committee will meet under the guidance of the league Board and vote on the protest. Once the decision is made, the Protest Committee will contact all involved in the protest with the resolution.

ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE PROTEST COMMITTEE ARE FINAL AND CAN NOT BE APPEALED.

Rule 16: Conflict of Interest. Officials shall not participate in a game in which he has a child playing, nor in any game in which an Association that he is directly involved in is playing.

Rule 17: Picture Book

- (a) Each team shall provide a Team Book with a League Board Certified Roster and have it with them for display to the opposing team and or League Official containing an individual information sheet and picture of each player. The picture size must meet the 35 mm standard. The picture will be from the waist up with game jersey on, number clearly visible and helmet off. The picture will be taken from such a distance that the players face is clearly visible. Each sheet shall be certified by a league board member as indicated by affixing a seal on each picture. The book shall also contain a sheet for the head coach. *Failure to provide any or all of the above for inspection by the opposing coach prior to each game will result in forfeit of game.*
- (b) All rules shall be contained in by-laws. No exceptions other than are specified herein.

Rule 18: Practice.

- (a) Teams will be limited to eight (8) hours of football per week including games.

- (b) Teams will not be allowed to practice in pads until the date designated by the league. Penalty for violation of this rule is forfeiture of the first game of the season.

Rule 19: Clock Rules

- (a) Clock starts on snap of the ball when
 - a. Time out
 - b. Out of bounds
 - c. Spiked Ball or incomplete pass
 - d. After kickoff or touchdown
- (b) Clock starts once the ball is set ready to play
 - a. Change of possession on downs
 - b. Change of possession on any turnover
 - c. 1st downs
 - d. After all penalties that the clock was running when the penalty was called, or the previous play resulted in the clock continuing to run.

2023 League and County Directors

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Trey Chitwood
Desmond Anderson

Spalding County

P Tarver
Robby Milner

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Ronel Salters
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Rex Park

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Rockdale

Franklin Hamilton
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College Park

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Jakarri Martin

Riverdale

Varner Richardson
Allan Dodson

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