

Older, Lighter Rule

- a. Organizations may permit eligible players to participate in a lower age division under the “Older, Lighter Rule.” A maximum of four (4) players per roster may qualify under this provision. All players seeking eligibility under this rule must complete an official weigh-in prior to the start of the season and again by the Wednesday of Week four. All weigh-ins must be conducted and verified by an authorized NEYSA auditor.
 - i) **Mini Division** — Player must not turn nine (9) years of age prior to June 30 of the current season year and must weigh fifty (50) pounds or less.
 - ii) **Freshman Division** — Player must not turn eleven (11) years of age prior to June 30 of the current season year and must weigh sixty (60) pounds or less.
 - iii) **Junior Varsity Division** — Player must not turn thirteen (13) years of age prior to June 30 of the current season year and must weigh eighty (80) pounds or less.
- b. Each organization’s statistician shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with the Older, Lighter Rule during roster creation and player verification. The statistician must notify the organization’s coaching staff and/or organization's commissioner of any player who may qualify under this rule.
- c. Any player approved under the Older, Lighter Rule shall be required to wear a “gold STAR sticker” (<--subject to change) on both the front and rear of the player’s helmet for on-field identification purposes. All stickers must be applied by a NEYSA auditor and shall be uniform in appearance and size, consistent with the dimensions of an approved “striper” sticker.
- d. Any player who no longer satisfies the eligibility requirements of the Older, Lighter Rule as of the Week 4 Wednesday certification deadline due to weight gain shall immediately be reassigned to the appropriate division based upon the player’s age and weight classification. In the event no appropriate team within the organization exists within the player’s proper division due to insufficient rostered participants or the team having reached the maximum roster limit permitted under NEYSA rules, the player may remain on their current roster; however, the player must thereafter comply with all applicable “striper” rule requirements for the remainder of the season (*NEYSA Football Rules and Regulations - Rule 4, Section 4, a-m*). Any player who remains eligible as of the Week 4 Wednesday certification deadline shall retain eligibility for the remainder of the season, including all playoffs, championship games, and any additional postseason competition.
- e. Any Varsity Head Coach who believes that a player within their team may qualify under the Older, Lighter Rule can request an official weigh-in with a NEYSA auditor prior to the start of the season.
- f. Prior to any eligible player participating under the Older, Lighter Rule, the organization’s Football Commissioner must submit written acknowledgment to both the organization statistician and the NEYSA statistician confirming:
 - i) The player has been determined eligible under this rule;
 - ii) The player’s parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) have been notified;
 - iii) The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) consent to the player participating in the lower division; and
 - iv) The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) understand and accept all conditions, requirements, and limitations associated with this rule.